



CANEWS

April 2013

EDITOR'S CORNER

THE WEB SITE – www.ringwoodcanoe.co.uk

A BIG thank you to the contributors

Cindy, Dot and Mike W.

The events list is looking a bit bare for the new year, so have a good old think over the Christmas and if there is a trip you would really like to do, let the secretaries know and we will post it up.

Nichola

DON'T FORGET

RCC Forum



Don't miss out on impromptu trips, gossip and banter.

If you haven't registered – please get in touch with Graham or Simon who will set up your registration

RC Photo Gallery



Share your photos with all members

CAPTION COMPETITION:

We had 2! photos in the running this time....



'After spending many years by getting everywhere by swimming, Golom decided to upgrade his mode of transport.....Unfortunately he hasn't quite got the hang of it yet!!!!!!' **Anonymous**

'The under cover detectives finally sussed who was guilty of 'boat lifting'... **Nicky R**

"I thought they only allowed ladies to wear extravagant hats at Ascot" **Bev D**

'The real caption is funny enough I think: Following defeat at the table tennis table by our Worthy Chairman the evening before, Tim was determined not to be beaten off the beach by him. Having fuffed at the take out as only Tim can, and with at least a mile of Saunton Sands to cover at low tide, the only option was to run, and the only head protection was a sponge. Well out of shot on the left our Chairman toils and sweats across the sands, harnessed to drag his kayak past hordes of unsympathetic sunbathers. Who won? I can't remember but I bet Tim can'. **Barry D**

'Note the trim: Bow up ,left heel slightly raised ,yes its the classic 'Nancy Portage ' from the old book of Classic Portages written by Ed Hurts.' **Mike W**

After an eventful time at Cardiff WWC it would be criminal to let this one go- so caption comp no.2 :



'...This one just makes me crease up' **Nicky R**

'Oh S**t! Next time I'm going to grab some of those spare air bags they've got on that shelf and strap them in. Then I'll show 'em.' **Barry D**

'Although Mike had perfected his folding canoe design, the beta testing of the self baler wasn't going so well...'
Mike F

DORSET BIVI.

August Bank Holiday. I had made my mind up that I was going to stay at home, cut the hedges and catch up with all those gardening job and just generally just chill out.

Bank Holiday Sunday, no hedges cut or gardening done and there I was climbing out of Jake and Lisa's van by Swanage Pier ready to unload my sea kayak. How did that happen!.

Captain worth was already there and Tim has said he might join us later. We packed the boats as we did I was chatting to The Captain and he commented on the amount of gear I was putting in the boat. I mentioned that I hope it wouldn't rain as I had only brought a Bivi bag and no Tarp. It was only then that he realised we were doing an overnight Bivi, he was under the impression that it was a day paddle....Oh bugger, me and my big mouth. Fortunately he had kit in the car so he was soon sorted.

There was a bit of a chop in the bay but it was fine when we cleared the Head.

The wind was pretty strong and with the tide with us we fairly flew along. It was nice to get away from the

crowds of holidaymakers and enjoy the peace and solitude of the sea.

We were planning to camp at Chapmans Pool but the intended camping spot by the entrance was just too exposed in that wind. We landed on the beach but the signs of recent cliff falls ruled out sleeping on the beach. In fact just after we landed we experienced a small landslide not too far away. We clambered along the rock at the end of the beach and found a couple of little grassy areas which were perfect.

Lisa Jake and Charlie pitched a tarp and I unrolled my Bivvy bag and yes on cue it started to rain.

Fortunately it only lasted 10 minutes or so and soon cleared.

With dinner cooking we sat on our vantage point and looked at the lovely view and the half dozen yachts that were swinging at anchor below us. A lone paddler hove into view and even at that distance we could tell it was Tim with his high action marathon paddling style.

We lit a fire and sat round till the light went and turned in. During the night the wind gusted even harder. Lisa and Jake lowered their tarp right down to try and stop the wind flapping it. I don't think they got a lot of sleep.

Then night was crystal clear and the stars looked amazing, it was so lovely to be lying there in my Bivi bag and just stargazing. I don't think the yachties got much sleep as you could see the mast lights rolling from side to side. I could hear the waves crashing on the rocks below us and I did wonder if we would be able to launch into the surf in the morning.

The next morning the wind was so strong it was decided that Jake and Tim would paddle back to Swanage, pick up the van and meet us at Kimmeridge.

I Paddled the double with Charlie merrily chatting away to me in the front. It was a super day, very windy but just great to be paddling along such a stunning coastline in the sunshine.

When we got to Kimmeridge we brewed up and all of us as if by magic produced chocolate and sweets and biscuits. I felt quite sick by the time Jake turned up with the van.

It was too nice a day just to head home so we went to the Square and Compass at Worth Matravers for a pint and a pasty and sat in the garden enjoying the

sunshine. Ben Adams and Jason W were there as they had spent the weekend climbing on the Dorset cliffs.

The final score was....Gardening nil Paddling ten out of ten. **Dot**

MUDEFORD NIGHTS

Tuesday Club nights with RCC aren't always the most well attended, but I think those of us who do go along to Mudeford and spend an evening on the water, would all agree that it is a fantastic way to unwind and forget all the stresses of a day's work.....



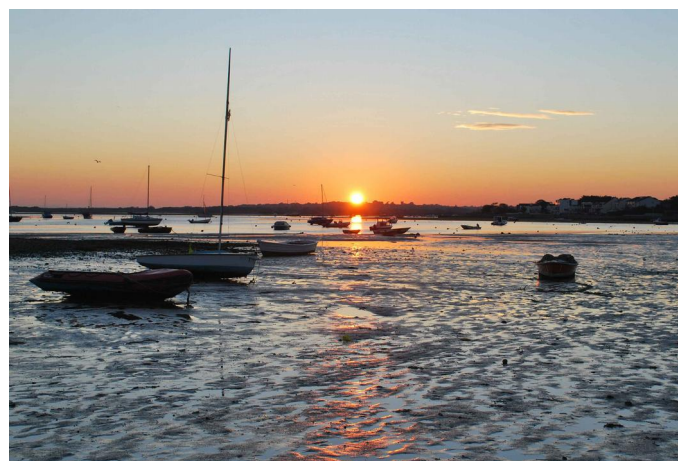
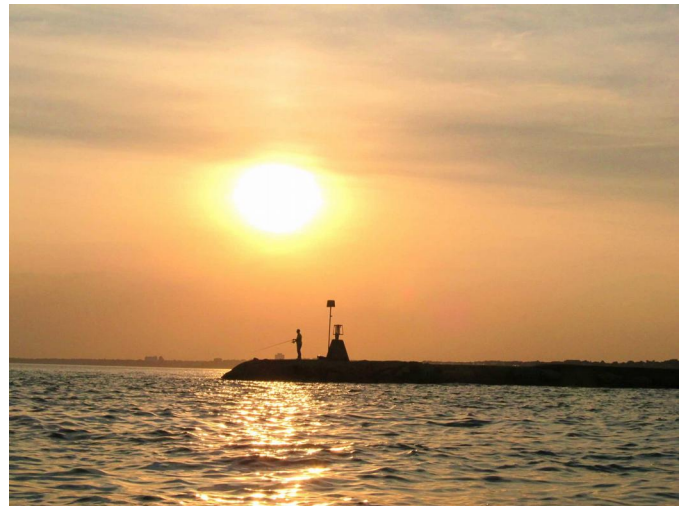
A paddling through the harbour, down the run and out of the entrance.....leaving the hustle and bustle of the quay behind for a few well earned minutes of peace and quiet and fresh air....lovely

....Paddle up along side the beach towards Hengistbury Head, sometimes over a few waves on the way.

But other nights the water is like a mill pond.



And the sunsets are usually pretty good too.....



and back just in time for a beer at the Haven.

Come on down and join us in the summer, we will be there from 6pm.

Nicky R

CARDIFF WHITE WATER

Cardiff white water ,for some of us a new challenge and what a great day to hit it for the first time, a beautiful sunny summers day . 6am saw the Ringwood contingent leave with boats piled high on Jakes van. Jake ,Lisa, Dot ,Cindy ,Tim and Gary . Tim was on time with gear ready a... mazing.

I was being accompanied by the next Admiralties Commander in Chief , young, Nick who was well on time .Didn't learn that from Tim !! and Gareth & Wesley made their own way .

Good drive up with little traffic and no hold ups .I must admit that I did panic a bit when Tim phoned and said they were there ,(they had started later)whilst I still had a another ¾ hr to go , but you know Tim ,good joke ,good joke, I owe you one, you had me.

Admiral Nick and I were first on site with Gareth and Wesley following us in, and the Van gang five minutes later. Not bad grouping. So signed up the triplicate forms and unloaded and geared up .



Ian Mercer had gone up on two wheels to be the camera man and to have a good laugh, think I gave him that.

On the minute the water began to fill the course for the 4 cumic morning session and for some of us it was with trepidation that we took the conveyor to the top of the course. Lisa and I were in opens ,Lisa in a 15ft Prospector, not hers , so she had a double worry ,one to get down and 2 not to bend the boat !.I was in the 14ft 6 Mad River Solo, an interesting boat at the best of times.



I did not see the kayakers slip on down , all I saw was the course and so off I goesmade it to the bend at the bottom but got heaved out there and whilst flailing around saw Lisa go by.

The kayakers made it all look easy although I think everyone had a swim ,even Tim, who had tried to hide his dunking from sight and cameras (twice , from all good accounts)

Nick made an amazing show, I think he has had one session in the Pool, but that didn't stop him from shooting down and taking the swims as they occurred. People made use of the facility to try out different boats and found that a really useful thing to do. Lisa did really well in the Open but had a couple of swims, Jake had a go in it , and I think he had a clear run.

Lunch time arrived and then they changed a few blocks around on the course , and that is where I lay my excuse . As we finished our sarnis in came the water for the 6 cumic session.

So got out of the Solo and into the bigger Open and with great trepidation went up the escalator .Well it was what we here for ! Well the pictures speak for themselves , Ian hasn't put all on site , saving my embarrassment I think.

Got down first two drops then boat took off into the side ,no probs I thought ,put in a back stroke and go down the next one backwards ,but , there was a block just under water amidships and suddenly we were folding ,trouble was my foot was well back for a good reverse stroke and for a few seconds it was pinned under the kneeling thwart , only after overriding my mind to hold onto my paddle did I get my head up .



The RCC team were there , a quick sprint and they were on hand to help or laugh , Jake was over the barrier and unfolding the boat and the rest hauled it out where it sprang back into shape ,ready for the next time! Good ol Origami , she has been a good boat and seems to take the punishment, Royalex is amazing .

Mike W

(for photos of the whole day's events see the photo gallery)

BALA WEEKEND

Returned by extraordinary rendition for a further episode of self-inflicted waterboarding - we were BACK IN BALA (GCHQ, if you're listening in,it's joke)

This time we stayed at The Coach House and Little Cottage organised by the 'Clan Wiltshire'. The weather once again was kind -grey but remarkably warm-and the accommodation quite well kitted out and fairly snug.

Plans were changed to paddle the Dee on Saturday as there was no water being released on the Tryweryn.

We set off,as last time, from the left corner of Horseshoe Falls and on down through the Serpent's Tail .The odd close shave but all those who ran it were safely down including Allen in his open. Impressed.

The Dee is a lovely river and there were a number of spots for those more confident to 'strut their stuff' playboat fashion on the way down. Town Falls by the bridge in Llangollen is another challenging point. Jake W gave us some exciting watching first time down in the open and i went attention seeking again -so nearly

getting it so very wrong. Well,that checked out the nose of the new boat then -rammed straight into a rock jamming me between rocks front and back,so nearly losing balance. Thankfully , a dollop more water arrived and the new Mamba bobbed up and on down like a cork. Worth every penny. Just what I needed-a boat with a default setting of 'upright'. Having sat at the bottom for a while watching I'd definitely start mid river,head left down and along the first shelf turning right off that one, left to finish off. We did walk it first to pick a line but I'd missed seeing that rock.

Mmm....room for improvement in strategy planning.

All others down safely with only minor mishaps and some repeated the fun to make sure it really knew who was boss. Last outing we had finished here but this time we carried on down over the Town Weir-stay far left here as the main part of it is meant to have some nasty surprises within. We got out a couple of Kms further on .We didn't see any sign or even gate denying us egress but a local later told us the owner was 'not happy' so the route may be not available in the future.

Sunday, the Tryweryn water release was not going to happen until a very civilised hour but the 'Waterfall 5' were up and off early . 2 hours driving and 10 minutes of paddling over a 13ft dro-o-o-op. Back at the Coach House so much faffing that they caught up with us just as we headed off for the upper Tryweryn. It did all seem a little more 'grade 4' than last time. Not sure I would have gone back and run it again as we did before. Perhaps it was that the sun was shining previously or perhaps it does vary due to the tributaries even if they release the same amount of water. That said,we completed it with very little incident and some with a lot more panache than my 'only survival counts' style . In fact it was the lower Tryweryn boulder gardens which caught more of us out. It is another beautiful river and this too seemed a little 'more interesting' paddling than it had before. All the opens(who joined for the lower section) seemed to be making it look a lot easier than we Kayakers. How DO they do that? Time was pressing to collect the cars before the top car park closed (16.00)so there was little time to watch others on Bala Mill Falls.I was at least upright at the top this time.....even if not after landing at the bottom. Gallant rescue by Tim- many thanks. I was definitely very tired,after a wonderful day, by that time.

WARNING -Bala Weekenders of 2013 I hear THE PREACHER is coming. Repent your sins and PREPARE YOUR CONFESSIONS.....

-Ian Mercer , did you not distract me and STEAL strawberries from behind my back? (Yes,and I fell for that old trick)

-Lisa, Jake and Charley Wiltshire, were there not ILL THOUGHTS in the van at the moment of realisation that your three dry suits were hanging upat home.

-Jake Wiltshire, CONSIDER AGAIN your graphic description of 'being caught short' (high waterfalls- Natures Laxative-ASK NO MORE)whilst wearing Nichola's borrowed shorts.

-Gareth Sampson, didst thou not DESSERT a helpless pair of wetshoes and drive hundreds of miles south without them.

-Lee Deakin, did you not indulge in GLUTONY (6 meals on Friday; belly ache on Saturday)

-Cindy Buckley, CONFESS TO BAD LANGUAGE(even alone it counts).The thought of so much money spent on a new boat, so much time kitting it outand so much space where those air bags should have been.

-You are also GUILTY of UPSETTING THE FISHERMAN, aka Basil Fawlty. Running aground while trying to pass him is no excuse. Furthermore, following his tirade, the TEMPTATION to just knock him over next time did, briefly, enter your mind.

-Mike Worth, were you not given a present (replacing a long lost treasure) and then proceeded with FALSE ACCUSATIONS that the donor must have been the person who previously stole it from you !

-Allen, did you NOT BELIEVE I had driven off with your dry clothes when they were left, lovingly covered with my own coat getting wet, to keep them dry. 'OH YE OF LITTLE FAITH'

-Sue Jordan, didst thou not ABANDON your bag of dry clothes in the same car parktwice.(Nice sprint back in thermal jump suit by the way)

-Viv Nicholis, CONFESS TO WORRYINGnot just 'for Britain' but to Olympic Gold Standard. Then relax. Buy a new boat. With your technique you'll be ace.

-Jake Deakin,..... I saw you picking bits out of the dinner I'd cooked.....!

Wesley Sampson, CONFESS TO so seriously under dressing so that even I worry about you. (I'm in 2 sets of thermals and a drysuit while Wesley wears swimmersand looks cold.)

-Victor, oh Victor, did you not enter 'THE SERPENT' and cross -like THE GOOD SAMARITAN- to the small eddy on the other side. There, on the miniscule ledge, at the base of the sheer cliff, a poor, frightened, man was precariously perched -attempting to reenter his kayak.....until you nudged him off balance and carried on down the run.

-Tim Bryan and Cindy Buckley, were you not heard to LAUGH AT this poor fellows MISFORTUNE despite feeling GUILT for this even as you did? (We had been observing for at least 5 minutes and at the point he might just have made it back into his kayak....the above. Hats off to him for EVER getting all

his kit out of the flow,emptied and onto 'Hyperventilation Ledge' -almost all of the Serpent lay below him-it would have been an amazing feat of balance to watch. He did make it off successfully 5+ minutes later to well deserved shouts of support and congratulation from us.)

Bev, Barry, Nichola, Ross and Luke you are in no way forgotten but I have no confessions to suggest -darn you for being so perfect....unless anyone may have a few to add.

Many thanks to Jake and Lisa for organising this so well and to everyone for looking after each other and, especially, 'rookies' like me.

Cindy

Dart Pengelley Weekend

This year the Pengelley Dart weekend has to have been one of the most diverse yet!- With a newly populated kayaking department with varying levels of ability (and insanity), our usual crowd of open boaters (The open bloaters have dominated the water ways for far too long now) , higher than we are used to water levels and autumn storms on the horizon.

Unfortunately as the weekend ended up with so many break off groups, I cannot give a full account of what happened on each part of the trip, but I will give you my best recollection of my experience.....

Friday:

I had word from Ross Mac- who I had arranged to travel with, that now he not only had one teething tot who had subsequently kept the whole household awake all night, but has now had to look after another sick toddler - Oliver had broken out in the dreaded chicken pox! - He decided he wasn't coming!

Seeing this as an opportunity (and a sort of constellation) I arranged to travel early and meet up with Ross Levine to get a 'sneaky run down the loop' in, before meeting the rest of the group later that evening.

The plan: to meet Ross L at Newbridge at around 4.30pm - the traffic had other ideas. After letting Ross know I'd be late, I arrived at Newbridge at around 5pm. Only to find that Ross' car was there but minus Ross and his boat. I figured that he had probably found some other buddies and gone down the river - after not knowing what time I'd turn up.

After waiting about half an hour and driving up the road to get some phone signal – to no avail, I came back to Newbridge – still no Ross. I reluctantly decided that I was just going to have to give up and go up to the Pengelley centre, when I spotted some other paddlers in the car park. 'I wonder if they had seen Ross on the river'? So I got chatting to one young lad, who said he had not been down the river yet but I was welcome to join him, and maybe we would bump into Ross on the way.

We got on the river and and paddled to the country park, enjoying the high levels the whole way, but still no sign of Ross. We got out and it was now virtually dark – I phoned Ross again. This time he answered! He had been waiting for me at Newbridge since getting off of the river and seeing the note I had left on his windscreen explaining where I had gone. He came down and gave me and Nick -my paddle buddy, a shuttle back upto our cars.

All safe and sound Ross and I drove upto the Pengelley Centre to meet the others to find that no one else was there. I figured they'd all be in the pub, so I gave Ross a quick tour and went upto the pub. Ross decided to go back to his house in Kingsbridge, as staying at the Pengelly centre wasn't quite as attractive as his warm cosy king size bed, so it was just me.

It seemed that nearly everyone else had the same idea as Ross, as there was only Dave R sat there in the pub on his own! The only other people expected that evening were the Deakins who were currently having dinner with friends and the Cox-Wiltshires who were arriving late. Everyone else was arriving early the next morning or had pulled out due to illness or fear of keeping the group awake with incessant snoring...you know who you are ;-p.

The Pengelly centre felt very empty that night, but at least I had the pick of the beds!

Saturday:

The morning started to feel a little livelier as more people started to turn up. The plan for the day was hatched. with a lot of excitement as the Dart was up!... It had been raining most of the night.

The white water warriors (Jake, Jake, and Tim) were going to start at Dart Meet, paddle the upper and catch up with the group later on. Ross, Wesley, Gareth, Vic and I were going to start at Newbridge and the rest of the group were going to put on at Dart country park.

The timing was perfect....The Warriors were down the upper in no time and caught up with us just as we left Newbridge. And then after a fantastic paddle on the loop we met up with the others and continued towards Staverton.....Not without upset though....Vic and Viv found that after not paddling together in the open for sometime, coordination was at something of a premium and ended up hitting a rock and having the first (and only)swim of the day.

We eventually got to Staverton weir which now looked great fun with all the water going over it and with it's nice smooth rapid going down the middle, so much so that young Charley decided that he didn't need a boat at all and would hitch a lift on the back of little Jake's boat!...it did look fun!



Once we were off the river we headed back for tea and cake and a sneaky trip to the pub. This turned into a tale of two halves itself as most of us headed down to the abbey inn- the Pub on the river that we normally go to, but Bev and Vic and Viv turned the wrong way and went to the Globe in Buckfastleigh only to find no one there!

Anyway once we were reunited we sat down to a fantastic meal cooked by Bev and Pudding by Viv, and spent the rest of the evening concocting the plan for the next day.

Sunday:

The warriors + Vic but – Tim, decided they were going to take advantage of the even higher levels and head for the heights of the upper dart again. Gareth, Wesley and Ross decided to do the Loop again, and the rest of us decided that we fancied a walk.

So the paddlers headed off for another day of white water wildness and we went up to Bantham for a walk along the cliff top.

As usual in the presence of Barry and Bev the walk turned into not just any walk...this one included rock climbing, coasteering, leaning on the wind, foam jumping and paddling (unintentionally) and as the weather was closing in due to the storm that was on its way there was a little bit of rain mixed in too.



By the time it got to lunch time, the weather looked miserable so we headed back to the cars and drove over to Dartington hall for a much needed afternoon tea and a windswept walk around the gardens. All in all I think we can agree that it was actually a really fun day.

Nicky R