

OTRC Match Report

Bedford 14th October 2018

Race organiser & Club Captain Angela Hook's race preamble;

How wet can you get? About as wet as the competitors at Bedford Small Boats Head on Sunday, 14th October. The day was a demonstration of how competitive/determined/stubborn/obstinate/daft rowers truly are (delete as appropriate). The weather was really miserable. The rain filled up the foot-wells of all the boats during the races and splashed mud up onto upturned hulls as they sat on the trestles waiting for the next division. Wet grit covered the handles of all the oars. Everyone was dressed in that glamorous waterproof kit which makes everyone look so svelte and chic but which didn't prevent the rain seeping into all the gaps and cracks!

But, in spite of all this, we had a good day. Times were slow in general because of the conditions but good performances were turned out, especially by Keely, who won her Masters A sculling race. Congratulations, Keely.

Special thanks to Nick for pulling the trailer again and also to Simon who came along to support everyone even though he wasn't competing. He was a very useful pair of hands and a helpful brain until the cold finished him off! The OTRC spirit was obvious all day, but never more so than from those rowers (and Simon) who turned up to re-rig at the club at the end of the day while still cold, wet and tired. Thanks, everyone.

The next club event is at Bedford again. This time the event is organised by Star Rowing Club, on 18th November. Get your entries in now!

Charlotte and Jessica

By the time we had got to Bedford we had thought we had come prepared with coats and umbrellas but nothing could prepare us for the wettest race we had ever done. We boated early and rowed gently up to the start for our race at 9:15am but by the time we were at the start we were already soaked through to our skin, and had a long wait till our race started. There were 17 boats in our category which was a lot more than any other regatta we had ever done. When we got started we focused on keeping our stroke long and strong and it seemed to be working. Our rating was good and the row felt smooth even if we had collected a swimming pool in the bottom of our boat! We didn't get over taken or over take anyone which we thought was an achievement! However, we started to lose energy towards the end which was where we started to slow down and we lost our rhythm a few times but managed to get it back ignoring the sound of sloshing our boat made every stroke! We hoped we had done well with our time and by the end of the race were absolutely drenched but we had had fun and came 11th out of 17 which was good as the weather was so bad. Well done to the other crews for rowing on such a wet day and congratulations to Keely for winning her race!

J15 boys 2x Jacob and Will

After getting soaked through from rigging, we decided to get going and try to warm up. Our boat was full of water and getting moving was a struggle, but we pressed on and got up to the start. The course seemed longer than we could remember. Whilst being called at by marshals we took our wet jumpers off and sat in the freezing cold waiting to go. Soon enough though we began and pushed through. Although the course seemed long, it went quick and before we knew it we passed the finish with a decent time. We had warmed up slightly throughout the race but got cold again when we got out of the boat so we couldn't wait to get somewhere warm...

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W.J17.1x **Erin**

Before my single I was very nervous as I'd never done a head race in a single before and the weather wasn't too great!!

After rigging my boat and sorting oars out, the marshals soon shouted "it is now 11:28, all boats to be boated by 11:30" which panicked me slightly. I had a very quick row down to the start, but despite being late I had a very long wait as I was the last boat to race but three. While waiting, I was very entertained by an over 70s men's double, who I ended up following down the course, giving me lots of advice- at least I know now about exactly what material of clothes you should wear and that if you don't have your number you have to shout it VERY loudly to the marshals at the start AND the finish, after hearing this at least 10 times!!

Eventually I rowed up to the start and began at a good pace which felt quite strong. I kept this going and surprisingly managed to dodge all the bridges. At the end I gave one last push and upped the rating as much as I could. Despite feeling like I rowed quite neatly, I think that I could have definitely upped the rating a few pips as I wasn't as exhausted at the end as normal.

Thank you very much to everyone who helped out and well done to all the other crews!! :)

Keely, Joe, Charlie, **Ian** cox Emma

Where's the competition? There were only three coxed fours entered at Bedford this year – two J18 crews with 591 & 240 points respectively... ours 24. We were therefore given a time only opportunity for club bragging rights. Joe subbed for Richard and Emma Stratton took over in the cox's seat. It was a good row with great encouragement and calls from Emma despite monsoon conditions. Time 8:17.

W.J18.2x Laura & **Erin**

Laura and I hadn't rowed together all summer and it was Laura's first race for a very long time. As a result, we were both very nervous and weren't expecting much!!

Fortunately Angela and Claire had rowed in our boat before us so we had time to get a hot chocolate from McDonald's after my single to warm up. After adjusting the boat we got onto the water and had a leisurely row to the start. When we were waiting at the start another boat very thankfully realised that we had been waiting for a good 15 minutes under a very massive branch that was hanging vertically right above our heads!!

After all the drama we eventually got going. After feeling a bit slow in the single, I made sure I didn't set the rating too slowly and feel like we could have done more at the end. Surprisingly, even before the second bridge we were overtaking the other j18 double. This slowed us down a bit as we had to steer around them in the end, but made up for this by pushing harder for 20 strokes. However straight after this we were overtaken by a very big and fast j16 double. We made sure we kept our heads in the boat and kept pushing. With the help of some very motivating calls from Laura we finally reached the last bridge but one where we pushed for the finish.

Like in my single, we both decided that next time we could increase the rating quite a bit as we felt like we definitely could have gone faster. As well as this, our time was nearly 30 seconds slower than Bedford last year, which were weren't very happy about. Despite this it wasn't a bad row for the first time in a double in ages and we are looking forward to improving for our next race :))

Thank you to everyone for their help and well done to all the other crews!!



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New - Kit Bundles!

With kit bundles, you can group a number of your club kit items together and achieve an extra discount.

The bundle can consist of any of the items on your kit page, but the items in the bundle must all be ordered to benefit from the additional discount. Bundles can be ordered at any time during, or outside of an order window – during an order window, the quantity pricing for each individual item will be applied, in addition to the bundle discount.

Discounts for bundles are as follows:

3 items – 5%

4 items – 6%

5 items – 7%

Godfrey Sport oundletownrowing.co.uk/club-clothing

No indoor training this week.
It's half term

Daisy, **Emma**, Jo M, Charlotte

We had a last minute adjustment in our crew who certainly gave me a run for my money on how much I talk!! The lovely Jo Milborne stepped up to two seat and called at us the entire way through the race...sometimes missing a number here and there whilst putting the work in! It was a superb row and we all got out with smiles on our faces whilst soaked right through to the skin!

Although it was a day which the sun decided not to join us, it was a great race (apart from the b**tards who decided to beat us by 15 seconds to win our category)!

Thank you Jo - always welcome if you fancy a quick row!

Keely - W Mas A 1x – Time 9.10
Winner!!!



There is always a question I ask myself when I race – ‘Why????’ Sunday was no exception when I realised that the weather forecast may actually be correct (although I was happy that the wind had dropped from Saturday).

Having never raced a single in a head race thought that it wouldn't do me any harm, after sitting at the start in what felt like a monsoon for a long time I wasn't so sure! On the way to the start I had managed to avoid all of the bridges and was praying to the rain gods that I could do the same during the race.

I started off at a 28 spm rating despite and a somewhat 'interesting' check and managed to maintain the rating throughout the whole piece increasing it at the end keeping the check in control (ish). I had planned the course that I wanted to steer before the start and just about managed to keep to it. The only near miss that I had was with the town bridge, but I managed to avoid an actual collision and boat damage.

Alice, Becky, Jo H, **Kat**, cox Liz

Second event for us learn-to-racers, and once again in the dismal rain... but the course was so picturesque that Liz, Becky, Jo, Alice and I were able to overlook the weather and focus on getting ourselves onto the water quickly for the Division 1 event. Well, perhaps not too quickly... we were some of the last to the start after fumbling with rain jackets, last minute loo-breaks, and urging the young men in the boat ahead of us at the launch to hurry up and push off. We were evidently not the only ones struggling to move fast on a wet Sunday morning! Dreams of hot chocolate and wine by the fire quickly faded after a well-paced warm-up and the amiable chaos of queuing up. Then the race began. Liz coxed with the confidence of a pro and led us smoothly through the many bridges. We had practiced several times together and easily fell into a good rhythm, staying in time and keeping our stride. We may have hogged the river initially and prevented a few boats from passing us, but I hope we can be forgiven that on our first head race. We finished strong and then quickly changed into dry kit so Jo, Liz and Alice could stay warm ahead of their row in Div 5. All in all, a pleasant outing, with us finishing 4th in our category. The weather did not dampen our spirits and we are looking forward to our next race!

