

OTRC Match Report

Northampton 19th January 2019

Race organiser Jennie's foreword....

Northampton is our first race event of the year, and typically the weather conditions can range from freezing cold, driving rain, wind or snow, or a combination of some or all of those.

So, as I left the warmth of my home at 6.10am it was snowing, and quite frankly this other weather condition didn't seem surprising either. However, by the time we got to Northampton there was none of that, and just for once the weather was relatively kind to us all day, and it stayed dry, something of a minor miracle.

We have some fab results, the Men's quad was 7th fastest crew of the day, and our fastest crew of the club with the Men's 8 and the Young ladies quad and ladies 8, men's 4+ and men's double all with sub 7 minutes times.

OTRC fastest junior club crew was the J17 boys quad with a time of 07.05, so [congratulations](#) to Nathan Phillips, Matthew Leer and Ben Rowntree, and super sub Laura Dew.

A great start to 2019, well done to everyone who raced, and we all now have targets to aim for in the next few race events.

I would like to thank everyone who helped during the day, before and after with de rigging and re rigging, trailer loading both before the race and after, and it goes to show that if everyone helps a little bit then none of us should have to do a lot.

Thanks to Dick and Peter, our trailer drivers, and Daisy who stayed all day despite having had only a very few hours' sleep on Friday night.

The club social at The Ship was very well attended and a lovely opportunity for a few of us to show off our medals!



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Masters F 8 (Rob, Brian, **Simon**, Andrew, Martin, Leslie, Dick, Jon; cox: Anita); entered as senior 8. Time - 6:26

We won this event last year, however there were no other masters 8's entered so we competed in the senior event against elite and senior school crews. One of the features of this year's men's 8 is the taking full advantage of the squad system. We rarely get the same crew for two consecutive outings and so it was at Northampton. A couple of holiday returnees back in the crew, a bit of seat negotiation ("where are you rowing?" "6." "I thought I was at 6; I'll row at 4 then") and we were ready to go, but not before a quick blazer moment (boating downstream can be a bit confusing for the older generation). One can usually tell if it's going to be a good row by the way the crew starts off, and this time it felt smooth and well balanced. Having been the last crew to boat we paddled sedately down to the start, turned and were lined up for the start when to the marshal's ire we discovered a problem with one of the seats. So, the OTRC 4+ was sent off ahead of us while we re-adjusted. Once under way, we settled into a comfortable race rhythm, rating around 32. We chased down the club 4 in front of us finally overtaking them about 200m from the finish. We felt we'd had a good row, better than at Star but our on-board statistician (Brian) later informed us that we were a couple of seconds slower than last year.

Although we didn't win, I think we won the "shortest time on the water" competition - boating, rowing to the start, turning, faffing, racing and back on the trestles inside 30 minutes.

WMas 4x- Claire, **Angela**, Fiona and Jennie (7:24 adjusted)

A minor miracle! No wind, no rain, no snow at Northampton. Better weather and fewer crews made for a lovely day out.

Winners!

We implemented a new warm up (watch the embarrassing video, courtesy of Emma and Charlotte). Jen did an amazing steering job, considering we were 3 abreast at one point on a not-very-wide river, which was a bit hair-raising, but it got the adrenalin going and made us push harder. We also had a couple of new and effective calls in the boat, but it was mostly just "legs" from Fiona. The stroke rate was controlled well at 30 by Claire.

The 'tidy' ladies were a bit more aggressive this time (as instructed, Nick) and WE WON!!

John B

I rowed with Anita in the first division and we had a satisfactory row. On our return to the boating area other members in true Oundle Town fashion had kindly rigged my boat so it was straight off for the second division. After queuing around the island, it was straight off without time to look round and as a result ran up the bank of the island. When I have disentangled from the bank, I settled down to a good rhythm possible a little too fast but the sculler behind from Nottingham Rowing Club had caught up and we tussled for about two minutes and I had to let him go as I had over cooked it and was feeling the effects from the first division. Towards the end of the course I began to fade and felt very tired and sluggish. Not one of my better sculls but its only January and will improve as the days become warmer.

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Jacob and Will J15 2x

We got in the boat after rigging our boat and rowed up to the start. As we arrived at the start there was a lot of hanging around and we needed to keep warm so we kept all our layers on until the last possible moment. After taking our layers off and getting prompted by the marshals to hurry up and spin we finally got into our rhythm and started to build up pace. We set ourselves a target to stay with our opposition in front and we did that well, which we were pleased with. However, in the middle of the race we attempted to overtake a single in a narrow spot and nearly messed up our race. We managed to get back into the race after overtaking the single and finished with a race that we were both pleased with.

Keely, Emma, Charlotte and **Daisy**
Time: 06:45

It cold... However, not typical Northampton weather (happy days!)
The rigging was simple; place, slide and bolt. We were ready, all awake, all ready to embrace the elements that were to come. Rowing down, fairly quickly and a couple of funny chats here and there to keep us entertained. "OUNDLIE LADIES QUAD! TURN AROUND THAT SPACE" We got turned by the skills of Charlotte at stroke and Emma at bow.

The race certainly woke us all up and wasn't the neatest row we have done in the quad, however we picked up the pace and soon started the catch the crew behind us. Unfortunately, we found out that night that we actually had no opposition due to scratch crews. But still happy with our time.

Thanks to Jennie for organising the race extremely well, thanks to Dick and Peter for towing the trailer like pros and to everyone for the support.

Mens 4+ Ian, **Joe**, Richard, Charlie, cox : Paul

The day started off very cold as we expect at Northampton! As this course is slightly shorter than 2K we aimed for under 7 minutes.

At the start we expected to set off after the eights had gone, however there was a problem with the men's eight meaning that we set off second. We had a good clean first half to the race in which we kept the eight off our tail. But at about 1k they had reached us and went for the overtake. At this point we got a little messy and tired and had clearly dropped the pressure. After Paul said he could see the finish line we managed to up the pressure and cross the finish line strongly.

As this was our first race crew, we all agreed that we did well and have decided to row at Doncaster next month. Unfortunately, we came second by 2 seconds! But we will take this as a pointer to what we need to cover in our training.



Disappointingly a few reports missing



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Matthew, Ben, **Nathan** and Laura
J17 Quad

I'm not exactly an expert when it comes to races, but what I can say is that we didn't quite have the best of starts! The problem came just as we left the jetty – unfortunately, there was a problem with the steering. We managed to get back to the jetty and Simon and Richard helped to fix it. The row up to the starting line was nervous to say the least. Not only were nerves and the cold starting to kick in, but we were worried that the steering problem would return. When we made it up to the start line, we were all a bit quiet.

Fortunately, the adrenaline kicked in and the race itself went very smoothly. Our timing was great, the calling was perfect, and the steering didn't cause any problems; so, I think it was a nicely executed race. We were exhausted at the end of the race which was ideal if we wanted a good time. In conclusion, despite our bumpy start, the race went well. A huge well done to Matthew and Ben for being brilliant at 3 and 4, as they always are. But most of all, thank you to Laura for stepping in to fill seat number 2 and to make the race calls, despite already competing earlier in the day. Also, thank you to everyone who helped us during training and to Emma for giving us lots of good advice.

We are looking forward to our next (warmer) event!

MxMasD 4x- (Becky, **Simon**, Zoe, Dick) 7:08

We were the only OTRC crew in division 4 so really appreciated the support from those who stayed back to cheer us on. The trick at Northampton is to boat as late as possible and so minimise the waiting at the start. We failed; arriving at the start to find that we were the only boat in the bay. Rowing up to the start had been a bit tricky with balance and timing not quite there so there was a bit of anxiety among the crew.

However, a couple of minor adjustments and it was all fine. Our start position was between two ladies' coxed fours (Northampton and Milton Keynes) so within a few strokes of the start we had caught Northampton and were rowing in dirty water. Dick was forced to steer wide across the bay and, keeping with a winter sports theme, managed to slalom through the marker buoys on the far side of the course. Later analysis suggested that this had added several seconds (well, four) to our time. Having swept past the Northampton crew we settled into a comfortable race rhythm with a rating around 30 over the remainder of the course. Although the time was some 26 seconds behind the winners, it was a most enjoyable third outing for this crew.

