

OTRC Match Report

Abingdon April 2019

Race organiser Jennie's race preamble;

It is my dubious pleasure to write the over view of the day so here goes

A small delegation of OTRC members arrived in Abingdon at the slightly more relaxed time of around 9 am. The weather generally fair, but no rain/ snow/ hail etc ,which in my book is always a winner. Everyone at Abingdon is always friendly and welcoming, no job too small, particularly when emergency supplies of rowing kit is needed.....

There was a WIN for the young ladies quad, Emma, Keeley, Charlotte and Erin, well done girls, even though they managed to hit a buoy on the way down!!

This venue and event is to be thoroughly recommended and I hope that next year we will be able to get more crews ready to race there.

thank you to Nick for towing the trailer, his wing man Peter Dunn, and to those who came to support us on the day, and To Angela and Claire who stayed to the bitter end .

Our next club event is Peterborough 1st and 2nd June, so start getting your crews organised, Paul already has his spreadsheet ready for entries!



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Charlotte, Emma, Keeley and Erin – W4X

Thankfully we arrived at the race with plenty of time to have a look at the course and prepare ourselves, as it turns out the preparation time was definitely necessary.

Having rigged our boat, we noticed a hatch cover was missing, presumably lost in transit. With a bit of innovative thinking, we fixed the problem with a Sainsburys bag and plenty of gaffer tape. Whilst we were busy with our own issues, the men's quad noticed they'd only brought 3 pairs of blades with (definite blazer, I'd say!!), so decided to sneakily take one of our pairs (blazer again...!) so we were left a pair short. Fortunately, we noticed this before boating, and were able to row with our own 8 blades.

The race itself went without incident thanks to Emma's fab steering. We were being chased down by the men's quad, so our aim here was to not be overtaken by them and then to beat them (both of which we achieved) - we made it across the line in 8.24.6 mins, a whole 0.5 seconds ahead!

Once we'd recovered and warmed up we were able to make the most of the food available (tea, BBQ, cheesecake), have a quick look at our oppo, and eventually head home. En route we stopped for our well deserved post race tradition of chicken nuggets - because "winner winner, chicken dinner"! Many thanks to Erin for being our super sub!



WMas D2x (Jo and Vicky)

We arrived at Abingdon and rigged our boat, before going through our usual pre-race rituals: wee; tea; flapjack; oars down to the pontoon; another wee (whilst were here...). All our kit seemed in order. We had the right number of oars and all our hatches, (unlike the men's quad) and our boat was ready to go. One more wee each, then onto the water at our allotted time and up to the head of the course to wait for the division to start. And we waited. And waited. And waited. During the hour and a half whilst we waited, we chatted to some charming fossilized old chaps who regaled us with tales of where they had crashed in previous events on the course. "We won't be doing any of that." we thought! Hmm, how wrong can you be?...

The day gradually wore on. Lunchtime came and went. We were moved down to the next Marshall. And waited again. Yawn. Then suddenly, we were off. No warning. Just "go." So we did. Settled into our rhythm, and registered the course markers as we rowed down. At the sharp bend, the crew who were following us down then decided that they had reached ramming speed, and having forced us completely off the course and into the bouy's, gave our oars a good bash, just to make sure we were properly impeded and forced to stop. Thanks guys! All that waiting, to be pushed out of the race. What a bummer!

We picked ourselves out of the bouys, started afresh. We found a good rhythm again and continued to race down the rest of the course. We had a good finishing 500m, but felt fairly disappointed with what had happened and were happy to give the offending Falcon W2x a massive death stare at the pontoon. (It didn't make us any faster, but it made us feel better!) As it turned out we only came second by 10 seconds, and would therefore probably have won .

So, despite a long drive, a massive wait, and a good start and end to the race, the bit in the middle was a bit pants. But at least they were dry pants, thanks to all the pre-race weeing we did. Let's hope there are no falcon attacks next time.

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WMas C 4x- Claire, Angela, Alice, Jennie.

The 'experienced ladies' quad' had a super sub for Abingdon, as Fiona was undertaking non-rowing duties. Alice Gibb stepped into the boat beautifully. And rowed beautifully too, although she's so young that she did bring us down from a Vet E to a Vet C all on her own! Thanks Alice.

Jen steered a great course despite being a bit anxious about the multitude of instructions for positioning at the bend, etc. Claire set a lovely stroke rate at 30 which felt like 27 (always a positive). Angela did a lot of shouting and then met a very unwelcome crustacean, which destroyed the outing somewhat! The row felt good and rhythmical, apart from the crab, but much further than the advertised 1800m.

We are now looking forward - not to the next competition - but to the next social, where we will see The Judge wearing the blazer for the whole of the evening. He forgot to pack his oars, suggested someone else should have packed them for him and had to borrow a GREEN pair from the home club. Tut, tut Mr Dunn.

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