

OTRC Match Report

Peterborough Regatta

Jon and Richard Masters C 2X Time 3:56.6

Following on from our good showing at Bedford head recently Richard and I thought we would try our hand at side by side racing.

It also appeared that a lot of others thought Peterborough would be a good place to enter Masters C 2X as there were to be 2 full heats of 4 crews followed by the final. If we were to win we would have to work for it!

The draw gave us a very civilised race time of 1:04pm, the day had dawned bright and sunny if a little on the windy side for our liking.

We boated in good time and paddled up to the start, trying a couple of starts on the way, which it is fair to say, could have gone better.

Arriving at the marshalling area we were somewhat concerned when we saw the crew from ARD/MAV two giants among men.

We got on to the state boats without incident, the starter didn't keep us waiting long, and then we were off.

Richard got the difficult job of steering which meant I was stroking, which is a new thing for someone who is used to rowing at bow. It has to be said the red mist got the better of me and we went off at 38 lengthening to 34, not the 36 to 30 we had practiced.

In any event it made no difference, the two giants disappeared into the distance and probably had their boat back on the trailer before we finished. At half way we were still in second place fighting to stay in front of Star club, I had managed to get the rating under more control by then. Unfortunately the lack of control earlier on, meant my legs were screaming and by 750 meters we had let Star slip through, so had to settle for 3rd in a time of 3:56.6.

The giants had won in 3:31.9 and went on to win the final in 3:21.5, so there was no way we would match that except in our dreams! A small consolation we were still the fastest club double of the day, all be it by only 0.1 of a second! Hard luck Ian and Peter, maybe next time!

Nick and Jon Masters E 2X.

Masters E 2X turned out to be another popular event, 2 full heats and a final. This was our first race in this pairing after only 2 or 3 outings together which had gone well, so we felt we may be in with a shout.

I had a 40 minute turn round from my heat in the masters C double with Richard, so was more than warmed up when we boated for our heat. The wind and the marshal launches were making the lake choppy than we would like, hence our practice starts could have been better.

We arrived at the start to find one of the crews had scratched so the 3 of us lined up on the state boats. We were not kept waiting long then we were off, we got a good start and found ourselves in the lead with Bentham just behind but keeping with us. We both began pulling away from Loughborough, by half way they were a couple of lengths down, but Bentham were still with us and I think we're happy to just sit there as the first 2 were through to the final. We crossed the line in front in a time of 4:00 mins so were in the final.

Understandably we were quite pleased with ourselves; this lasted until we saw the times for the second heat, which was won in a time of 3:39.8, with my old pairs partner from St Neots coming in second in 3:42.9. We were a little off the pace it would appear.

We had to wait until 6pm for the final so were well recovered when we headed to the start. I don't know if the fact that Hollingworth Lake and St Neots had been so much faster in their heat was on our minds but when off the start we found ourselves in front of St Neots it seemed to throw us, or maybe it was just me. My steering went to pot and we kept moving towards lane 1 much to the umpires annoyance, and ours, hitting the buoys doesn't do much for your rhythm. It was a real struggle to get off the buoys and back to the middle of the lane, we had been fine in the heat.

All this poor steering and the effort it took to get back into the middle of our lane meant that we were no longer in front of St Neots who by this time had pulled smoothly through us. Cont.....

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We were still in touch with Bentham the other crew from our heat, but by 750 meters we had slipped back to fourth, we were however rowing much more cleanly by this time.

Looking at all the times, all the crews were slower in the final with the exception of Bentham, who I believe were just cruising in our heat. Of the crews that raced on the day we posted the 4th fastest time, so fourth in the final was a fair result. Better luck next time!

Mas C 2X Richard & Jon

Having had a very good row at the Bedford head earlier in the year, we decided to give side by side sprint racing a go. Once again, practice was an issue but we managed a couple of outings in the weeks preceding the race taking our total outings together up to 5, one of which was a race. Come race day the weather was fantastic (for our race at least, it changed very quickly for the latter part of the day, arks were being prepared, long beards were plentiful...) and so we took to the water, the unnaturally vivid blue water. On the way to the start we did a couple of practice starts to blow away the cobwebs and get rid of the adrenaline, and we were soon at the start end waiting for the rest of the crews to arrive. Arrive they did, including a composite double featuring 2 of the largest rowers I saw that day, they were both clearly well over 6ft and beefy with it. Not to be put off we took our place at the start and waited for the off. We had a pretty good start and were in second after a few strokes, the composite double led from the first and we never caught sight of them again after that. Our stroke rate was rather high compared to our training outings and we struggled to keep our pace up, by 500 a lot of our get up and go had got up and left so it was a case on holding on as long as possible. The Star crew that had been behind us most of the way started to push, they were through us by 750m and there was no change from there on. We finished 3rd ahead of an MK crew, a good row overall, consistent, but no engravers were bothered by us for that one.



IM3 pair Joe & Will

Our first race of the day was in the four in which we had won our heat which had prepared us for the first heat in the pair. We had already rowed in the pair at Nottingham however our result wasn't great. In our heat we started steadily to keep the balance and pushed to get a good start. The race was a lot easier than Nottingham as it was a nice day and no wind to battle against which helped greatly. We ended the heat strongly in second place putting us into the final.

Our start to the final was equally strong as the heat however we were racing against some really beefy competition in IM3 and they pulled away from us shortly after. However we had a clean consistent row which we were very happy with and managed to finish in third place. Thanks to everyone who helped out.



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W.J18.1x Daisy

9:44 was the first race of the day in my single heat. The weather was great, nice and hot, warming me up easily ready for my first race of the day, the way up to start was steady allowing me to get my race plan together and to conserve my energy. GO!!! The race had begun my start was a bit rushed and uncontrolled (a bit of red mist I believe) but slowly managed to get back in control, I was in Lane 2 with competitors in lanes 3 and 4. Lane 3 went off right from the start and managed to keep in front the whole way down but lane 4 was steady and in line with me. At the 500 meter mark I pushed on my legs for 10 allowing a small pull of off lane 4 giving me second place and a row in the final...

Finals... after having a long day with the last race of the final at 6:45 they were running ahead of time. I was feeling incredibly nervous at this stage and was remembering to not get red mist or do anything stupid... I was attached to the stake boat easily waiting for the official to start the race. GO!!! We were off and got a great start and managed to get a comfortable pace allowing pushes at every 250 meters completed. I was bow ball with Broxbourne next to me and was fighting for second place, we both put up a fantastic fight, but I just managed to push in front of her giving me a place of second. Got to the finish absolutely exhausted and took a couple of strokes to get to the jetty and before I knew it my left oar squared under the water and the boat was slowly tipping... I tried to save it by feathering it but unfortunately wasn't enough and received a very quick cool down... but I would like to say a huge THANK YOU to everyone for supporting me and helping me before and after my swim...



Mas.B x2 – Peter and Ian - Time 03:56

Despite our position we were only 4 seconds away from 2nd place - 'm purposely ignoring the composite crew who finished nearly 30 seconds ahead of the pack!

The steersman was very pleased to keep within his lane for this race which was a huge improvement on Nottingham. We did receive a minor warning for veering over to bow-side and tapping a couple of yellow buoys. I think bonus points should be awarded for Pac-Man style finesse. Our GPS watch has been a great asset for our training and post-race analysis. We've been working hard on our starts and we were cruising off into contention at 17.30km/h within the first 10 strokes. We lengthened out to around 16-16.5km/h for the first half of the race and we kept a constant pace for the majority of the race, rarely dipping below 15.5km/h.

We called for a power ten shortly after the 'buoys incident' and we then kept above average speed for the next 100m or so. In the second half we started to see more of Parr Priory's stern and we called for another 10 in an attempt to see them off and we started to edge ahead of them.

After flirting with the buoys we decided to have a go with some of the crustaceans on offer which we picked up successfully with around 150m to go. This was a rare incident so we quickly placed blamed the offending blade and recovered well to the finish.

Despite the buoys and crab our GPS speed showed it was good first half with only slight gradual drop at the end but with a few some power tens thrown in for good measure. We will go into our next race with a lot more confidence from it and we improved on our Nottingham time by 42 seconds!

WMasD2x Vicky/Jo

This felt like a day of two halves. Warmth and sunshine in the morning and a heat which went according to plan - following our recently conceived race plan - row our own race, light hands, long, low and strong, we know we can push when we need to. So far so good and into the final. The wind got up in the afternoon, the clouds came in and our rowing in the final was definitely more of the cloudy variety. Race plan out of the window, didn't stay in our lane and never hit that elusive rhythm. Perhaps we're saving it for the next race!

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W.J18.2x Becky and Daisy

We boated at 1 to get to our race for 1:30, plenty of time to eye up our opposition and notice we had raced them before at other events.

The start went well and gave us a good push for ten on the legs, however Peterborough/Deben crew were straight off but we kept up with Broxbourne for the first half of the race, managing to pull off from City of Cambridge. It got to the middle of the race where it began to spread out allowing us to pull off from Broxbourne. This made us come 2nd and got a time of 4.04.05 mins, getting into the final.

Final time!! It was 15:30 and we were absolutely shattered (too much Netflix!). The start was an interesting one both having missed the second stroke, coming away from Sudbury and slowly from Cambridge 99. But yet again Peterborough/Deben managed to pull straight off from us! However we were very very happy with our race and very happy with the time of... 4.04.02 (couldn't do it again if we tried!)

Thanks to John and Jo for towing the trailer and thank you to everyone who supported us and helped.

