

# OTRC Match Report

## Peterborough Summer Regatta

Sunday 13th August 2017

### Foreword by Race Organiser Nick Hurford.....

I had the honour of being the OTRC 'member in charge' for the Peterborough summer sprint regatta on the Sunday - a position that I was encouraged to take with a mild bit of persuasion by Simon, I also volunteered for towing the trailer and again a first for me with OTRC - I can tell you that a little bit of nervousness crept in about this I might say! Although I have experience with towing racing boats with my previous club and knew I could do it all OK - but still I didn't want any mishaps and to be known as a wrecker of boats or equipment!



Anyway on the Saturday afternoon I knew that I was now fully committed to my duties and with my 'I'm now in charge frown on' and clipboard in hand we loaded up the trailer with a small number boats all done by a keen team of just five eager racers.



To add to my nervousness of towing the trailer I knew that the Warmington to Oundle part of the A605 had been closed for roadworks that weekend and I had to tow the trailer along some tight county back roads to Peterborough - well I can inform you all that I made it there and back without any mishaps!

#### Masters G 1x **John Bishop**

I have not raced in a single for two to three years but as two of the Masters F quad are on holiday and Nick and Jon decided to enter this regatta as a Masters E double I thought it would be an opportunity to enter and have a go. There were six entries in the event resulting in two heats. Heat one had two Masters G and one Masters F scullers. My heat two had two Masters G and one F. One of the competitors in heat one failed to show up so that the two remaining entries would make it through to the final and only had to race for lanes. In my first race, I made a controlled start and quickly drew away from the other Masters G sculler from Rob Roy. I settled down with a good lead over the other sculler from Worcester who started 5 seconds behind me. However, at the half way stage the Worcester sculler started to close the gap and had overlap with me with 100 m to go and was closing fast. In a do or die effort I put in as many strokes as I possibly could and just piped the Worcester man by 0.2 of a second.

It was then a 5 hour wait for the final and I must admit that the first race had taken more out of me than I cared to admit. I boated in good time for the final and did two practice starts before lining up. It was then that I realised that I had not recovered from the first race. So, I revised my race plan (plan B). That was to go off as fast as possible and then hang on. After about 350 meters it all caught up with me and the lactic acid in my legs took over and from a good length and a half lead I could do nothing by watch the field over take me. I managed to get going again and I think that I may have just piped the sculler from Bedford at the line. The Worcester sculler was the event winner. Thanks to Nick and Jon for helping at the end of the race as I was in no condition to carry my boat back to the trailer.

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Masters 'E' 2x **Nick** & Jon H

We had our first heat in the morning (11.12am) and we knew that needed to come 1st or 2nd out of the 4 competitors to qualify for the final, we decided to warm up early and did an outing on the river for about 1/2 hour and then swiftly moved our boat on to the lake and rowed to the start — just in time as before we knew it we're off! We had a bit of a messy start but soon settled down to a comfortable rhythm and in 2nd position with a lead of over 2 lengths on 3rd position and 4th quite a lot further back, so we held this 2nd position all the way to the end - we were in the final.

Second race 'the final' - after a long pause (final 4.30pm) we decided to do another good warm up and this time we allowed 3/4 of an hour on the river and rowed to Peterborough town bridge and back, well you could say that may be that was a little too far for a warm up but in fact we were so zoned-in it didn't matter, anyway now back we swiftly moved on to the rowing lake in plenty of time with the other crews gathering and I knew the chaps from the Peterborough crew and that they would be our main target, with good words from my racing partner Jon 'were going to have to pull something BIG out of the bag here'.

We're on the start and adrenaline pumping and we're off! A fabulous start and striking a huge rate of 44 and in the lead straight away and it felt great! I then had to control this race pace and bringing it down to a more comfortable rate at 38 then 36 but I know that's still quite high but we are absolutely flying, every stroke felt comfortable, we could see other crews near us and in fact all 3 opposition boats were close but we're still in front by a good 3/4 of a length.

It was just over half way and a massive gust of wind blew all of the boats our way and we are in the nearside lane by the bank with lots of reeds to our right side, so we had to do two quick correction strokes brushing the reeds as we go, unfortunately this 'distraction' took our minds off the race (but kept us in the race) and put us back to second or third place but all three boats are overlapping and we're still in with a chance, we absolutely pushed, pushed and pushed every stroke - this was a race at full full pace and the noise from the bank with all the people shouting & cheering all of the crews... well it was fabulous!

We finished the race not knowing exactly how close it was (all three boats neck & neck) and in the end we were given 3rd place 0.4 seconds behind 2nd place and they were 1 second behind the winners, all-in-all a good effort but a little disappointing as it was so nearly ours and anyway we did a fabulous time: Oundle 1.48 for the 500M

You can see a video (OTRC dropbox P'bro regatta) of this race taken by my daughter with my wife going enthusiastically mad shouting 'Come on Oundle'



## OTRC BBQ

**SATURDAY 9TH SEPT**

COULD YOU BAKE A CAKE,  
PROVIDE SOME BOOKS OR  
PRODUCE TO SELL, OR A  
TOMBOLA PRIZE?

SIGN UP SHEET & BOX FOR  
TOMBOLA PRIZES IN THE  
BOATHOUSE FROM THIS  
WEEKEND

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## W.J18.1X Daisy

It was a warm day, with a great amount of sun slowly burning us. I got boated and warmed up, practicing starts and getting mentally prepared.

I found my competitors and started the race with a great start, unfortunately throughout the race my opponents managed to keep in front of me.

However I was happy with my time of 2 mins exactly.

Thanks to Nick for towing and everyone who supported me. Well done to the others on their races.

## W.J18.2x Becky and Daisy

Our race was the first race of the day and neither of us were really prepared mentally or physically for this race.

We arrived a little late but with the help of Nick and Jon who rigged our boat we got to our race with plenty of time.

We boated and went to the start, lined up with our opponents and go!

Our race was heavy and not very clean, we stayed at third close to second for most of our race, but couldn't hold on to second.

It was a good race with a time of 2:01.08.

Thank you for everyone's help and support throughout the race, rigging and derigging.

## OTRC LATE SUMMER SOCIAL

Saturday 9th September - 5pm to 8pm

BY THE RIVER AT OTRC

BBQ

PIMMS



# **OTRC**

## **MAINTENANCE DAY**

### **& BONFIRE**

**Saturday 9th September 2017**

**9AM TO 2PM**

***ALL HELP APPRECIATED. WHETHER FOR 5 HOURS OR 20 MINUTES.***



**PLEASE BRING TOOLS,  
SUITABLE FOOTWEAR,  
OWN REFRESHMENTS  
& WATERPROOFS**

