

OTRC Match Report

St Neots Regatta

23rd July 2017

Forward by Race Organiser Simon Murray.....



St Neots annual two day regatta is a popular event with clubs coming from all over the UK. The organisers make a special effort on the social side with bar, live music, overnight camping etc., so arriving early to register for the sprint event involves tiptoeing around the drunken remnants of the previous days regatta.



We had brought our own entertainment in the shape of a gazebo-without-instructions so the early birds were able to watch as Paul, Sally and Daisy struggled with the components and each other to assemble it and provide our (much appreciated) shelter for the day. Well done guys!

With eleven crews entered, each with at least a heat or semi-final as well as a final in order to win, there were plenty of OTRC performances to cheer, and the results show that as a club we are well capable of holding our own at this level.

As usual, thank you to everyone who did their bit with rigging/de-rigging, helping with boating, blade carrying etc., which always makes things so much easier for the racers.

Many thanks especially to John for organising and towing the trailer and making sure we came home with the right amount of kit.

Next stop Sudbury on 5th August.

DATE FOR THE DIARY

Club BBQ & Bonfire

Saturday 9th September 2017

More details to follow

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WMasD 2x Jo/**Vicky**

So - this was our first race after missing out at Masters. The weather was a feature here too, but we did race this time. We had a bye in the first round, a semi against our Sudbury "D" rivals who beat us at Peterborough, then (potentially) a final.

The heavens opened as we prepared to boat and continued to do so until we got the boat back onto the tressels after our race.

Spirits a little dampened we proceeded to the start, time for a quick practice start, onto the stake boat and we were off. A good powerful start and into our rhythm, rowing our own race, sticking to our plan, we pulled ahead. We stayed ahead and won.



The sun came out, we dried out and waited to see who our opposition were for the final. Sudbury -"C" this time. Sadly even with a 5 second start for being old we did not stay ahead. Not such a good row this time, we reverted to our old faults when under pressure.

More training required before we go to Sudbury to race them on their home turf.

J17 2X: Joe, **Conor**

Lucky for us, the sun had emerged and the rain subsided by the time we set off from the jetty. With a strong start and consistent pressure, we ploughed through with high hopes only to discover that our opponents were phenomenally quick! Technique was good, with the fatal flaw being the steering (on my part!), misled by what I thought to be a relatively straight course. How wrong was I!!



Masters E/F 4X – Rob, Brian, Peter D, **John B**

There were four entries for this event, 2 from Maidstone (One master's E and the other masters F) and the other from Peterborough (also masters F). We drew the Maidstone E crew in the first round. The previous day the results indicated that the Peterborough Quad had beaten them easily over the 1000m course, so we thought that we were in with a chance. However, we discovered on the day that Maidstone had lost due to a quick release rigger releasing during the race.

We set off to the start down the very narrow access lane and had to stop a number of times so as not to interfere with racing on the course. There was just enough time for a quick practice start before we lined up with Maidstone. We had a 3 second start (about a length). We set off and began to open a lead and settled into a good rhythm, but we strayed by a few inches into the access lane and clashed with a double scull just enough to upset the boat. We then went through a rough patch and Maidstone took their chance and drew level.

Both crews put in a spurt at the same time but they had more gas in their tank and took the lead. The result was given as 2 lengths to Maidstone. This crew went on to beat the Peterborough crew by 5 lengths in the final.



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Charlie and **Ian** pair

What started as a casual outing on a Thursday showed promising signs for a racing crew. There were seven competitors in our Open Pairs category so we knew there would be some serious competition.

First off were York, who looked a bit 'hench'. Charlie didn't get the club kit memo so presented an off Oundle blue t-shirt to race in. After attaching ourselves to the stake boat the umpire wanted to know why one of us was not "wearing club kit colours". The blue wasn't that far off - typical blazer... As we didn't really have a response stroke replied with - "it's nearly Christmas!" - so we received an obligatory official warning, unsurprisingly.

We took a lead of the start which is what we've been working on. If you've helped us carry Plain Jane recently you will know too well how much of a push that boat needs to get going! They drew level with us after 250m but neither of us were gaining and we were in for a long battle to the end. We were cruising at a shy 34 and kept it there as the balance was good, the hands were spinning away and it felt powerful. The Oundle support was fantastic and we heard cheers all the way down the course. Stroke called for a power 10 which was followed by York calling for a push... and in no more than three strokes we crossed the line 2 feet in front!



We were next up against an IM2 Maidstone Invicta crew in a Semi-final. We had some banter with them at the start as they were sporting matching purple hats (lined with pink velvet!). Charlie was wearing Jo Milborne's spare Oundle Town tech top to avoid disqualification so we decided to keep that information to ourselves. We attached

ourselves to the stake boat and received approval from the umpire.

We had a decent start but Maidstone shot off and were out of sight almost immediately. I began to wonder what paraphernalia they were keeping under their hats! We kept within a length's reach but unable to cause any real trouble. Our rating started at 39 down to 36 which may have overcooked it a bit - but they won by just over a length.

As it was an open category and we wanted to come away with at least one win which we achieved so we were pleased. Next up Sudbury and Peterborough!



W VetE 2x Claire and **Angela**

We timed our row to perfection in that the deluge, suitable for Noah, had ended just before we had to get on the river.

Luckily, unlike Noah we didn't have to build our boat. Just rig it.

However our timing on the course was a tad ambitious, as the Welsh red mist came down and Claire had no breath to shout a warning about the stroke rate.



Loss of technique ensued and, although we were probably unlikely to beat our Sudbury opponents, we should have done better.

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W1x. Daisy

It was an early morning at St Neots and the rain was coming down gently.

My first race was 09:10 and was against a 21yr old from Bedford Rowing Club, finding out it was her first race ever. I had a great start not rushing too much, keeping ahead of her for the first 75m until she crashed straight into the parked cruisers. This allowed me to win the race putting me through to the Semi finals.

The semi final race was against Leeds who had been racing for around 4 years, I had got to the start line and pulled off of her from the start, it was a controlled and paced race, until I got to the finish.

The last race was my fourth and final in the single, where by this point very tired, it was up against another Leeds 18yrs of age, we got up to the start and managed to stay by her side for around 100m, but she just pulled off not being able to catch up. But overall good fun. Well done to the other crews, and thanks John for taking the trailer.

Could you help with the OTRC WEBSITE?

Please contact zoesmeeth@hotmail.co.uk or any member of the committee. Go on, we'd really like your help.

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Men's Eight: Rhona, John, Brian, Rob, Alan, Dick, Jon, **Mark**

I arrived early enough to enjoy watching other Oundle rowers winning heats in the rain – but then lost track of time and was duly reminded later about my responsibilities. Thankfully it stopped raining by the time we were boating and again I had to borrow kit from Jo – many thanks – to meet the required standards!

We boated and rowed down past the start with only minor problems to keep out of the adjacent race lane, and had time to do a practice start before getting on to the stake boat. Remembering to breathe deeply the race was announced – come forward and remember the email advice given earlier – DO NOT LOOK AT THE OPPONENTS. Attention – go: complete the first three strokes and then just focus on – cripes so many things – and then it was over. It all seemed so fast so we joined the queue to de-boat, only to be pushed aside, asked our opposition how much they had won by – a length and a half – and then the welcome help to put the boat away and watch the remaining Oundle races and have a cup of tea. We were beaten by $\frac{3}{4}$ length – and our gps data suggested we did better than in training, so a hopefully sound basis for future improvement.

WVetC 4x - **Angela**, Jennie, Mariel and Claire

This was the first English regatta for our American super-sub, Mariel, who stepped in for Fiona who was in a tent somewhere this weekend. Hope the tent was not anywhere near St Neots or she will have got a tad wet.

Mariel did a fab job and the only downside was that she reduced the average age in the boat from a Vet E to a Vet C. This meant the opposition was a bit younger (and fitter) than we would have liked.

We felt we had a good row for an almost scratch crew. It felt strong and in time and Aaron's video made us look quite good. Good job Aaron!



W.J18.2x Becky and **Daisy**

Our race was at 13:48 Becky 's first race and my 3rd race, that neither of us where particularly prepared for.

Our race was against Bedford Star Club with competitors that had studied at my last school with me, we both felt we had to beat them if we could. The problem was we got red mist and both missed the second stroke of the start. But we tried to keep up with them however it was unfortunately too much for us.

However good race, well done to everyone who competed.

