

OTRC Match Report

Northampton 18th January 2020

Race organiser Jennie pre amble

This is the Clubs first event following the festivities of Christmas and the New Year. Amazingly the sun shone all day, and the other bonus being that the car park at the Club has now been covered in tarmac, Big Improvement.

Club spirit was in abundance as we competed to be the noisiest supporters along the river bank, and there were some good times recorded by some crews, both senior and junior.

We had some winners , so congratulations should go to young **Men's Quad, ie Ian, Richard, Joe and Charlie, Men's Double, ie Hugh and Phil, ladies Quad ie Claire, Angela, Sally and Becky, and Ladies double, Angela and Claire.**

Massive thanks to Peter Dunn who, despite being very poorly (yuk), towed the boats to Northampton to ensure that we could all compete, to Nick Bolton who drove from his home to Northampton to tow them back at the end of the day, and to Gary and Hollowell Club who took a couple of our boats back to theirs temporarily at such short notice.

Finally thanks to Daisy in particular for taking responsibility for the day doing such a good job, and everyone who helped during the day , this is a Club event and every little bit of help is hugely appreciated .



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Men's B2 pen 4X- Charlie, Joe, Ian and **Richard** (WINNERS 7:26.7) 🏆

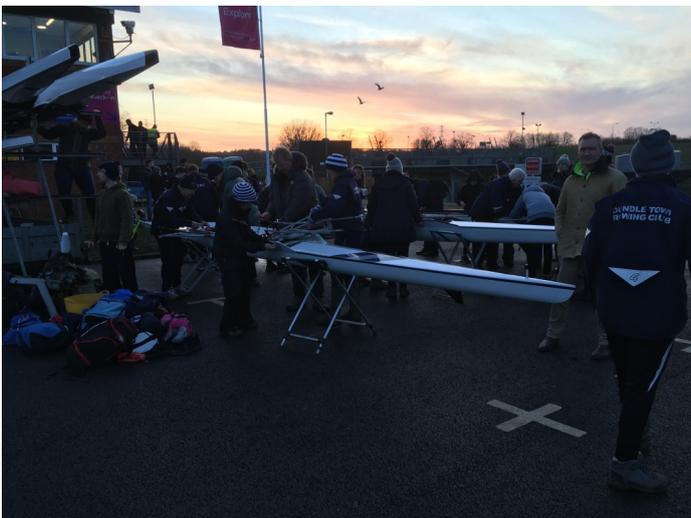
My god it has been a long time since we raced! Our last one was in Milton Keynes in September every race seemingly since then having been cancelled.

We have struggled to get much practice in as a crew hat with illness, flooding, holidays, flooding, second honeymoons, flooding, Christmas, flooding, wind, flooding and of course FLOODING!!! (it is amazing the laughs you get when you tell people that there is too much water to row on) I think we had possibly been out together twice as a crew since late October so expectations weren't exactly high, especially as this was our first race as a quad.

We boated promptly, had an un-eventful row up to the starting area, spun the boat and sat in the beautiful sunshine trying to hold position while all the other boats arrived. The wind had picked up from the previous 2 divisions and trying to keep clear of the other boats was starting to become a challenge, particularly with some very junior novice eights who seemed determined to be in everyone's way all the time.

Having managed to escape being crushed between one of the eights and a girls quad (that scene from Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade springs to mind where the 2 tankers are being pushed together, and the good guys just make it through but the bad guys boat gets crushed, for those old or indeed cultured enough to have seen it) we found ourselves with a very short run up to the start line. But as we had been at a very long time due to a capsize we were eager to get going.

Straight into medium and build for 5 into firm, we moved away smoothly and quickly and were soon into our stride. I had taken a pretty good line through the first sharp bend which i know to be tricky and now that was out of the way we could settle into a good strong rhythm. We were really flying along, we soon caught and easily overtook one of the eights and the boat that followed us off the start were slipping further and further back. A truly fantastic row, a wonderful feeling to know that we can get in a boat after so long and click like that as a crew, thank you boys! The win was unexpected but a great start to what i hope will be brilliant rowing year.



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J14 coxed Quad, **Tom Pickles**, Annabelle Green, Tom Revell, Isabella Rooney, Cox Laura Dew

We arrived at 12 o'clock for our race. However, because of delays our race was postponed to quarter past 3. Unfortunately, we had to wait in the low temperatures, which is common at this race. But once on the water we rowed up to the start, warming up on our way, the wait wasn't long to be called up for our race. We set off well, together in time and once we crossed the start line we were up to speed. We pushed hard for around 800 metres where unfortunately we lost a bit of our momentum, but we picked up during the last quarter of the race. Despite not winning we are proud of how we did in our race.

J15 double **Ewan Tetley** and Robert Aylmore

Due to capsizes in the division before we were delayed so we were starting to get cold. Finally we were allowed to enter the water and made our way downstream to the start. The waiting bay was cold. The creek for the single and doubles was windy while we waited to start and we were blown around a bit. At the start we knew the boat behind us would overtake us very quickly so we moved to the side to let them past on returning to the centre of the river there was an almighty jolt as we ran over a sunken log. Which upset our rhythm but we quickly managed to get back together and pushed hard all the way to the end.

W Mas 4x **Jennie**, Fiona, Liz Mace and Becky Bolton. 9.38

Whilst waiting to start our race our conversation reached the dizzy heights of bobble or non bobble hats (Jennie and Becky) , silk but warm knickers (Fiona) and is it time to take our kit off? (Liz). So it might have been amazing that we were actually focussed on rowing and being ready for the start of the race, however we were true to both of these factors. We felt we had had a reasonable row, just not the quickest which was disappointing, however we also all agreed that above all it was great to be out on the water and the sun was shining . Big Thanks to Liz for doing a brill job steering, without whom we wouldn't have been able to go anyway.



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J17 boys quad, **Matthew leer**, Ben Rowntree, Jacob Cruise, Dylan Egbe

There are probably more specific things to talk about here, but the most obvious point to discuss first is the freezing temperature that made the day an absolute joy, but that was easily overcome by turning scarves into balaclavas and some extreme jumping on the spot.

Once we finally got on to the water, we had an extremely long wait at the top of the river in which we spent a nice amount of time worming our way between the boats drifting into the bank, but, eventually, crews were beginning to start racing, and, after a well-organised and not-at-all stressful call of “go,” we started ourselves.

We all kept well in time throughout the race with Ben and Dylan keeping us moving powerfully and Jacob steering us smoothly through the course, even in the face of an immensely competitive four pulling up alongside us. Ben’s adrenaline-fuelled yelling in the final stretch helped to bring us home with a time of 8:23.5, which, for our first outing as a quad and one of the first rows we’ve all had in a while, I think we should all be proud of and I’m looking forward to competing again in the future.

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W mas E 2xAngela and **Claire** - winners

Like the rest of the club, water training had been minimal and being back rowing on a river, without the stability of a gym floor and ergo, it all seemed all a little odd.

The river conditions were fairly benign for the time of year but the unexpected arrival of the sun sitting low in the sky made steering all the more challenging, especially when navigating around the Nene's undulating inside bank, in an attempt to try for the shortest route.

An interesting time in the holding area, which is notorious for being a long cold wait, trussed up with layers, trying to work out the optimum time to de robe...when not one but two scullers (on separate occasions) decided to take an early...and no doubt freezing dip. We did feel sorry for them not to have raced, but meant a longer wait - re robing- meaning the race start times were delayed twice. So irritation at having to concentrating on keeping away from other waiting boats in the holding area, cramp and stitch setting in, we felt even more unprepared for our first outing of the year.

We started well, then told to 'hold back' and re start....unsure why, so had not quite hit full pressure, as planned by the 'Start'. We got into a really good steady rhythm set by Angela at 28 SPM. It seemed smooth and fortunately, because of the delay, not many other boats (or swans) in our way. We were not sure if we achieved any of the training instructions from last year to keep the oar in the water longer and don't miss the catch (probably not having just viewed the professionals photos on line) but it did feel a smooth steady controlled outing. Our oppo from Bridgenorth RC were in our sights all the way down the course, reducing their distance between us, but calls from Angela to push for ten on three occasions, saw the gap widen.

The cheers from the Oundle supports were a welcome cacophony, as we knew that finish was around the next bend.....The first race of the year, with all the extra Christmas pudding on board always makes the Northampton course feel so much further than it is and apart from a short verbal contratemps from an Avon skuller , we heard the finish hooter!

Thanks to Jen for doing all the bookings, Daisy for her help organising us all and for the fab OTRC helpers throughout the day.



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Masters EFG Men's Four: Becky, Simon, Peter, Andrew, **Mark**

After an early start to go with Peter and the trailer, Simon was surprised to find he was rowing in Session 1 as Peter was ill. He bravely towed the boats to Northampton and then retired home to hopefully get better.

So we had the first two Sessions to help get crews on the water and off again – starting pretty cold but no wind and really good weather. We had the best weather for our Session 3 row and repeated our “Up Twenty” exercise twice – in our limited training on the water it was the main thing that got our balance better. So up to the waiting area to experience a series of excitements including a delay to the start because of a capsizing in the creek and an Eight getting broadside on to the barrier and a clustering of waiting Eights blowing into each other – it really did look like they broadside boat could capsize itself but advice arrived in time. “Breathe and listen” brought me back to the purpose – and then numbers were called off and then our turn. A bit of a tricky start without really finding the rhythm but then a couple of calls and we got it. At that point I can't remember much – we had two calls for “ten on the legs” which seemed to work and I think we were told to “walk past them” when I think we overtook another boat ending with a final push when we heard support from the bank.

It was all over – and we did feel we had had a good row. The result was we were second out of three. Beaten by the Masters G crew from Derby by 49 seconds in raw time, ahead of the Masters E crew by 15 seconds. Handicaps made no difference to the order so clearly some work on transferring a good row into a fast row. An enjoyable day.

 WMasE 4x- Claire, **Angela**, Sally, Becky

The first race of a new decade and we knew we should have made a doctor's appointment for suspected crabs, which came back with a vengeance mid-row. But then you know how difficult it is to see a doctor in Oundle! At least it provided good entertainment for the vast number of Oundle spectators on the bank. Luckily, in spite of a pair of crustaceans, we still managed to come out as winners, but it wasn't an enjoyable victory as our competitors were the other OTRC ladies.

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Masters EG Men's Double: **Mark**, Bish

It is hard to imagine how honoured I felt with Bish asked me to join him in a double at Northampton – I love rowing with him and feel he does bring out the best in me.

So we managed two practice outings at Oundle and chickened out of a third. These included a 2km piece upstream which also included a prophetic engagement with the bank and an over-hanging tree.

The weather was still fine with a light wind when we set off and we did get into a good rhythm pretty quickly. We were held in the sun for a bit – nice of Northampton really – and then sent round the creek and took off our tops, only to be told to keep them on! It wasn't that long really, and as we emerged we were told to spin immediately, but Bish had just done his Single race and knew where he wanted to start from.

My rate meter – a sort of red mist controller – closed down just as we started so it was down to a natural feel for the right rate. We caught up some doubles from Stowe School fairly quickly which concentrated the mind as one didn't really pull over early enough leading to a slight pause in our stroke for a bit. We skimmed the reeds and got underway and then tangled a tree a bit, but got through without stopping and kept up a good pressure through to the finish.

Altogether a lovely row even though we were a lot slower in raw time than Phillip and Hugh it was only 12 seconds with handicap. Thanks John – I really enjoyed it.

Racing also from;

Men's Quad, Peter Cook, Simon Murray, David Roe and Gary Coxon

Young ladies quad, Daisy, Erin Hodnett, Keeley and Charlotte Woolf

Men's double Hugh Mc Cormack, Phil Chandler - **winners**

Singles, Keeley, John Bishop



OTRC Match Report

Mulled Wine Cup / New Years Day Row - By Daisy

First off I wanted to say a massive thank you to Angela, for helping organise and bring all the cakes and drinks to the day!

To Emma, for putting up with so many emails from me about date and main communication to members! To Duncan Hook for driving the launch for all races and keeping the club inline! To Mario, who kept score throughout the races! To Elizabeth, for being the photographer! Thank you all!

Secondly, Happy New Year!!

A small match report from New Years Day Row, the row was supposed to be on Boxing Day, but due to the weather we changed the date to another big event during the winter! Eg. New Years Approach!

The day started off with getting 3 quads out, 12 pairs of blades and 1 launch. The crews were selected with a few changes on the day due to sore heads....

We managed to get all races done within an hour and fifteen mins, with crews swapping boats and socialising occurring.

Finished with a quick results ceremony! Resulting in Angela, Peter D, Leslie ad Daisy (super sub due to drop out) taking first place! Well done to everyone who participated! We hope you enjoyed your day!

Again, just wanted to say thanks and hope your new year is awesome for you!



Photos by Elizabeth from the Delayed Mulled Wine Cup Races can be found on Instagram

