

## BCCC WINTER CHALLENGE - 27 December 2008

In a temperature of 3 degrees, made worse by a biting headwind, 33 paddlers from BCCC, Leighton Buzzard and Wokingham Canoe Clubs braved the elements. Twenty-nine of them started from Colt Hill (Odiham), while four started further on at Reading Road Wharf, Fleet.

The 17 milers finished, after 1 portage at Ash Lock, at the Canal Centre. Two very hardy crews indeed, Jamie Cox/Derek Campbell and Beth and Steve Goodlad, chose the 26 mile option, with its 27 locks to be portaged, along a very muddy and slippery towpath.

In the 17mile event, James Freemantle (BCCC) and James Keeble (WOK) in a K2, finished in an excellent 2 hours 6 minutes, followed home by Duncan Blyth (K1) and Paul Edwards (K1), both of Wokingham, in 2 hours 15 minutes. Isabel and Naomi Smith (still only 14) in a K2 were next in an amazing 2hours 23 minutes. The whole field of 17 milers finished inside 3.5 hours, which is remarkable in such conditions.

A special mention goes to Ben Hansell and Ellie Ashton, both juniors, who completed the 17 miles as a relay of K1s in just over 3.5 hours.

Sadly, due to sickness or cold, two paddlers had to pull out.

We will now start to think about running an event next year, preferably over the full 29 miles from Odiham to the River Wey.

### RESULTS

#### 26 miles

	hrs	mins	secs
Jamie Cox, BCCC/Derek Campbell, LBZ	4	30	00
Beth & Steve Goodlad, LBZ	5	04	10

#### 17 miles

James Freemantle, BCCC/James Keeble, WOK	2	06	55
Duncan Blyth, WOK (K1)	2	15	55
Paul Edwards, WOK (K1)	2	15	57
Isabel & Naomi Smith, BCCC	2	23	20
Jason Dyer/Katie Lambert, BCCC	2	38	22
James Taylor/John Freemantle, BCCC	2	39	45
Charlotte Creamer, LBZ (K1)	2	40	42
Sam Cox, LBZ (K1)	2	44	25
Pete Absolom/Sarah Francis, BCCC	2	45	38

Richard Somerset, BCCC (K1)	2	45	49
Chris Absolom, BCCC (K1)	2	48	30
Mark Dyer/Alan Taylor, BCCC	2	52	00
Jason Ashwell/Nigel Cole, BCCC	3	02	00
Tracy Rees-Clark, BCCC (K1)	3	11	46
Jon Mudd, BCCC (K1)	3	22	55
<b>Relay</b>			
Ben Hansell/Ellie Ashton, BCCC	3	33	45
<b>8.5 Miles</b>			
<b>Odiham to Fleet</b>			
Michael Truesdale, BCCC	1	23	00
<b>Fleet to Mytchett</b>			
Richard & Nick Boreham, BCCC	1	40	42
<b>Retired</b>			
Michael Martin, LBZ			
Ryan Truesdale, BCCC			