

## View from Westminster Bridge

I didn't see much of this year's DW compared with the last two years, but I did make it to Westminster Bridge (with crutches) to see the end of the four day race on Easter Monday morning.

The K1's had been the first to leave Teddington and so it was the fastest of these boats which were first spotted in the grey distance of the Thames. Despite the 125miles behind them, they treated the watching crowds to a sprint finish with Stuart West from Worcester taking first place in the senior singles.

After about half a dozen boats had come through, the first group of K2s appeared. Four boats and amongst them, Mike Rees-Clark and partner Ed Dobson from Devizes, finishing fast enough to claim 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Junior doubles with a time of 17:33:10. Just reward for their hard work together over the previous year, especially with Ed having dislocated his shoulder only a few weeks earlier.

Not much longer to wait and sister Sam Rees-Clark finished with partner Connor Peters from Fowey. Their time of 18:37:44 gave them 5<sup>th</sup> place and also the trophy for the fastest junior mixed crew.

Jon Freemantle's support crew was threatening to leave him to walk home if he didn't finish within their estimated time but he just managed to escape that fate and finished 11<sup>th</sup> in the K1 race with a time of 20:35:41.

Rumour has it that Jon is already training for the K2 straight through race next year, and the Rees-Clarks are not expecting a quiet Easter in 2012 either! Think I will just settle for not being crutches.

Ruth Smith