

National Championships 2009

The Nationals were held at Longridge this year – just downstream from Marlow Lock. There were two days of racing and the event attracted some 750 entries.

Competitors from BCCC were a little thin on the ground this year and the results a little mixed.

Charles Hicks got a bronze medal in the Over 64 men's K1 and was 3 minutes behind the winner. I got my paddle caught under the bow of Mr Anthony Nolan's boat from Worcester, went for a swim and ended up 5 minutes behind Charles. Richard Somerset came 5th in the Over 54 Men's K1 2 minutes behind the winner.

James Taylor, Jason Dyer and Michael Rees-Clark were 25th, 26th and 27th respectively in the Under 16 Junior Men's K1 class and were 12 and 13 minutes down on the winner, the impressive Jonny Tye of Worcester.

In the Junior Ladies Under 16 class Naomi Smith was 4th 2 minutes behind the winner with sister Isobel 6th a further minute behind.

Charles and I were the only double entered for the Over 64 Men's K2 so raced with the Over 54 Men – well the truth is, we raced behind them and ended up 6 minutes behind the winners.

James and Jason had a good K2 race and were 10th 11½ minutes behind the winner – young Mr Tye again. Michael Truesdale paired up with George Barnicoat of Longridge but retired with a broken seat and Isobel and Naomi's trip in their K2 race was sadly ended when they capsized at the first turn.

In the divisional classes, Jon Freemantle did very well to come second in division 7 K1 just 30 seconds behind the winner. Tim Truesdale came 12th in the same race.

It was pleasing that Naomi and Isobel were selected to go to the Tour de Gudena race in Denmark with the GB team on the strength of their K1 performances.

Full results are on the Longridge website <http://longridgecanooclub.org>

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