

Waterside "D": Devizes to Newbury 29 March 2009

The longest race of the series – 34 miles and 35 portages – you need to get up early for this one as check in at Devizes is between 6 and 8.15 in the morning. And if you have raced 12 miles in Ghent the day before and got to bed in Devizes around midnight or so and, to boot, the clocks have gone forward one hour, then it must seem very early indeed.

We had seven boats in the race today for a cold, frosty start. Regrettably, Katie Lambert and Jason Dyer had to retire at the Bruce Tunnel some 16 miles into the race. The other boats all must have felt they came up to or beat their expectations.

First to the finish of our crews were Isobel and Naomi Smith who, despite their youth, won the senior ladies K2 with a time only 6 minutes outside the record time for a ladies' boat, and 33 minutes faster than they did last year. They were also the overall winners for the series in ladies K2 for the second year in a row and with a time 48 minutes better than 2008. Many congratulations, girls – a brilliant effort. Maybe everyone that enters "D" should race in Ghent the day before.

Second home were Jamie Cox and Derek Campbell who were also well ahead of their last year's time. They put in some really good performances in all four races and finished third in the series for senior men's K2.

James Taylor was next in view with Jon Freemantle his back seat partner. They were both mightily pleased with their time for their first race over this distance. Their time indicates that they must have kept up the pace of race "C" which they competed two weeks earlier so they had every right to feel pleased with themselves.

Tracy Rees-Clark was our sole singles racer in K1 ladies. It is a long way, 34 miles, paddling and carrying your own boat but Tracy, too, could not have been far off the pace of race "C" – so another great result. I do hope she decides to go on and do the DW.

Maybe the biggest smiles came from Ian and Bernie. It is a strange fact that paddlers who have done the fastest time are the ones least pleased with their result and vice versa. Ian and Bernie have not been canoeing for very long and have only done two or three races together – hence the happiness on their faces. Well done, guys.

And then, paddling a Canadian, came Mike Rees-Clark and Brian Biffin. 8 hours 53 minutes is an epic paddle and they deserve all the plaudits they got at the finish.

A big thank you to all who supported the paddlers and a very big thank you to James Treadgold and his team at Newbury Canoe Club for yet another splendid and, in terms of numbers, record breaking series.

Results		Race "D"	Series
Senior K2	Jamie Cox/Derek Campbell	5:41:32	14:03:32 (3rd)
	Ian Mattison/Bernie Boyles	7:59:31	-
Ladies K2	Naomi & Isobel Smith	5:32:16	13:59:34 (1st)
Junior K2	James Taylor/Jon Freemantle	6:20:11	
Ladies K1	Tracy Rees-Clark	7:05:36	18:13:35 (4th)
Junior/Veteran	Mike Rees-Clark/Brian Biffin (C2)	8:53:39	22:19:36 (6th)

Editor
29 March 2009

Photos on next page.....

The view most of us get of Isobel and Naomi.....



Jamie/Derek – The 33rd portage – only one more to go, fellows...



Ian and Bernie – That's the look of 8 hours paddling....

