

Southern Boat Series
River Hamble Canoe Race
16 November 2019

JUST MESSING ABOUT ON THE RIVER



Mum Charlie Dance

“Oh what a perfect day I’m glad I spent it canoe racing with you on the River Hamble in Hampshire”.



The End is Near

Perfect weather, perfect tide, perfect competition between 34 paddlers in all types of canoes and kayaks with a massive age range of nine to 81.

Despite grim days leading up to the race, the day dawned and stayed as bright and mildly brisk. A slight ebb tide made for fast racing and the late low autumn sun made seeing the competition in front difficult.

There were two main classes, the Wild Water Racers (WWR) in their canoes and kayaks designed to take on rapids and the stylised sprint/marathon boats, the formula one type craft, sleek and fast with a rudder to steer, designed to get maximum speed on mainly calmer waters. There were solo and double crewed boats.



Alistair Brown Firing on all Cylinders

In the WWR men's, returning paddler 16 year old Alistair Brown of the Hamble Sea Scouts (HSS) blew the competition apart with a time of 15 minutes and five seconds for the two mile race. He was followed, in a grudge rematch, between father Dr Selwyn Richards and 18 year old son Tom both of Poole Harbour Canoe Club (PHCC).



Tom Richards Abandoned by Dad

81 year old Richard Davis of Itchen Valley Canoe Club, regularly paddles between 20 to 40 miles a week on the River Hamble so his local knowledge helped him into fourth spot.



73 year old Danny Dalrymple Keeping his Hand In



Lexie Brown Putting on a Smile

The WWR ladies was won by 62 year old Susan Templeton of Itchen Valley Canoe Club with a great battle for second and third between 14 year old HSS ladies Lexie Brown and Izzy Thomas.



Barbara Jaggs and Andrew Ostler (Power Couple)

In the WWR Canadian doubles 65 year old Barbara Jaggs opted to race with younger male PHCC member Andrew Ostler, posting a good time to win. The

Canadian singles was another Brown family success, with HSS paddler Phil Brown winning.



Seamus Smith (showing nearly everyone a clean pair of heels)

The open class was won in the fastest time of the day by Matt Harris in 14 minutes 42 seconds followed by 18 year old Seamus Smith, then 65 year old Bill Jaggs.



Sheila Monera-Cabarique Showing Great Potential



Mum Lorna Harris (Nearly Home)

The Ladies Open was won by mother Charlie Dance followed by 14 year old Sheila Monera-Cabarique then another mum Lorna Harris.



William Vessey and Chloe Medland Pushing Hard

The doubles was won by William Vessey and Chloe Medland, then Mia Rushen and Bryony Harris.



Mia Rushen and Bryony Harris (sorry Ladies 5 out of 10 for synchronisation)

In third Oscar Harris and Bailey Rushen. All open paddler winners from PHCC.

There were good performances from all paddlers of all ages, some looking to build up experience and miles, some to win, and others just to keep a hand in their beloved sport, albeit their glory days may be in the dim distant past. Truly a sport for all ages. What is good to see is the camaraderie between like-minded paddlers and their supporters of all ages.



To the Winners the Spoils

The prize giving was held in the RAF Yacht Club and after honing their athletic bodies in competition, the healthy paddlers emptied the Clubs larder with lashings of hot chips and copious quantities of refreshments.



Many thanks to the RAF yacht club in Hamble for allowing us to finish and get warmed up in their friendly Club <https://rafyc.org.uk/> . Also to Andark Diving and Watersports shop in Bursledon for allowing paddlers to spend a penny in their toilets <https://andark.co.uk/>.

Join the excitement and challenge yourself, try a competition, all types of arm powered boats welcomed. You could be the next GB or world champion or you could just enjoy pushing yourself against others.

Run by Itchen Valley and The Sharks Canoe Clubs <http://www.thesharks.org.uk/> in partnership with the Hamble Sea Scouts <http://www.hambleseascouts.org.uk/>. For details of National Wild Water races locally and across the country go to GB WWR website <http://www.wildwater.org.uk> .



**Susan Templeton (Feeling Her Age)
Southern Boat Series Race Manager The Sharks and
Itchen Valley Canoe Clubs**