

TEAM MANAGER REPORT FOR 2018

This is my last report as Team Manager of Lincoln Canoe Club. I think that I have held the position for about 50 years! I am pleased to relinquish my duties knowing that there are others who are prepared to carry on!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the coaches and all those who have helped me in my Team Manager role during the past year and previous years. On behalf of the club, many thanks for all that you are doing.

It is good to see that there are new youngsters being catered for on a regular basis. The important thing is to enjoy training and racing. The club has a history of successful international and national racing but being National Champion or representing GBR at an international regatta is not the be all and end all of racing. The important thing is to enjoy the competitions and the social aspects of them. If someone has a thirst for success then we can help them along the way! I am writing this from the perspective of Racing Manager, so have to mention racing, obviously, but as a canoeist I am happy to see people enjoying themselves doing any form of canoeing.

We had no one compete for GBR at an International Event for the second year running.

Last year's East Midlands (East) training day had to be cancelled through lack of support. As there has been no interest in this event, for a number of years, from the paddlers who would really benefit from it, I have decided, after 40 years of holding them that now is the time to stop!

MARATHON RACING

My thanks go to Anna Mongan, in her third year as race entry organiser, for the efficient manner in which this has been done.

At the National Marathon Racing Championships 3 members won 1 gold, and 2 silver medals.

Our own Lincoln race, under new organisers for the second year, successfully took place in September last year. The earlier date seemed to be popular. Many thanks go to the considerable number of members and friends who helped out. I hope that everyone who is not involved with the organisation on the day will race this year on 8th September.

Marathon Racing is for all who can paddle 4 miles. The lower divisions cater for those who only paddle on a casual basis. It is easy to progress from Lightning to Division 9.

SPRINT RACING

My great thanks go to Sue Day, for making Regatta entries and attending the Team Leaders' meetings last year. Sue is extremely efficient and I can now retire knowing that Regatta Entries are in very capable hands.

Nine members won 1 gold, 6 silver and 6 bronze medals at the National Championships.

As I have said many times before, Sprint Racing at Holme Pierrepont is a serious business! It is the 'top end' of racing – an Olympic sport! All those competing there should be training **at least** three times a week. It is good to see crew boat entries from juniors within our club. Only a few members of the club will achieve success in singles but others can be successful in crew boats if you train for them. They are good fun and much more rewarding than 'going out' in the heats in your K1! Also, by doing more races you achieve a much greater training effect. Please note that there are qualifying times for all classes in K1 at Holme Pierrepont. These are now being more strictly enforced. If you can't achieve these times you shouldn't be racing there in singles until you can!

CLUB EVENTS

There have been changes to club events this year. I would like to thank those who organised them. I hope everyone enjoyed competing in them.

I have been unable to give you my usual statistics of the number of members who competed in various events during the year. To get the results from the web site I had to keep scrolling up and down (instead of being able to keep open a page and leave it open) and gave up in the end as it was so time consuming!

Big thanks go to all who have helped organise the events and to those who help out with the starts and finishes particularly when the weather is inclement. As always, I would remind you that we have everything here which you need in order to excel at canoe and kayak racing - the water, the boats, the coaching, the experienced paddlers and above all the support from the club.

Whatever your level of paddling and your inspirations, enjoy your canoeing!

If anyone, including my successors, would like any advice just ask and I will be pleased to help. I hope you achieve your **realistic** goals.

Finally, may I thank everyone for their help and support during the past 50 years. I would like to give everyone best wishes for the next 50 years!

Enjoy your paddling. Laurence Oliver. 09.01.2019.

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