



curNEWS

The News for Curlew

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CURLEW TAKE ON WEHORR AND HORR!

WOMEN'S CREW PLACE 93RD AT WEHORR



Race report from Wizzy, women's captain:

The day was upon us to race the infamous 6.8km WeHoRR course. Used to 6am wake ups, it was a blessing to have a lie in and amble down to Putney for a relatively late morning start. We rigged the boat, had a bit of a pants pre-race paddle, but this helped us get emotionally ready for the strong head winds that felt like we were deadlifting the full course.



However by lunchtime, it was touch and go with the banks flooding up to all the clubhouses (and our blades taking a bit of a swim pre-race), but once the waters had receded back into the river we were lucky to have relaxed launch and marshalling experience. The race actually started on time(!!!) at 3.30pm and we were racing within the hour of starting the race - so a nice change to the freezing conditions of the past tideway races this year!



With a relatively strong start, we laboured through the first 1/3 well, and begun to catch up on Marlow who were merely a few lengths in front. The course was beautifully steered with possibly the best line we could have taken (thanks, Suzie) and had a dramatic final sprint trying to catch Marlow, before overtaking Imperial in the last few hundred meters. This was the first wehorr for over half the crew, and I am exceptionally proud of us placing 93rd! This shows great potential heading into the summer season of racing, and we can't wait to see whats ahead. Crushed it ladies!

TWO CREWS AT MEN'S HEAD OF THE RIVER

On Saturday 23rd March, Curlew's two men's crews faced the 6.8km Head of the River course which the women's crew had faced two weeks earlier. With a similarly leisurely race start of 3.15pm, there were no excuses of early starts and all members were on time (except for those facing difficulties finding parking down in Putney!). Both crews were relatively high in the race order, racing as numbers 85 and 125. Within the top crew, Chris who came through our L2R programme, was experiencing HRR for the first time – 'it was an unusual race, with mixed bag



conditions for the 1st M8+. Some rough water and torrential hail leading into the build at Chiswick, but settling down between Barnes and the Eyot. The crew took early ground against both numbers ahead and behind, but were challenged by a strong Durham University crew starting lower down the order from the halfway point. A strong coxing line helped us hold off the challenge until Hammersmith Bridge, and the build home brought Curlew A a hard-earned overtake. Whilst we might have wanted a better result, this was a solid row regardless, and demonstrated strong foundations ahead of the summer season'.

The crews placed 98th and 229th, with times of 18:36.8 and 19:55.9 respectively. This is a fantastic achievement for the club, and we are excited to see what the future holds with a coach now in place for the rest of the season.



AND THE VETS GO TO VETS HEAD TOO!

Congratulations to our vets squad who competed at Vesta International Masters Head of the River Race as an 8+ within the Masters B category. They placed 6th in their category, with a time of 19:57.2. The vets will be looking towards the British Rowing Masters Champs, which will be taking place later this year on 15th – 16th June, in Nottingham, and we can't wait to see how they get on!

CREW INTRODUCTIONS:



WOMEN'S FIRST BOAT:

COX: Suzie Murray
STROKE: Anita Jeff
7: Wizzy Heap
6: Kat Blomberg
5: Thea Shipway
4: Jenna Holmes
3: Hannah Morrissey
2: Ashley Penty
BOW: Lillie Fitzsimons



MEN'S FIRST BOAT:

COX: Charlotte Green
STROKE: Jack Davidson
7: Peter O'Callaghan
6: Tom Weekes
5: Nick Walton
4: Charlie Winch
3: Mantas Volkuskas
2: Felix Hemsted
BOW: Chris Green



MEN'S SECOND BOAT:

COX: Suzie Murray
STROKE: Will Gilchrist
7: Ed Bowman
6: Olly Cooke
5: Giorgio Sdraffa
4: Ged Stasaitis
3: Andreas Finzel
2: Ben Owen
BOW: Ryan Neighbour

A REMINDER FOR 6TH APRIL!

We are excited to announce a joint social event at the clubhouse on **6th April** between ourselves and Globe. The Clubhouse will be open from 7pm onwards with a quiz, other games and activities, as well as a potluck dinner – we look forward to seeing you there! If you want more details, please contact Ashley/ Farah.

DEVS SOCIAL!

Our redoubtable Learn to Row 2023 cohort reached the end of their provisional membership in March. To celebrate, we had a lovely dev squad social in Greenwich consisting of a Sunday roast followed by tasty German steins, organised by Farah.

They've finally experienced some terrible weather, endured the depths of winter erging and learnt an endless stream of confusing terminology.

Many thanks to everyone who has volunteered, coxed, coached (gym, ergs and water) and particularly the inimitable Nick King and his sterling efforts. All eyes turn towards a potential first race at Poplar Regatta on 19th May and earning the right to represent Curlew, some wobbly legs, and the celebrations afterwards.



WANT TO CONTRIBUTE OR HAVE A STORY TO ADD? GET IN TOUCH WITH ISABEL WILSON.