

Great River Race 2008



Congratulations to Colenorton Dragons and the other teams who were involved in the Great River Race on Saturday 18th September 2008. Well done to Paul Oatway for helming 22 miles and sitting most of the way giving words of encouragement to the paddlers, and to Dave Butler, hope the blister on your little finger gets well soon from all that drumming and taking photos.

A Special well done also need to be mentioned to all the new paddlers who gave their all for the first time over the gruelling 22 mile course. Hopefully you will be back again next year!

The race officially started at 14:05 by the sound of the cannon, which was fired by Olympic rower Steve Williams who won a gold medal at Beijing.

At 15:12 the dragon boats prepared to set off. It was a mad start this year with all the dragon boats lined up, waiting for the sound of the horn to get underway. Colenorton were completely focused, all prepared to put 100% effort in.

As the horn sounded, it was a difficult start for Colenorton and for all the others dragon boats, all were trying to get away, all were trying to be the ones in front.



As the race went on, Colenorton were doing very well passing other boats until they were in a head to head race with Secklow hundred. Colenorton started to pull away, but as they did Secklow hundred pushed closer and closer to Colenorton, eventually getting in front in an effort to slow down Colenorton. Unfortunately, the tactic worked and Secklow hundred crossed the line first.

Can't wait until next year's re-match when we will beat them, won't we?

Within an hour of the race, Colenorton started to hear the agonising cries of Allen, trying to push through the pain barrier.

Poor 'OLD' Dave was drumming away when a wave hit him, he quickly grabbed the drum and the whole boat heard a high pitch scream. As Dave screamed away, the wave went past and soaked Allen and Aden. Sadly, the pump had died within the first 30 minutes of use, caused by a blockage that not even Ex-Lax could clear.

Colenorton did their best to keep in time with the drummer although this was not an easy task as the drummer Dave, was trying to play some Pink Floyd. Although Dave did comment "I was not playing Pink Floyd, I was being Jon Bonham"!



As the race was near the end for Colenorton, Paul called for "Pip-ups", increasing the effort the paddlers were putting in and pushing them to the limits. As Colenorton reached the finish line, successfully completing the 22 mile race, Paul turned the boat and nearly caused a crash. A near miss, and relieved crews from both teams.

Colenorton managed to get the boat on dry land and that

is when the challenge really began. The team got out of the boat exhausted, with the thought of a cold beer now in sight. Lifting the dragon boat was a painful experience for all the paddlers. They walked the boat for about 100 metres to the trailer. The boat was full of water so the paddlers got a shower they were not expecting when they turned the boat upside down. Paul, at the helm giving the order took great delights in this.

The day ended with the club celebrating down the Waterman Arms, drinking away the pain, and burning their tongues with a delicious curry. As the night went on, the certificates were handed out and a speech from Paul, congratulating the club for their hard work and effort.

WELL DONE COLENORTON.