

Agecroft Head 2022 Saturday 15th October

LRGSBC headed to Agecroft Head in Salford Quays for our first race of the season. We had 25 rowers entered in 14 different crews across the day.

Division 1 saw an early start for our 5 single scullers and girls double. Raph Fox was our top sculler winning J18 1X (band 2) and Matt Whittle was the top J17 sculler winning J17 1X (band 2). It was great to see the girls representing the school for their first time and they even picked up a medal in J17 W 2X (band 2) after their opponents failed to finish!

The 2nd division was a chance for 2 new J17 doubles to test themselves. Both competed well with the J18 2X of Fred Bindless and Omar Geneghy producing a particularly good performance to win J17 2X (band 2).

The final division had a J16 4+, J16 4X-, J17 4X- and J18 4X- racing. The crews boated in perfect conditions, however the weather soon turned. Hail strong winds and torrential downpours made the marshalling particularly unpleasant! Unsurprisingly after this none produced their best performances but it was good early season race practice none the less.

Well done to all our rowers and special thanks to Sam Whittle (parent) who drove the minibus towing the trailer to the event.

Northwich Head 2022 Sunday 13th November

Northwich Head is always one of the most competitive head races of the season and this year proved to be no different. Perfect warm sunny conditions made it a very pleasant day for rowers and spectators alike.

The single scullers in division 1 saw 5 of our scullers that raced at Agecroft looking to improve upon their performances. Again Raph Fox was our fastest sculler but Fred Calvert pushed him close in a tight J18 event.

In division 2 we had a J17 and J16 2X racing. Both put in improved performances from Agecroft and fielded competitive times against their opposition.

The final division of the day was the turn for the quads. The J18 4X- were our fastest crew and finished 3rd as they put in a very solid display despite a lack of time as a crew recently. The J17s executed the improvements they have been working on well and won the J17 4X- medals comfortably with a very strong performance. The J16s also put in an improved performance to finish 5th. A special mention to Freddie Backhouse who steered an excellent course despite this only being the 2nd time he had steered a 4X-.

As always all the rowers representing the school did so brilliantly. We look forward to seeing them continue their progression when they and many others race in Lancaster next week at the Head of the Lune. Thanks as always to Mr Ledward for all his help and doing the hardest job of driving the minibus towing the trailer to the event.

Head of the Lune Sunday 20th November

LRGS had 21 crews race in the Head of the Lune. After travelling to races in recent weeks it was great to be able to race on our home river and get even more rowers involved with racing. After worrying forecasts all week the conditions that met us on Sunday morning were near perfect – a fast stream and very little wind.

It was clear that many of our crews had learnt great lessons at the opening races of the season and had really stepped on. The day started with our J18 and J17 1st quads going head to head. Both won their respective events with the J18 4X- (Daniel Raymond, Raph Fox, Josh Port, Fred Calvert) being the fastest quad of the day beating all junior and adult quads racing – an excellent result.

The J18s and 17s were also racing in double and single sculls. We had J18 2Xs finish in 1st, 3rd and 4th places. In the single sculls Raph Fox was once again our fastest singles sculler winning J18 1X, with Ben Walker putting in a massively improved performance to finish just 1 second behind him to win J17 1X.

The J16 squad were racing in 5 2Xs and 2 4Xs. The doubles sculls saw some great racing between our crews. 3 of them separated by just 5 seconds to finish in 2nd, 3rd and 4th places. The quad sculls saw another win for LRGS with the J16 4X- (Freddie Backhouse, Sam Jackson, Thomas Otley, Ben Richardson) taking the medals.

After the lovely conditions for divisions 1 and 2 the heavens opened for division 3. Despite the torrential rain it was great to see the spirit that our rowers maintained in horrendous conditions!

It was also fantastic to see many of our OL rowers returning with different clubs to race back on the Lune.

Thanks to all the staff and parents who helped through the day.

Christmas Pudding Regatta Race Report Saturday 10th December

Saturday 10th December saw the inaugural Christmas Pudding Regatta take place. Naturally, it fell on the coldest day of the year so far and the edges of the river had frozen the night before. We spent half an hour hacking at the ice, eventually breaking through to the middle of the river and after a quick risk assessment the races began. The club was split into seven coxed quads, with ten beginners racing for the first time.

In group 1, the crews Dasher, Dancer and Prancer raced in a round robin. Three close races and a broken rudder later, Dancer, led by Raph Fox, came out victorious. Comet and Cupid battled it out in group 2, it was a commanding win from Josh Port's crew in Cupid after Comet disastrously caught a crab. However, all was not lost for Comet as they were given a second chance in group 3. On paper, Donner looked like the fastest crew in the final group with three sixth formers but the two Year 9s in Blitzen rowed brilliantly and Leo Gadoud's crew won the last place in the final.

There was a 3-way final, which tested the coxes steering, especially with the added obstacle of ice floating down the river. Following their strong group stage races, it promised to be an exciting race. Each crew put in their best performances of the day and Blitzen (Leo Gadoud,

Riley Hutton, Edward Potter, Alfie Shawcross and cox Monty Cleminson) bettered the other boats to win.

The final race of the day was between the OLs and school. The OLs (Amos Daw, Tom Kerr, Will Burrow and Caiden Whittaker) arrived in their rowing blazers – playing mind games from the start. The school gambled with a brand new crew combination of Ben Walker, Dan Raymond, Sam Stoneham and Fred Calvert. The OLs took the lead off the start, having more power than the school crew, but school soon overtook proving to be the fitter crew. It was a win for the school this year.

Well done to everyone who raced, a great experience in the tough conditions. A special thank you to parents Sam Whittle and Tony Backhouse who helped run the event and of course thank you to Mr Yates.