

Race Report
Exeter
Sunday 9th July 2006

The journey started way back in September 2005, at Longridge Scout Camp. This was the venue for the annual scout dragonboat championships. The day was a good one, with lots of teams taking part, but it's not merely about taking part it's about the winning. Wraysbury took the title once again. The conversation in the car park just before we left for home went something like this;

SAM "Dad – you know Dave Randall?"

ME "Yes Sam what about him"

SAM "He paddles for BA Hurricanes"

ME "Yes Sam, get to the point"

SAM "Can I ask him whether I can join their team?"

WRONG ANSWER ON THE WAY

ME "Yes SAM – Of course you can"

SAM "Can I ask him now?"

ME "Go on then ask him"

At this point Sam legged it over to Dave, who said YES!!!

I'm sorry Dave you are off my Christmas Card list

KEEP READING THE RACE REPORT IS ON THE WAY

A few training sessions followed and then all of a sudden, I heard mutterings of Henley winter series on Sunday mornings. Three of these past, all of which were freezing cold and necessitated getting up far too early on a Sunday morning. The last one saw the arrival of the Orgill groupies (total head cases).

Then Sam came home from training one day and the conversation went something like this: _

SAM "Kate reckons I should try out for the GB Juniors"

WRONG ANSWER ON THE WAY

ME "OK Sam give it a go, but don't be disappointed if you don't get in (You love your kids, but you have to let them down with kindness)"

I'm sorry Kate you are off my Christmas Card list

During the next few months, it was up and down the motorway to Liverpool for GB training knowing full well that he hadn't got a hope of making the team (but you love your kids and you've got to support them).

Then came the weekend of the trials (No Chance)

Trapper Trial 2.20 (not bad)

01 Trial 2.53 "Very good for your age" said Sue Menzies, who was holding the stop watch.

I'm sorry Sue you are off my Christmas Card list before you got on it

The Monday after the trial Sam came running downstairs shouting I'M IN!! I'M IN!! I thought he'd bumped his head and had become delirious.

Then came the conversation, with Joanne Griffiths from the GB Juniors. The conversation went something like this;

JOANNE "Mr Orgill (she didn't know me) Sam has done really well, we want him to come to Prague – he's made the squad"

ME Deadly silence

JOANNE "Mr Orgill is that OK"

ME "Yes thank you" and I put the phone down

I ran downstairs and shouted to the rest of the family HE'S IN!! HE'S IN!!

KEEP READING THE RACE REPORT IS ON THE WAY

More trips to Liverpool for GB training

It was a Saturday in April, I walked - yes walked the lengthy distance from the Orgill residence, together with Sam to the BA Lake. There I was greeted by a pleasant, mature and rather well spoken man (Kevin Tighe). I was there to drive the safety boat whilst Sam, Kevin and Robert did a training session in the O1's. At the end of the session the conversation went something like this:-

KEVIN "You know Malcolm it won't be long before you are in the boat with a paddle in your hand"

ME "Yeah right" (thinking this bloke's round the twist)

I'm sorry Kevin you are off my Christmas Card list before you got on it

Then came the racing:

Cardiff: Cold – I'm not interested Cheryl - looks like hard work

Liverpool Cold – I'm still not interested Cheryl

Bristol Warm – Maybe I'll go to a couple of training sessions Cheryl

Stockton Bloody long way – Do you think Sam would mind Cheryl?

Nottingham Great venue – Oh my god, they've asked me to paddle Cheryl

Exeter: Brill venue – I'm in and I'm having fun Cheryl

KEEP READING THE RACE REPORT IS ON THE WAY

THE RACE REPORT STARTS HERE

RACE 1: We won 50:57, Dave dropped me (you gotta take your turn)

RACE 2: We came second 51:34, I'm in the boat, feels great!

RACE 3: We won 1:55.17, I love it when we win

RACE 4: We came second 1:57.78, feeling knackered

RACE 5: We won 1:58.49, great race - Good to beat Amathus

I'm not sure whether these times are good or not, but I'm well chuffed.

THE RACE REPORT ENDS HERE

There were several interesting events on Sunday, some of them are as follows:

- There's an old bloke walking around Exeter with a black eye, after he walked through our warm up. I accidentally slapped him in the face. He might walk round next time.
- Some of us getting sunburned and looking completely ridiculous (I'm wearing socks forever)
- There's a poor woman walking around Exeter, feeling rather unwell. Unfortunately for her I decided to get changed behind a car, but didn't see the woman shopping with her husband, they both got an eyeful (they will never be the same again).

On a more serious note.

I have never met a more welcoming bunch of people in my life.

Sam said the other day, it is like I have been paddling for BA for years. Thanks to you all for making our year a really enjoyable one.

Bring on the next event

Cheryl and I would also like to thank everybody for helping to raise funds for the GB Juniors – you really are a great bunch.

PS: I thought I was paddling OK until I watched the video, at 10.30pm on Sunday evening (sad or what). I am making my excuses via this report, because as Sam said when he saw it, I was dipping the paddle in and dipping the paddle out. It looks pathetic. (Thanks Cheryl for filming the left side and making me look even more stupid than usual).

My excuse: It was only my second event and I was so tired!!!!

Thanks once again.

Malcolm
Aka King Louis

