

# Ancholme Head

*New members help produce 3 Wins...*

The club sent 12 crews to compete in the two divisions being held on a 2800 metre course at Brigg, with many of the crew members getting their first taste of competitive rowing.

Division One commencing at 11:30 saw 5 of our crews on the water.

First of the Ladies fours on the day, had Catherine & Angie competing in their first Head Race along with Leanne & Lou (Lincoln RC) with Nick (Coxing) in a W Nov 4+ going from the start very well and quickly catching up with the other crews in their class, and although performing well, just got beaten into second place by a few seconds.

A W Nov 4X- consisting of Ailsa, Zoe, Hannah & Violet was holding nothing back as they started the race. Their first head race, they didn't show it as they continued down the course, it was only near the finish when they had two minor problems which left them in second place, missing out on winning by 9 seconds. Last of the club's fours in this division was a M Nov 4X- with Ed, Henry, Aaron & Ben achieving a very good time. With Ben stroking, the only member of the crew who had raced before, quickly had them performing at a good pace, which gained them a very respectable 3rd place in their class.

Then came the singles with Chris in Vet F being grouped with an Vet G and a Vet H racing against each other, then using the vet handicap system to work out the winner. Although working hard all the way, he unfortunately came a very close second.

Lorri has gained plenty of race experience in crews since she has been rowing, but today would be all new as she raced for the first time in a single at Vet C.

Competing the course with good technique and power, after a long wait at the start, was not quite enough to beat Lou from Lincoln and had to settle for 2nd place.

After quite a wait to get off the water from the first division, members racing in the second division commencing at 2:30 had no time to rest as boating got under way for the remaining 7 crews.

Ailsa, Zoe, Hannah & Violet on the water again but this time racing as a W Nov 4+ with Nick coxing. Knowing they had to beat the other ladies 4 to win, they gave everything they had all the way down the course, up until about 700 metres to go, which at this point had to stop due to 2 doubles ahead of them clashing and blocking the course. Underway again could they beat the other crew now? Yes!!! a very impressive drive to the finish line just gave them 1st place by 6 seconds.

All the lads from the Quad in division 1 were also racing again with Ed & Aaron now in a J16 2X. With the experience gained from the previous race, they performed very well and finished 3rd in their class.

Henry along with Chris Belton were trying their luck in Novice singles, one of the largest events on the day. As they approached the finish, both of them were putting as much effort as they could muster into every stroke, and although showing signs of fatigue, stayed strong till the end to achieve the respectable positions of 7th & 8th.

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Ben who has gained plenty of race experience over the year would have his work cut out for him today in a J15 1X. Having one of his contenders already been and raced in division 1 was a drawback, not knowing what they had achieved, but had a possible advantage of starting last in his group, 4 singles to overtake. From the start Ben's technique and power shone through as he started to overtake his opponents' one by one, and by the time the finish was in sight he was well in front of the others, only now having to wait on times to see if he had won. After a while the final results revealed, Ben had been victorious winning by 1 second.

Veteran C Singles - Adrian competing in his only race of the day. Normally he would have been racing at novice, but with his son Henry in that event decided to go with age rather than status. Pushing hard all the way to the finish, and although overtaking some of his opponents on the way, was unable to catch the sculler from York and had to settle for a well deserved 2nd place.

Last crew to boat in this division from the club were the women's novice quad, with Catherine, Angie & Leanne being joined by Lorri in the bow seat. Their race plan was to go off fast with the aim of beating the club's other Women's Quad and win the event. As the first part of the course went by, this looked unlikely as they didn't quite sync together, but wasn't unexpected due to this being their first outing as a crew. Proceeding further down the course the crew started to improve and the effort being placed in each stroke was becoming more effective and the odds on them winning looking more hopeful. Once over the finish line it was time to wait for the results, it was going to be close between the crews. Indeed close as they managed to win by 9 seconds giving the club its 3rd victory of the day....