

Explore Rowing Season Finale 2019

Windermere Rowing
Club, 20th October



This ever popular venue attracted 11 crews from 7 clubs across the North West who were all looking forward to the final shoot-out, racing 3 abreast on Windermere.

Strong wind forced a late change of plan to more conventional side by side 2 boat racing on the section of the River Leven to which the Windermere club also has access. It was desperately disappointing that less than a third of the way through the hastily rearranged race programme the event had to be cancelled as the strengthening northerly wind was making the recovery of boats to the East / West jetty increasingly difficult and risky for both crews and equipment.

Despite the disappointment everyone appeared to enjoy their day of camaraderie and cake and most crews managed at least some rowing.

This was the final meeting of 6 in a very successful season with more clubs taking the opportunity of giving their recreational, novice and returning rowers perhaps a first taste of competition in stable coxed quads. Host clubs are encouraged to borrow an additional set of boats from neighbouring clubs and with short races and multiple crew changes most events enable each crew to take to the water 3 or 4 times in a hectic afternoon of fun and fellowship, not forgetting copious quantities of cake.

The emphasis is very much on fun but the competitive instincts of rowers are hard to suppress and this year's championship was won by Warrington RC's "Blazing Paddles" in fine style, winning all of their races throughout the summer. Everyone was delighted to see the "Grosvenor Legends" adaptive rowing team from Grosvenor RC take second place. This year a championship for women only crews was run alongside the open competition and this was won by the "Merekats" from Sunday's hosts, Windermere RC.

Everyone involved was delighted that Clare Briegal, Chair of NWRRRC came along to present the cups to the series winners. She spoke of the importance of Explore and the immense enjoyment it brings to recreational and novice rowers throughout the region.

Plans for next year's Explore series are already being discussed and more clubs are looking forward to joining in the fun.