

Coquet Canoe Club 'Round the Island Race' 2013

In the midst of this year's cycle of storm and sun, we were lucky to hit a lovely, calm sunny day for the race. And it brought out a big fleet of paddlers, with 60 people making it round the whole course. It was nice to see that a third of these were female, and ages ranged from 14 to 81.

(3 Juniors, 10 Seniors, 12 Veterans, 23 Supervets, 5 Grand old men/women, 5 Old men/women of the Sea and 2 Ancient Mariners.)

As usual, there was a keen fight at the head of the race. Paul Hobrough, in a racing seakayak, took the lead and Andy Morton in his sea-modified Marlin WWR wash-hung him all the way out to the island, but lost him on the way round. Paul's time of 42 mins 35 secs is a record for the course.

Battling it out for third place, in standard seakayaks, were Nicky Cresse and Brian Turnbull. Nicky just won it by a few seconds in 45 mins 6 secs – another record time for a non-specialist seakayak.

Kate Duffus, first lady home, came in 9th place, a minute ahead of Roswitha Wagenknecht. 24 boats took less than an hour, including Peter Roscoe, now in the Ancient Mariner age category.

The Junior Race had only 4 entries (may be partly due to the clash with exams/half term), and Erin Turner put in a fast time of 25 mins 55 sec to take first prize.

Next year's race is on Sunday June 8th – start time 11am.