

5th Ravenglass Seaquest, Sunday 3rd April 2011

The 5th Ravenglass Seaquest took place on Sunday 3rd April, in glorious weather again. This was after a 24 hour delay because of the gales forecast on Saturday.

Seaquest is a navigation event for kayaks and canoes in which individuals, pairs or groups visit as many controls as they can in 3 hours in the 3 estuaries of Ravenglass (west Cumbria).

Annette Morris and Phil Cheek organised the first Ravenglass Seaquest in 2007. The main aim was to introduce people to the beautiful estuaries of Ravenglass. There are three interesting rivers entering the sand dune surrounded lagoon in front of the quaint village of Ravenglass. The Esk meanders under Muncaster Castle with spectacular views over to the lake district's highest fells.

The event raised nearly £200 (plus Gift Aid) to National Coast Watch, who will be opening a station in Workington soon. This follows on from previous Seaquest donations of £567 to the Search and Rescue Dogs (SARDA), £437 to Wasdale Mountain Rescue and £600 to St Bees Life Boat.

Assisted by the Coastguard's megaphone all 62 competitors set off together at 11am. Only a few visited all controls. Kate Duffus was the first solo lady ever to complete the course. John Willacy from Anglesey in a Rockpool Taran was again the winner of the sea kayak category. John manages the Performance Sea Kayak web-site where you can find all the Seaquest results and details of other events - see <http://www.performancesekayak.co.uk/Pages/Events.html>.



Chris McSweeney, from Worcester, on a surf ski is shown left. But later Macclesfield's Ned Price and John Kavanagh in a skinny K2 seen just behind Chris raced ahead to be the over-all winners. John Bunyan also from Macclesfield again completed the course, in his EIC 18X. Alistair Hornsby and Ian Coleman deserve a mention for powering a beautiful wooden canoe faster than most kayaks.

The mixed kayak double winners were locals (and Blengdale Runners) Clare Tyler and Robin Keith – kayaking only for the second time. And the Open Canoe mixed winners were Pete & Barbara Nelson with Luath The Dog, who sniffed out the controls and raced to them. (Perhaps I should have used electronic punching and if Luath had the dibber on her nose I think the Nelson team would have won!).

Two couples (Sally & John Soady, and Rhiannon George & Stu Mair) in single kayaks acquired the same very high scores and all finished at the same time. Going round together, I thought, but I see they chose different routes.



Copeland Canoe Club, as always, supported the event en masse, and did well in the prizes. "Up The Creek" shown in the Canoe left won the kayak Team category. Jack Watson & Robin Watson also shown left did extremely well in small river boats.

It's always great to see the families in Canoes. The Harris Team (below left) raced ahead of the Law Family (below right) and the Jesson Family. Many more had entered but I think the late change in date to Mother's Day prevented them from entering.



The Glow Stick Award, was not awarded this year. But in hind-sight this prestigious award should have gone to Jim Wallis from Dumbarton, who carefully used 14 out of the 15 minute penalties, and despite getting 35 penalty points, still came a credible 9th.

A massive thank you to all of our helpers - Phil Cheek for all sorts, Josh Rice for Irt Patrols & results, Will Mullineaux for Mite Patrols & results, Eileen Benyon for main lagoon look-out, Phil & Leanne Hanson for Esk Patrol, and Mel Gould for main photographer. Also we had safety cover from the Coastguard. And thank you to Ravenglass Caravan and Camping Club for letting many of us camp.



I've already hatched a plan for 2012 to ensure those who clear the course within three hours, get their money's worth, and stay out for the full three hours (and it doesn't involve collecting in the controls, John)



Thank you for your support & positive comments. Hope to see you all next year on Sunday 6th May.

Annette,

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Kayak Mixed Pair	Sally & John Soady	Sheffield CC	2:43	310		310	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1
	Rhiannon George, Stu Mair	Penrith	2:43	310		310	1	1	1		1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Mike Jesson & Rachel Pickering	Beeston	2:07	160		160	3		1	1	1		1				1				1	1	1
Kayak Mixed Double	Clare Tyler & Robin Keith (Double)	Blengdale Runners	2:50	310		310	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1
	Bridget Keogh & Steve Omerod		3:08	310	11	299	2	1	1	1			1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Canoe Mixed	Pete, Barbara Nelson & Luath the dog	Cleator	3:04	290	4	286	1	1	1	1			1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1
	Andy Biggs & Penny Excell	West Cumbria CC & Penrith	3:03	240	3	237	2	1	1	1	1		1	1	1		1			1	1	1	1
Canoe Male	Alistair Hornsby & Ian Coleman	West Cumbria CC	2:46	320		320	1	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Kayak Team	Up the Creek (Andrew Woollard, Josh Havlin, Nathaniel Green, Michael Green) (Juniours)	Copeland CC (Juniors)	2:42	260		260	1	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1				1	1	1
	Risely & Green Team of Five	Ribble CC	2:35	250		250	2	1	1	1	1		1	1			1	1		1	1	1	1

Canoe Generation	Harris Team (Barbara, Tim & Paul Clarke (10))	St Bees	2:43	220		220	1	1	1	1	1		1	1			1			1	1	1	1	
	Law Family (Helen, Dave, Jessica & Samuel)	Southport	2:49	180		180	2		1	1	1		1	1			1				1	1	1	
	Jesson family (Sean, Lojska, Robbie & Pete)	NW Sea Kayakers	2:05	160		160	3		1	1	1		1				1					1	1	1
Kayak Generation	Andy Bennion, Robyn Watson	Copeland CC	2:59	260		260	1	1	1	1			1	1	1	1				1	1	1	1	1
	Al Yates, Jack Watson	Copeland CC	3:04	240	4	236	2		1	1	1		1			1	1	1	1			1	1	1
	Matthew Team (Ray & Matthew Owen)	Copeland CC	2:56	230		230	3	1	1	1			1	1	1	1						1	1	1



5th Ravenglass Seaquest – Map NB Checkpoints 1 and 2 were not open.

