

Cold Comfort at Carrow Cup

Beccles Rowing Club produced a decent turn out on Saturday for the final competition of the year at the Carrow Cup hosted by Norwich Rowing Club.

In bitterly cold, but fine conditions several new crew combinations raced in the oldest rowing event in the country dressed in some amusing, and not entirely practical costumes, along the 4,000 metre course.

The jovial nature of the day was somewhat tempered by a lost set of riggers, which ensured a last-minute readjustment in Team orders. Thanks go to Goldfinger De Vere Green, who raced back to the club like Marathon himself and later arrived like the Fourth Cavalry brandishing the recovered riggers to ensure that equilibrium was restored.

Division one saw Jon Benest-Bartram and James Lowry-Bartram in the Vet Double Class, dressed as Father Christmas and Brother Christmas, pound home like Donner and Blitzen in a time of 16:09. It also saw Nicky Beck and Vicky Collins swan serenely through the course, dressed as the Phantoms of the Opera, in a theatrical 17.52.

The Second Division of the day saw Club Captain Jon Benest-Bartram team up with Liz Beedham, and use the fancy dress excuse to don a pair of fake breasts and become a saucy fairy. Those who know him well noticed the joy on his face. The mixed double coquettishly raced to the finish line in an impressive 17:28.

The Beccles mixed four, with riggers back in place, also put in a decent shift as Santa and his three reindeer. Rebecca Haste's cold red nose came in particularly useful. She was joined in the sled by Mark Banham, Rebecca Banham, James Hairy-Bartram and Vicky Collins who galloped home in 18:12.

A great day was had by all and Beccles Rowing Club once again demonstrated strength in depth and an invigorated urge to compete and win.

Benjamin Turner