

February 2020

Success at the inaugural Charles Stanley Cup 2020 for the novice crews from St Neots Rowing Club

Rowing in the Eastern Region has been given tremendous boost by the arrival of the Charles Stanley Recreational quads that have aided many local people (adults and juniors) to try the sport in a structured learn to row course over the last 2 years. Following the learn to row course many people have become members of the development squads in their local clubs but until now the big step up into racing has required British Rowing Membership and can be rather daunting for the novice rower.

To give novice rowers the opportunity to experience different forms of the rowing race, three clubs from the Eastern Region have devised a new competitive event specifically aimed at those that are new to the sport. Isle of Ely Rowing Club, West Norfolk Rowing Club and St Neots Rowing Club each hosted a leg of the event from November 2019 through to February 2020 and each club had two crews racing.



The November leg was held at the Isle of Ely Rowing Club and involved a side by side sprint regatta over 300m. Each crew raced against each other and the winning crews achieving points as well as the fastest crew overall and for a bit of fun the crew with the best hats also gained points.

West Norfolk were definitely the hat champions as they had made their Viking hats but St Neots were a close second as the whole of the Village People appeared to be rowing. The overall winners on the day were St. Neots.



January saw the crews arriving in Denver, near Downham Market for the second leg of the event. It was a bitterly cold day but the incredible catering in the new club house inspired all of our competitors throughout the day. Obstacle course in quads and doubles, skills demonstration, a throw line challenge and "spot the boat errors" made for a fun event and the results were very close with West Norfolk finishing in the top spot.

Finally, the last leg at St Neots provided a gloriously sunny day for timed racing over 1000m giving the crews the first taste of a “head” race. Each crew raced twice and the finish times were very close. St Neots were the fastest on the day and achieved maximum points.



Over the three legs, St Neots Rowing Club were the overall winners and were presented at the final leg of the event with the Charles Stanley Cup by representatives of Charles Stanley Wealth Managers who stated “ it was great to support such a fun event where local clubs can come together in friendly competition and to see the boats being utilised to the benefit of local people”.



Isle of Ely Rowing Club, St Neots Rowing Club and West Norfolk Rowing Club all hold regular Learn to Row Courses and to find out more please visit their websites.

Kiran Chavda, Investment Manager from Charles Stanley, Cambridge presenting Nicola Webster, Captain of Novice Rowers, St Neots Rowing Club with the Charles Stanley Cup 2020