

3rd Ravenglass Seaquest

9th May 2009

Despite the wintry weather more than 50 people set off in all directions at 11am from Ravenglass. The weather forecast predicted improving weather but this did not occur until just after we finished. At times the squalls made paddling difficult, and hail stones added to the pain. I hear the surfing was good though!

But everyone returned exhausted and saying they kind of enjoyed it. But an hour later after refreshments in the local pub in front of the fire there was talk of doing future Seaquests.

I planned the course so it was not possible to get all controls based on previous results; I was proved wrong by Jonathan Dunseath from Penrith - in a Point 65 kayak he got the lot with a few minutes to spare. John Bunyan from Macclesfield missed only 2 controls and was 2nd. Kate Duffus from Kendal in a Greenlander Pro was close behind in 3rd overall – fantastic result from Kate. Second lady was last year's prize winner Jane Hornsby.

Winners of the mixed category were Debra Johnson and John Shepherd from Bootle (Cumbria) on a double sit on top. They were closely followed by local triathletes Sam and Geoff Ayers.

We were again supported well by the local Canoe Club Club – Copeland. Dan Hillon and Richard Stalker in the Junior 11 category got a good score and practiced their rolling and surfing too. Duddon Canoe Club also came in force – Rob Hitchmough and John Shuttleworth got the highest score for a double. Macclesfield's John Kavannagh and Ned Price in a K2 swam and ran most of the course and still got a good score - I should have given them a triathlon prize!

Only one canoe braved the winds on Saturday - Penny Excel and Andy Biggs. Also in a canoe (but on Sunday in better weather) the Law family visited all controls in the Esk hence won the family category.

The Ravenglass Seaquest and Trailquest raised £438 for Wasdale Mountain Rescue. Thank you to everyone who took part. And a big thank you to all helpers – Phil Cheek for helping with controls and doing safety cover, Chris Cripps for safety cover, Will Mullineaux and Chris Dowling for inputting results and Gavin Bunyan for being a runner. Also John Hitchen and a few others for providing safety cover from land.

Judging by feedback (thank you for all the positive comments) we will run another Seaquest next spring. Not sure I'll be able to arrange wind and hail stone again!

Don't forget the Fleetwood Seaquest on 19th September – 22km or 15km up and down the Wyre Estuary. For more details see www.oag.em.uk.

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