

2009 Bridges Classic Kayak race.

After four days of bad weather in Auckland, Sunday afternoon was fine and sunny for the 20th Bridges Classic kayak race at the Waitemata Canoe and Multisport club rooms on the Henderson Creek.

Thirty-seven paddlers in a wide range of kayaks lined up for two starts. The singles started first and a quick pace was set by Simon McLarin, Gordon Walker and Sam Newlands as they led the field up to the first turn buoy at Falls Park at the top of Henderson Creek. The K2s and the 8 kilometre paddlers started 2 minutes later.



The start (Adventurepics)

After 56 minutes a sole kayak came into view and a few minutes later it crossed the finish line. Was this going to be a new race record? - no. After a rudder cable broke on their K2 Mark and Tim made a wonderful job of the temporary repair which may find its way into the next flower show as the flax was so perfectly arranged.



Tim and Mark (*Adventurepics*)

The first of the 8 km paddlers was Heather Davidson followed by Chris Henson and Jeannine Wardley.

We did not have to wait long for the first K1's to come into view. Simon McLarin leading with another kayak sitting on his wash and another K1 around 60m behind. As they got closer Sam Newlands was the wash rider looking for the right time to pass Simon but it was not to be as Simon maintained his lead to finish with a time of 1:14:23 followed by Sam in 1:14:24 and Gordon Walker crossing the line in 1:15:30. Jeremy Kuggeleijn led in the first K2 of Andrew Newick and Nickoi Gordon as they finished in 1:18:32 a mere two seconds behind Jeremy. The multisport finish was another close call as Jim Davidson kept Sean Donoghue and Paul Gillard at bay to finish in 1:23:52.

Hannah Lowe paddling a K1 was the first woman to finish the 16km course in 1:27:56 followed by Multisport paddlers Louise Mark in 1:29:52 and Anna Longdill in 1:32:12.

Mark Warminger was first Ocean racing ski in 1:28:59 after paddling past the last turn buoy and adding another few hundred metres to his paddle.

Paul Shipman was our only sea kayak but he had a good paddle stopping the clock at 1:49:10.

Results

1	Simon McLarin	K1	1:14:23
2	Sam Newlands	K1	1:14:25
3	Gordon Walker	K1	1:15:30
4	Jeremy Kuggeleijn	K1	1:18:30
5	Andrew Newick/Nickoi Gordon	K2	1:18:32
6	Nic Riosa	K1	1:19:17
7	Vaughan Reed	K1	1:21:23
8	Phil Exeter/ Blair Roskruge	K2	1:22:02
9	Jim Davidson	MS	1:23:45
10	Sean Donoghue	MS	1:23:53
11	Paul Gillard	MS	1:23:59

12	Bart Mullye	MS	1:25:39
13	Grant Donoghue	MS	1:27:55
14	Hannah Lowe	K1	1:27:56
15	Nathan Livingston	MS	1:28:46
16	Mark Warminger	Ski	1:28:59
17	Louise Mark	MS	1:29:50
18	Anna Longdill	MS	1:32:12
19	Simon Longdill	Ski	1:34:09
20	B and M Kimble	K2	1:34:18
21	Wally James	MS	1:34:21
22	John McLaren	MS	1:34:21
23	Richard Couchman	K1	1:34:40
24	Simon Melgren	MS	1:34:52
25	Sonja Crone	MS	1:39:14
26	Joanna Perry	MS	1:41:34
27	Peter Goodwin	MS	1:44:00
28	Paul Shipman	SK	1:49:10

8 Km race

1	Heather Davidson	K1	1:00:13
2	Chris Henson	MS	1:00:43
3	Jeannine Wardley	MS	1:14:35

Best dried flower arrangement.

Tim Cochrane and Mark Struthers K2

Did not finish due to fuel problems

Adrian Davis MS

Next race: Henderson Marathon Race
 Date: Sunday 25 October 2009
 Distance: 21.5km
 Venue: Waitemata Canoe & Multisport Club
 Taipari Strand, Taikata Road
 Te Atatu Peninsula
 Course: 5x 4.3km lap
 High Tide: 1:15pm
 Registration: From 11:00am
 Race Start: 12:30pm

For this race you can get together a team and split the work or paddle the full course yourself. This could mix the race up and provide some very close racing.