

THE 1962 MARSH LOCK SLALOM

....but we held it at Hambleton, and we feel we owe you all an explanation.

The story begins some months ago. We felt that we must make an effort to ensure that the present generation of good slalom organisers didn't all retire at the same time. We decided to give the hoary veterans a rest and to let youth have its chance. We elected young Dick Marlow to be our Slalom Rep. At the same time, aware that our slalom, whilst very pleasant in August, was getting a little tame. So we advanced it to make sure of heavier water. Lock Keeper Jim Tame expected to have two full sluices running on the chosen date. In fact, due to unexpected rain earlier in the week, we had seven sluices and Jim decided it was too risky to let us play at Marsh and we agreed wholeheartedly with him.

So at the last minute we had to make a most unexpected move to Hambleton. Unexpected? Well, never before has a Thames Slalom been moved due to too much water.

Now Dick had been all set to run a slalom at Marsh. The plans for the Marsh slalom had been vetted by our experts and we all felt that Dick was competent to run his slalom. This we had to do on your behalf.

The move proved unfortunate, to say the least. Hambleton is not an easy slalom site. A lot of our experts were elsewhere. The hastily designed course proved, when erected, to be a poor one, too long, too chancy and poles were often of the wrong colour.

The water was, however, magnificent: tough, really tough and as safe as houses - just what we needed to give our boys continental training.

On Sunday morning the BCU Slalom Executive Committee inspected the course and decided that it was not good enough to be of ranking status. This was probably fair comment.

We feel, however, that the BCUSEC should have made suggestions as to how the course could have been swiftly amended to allow a ranking slalom to be held. It was not too late to pull offending gates into less chancy water and to delete and re-number gates. The slalom could, and should, have been saved.

The weather was bleak - the same icy wind that blighted our second Madhouse - the same chill wind that lowered our morale at Augsburg. The BCUSEC scuttled away to shelter - the brave spirits crept to their judging posts - the competitors, well, some of them, went out to battle. It was tough and capsizes were many; one man rolled three separate times.

We decided to give all our prizes just as if it had been a ranking slalom. We reckon those of you who had a go deserved no less. We feel that, chancy as it was, THE BEST MEN WON.

Hambleton 1962

RESULTSDIVISION 1

<u>Name</u>	<u>Club</u>	<u>Pen.</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Pen.</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Best</u>	<u>Place</u>
Geoff. Dinsdale	Twickenham	C	C	160	512	672	1 71.1
Chris. Sutton	Cambridge	270	462	350	540	732	2 77.5
David Olorenshaw	Leamington	C	C	370	405	775	3 82.1
Dave Mitchell	Chester	470	430	R	R	900	4 95.3
Ken Miles	Chalfont	370	539	R	R	909	5 96.3
Eric Taylor	Osprey	450	521	340	585	925	6 98.0
Brian Harrison	Worcester	380	550	490	491	930	7 98.5
Glyn Davies	Chester	480	466	R	R	946	8 100.2
Paul Mayhew	Chalfont	440	512	R	R	952	9 100.8
Keith Tillen	Reading	510	612	R	R	1122	10 118.8
Alan Sharples	Manchester	670	611	620	568	1188	11 115.8
Alan Hubbard	Richmond	710	563	R	R	1273	12 124.8
David Sanders	Harrow	R	R				
Jim Doxey	Midland	C	C				
David Patrick	Midland	C	C				<u>114.944</u>

DIVISION 11

Woody Woodcock	Twickenham	C	C	200	269	469	1
Ray Parker	Richmond	180	381	260	452	561	2
Pat Doncaster	Worcester	C	C	220	345	565	3
Colin Manton	Leamington	160	453	R	R	613	4
Geoff. Blackford	Worcester	270	445	C	C	715	5