

The Ides of March 2x2 Relay: A comedy and tragedy in four acts.

Upon the gentle blush of early morn, as Phoebus stretched his golden fingers wide,
The day did break with Zephyr's cool and soothing breath aside.



The scene was set 'neath nature's grand expanse, an idyllic landscape where waters glide.

Wade and Matt S, guardians of chronology, with feet sore yet spirits high, ventured upon a novel scheme, a mighty task, their records of time.



Seven valiant teams, in Shakespeare's tongue, their names did choose, with drama and with flair, as if the Bard himself amongst them sung, to stir the hearts of those who gathered there.

Among these noble crews, young John T. did strive with heartso fierce, his eyes set on the prize, his zeal such that, he fell into the drink 'fore all their eyes. Rich Y, in his vessel, swift and sure, this day did mark his personal best, his pace by none could be contest. David L, who with hasty sprint did dash into the bush, declaring in his flight, "I am that merry wanderer of the night."

The participants and spectators, united by the morning's spirited endeavours, gathered around laden tables for a well-deserved morning tea.



Esther Wheeler reports:

Brevity is source of wit so I shall haste to tell our 2x2 tale, early to avoid the heat of the morn. The contest was fierce, with some laggards causing concern and many small duels fought along.

"Pirates of a Very Warlike Appearance", with Lee and Anne, found a tide which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune and first place. And, in uncharacteristically quiet but cute fashion, Pauline and David's "If Paddling be the Food of Love, Paddle On" were solidly in second. Despite taking a forfeit swim, John and Stephen kept getting better in "To Paddle or Not to Paddle, there is NO Question", swept into third.

Strangely, there was no Henry in either fourth or fifth place. Instead, "The Beast with 2 Camelbacks" and "Toil and Trouble" paddled it out. Craig fighting hard and King Richard hitting his best lap time ever! It really should have been "Double, Double Toil and Trouble" with Tony's shoulder still in recovery, Alanna leading out and Esther's one pain not being cured by another!

Wrapped up by the "Tides of March" and JD has good cause to ask Et Tu Duncan! There's a time for all things - that was not the time to be late for a relay change! The Beware was

there however, with a bull ants nest punishing Duncan and JD for their faithful service in clearing up.

Thank you to Wade for our new timing system, our incredible timekeepers Wade and Matt Swann, and moral support from Caroline and Grace.

Order of finisher:

1. “Pirates of a very warlike appearance” with Lee W and Anne S

The name is derived from a phrase in Shakespeare's play **"Hamlet."** Hamlet sends a letter to Horatio explaining that he was captured by pirates who are described as **"pirates of very warlike appointment."**

2. “If paddling be the food of love, paddle on” with Pauline and David

A delightful twist on the opening line from **"Twelfth Night," "If music be the food of love, play on."**

3. “The Beast with 2 Camelbacks” with Rich Y and Craig E

This name cleverly incorporates a reference from Shakespeare's tragedy **"Othello."** In the play, Othello refers to himself as "the beast with two backs" during a conversation where he is describing his relationship with Desdemona.

4. “Much Ado About Nothing” with Derek S and Justin

This team name is directly taken from one of Shakespeare's famous comedies, **"Much Ado About Nothing."** The title itself is a play on words, suggesting a great fuss made over trivial matters.

5. “To paddle or not to paddle, there is no question” with Stephen W and John T

This is a playful adaptation of one of the most famous lines in all of Shakespeare's works, from **"Hamlet": "To be or not to be, that is the question."**

6. “Toil and Trouble” with Tony, Alanna and Esther

Derived from the line **"Double, double toil and trouble,"** chanted by the three witches in **"Macbeth."** This line is part of a spell they are casting, adding a mystic and ominous air.

7. "The Tides of March" with Duncan J and John D

Best Team name of the day! This name is a clever alteration of the famous phrase "**The Ides of March**" from Shakespeare's tragedy "**Julius Caesar**," where a soothsayer warns Caesar of his impending doom.

Team Start Order	Paddler 1	Boat 1 No	Paddler 2	Boat 2 No		Lap 1	Lap 2	Lap 3	Lap 4	Lap 5	Lap 6	Lap 7	Lap 8	Elapsed Time	Team Finish Time	Team Finish Position
1	Derek Simmonds	DS	Justin Paine	33	Lap Times	00:12:39	00:15:02	00:12:47	00:15:31	00:12:25	00:16:16	00:12:17	00:16:56	01:53:52	8:57:52 AM	4
2	Lee Wright	LW	Anne Skewes	AS	Lap Times	00:10:56	00:13:56	00:10:47	00:13:11	00:10:30	00:13:07	00:10:30	00:13:06	01:36:04	8:52:04 AM	1
3	Stephen Wooden	SW	John Thearle	JT	Lap Times	00:13:02	00:11:35	00:12:31	00:11:53	00:12:55	00:11:29	00:13:20	00:11:23	01:38:08	8:59:08 AM	5
4	Tony and Alanna	47	Esther Weeler	EW	Lap Times	00:10:33	00:12:23	00:10:12	00:12:18	00:10:03	00:12:18	00:09:58	00:11:29	01:29:15	8:59:15 AM	6
5	Duncan Johnstone	DJ	John Duffy	JD	Lap Times	00:12:55	00:10:02	00:11:58	00:09:59	00:11:55	00:09:58	00:11:46	00:09:54	01:28:27	8:59:27 AM	7
6	Pauline Findlay	PF	David Little	2	Lap Times	00:11:06	00:10:16	00:10:45	00:10:23	00:10:51	00:10:17	00:10:55	00:10:05	01:24:38	8:56:38 AM	2
7	Rich Yates	RY	Craig Ellis	CE	Lap Times	00:09:47	00:10:09	00:09:36	00:10:24	00:09:48	00:10:31	00:09:47	00:10:28	01:20:29	8:57:29 AM	3

Who was Shakespear again?

Shakespeare's work spans the late 16th and early 17th centuries, a period known as the English Renaissance or the Elizabethan Era, during which England flourished in the arts and literature under the reign of Queen Elizabeth I. Shakespeare's career is noted for his 39 plays, 154 sonnets, and two long narrative poems.

Shakespeare was the third child of John Shakespeare, a leather merchant, and Mary Arden, a local landed heiress. Despite his father's financial troubles, it is believed that Shakespeare attended the King Edward VI Grammar School in Stratford, where he would have received a tuition-free education in grammar based on Latin classical authors.

By 1592, Shakespeare had moved to London and was established as an actor and playwright. His early plays were primarily comedies and histories such as "Henry VI" and "Titus Andronicus." These early works were well-received, but it was his later works that cemented his reputation.

In 1599, Shakespeare became a shareholder in the Globe Theatre in London. The Globe is where many of Shakespeare's plays were first performed and is intrinsically linked to his success. Plays like "Hamlet," "Othello," "King Lear," and "Macbeth" were performed at the Globe and showcase Shakespeare's mature period in which he delved deep into the complexities of human nature, tragedy, and morality.

Shakespeare's writing is distinguished by its poetic nature, imaginative metaphors, and linguistic inventiveness. He was adept at blending both the grand and colloquial, making his work accessible and profound. He expanded the dramatic potential of character

development, plot complexity, and genre, experimenting with structure and form in ways that broke away from the simple moralistic plays of earlier eras.

Shakespeare's influence extends beyond literature and into everyday English phrases and expressions. He is often called England's national poet and the "Bard of Avon." His contributions to the English language and its literature are immense, making him a timeless symbol of artistic and literary genius whose works continue to captivate and inspire audiences around the world.