

## The 2x2 RR (Relay Report)

With temperatures predicted to hit the mid-thirties again, we decided for an ESA (Early Start Again) and launched at 0700am. In a plot twist worthy of MIR (Miracles In Racing), everyone actually arrived on time. However, punctuality didn't prevent the last-minute debate about which direction the course goes. A pandemic of NRB (Not Reading Briefing) disease spread through the teams, as paddlers were confidently unsure about turns, transitions, and the general concept of "the plan."

There were twelve teams, a fast-moving start list, and only one timekeeper. Wade demonstrated GHS (Gentleman Husband Support) to wife, Carly, today, so Caroline promised her finest GA (German Attitude) and delivered lap times with precision (we will find out) and still correcting teams' start sequences in the last minutes.

The race featured a strong NB (Newbie Bonus), thanks to the arrival of two newcomers: Dave Greuter and Tim Harington. Tim H. having not read the race briefing benefitted from an emergency dose of LD (Leadership Deployment) from Chris D. who stepped up for his team ARHG (Aching Ribs, High Grit). Chris has been paddling with broken ribs for a while, which comes with LLC (Limited Lung Capacity) and the general sensation that breathing is something you no longer enjoy. Team ARHG came first over the line. Well done to both and welcome to the 2x2s Tim!

Team LICK (LizlanCooperKayakers)—Ian and Liz—put together a beautifully performance and paddled into second place. Both haven't joined the 2x2 for a while. Great to see them back at the relay in their shiny K1s! Cassy and Dave Greuter, racing as team FFTP (Fast Pair, Transition Problems) came third over the line. Cassy has been paddling strong although she opted for standing starts only, which cost the team a bit of time—nothing dramatic. Dave is not even a club member yet but somehow showed up with the highest level of BI (Briefing Informed) competence. Please come back Dave!

Fourth place went to YOLO (You Only Live Once) with John T. and Matt S., who seemed to genuinely enjoy life this morning, but no sleep-ins for Matt today! Esther and Dunc were racing as team OOO (Out Of Office). Duncan was wearing his "Out Of Office" shirt and Esther made the gracious commitment of NMC (No More Complaints). We will see. Sixth place went to Justin P. and Phil N. as team ADHD (Actually Demolishing Half the Division).

Phil N. once again wore his convict shirt, which seemed to trigger PFL (Paddling For Life) energy. Next came MYOB (Mind Your Own Business), with Tony and Alanna in a double, joined by Craig E. Despite the team's name, plenty of boats were hanging onto their wash. It was Craig's birthday today! Thank you for joining the 2x2 on your special day! Happy Birthday Craig!

Eighth over the line were FK NOSE Keg and Rich. This was where the day briefly went chaotic. Keg achieved BER (Breaking Every Rule) while also claiming BLI (Busy Life Immunity) from reading emails. The disruption earned a heated conversation with the race director, while Rich and Craig issued a sincere AfK (Apology for Keg). Unfortunately, the briefing's very clear instruction—SCR (Stay Clear of Rocks) at the Wirrong turn—was not fully embraced by Rich either.

Team SCUBA (Still Confused, Upright, but Barely Afloat) with Phil Geddes and TimMac, came in ninth. They admitted they weren't entirely sure why they chose the name. TimMac appeared in a fresh variation of his Aussie hat, continuing the ongoing AHS (Australian Hat Series), which now has more editions than most medical textbooks. Tenth place went to ASAP with Ian W and Jeff T, a very pleasant pairing. Ian once again handled PhD (Photo Hero Duties) during his breaks. Hope he captured enough evidence to prove that the timekeeper was still smiling.

Dave L. and Pauline, racing as FOMO (Fear Of Missing Oxygen), came in eleventh after paddling hard enough for Dave L. to visit LT (Lactic Threshold) multiple times. Last over the line was team ISS with Andrew and Kevin, who may not have won on time but actually knew the course and transitions this time around.

Really, after a morning of hot weather, early starts, course direction debates, broken ribs, broken paddles, and one single German timekeeper, finishing with best intentions is a win in itself—call it WTF (We Truly Finished)!