



Andover Crew 2015

Hi,

Below are the details for this coming weekend and further below is a report on last week's racing. Enjoy.

Please sign up early for food and plan to help at the table when your favorite rower is not racing.

When: Saturday May 16th meeting 12.30 pm to 5.30 pm. (See schedule below)

Who: We will race B1 to B6 and G1 to G6 against Shrewsbury, Hingham and Belmont Hill

Food Table: It will be almost the full Andover Crew tribe! A total of 13 boats racing and being feed.

Link: - [Andover Crew Food Link](#)

Where: William Brown Boathouse, 620 Lowell Street, Methuen, MA

Following are the directions to the William Brown boathouse from the I-93:

- The address is 620 Lowell Street, Methuen, MA 01844.
- Take I-93 North or South to Exit 46 (Route 110/Route 113 toward Lawrence/Dracut)
- The ramp will take you to a traffic circle.
- Take the Lowell Street/Route 110 exit out of the traffic circle (it is the third exit if coming from I-93 north; it is the first exit if coming from I-93 south)
- Drive straight through the first light and continue on for 1.3 miles
- The boathouse is located on the left

For a map please go to http://www.mapquest.com/?hk=TMkLih&icid=embed_viewLargerMap

GO BLUE!!

Tentative schedule:

At this point we believe the following boats will be racing this weekend. This is subject to revision.

Shrewsbury - B1-B4 and a 4+ for the B6 event – G1-G4

Hingham – B1-B5 and a 4+ for the B6 event – G1-G6 and a G7 4+ if there are other entries

Belmont Hill - B3-B5 and a 4+ for the B6 event

Andover - B1–B5 and a B6 4+ – G1-G6 and looking into a G7 4+ possibility

12:30 Coxswain and Coaches meeting

12:45 Coxswains go out on course in launches

1:15 Singing of National Anthem then crews can begin launching for first race

2:00 G6 Race –

2:10 B5 Race –

2:20 G4 Race –

2:30 B4 Race –

2:40 G5 Race –

2:50 B1 Race –

3:00 G1 Race –

3:10 B2 Race –

3:20 G2 Race –

3:30 B3 Race –

3:40 G3 Race –

3:50 B6 4+ Race –

4:00 G7 4+ Race –

Race report for Exeter, Tabor and NMH races May 9th 2015.

The New England racing season is a very short 7 or 8 weeks. This year seemed shorter than most as we moved from a late winter almost straight into summer. The daffodils were late for the Kent race, the black fly arrived a few days after the St. Paul's race but summer was here in time for the Exeter race.

Our rowers are also on a schedule. At the start of the season we are trying to sort out who is who in the competition to make boats faster. More than most years we have strong younger rowers moving up through the boats. But now we are only 2 weeks away from Interschols. By now everyone is a fully fledged Andover racer. Our boat lineups are solidifying. Now is the time to find out if we have grown enough through the season to be ready to battle with the other schools for medals.

Over recent years our boys have done well. They have won the team prize 6 out of the last 8 years including last year. They have won the B1 race 5 out of 8 years including last year. Normally our main

rivals are Kent, Exeter and Tabor but this year Salisbury and Brunswick are in the mix. Our girls have won both prizes once in the last 8 years. Exeter has been dominant in the G1 and team prize in recent years but Kent will also be strong.

By the time Grandparent's Weekend comes around our teams are hungry but they know the opposition is very tough. On Friday there was a palpable buzz at the boathouse. You could feel the energy. We could only hope that it would be focused on Saturday.

The earlier results at Lake Quinsigamond were not indicative of Exeter strength because the ACT exams had eliminated many rowers from both schools.

On Saturday the four schools and their camp followers arrived early.

The regatta had a feel of controlled chaos. We had 368 athletes racing in 41 boats in 12 races. The athletes have to prepare their boats before the races and clean and sore them afterwards.

The Andover crew tribe also includes a supporting cast of students who handle the stake boats, provide commentary, video and manage the score board and dock. Our stake boat people hold the stern of the boat to align the boats at the start of the race. More students provide commentary over the radio, update the scoreboard in real time and manage the docks. Our dock managers have 82 launches and landings in the space of 2 hours. That is one boat leaving or arriving every 90 seconds!

Then we have the parents. The parents travel to the races to support their favorite athlete only to be ignored before the races but do share the post race joy or agony depending on the result. The parents provide pre and restorative post race food and vocal support from the bank of the river in the last 500 meters.

This weekend was also a day for special visitors to our races and we had a full house with parking overflowing onto the street. The rowing community is much interwoven. One of our oldest alumni was William Doggett '52, father-in-law of our boys' head coach but also supporting a rower on the Tabor team. Our long time finish line judge, Peter Mckallagat has a niece rowing for Exeter and past Andover parent Bill Tanski has another child rowing for NMH. The Tabor boys were coached by our own Taylor Washburn '03. Our Head of School, John Palfrey, also came to support our team. We won't mention where he went to school. We can't all be perfect.

The camaraderie and the passion add to the pleasure of this spring regatta.

On this weekend there is a special prize for the Andover and Exeter teams, the David Swift trophy awarded on a complicated points system measured on the results of the G1 to G4 and the B1 to B4 races. For the last 2 years after calculated the points on these 8 races the result has been a draw.

And so to the day.....

We started with our new tradition of the National Anthem with a choir of rowers from all the teams leading the singing conducted by Elizabeth Latham.

We had races going of every 10 minutes for 2 hours. We had radio commentary piped into the sound system for the first 1000 meters. We stop for the last 500 meters to avoid interfering with the race and besides everyone can see the race for themselves from the boathouse.

We also did a pilot video broadcast of the races with a new iPhone application that provides video to our followers on twitter.

The racing conditions were warm temperature, gentle current and about a 10 mph tailwind. Sounds idyllic but actually in these conditions the boats go faster in the water making it more difficult for novice rowers to keep a smooth stroke and more difficult for coxswains to steer.

The first race of the day was the boys' B5/B6 with Tabor, Andover and 2 Exeter boats. They all rowed well with Exeter making a great start to the day with 1st and 2nd place.

Next up was the girls' G5 with Andover, Exeter and NMH. This was a very competitive race giving us a taste of what was to come. The Andover and Exeter boats battled side by side and after just over 6 minutes (360 seconds) of continuous extreme exertion the Andover boat crossed the line 2 seconds or about 6 seats ahead of Exeter.

Tabor was a very competitive boys program back in the '60s but then slipped back a little only to recover in the last 5 years. As the B1 race started Andover and Exeter were in the middle lanes with Tabor on the Andover side and NMH on the Exeter side. Andover moved out early in the race. The Tabor coxswain seemed to have more difficulty keeping to the lane than the others. There were several clashes of oars when the Tabor boat strayed into the Andover lane. The Tabor boat was disqualified after their steering caused repeated clashing of oars. This almost certainly slowed down both Tabor and Andover and made it a close 3 way race. Andover dug deep to stay focused despite the interference and held onto their lead crossing the line about 3 to 5 seats ahead of Exeter and Tabor followed by NMH.

The Exeter girls have been the powerhouse of New England for some years now. We had not beaten their G1 since Kathryn Green was our coach back in 2010. Dale Hurley and his coaching team have been rebuilding our girls' racing spirit. As they prepared to launch I notice the letters NTTE written on the shoulders of our G1 girls'. It stood for Not This Time Exeter. Well our girls were good to their words. They had made some changes since last week and exhibited an extra dose of speed that brought them across the line a full length ahead of Exeter, Tabor and NMH. It was a heartwarming pleasure to see our girls back in the fight.

The B2 race was again a 3 boat race with Andover, Tabor and Exeter all within a boat length. Exeter stretched out to win by a couple of seconds closely followed by Andover and Tabor with NMH bringing up the rear. It will be an exciting Interschols. The girls G4 race turned into a 2 boat race for first place and Exeter took it by about 4 seats over Andover and open water over Tabor and NMH.

The team trophy was looking close. Our B3 helped our cause with a huge rowing effort and screamed down the course to win by 5 seconds ahead of Exeter and copious open water over Tabor and NMH. The G3 race saw Exeter claw their way back to lead the team trophy with a boat length over our girls who had open water over the other 2 boats.

After a 10 minute break in the racing we resumed with the G2 race. Could our G2 match the results of our G1 girls and even up the team prize? Again it was an Andover and Exeter fighting stroke for stroke to master the Merrimack. They quickly moved away from Tabor and NMH as they battled for the lead. In the last 500 meter Andover stretched out ahead and crossed the line 4 seats over Exeter. Most of us did not realize it at that time but this result meant that the team prize now rested on the results of the B4 race.

Our third last race was a B6 in fours. We had 2 Andover boats and one Tabor boat. Tabor was the stronger boat on the day and won well. The G6 race was another Andover Exeter duel and the Exeter girls put in a very strong performance winning the race.

And so after 11 hard races Andover and Exeter were the equal winners for the day. Our B4 did not know it at the time but they were the deciding race. The boys left no doubt about the result. Jigger Herman's quiet encouragement gave these guys the grit to pump out a racing time of 5.19.5 versus Exeter at 5.26.6 followed by Tabor and NMH. The David Swift Trophy would stay in the Bill Brown boathouse this year.

It was a full, exciting and exhausting day and that was those of us standing on the river bank.

A wonderful exciting day of racing watched by 3 generations of Andover rowers. Our thanks to our coaching staff who started at the boathouse at 9 am to set up for the regatta. Thanks also to all our supporting students who make the regatta such a well oiled machine and to all our parents and supporters whose enthusiasm fuels the last 500 meter sprint and who refuel the students with food immediately after the races.

The Andover tribe could go home happy.

There is only one more chance to enjoy a race at our boathouse. If you live within travel distance then get off your "you know what " and come down to the boathouse next week and feel the passion. At the beginning of the season we watched these students wobble down the pathway carrying their racing boats and tentatively shove off into the river. Now they stride down the pathway and sit tall as they push off eager for the battle with the river and rowing opposition. Sharing this joy and passion is an experience not to be missed by parents lucky enough to be able to travel to the boathouse.

Next week will be the final race for our boats except the B1to B3 and G1 to G3 that will race at Interschols. Our tribe has grown in body and spirit over the spring. It is a memory that will stay with them for their lifetime. Last week a rower, Einar Westerlund '58, sent me a photograph of their 1957 NEIRA final and his memory of the experience still fresh in his mind after almost 60 years.

So thanks again to everyone who makes Andover Crew a wonderful experience.

Hope to see you by the river.

Go Blue!

Rosy and Sam

Sam & Rosy Darby P'07

Parents, Friends & Alumni of Andover Crew

@ Email: andovercrew@andovercrew.net

@ Web: <http://www.andovercrew.net>

@ Facebook: [Friends of Andover Crew](#)

@ LinkedIn: [Andover Crew](#)

@ Twitter: [andovercrew](#)

☎ Phone: (978) 975-4152 | ☎ Cell: (978) 494-2382

If you wish to be removed from the Crew email list or wish to be added, please email andovercrew@andovercrew.net

Remember our boats go faster if there are supporters to cheer them in the last 500 meters.



