



Smith/De Bilio and Payne/Bose leave the portage.

Elmbridge show strength in depth

Hasler Final

The Hasler Final was hosted by Worcester Canoe Club on the Severn. The first of the winter storms had already passed, leaving a pleasant autumn day with a light downstream breeze. The runoff had yet to arrive from the Welsh mountains so the half metre rise in the water level during the course of the day was hardly noticed.

More significant was the artificial portage. Jumping out into shallow water and running the portage was not too bad, carpet sections having been laid out in places. Steps had been cut into the bank for relaunching and these became wet and very slippery as racing progressed, especially for the faster boats around lunchtime, many competitors having to pick themselves out of the shallow water and empty out.

Henry Barker-Watson and Marcus Windsor produced a dead heat for



Division 8's K1 win. Avery/Thelwall beat Broughton/Bellofatto by four seconds in a final sprint for Division 5 K2s. The Division 6 K2s saw Stroud/Coenen-Pettersen win by six seconds but the fight for second place saw Wickenden/Harper a second up on Martin/Davis.

There were just four Division 1 K2s, Smith/Cribbett, Russell/Stroud and Short/Freeland still together at the first portage but Short/Freeland being dropped over the next lap, Smith/Cribbett first over the line at the finish.

Harte/Kreft, Martyn/Allan and Tangelmayer/Hamilton broke clear of the rest of the Division 2 K2s, together at the first portage but Harte/Kreft pulling clear by the time they passed the portage, heading downstream.

The top K1 lead group were James How, Arthur Morley and William Roeser by the first portage. Roeser opened up clear water but the



Whitehead/Whitehead, second in Division 8.



C2s were part of the points gathering.



Ames/Looi, second in Division 9.



Betts-Odetayo and Price the first two Division 4 K1s.