



*Winning lady Sienna Payne takes out at Kintbury.*



*Half Century winner Mark Louw of Richmond.*

wriggling just below it on a short length of line, too close to an eye for comfort.) Later, he and partner Mark Turner were capsized by a low flying Canada goose. The Canadians carried on until Marlow.

C2 Thornton/Bowen stopped after Henley, a watershed for many over the years. Other pairs to call it a night were the Escotts and Poole/Tebbett at the head of the Tideway.

Winning the C2s were Hall/Kirk of Nashua River, nearly three hours ahead of Dobson/Rees-Clark.

Burbeck/Pennie-Douglas won the ladies' doubles by eight hours. The fastest men's veterans, Butler/O'Grady, chose not to take part in the usual cat and mouse game of trying to be the last to leave Devizes, getting away a considerable time before the final crews, a policy that worked for them. They worked with Horkan/Palmer until Wootton Rivers where Horkan/Palmer had rudder problems. Butler/O'Grady arrived at Teddington at 07:52 for a run of 2 hrs 7 minutes on the Tideway, to be third overall, 21 minutes ahead of Bradford-on-Avon

pair Birkett/Simmons with Horkan/Palmer a further 27 minutes back. There was nobody else for another hour and 17 minutes, the Dutch pair Witteveen/Zegers.

That meant the first two boats were both mixed. Sharpe/Freeman were to retain their title for another year. Indeed, Sharpe had also won the year before that with Moule, breaking the course record, making him the all time master of this race. It was not an easy race, however. At the top of the Tideway Petersen/Kreft had been 51 seconds up, arriving at 08:50 and taking 2 hrs 6 minutes on the Tideway. Sharpe/Freeman, last away from Devizes, reached Teddington at 9:05 and took 2 hours 1 minute on the Tideway. A change of leader so late in the race is not something expected. The tidal flow can be sufficiently strong for it to make a difference, although it was a weak tide this year, the time of joining it to be affected by the flow rates on the canal, the river and whether the tide turns at the predicted time. A close race had been anticipated but few would have expected this outcome.



*Petersen/Kreft at Horton, leading until the Tideway.*



*Sharpe/Freeman retaining their title but by only 4 minutes.*