



Athena Goddesses race to raise money for charity

The Elevation Factor helps the Athena Network Raise £3151 for the WheelPower charity competing in their Dragon Boat race

WheelPower, the national organisation and charity for disabled sport called on local businesses, sports and social clubs and groups of friends to enter teams in their inaugural dragon boat challenge on 27th April 2008 at Bisham Abbey, Marlow, to help raise money for its 2012 Wheel Appeal. The Wheel Appeal aims to raise enough money to provide 2012 sports wheelchairs for young disabled athletes by the time the Paralympics return 'home' in August 2012.

On the day there were 14 teams of 11 people (10 paddlers and one drummer) to battle it out on the River Thames. The Athena Network – a nationwide premier networking organisation for women in business had two boats. Athena Goddess 1 and 2.

Dressed in pink feather boppers and deely boppers the two all women teams, set off against some stiff competition.

The day started wet giving a bedraggled look to the Goddesses but not to be deterred, by the half way point both

teams were 6th and 7th place with only the top 6 boats going into the semi finals.

June Dean of The Elevation Factor, who is a member of the Athena Network was in the 1st boat and said "It was such a challenge, only a couple of the ladies in my boat had ever paddled before but when under the pressure of the race everyone paddled so hard and in time. It was great team work and such fun too".

The Athena Goddess 2 made it though to the semi finals but finished in 6th position. The crew of Athena Goddess 1 did however win a prize for "The Smoothest Ride" of the day by one of the professional boatmen.

Madeleine Clarke of WheelPower says "WheelPower is on target to raise £21,000 from this inaugural event which will fund seven specially adapted sports wheelchairs and training for young athletes. I'd just like to say a big thank you to everyone who took part and who came along and made the day such a success. We're looking forward to next year's event already!"

Contacts:

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