

# Lake 'comes alive' with plenty of activity

PEOPLE, performers and teams from across the UK gathered for the boat racing and a traditional cultural event at Manvers Lake.

The annual Kerala Pooram Snake Boat Race and Cultural Festival is organised by the Union of United Kingdom Malayalee Associations, a charity which represents more than 50,000 expatriates from the Indian state of Kerala who live in the UK.

Famous Indian film actress Deepa Nair hosted the event which also saw a Thiruvathira – a traditional dance performed by women – with hundreds of artists from different parts of the UK, plus live music by Yorkshire band Chai and Chords.

As the cultural performances unfolded on stage, the competitive snake boat races continued on Manvers Lake, with quarter-finals,

semi-finals, and the women's final.

The men's final featured teams including Nottingham, Bolton, and Coventry, while the women's competition saw nine teams involved stemming from places including Birmingham, Warrington, and Salford.

Chris Hawkesworth of Manvers Lake and Dearne Valley Trust, said: "These races are traditional to Kerala, India, where long, narrow

boats powered by teams of rowers compete in an exciting spectacle.

"The rhythm of the drums is integral to keeping the rowers synchronised as they paddle through the water in perfect harmony," he added.

"We were delighted to host the UUKMA Boat Race and Cultural Event and warmly welcome the UK Kerala community back to our lake."

## Manvers Lake 'comes alive with activity and enjoyment'

By Jill Theobald



1 Comment

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