

Peterborough Summer Regatta 2009

With the summer regatta season soon coming to a close Peterborough summer 500m sprint regatta is one of the highest performance events of the season, with crews from around the country looking to gain important status victories before the oncoming long distance head season.

With some of the club's crew members, being away on holiday, and the event having to turn over 200 crews away, due to capacities levels being reached, meant only 5 Boston crews were in attendance.

In the J15 single sculls, Will Champion, who over the season has shown great improvement, was against 10 other crews, split up into 3 first round heats, with the winner from each progressing to the final. From the start Will went away very well, with him being neck and neck with one crew, as they pulled slightly ahead of the other two. This was a very close and entertaining race as up to halfway all crews were holding their positions. Unfortunately for Will at this point, a problem with his boat arose, forcing him to slow down to a dishearten paddle to the finish.

Women's Novice double sculls saw two Boston crews competing. Both crews racing in separate heats needed to win for a place in the final, second place would mean another round (repechage) for a chance of reaching the final.

The first time pairing of Jo Calver & Hannah Champion was the first to race. Although both experienced in regattas this was a first for Hannah in the stroke seat, and Jo's first mutli-lane event. Going well off the start, they took a deceive lead over the pair from Rob Roy BC, and sat just behind the Peterborough pair. Looking strong throughout the race, it seemed Jo & Hannah had paced themselves well, to go pass the Peterborough double just before the finish, but were just held off and had to settle for second place advancing them to the repechage.

Next on the water were Leanne Cozens & Helen Cooke. Not only was this the first time for the pair to race together, it was also the first ever event for Helen. After the start the pair was slightly behind in 3rd place but showing good promise against the more experienced crews, as Helen at stroke, revealing no signs of pressure, and determined as Leanne to be first over the finish line. Throughout the race the pair fought well and was closing on the other crews by the finish, but was pleased with 3rd place after a very promising performance.

Hannah & Jo's repechage race got off to a shaky start but by halfway were neck and neck with the other two crews, but after a very powerful comeback were unable to edge in front just missing out on a place in the final.

After racing throughout the season in an eight, it was time for Catherine Grayson, Ailsa Linnell, Zoe Hudson & Emily Gall with Nick Stow coxing to try their luck in Women's IM3 coxed fours. With 16 crews competing in this event, and only 2 out of each heat to the semi-finals very close races were ensured. This was proved straightaway in their first round heat as the ladies started very well, but nothing separated all the crews. Even by halfway it was still anybodies race. It was only in the closing metres of the race did the ladies and a crew from Cambridge edge in front together to earn a place in the semi-finals.

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The semi-final proved the same as the ladies once again started very well and a battle to the finish was on. All the way though the race all the crews were together and even as they passed over the finish line, no crew knew who had won. When the official result announced the ladies had finished in 3rd place missing out on a place in the final by less than a second. After an historic win at St Neots it was time for the Ladies eight to take to the water again, although without Violet & Angie from original crew, and now also racing at the higher IM3 status.

With the crew of Leanne Cozens, Hannah Champion, Zoe Hudson, Emily Gall, Ailsa Linnell, Catherine Grayson makes her debut in the stroke seat, and competing for their first time in an eight Helen Cooke & Jo Calver, with Nick Stow coxing. As the ladies lined up on the start of the final the pressure didn't show as they went off very well, lying in 2nd place just behind Twickenham but had a good lead over Grosvenor RC. As the race proceeded the Boston Ladies were starting to reduce the distance between themselves and Twickenham, but as both crews pushed for the line, the ladies had to settle for a very respectable second place after a very hard fought race.

The next event at the club will be the 31 mile Lincoln to Boston Marathon on the 20th September 2009.