



The Raven



News and Views from Grosvenor Rowing Club

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Know a club member who doesn't receive The Raven? Get them to email grcpress@googlemail.com

Summer!

Summer is here and the regatta season is well underway. The club has already had a good year with strong results at Henley Royal, HWR and Vets Henley. In particular, the senior men's squad had three boats racing at Henley for the first time, with the first Thames cup eight from GRC racing at Henley this century!

Squads have also notched up wins at Shrewsbury and Notts City, with more no doubt to come at the remaining regattas this summer.

Finally, everyone is reminded that I rely on club members to pass on information about race wins and photos for the paper and The Raven. So if you want to see more of you in the paper or in here, make sure you send stuff to me. The email is:

grcpress@googlemail.com

Cheers, Joe



GRC Thames Cup VIII

this year.

Security: From the captain and committee

During the summer, there are a lot more people around outside the club, and more

thefts and vandalism occurs. The club has been left open (including the boat-shed) on several occasions recently when it should not have been. Please make sure you lock up, including putting the bars across the boat-shed doors when you have finished training.

Around the club...

Coxless four

The club has recently purchased a second hand Stampfli coxless four. This boat is a badly needed replacement as the best mid/heavy weight coxless four for the ageing Di Binley (the boat, that is!). The boat has already been seen racing action at Henley



New coxless four in action at Henley

Fund-raising



Sarah Armstrong gives an update on the club's fundraising over the past few months

Thanks to everyone involved in recent fundraising efforts. Big thanks especially to Maria Labedska who raised over £120 through sponsorship of her run at the half marathon - please make sure you pay her your sponsorship money if you haven't already. The senior men have also put their hands in their pockets to buy a new set of blades, which saw action at Henley. Also, if you haven't yet done it, please join the 200 club - it's a chance to raise club funds as well as win yourself. Forms are on the notice board.

Race reports

Nottingham City Regatta

Both men's and women's crews from Grosvenor were in action at the first major regatta of the year, Nottingham City, held on the 2000m rowing lake at Holme Pierrepont. Conditions on the day were testing, with the regatta having to be postponed at one point due to the rough water conditions at the start of the course. Despite the conditions, Grosvenor's crews put in a strong performance, coming home with a clutch of pots from the event. In the senior 3 single sculls, Tim Goldsbrough progressed easily through his heat to the final, but was hampered by injury and unluckily unable to race out the course. As the water conditions became rougher, Grosvenor's senior 1 coxed four battled down the course to second place. A comfortable win was shortly to follow for the senior 3 coxed four of Mark Edney, Pete Dean, Brian Black and Ben Dickinson, coxed by Sue Bein, with Pete and Brian losing their novice status in the process! The same combination raced the senior 2 status event, in one of the closest races of the day, with the lead changing several times down the course. They were unlucky to eventually be pipped by Manchester University. Elsewhere, Grosvenor's senior 2 women's coxed four put in a strong performance, progressing easily through their heat to a place in the final. The previously untested men's senior 2 coxless four narrowly missed out on a place in the final, finishing third in their heat.

Shrewsbury Regatta

Grosvenor crews notched up several wins at the recent Shrewsbury Regatta, held over a 1000m course on the River Severn in Shrewsbury. The veteran squad came home with a clutch of pots with wins for Ad Gideonse and Jeremy Lush in the Vet B double scull, Steve Walker, Brian Chapman, John McMahon and Mike Allwood in the Vet E quad, and Brian Chapman again in the Vet E single scull. The senior men also came home with silverware, winning three rounds of racing to take victory in the senior 4 coxed four event. The crew of Tim Clifton, Simon Sykes, John Purdie, Jason Carr coxed by Ben Snowden enjoyed close racing, particularly in the semi-final, where they battled all the way down the course before taking victory by two feet.

National Veterans Regatta

Grosvenor's crews returned home with a haul of medals from the National Veteran Rowing Championships held last weekend at the National Watersports Centre in Nottingham. Raced over 1000m, the event saw some close finishes and hard fought competition. Iwan Jones took silver in the Vet B open single scull and then went one better in the Vet A open single sculls, winning the gold in a tough event. Other winners in the single scull were Tim Goldsbrough, who took gold in the Vet A senior 3 race, and Phil Hill who took the honours in the Vet C senior 3 event.

In the crew boats, Jeremy Lush and Ad Gideonse were second in the Vet C senior 3 double, and the Vet E quad of Brian Chapman, Mike Allwood, Steve Walker, and John MacMahon also took a silver.

Henley Women's Regatta

Grosvenor Rowing Club's senior women's coxed four of Virginia Allan, Laura Magee, Natalie Russell-Blackburn and Grace Neal, coxed by Alex Newton put in a strong performance at Henley Women's Regatta in June. The Regatta, which runs over three days, involved qualifying races for some categories on the Friday morning, followed by first round races running from Friday afternoon through to the Semi-Finals and Finals on Sunday. All crews in the event were required to qualify for the regatta via a time-trial involving a larger than usual entry of fifty-three crews. The crew had a solid row and qualified for the regatta where they came up against Nottingham University in the first round, who they beat comfortably by three and a half lengths in a cleanly executed race against a persistent head wind, setting the second fastest time of the day in their event. The second round race against Oxford Brookes University also went to plan with Grosvenor taking the lead from the start and racing confidently to win by four lengths. The crew anticipated a much tougher race in the Quarter Finals and after a hard-fought race they were beaten by one and three quarter lengths by eventual event winners,

Edinburgh University. Overall, an encouraging performance from a relatively inexperienced crew, who will be looking to build on this result over the next year ready for their return to the Regatta next year.

Marlow Regatta

At Marlow regatta, Grosvenor men's squad fielded a coxless four and coxed eight. Grosvenor's coxless four, up against international crews in the highly competitive senior 1 division, produced the best results from a local club. After progressing through two hard-fought rounds of racing, the crew of Tim Betteridge, Matt Neame, Paul Turner and Martin Chandler placed third in the final, a result that saw them pre-selected for the Wyfold Challenge Cup at Henley Royal Regatta. Grosvenor men's eight were involved in a close battle in their heat, placing 4th and narrowly missing progressing by 0.2s!

Henley Royal Regatta Regatta

As the most famous rowing regatta in the world, Henley attracts crews of international and Olympic standard, with 98 international crews from the 450 entries this year from as far away as Australia. The event is particularly tough as it is raced over a 2112 metre course, longer than the 2km international distance, and is also against the river stream. As always, entries were heavily oversubscribed, meaning that many crews had to overcome the obstacle of qualifying races, run as a time trial over the full course in the week before the main regatta.

Grosvenor had the largest entry in the club's history, with three crews racing. The coxless four, competing for the Wyfold Challenge Cup, were selected by the Stewards based on past performance, the first for the club in any event. The Thames Challenge Cup eight had to go the hard route, gaining a place through qualifiers. Also successful in qualifiers was Iwan Jones, a crew member of the eight also racing in the Diamond Challenge Sculls.

The format of the regatta involves each crew racing once a day, with the 32 crews starting on a Wednesday whittled down by half each day until the Sunday final. Day one saw some of the toughest racing of the event. The



Grosvenor eight of Ben Dickinson, Tim Goldsborough, Pete Dean, Brian Black, Mark Edney, Iwan Jones, Phil Hill and Rob Wareing, coxed by Sarah Armstrong, were up against Newport Aquatic Club from California, a seeded crew. Expectations were high for Newport, current US South West Junior Champions with their crew included two athletes who will compete for the US at the World Junior Championships. The Americans took an early lead, which they held for much of the course, but the Grosvenor crew never let them get away, and ultimately proved stronger, powering through Newport to win by 6 feet. The coxless four of Tim Betteridge, Matt Neame, Paul Turner, and Mar-

tin Chandler had a slightly easier race, and dispatched their opponents Twickenham by a margin of 4 lengths, leading all the way down the course.

On Thursday, all crews were due to face tough opposition. The eight were up against Tees Rowing Club. Despite being allocated the less favoured Bucks station, Grosvenor took an early lead and looked strong throughout winning by half a length to secure a place in the quarter finals. The coxless four also had strong opponents, Commercial RC of Ireland, and despite racing hard lost out by 2 lengths. Iwan Jones had a busy day, racing twice, and was unlucky to draw pre-

vious semi-finalist Will Hoodless in the single scull, losing by 3 lengths after his victory in the eight earlier in the day.

By Friday, Grosvenor was one of just eight crews remaining in the Thames Challenge Cup (5 of which were seeded) and were drawn to face KRS Ghent of Belgium. The majority of the Ghent crew have represented Belgium and included Junior World Silver medallist Toon Rummens. Ghent had a quick start and led at The Barrier marker. The Grosvenor eight responded and by a concerted effort were able to maintain overlap with the Belgian crew until the halfway point. However the Ghent crew proved too strong and finished 3 lengths ahead of Grosvenor, recording the fastest time in the event.

Vets Henley report in the next Raven - or look out for it in the paper next week

Senior men's 4+ winning at Notts City



Upcoming race dates
 Bewdley Regatta: 26/27 July
 Warrington: 2 August
 Gloucester-Ross: 23/25 August
 NoE Sprint Champs (Hollingworth Lake): 30 August

Iwan Jones, winning at Henley Vets



Pots at Shrewsbury for senior men

Close racing for senior men's VIII at Marlow



Henley Royal Regatta 2008



Captain's log



Words from Captain Chris Hudson

First, well done to all squads so far this year. We've had some excellent results across the club, and can look forward to more wins over the summer.

As you probably noticed, we hosted several visiting clubs in the run up to Henley. This earns valuable income to the club, so thanks to everyone for being hospitable and putting up with some inconvenience.

Thanks also to squads who wipe down their boats after their outing. Keeping the boats clean not only makes them look better but also helps their performance.

Finally, the club AGM is shortly on us. If you can help out in running the club, put your name down for a position on the committee. The nominations board is up outside the changing rooms.

HELLO!

**Tim Bee gets
down on one
knee - Sophie
says yes!**

**Congratulations on
your engagement
from all at GRC!**

Annual General Meeting



(see notice board for nominations)

**Wednesday
30th July 2008**



**Regrave's Raw
Recruits**

Delayed for "legal reasons" look out for RRR on ITV4 next week