

Junior crews head the chase for glory



PULLING TOGETHER:
The Royal Chester crew head for the finish. 2KJG6761.

THE North of England Head of the River race was dominated by junior crews with seven quadruple scullers finishing in the top 10 in the morning race.

Royal Chester, who were the only crew to break 17 minutes in finishing nearly half a minute clear of the

fastest eight, also collected three pennants in eights.

Grosvenor won the women's headship decisively.

They romped home in 18 minutes and six seconds, 22 seconds ahead of nearest rivals Agecroft, to become the fastest women's crew of the day.

Rowing

The crew was Haley Pearce, Harriet MacLehose, Karen Hough, Di Moore, Helen Banks, Alison Evans, Adele Smith, Sarah Armstrong and cox Alex Newton.

Notts County retained the men's

headship in the afternoon when two Shrewsbury School eights finished a second apart, less than a minute behind the winners.

Grosvenor beat Manchester University by five seconds in senior three class through the efforts of Chris Hudson, Phil Hill, Alastair Slinn,

Robin Lilley, Nick Lloyd, Richard Allan, Lee Horton, Joe Robson and cox Alex Newton.

The King's School junior 16 eight won by nearly half a minute and Royal Chester completed two more successes in women's junior 16 and 14 quadruple sculls

Chuan 28 March 03

Causing a splash with medal haul

ROWING: Chester rowers Sean Meehan, Tim Donovan and Rian Sheehy put in 'car-some' performances to take an impressive medal haul at the North of England Indoor Championships at the Manchester Velodrome.

Donovan won two gold medals in the men's open lightweight and men's 30-39 lightweight categories, and Meehan collected silver in the men's junior 18 lightweight event, while Sheehy took the bronze medal in the women's U23 lightweight category.

The event was the third race in the national indoor grand prix series following earlier ones in Portsmouth and Cardiff, and the final event will be March 9 in Nottingham.



TIM DONOVAN:
Gold strike.

21/02/03 Chuan

2003

Delight as Royals produce capital gain

ROYAL Chester crews competed in the London Head of the River Race on the Thames on Saturday and the first eight improved three places from the previous year, to finish 29th out of 412 crews racing over the reverse Boat Race course.

They finished just one second and one place behind Nottinghamshire County Rowing Association who had claimed the North of England Headship in Chester the previous week by 16 seconds, when Royals were second.

Rowing

Overall, they were the second fastest open provincial club in a high-class field which included a large European entry.

Agecroft, who finished fifth in Chester, were in 39th position while the Royal Chester second eight were 86th, just ahead of a much-improved King's School first eight in 88th position. Grosvenor finished in 126th position.

In the Veterans Head of the River Race on Sunday morning, the previously unbeaten Royal Chester Supavets D crew (average age 50) were disappointed to finish third in class and 25th overall out of 150 crews.

Starting in 100th position, they were badly handicapped by slower crews ahead of them, eight of which they had to overtake over the four-and-a-quarter-mile course.

Some small consolation was the fact that both

of the two crews in class to beat them included former world and Olympic champions.

Grosvenor's veteran B crew (average age 36) finished in 75th position, while the Royal Chester E crew (average age 55) were 109th.

Tom Dowson, of Royal Chester, received a late call to join club colleagues Sean Meehan, Edwin Wilson, Caroline Barrett and Andrew Ditchfield at the spring assessment for the GB junior squad in Nottingham this week.

Chuan 09/04/03

ON THE WATERFRONT

with **DENNIS WALL**

Great performance from Royals

ROYAL CHESTER
Rowing Club's Junior crews produced the best overall results of any open club in the country at the Schools Head of the River Race in London.

Racing in the top event of the winter season, rowed over the reverse of the Oxford and Cambridge University Boat Race course, they competed against the top clubs and rowing schools in the country and came away with two second places in class - one fourth, one sixth and one tenth.

Missing from the original entry of six crews, due to illness, was the club's top Junior Quad, bronze medallists of last year's National Championships.

However, the young second quad of James Carew (Christleton HS), Rob Owen (Christleton HS), Jonathan Hardie (Birkenhead School) and Ben Hultum (Bishops HS), raced with maturity to take second place in class.

In the Junior Women's Under 16 Quads, the inexperienced crew of Caroline Brindle (Upton HS), Fiona McCann (Christleton HS), Chenine Woods (Catholic HS) and Lizzie Hook (Christleton HS) produced an outstanding performance in the second half of the race after earlier steering difficulties in 'heavy traffic' to finish in sixth position.

ROWING

Pride of place must go to the Junior Under 14 Quad of Andrew Murphy (Christleton HS), Chris Wardale (Christleton HS), Dale Sruth (Kingsway HS), David Pickering (Christleton HS), coxed by Matthew Davies (Christleton HS), who received medals and a pennant for second place in class over the short course.

They were closely followed by the Junior Under 14 Girls Quad of Meg James (Birkenhead HS), Alex Baker (Queens), Lauren Phillips (Queens), Laura Whiteley (Queens), cox Nikki James (Birkenhead HS), who were fourth in class.

The final crew, the Junior Under 15 Quad of Andrew Ditchfield (Christleton HS), Chris Barker (Helsby HS), Jonathan Gallagher (Bishop Heber HS), Robert Ruifrok (Christleton HS), cox Adam Wholon (Christleton HS), were disappointed to be tenth in class in a highly competitive field, and will be looking for a big improvement when all the crews will again be racing in this weekend's North of England Head of the River in Chester.

These results reflect the increasing strength of the Club's Junior Section and the growing success of the Project Oarsome Initiative in which Royal Chester were original participants when it was launched three years ago, forming official links with Christleton HS and Bishops HS.



TEAM EFFORT - Junior under 14 Quad Scull, from left, Andrew Murphy, Dale Sruth, David Pickering and Chris Wardale. Kneeling are cox, Matthew Davies, and coach, Ashley Dillon.



Royal Chester's junior squad.

Leading by example

THE 63rd Women's Head of the River Race took place on Saturday and Grosvenor Rowing Club crossed the line as the fastest of the North West clubs.

The race attracted the highest number of entries so far (270 crews took part), and included most of the GB squad and several international athletes.

Racing at Senior II, Grosvenor's crew of Hayley Pierce, Harriet MacLehose, Karen Hough, Di Moore, Helen Banks, Alison Evans, Adele Smith and Sarah Armstrong, coxed by Steph Slinn, were the fastest non-Thames club to complete the four-mile course, finishing in 42nd place overall.

This was a remarkable achievement amongst a field which not only contained the majority of the GB squad but athletes from as far a field as Sweden and the

USA as well.

This built on the crew's recent success at Runcorn Spring Eights where they were the fastest women's crew of the day.

Also racing at Runcorn were the men's senior II crew, who despite having to field a scratch crew due to injury, managed a creditable fifth place overall.

The veteran's crew also raced and were the second fastest to complete the course.

The next event for the club will be the North of England head race which takes place on Saturday on the River Dee.

Members get their timing right

SWIMMING

SEVERAL Chester members clinched National Final qualifying times at this year's county age group championships.

City of Chester was represented by a big squad who are now preparing for a team event later this month, before turning their attention to August's National Finals.

Lucy Worrall and Andrew Irvine produced some impressive displays.

Lucy, 11, won no fewer than five gold medals from the 50m butterfly, 100m individual medley, 200m backstroke, and 400m individual medley.

She clinched National qualifying times from the 200m backstroke (2:40.72), and the 400m individual medley (5:47.71), which was a record gun time.

Andrew Irvine celebrated a hat-trick of gold medal successes.

He won the 100m individual medley, and clocked National qualifying times in

his 100m front crawl (57.39 seconds), and 200m individual medley (2:20.38) victories.

Tom Allen, 10, secured four placed performances, including third spot in the 200m butterfly, fourth in the 100m front crawl, fifth in the 100m backstroke, and sixth in the 200m individual medley.

Tom Hall, 10, finished seventh in the 200m individual medley, and also swam an amazing 1500m front crawl in under 22 minutes to grab a gold medal.

Tom Outram, 11, touched home for third place in the 50m breaststroke, and was seventh in the individual medley.

Jason Boylan secured two National qualifying times from the 400m (5:15.05) and 200m (2:26.85) in the individual medley, for fourth and five places respectively.

Tom Williams, 14, won gold in the 100m butterfly, silver in both the 100m and 200m individual medley, third in the 400m individual medley, and the 50m breaststroke, and seventh in the 100m backstroke.

Daniel Siddie, 15, finished fourth in the 50m breaststroke, while Adam Boylan, 15, achieved fifth spot in the 100m individual medley, and seventh in the 100m backstroke.

Oiver Stanley, 15, finished second in the 100m front crawl, third in the 100m individual medley, fourth in the 400m individual medley and 100m butterfly, and fifth in the 100m backstroke.

Mark Simkins, 16, clinched silver in the 100m backstroke and fifth in the 200m individual medley.

Sarah Eaglachan, 16, won a gold medal in the 200m backstroke, and was second in the 200m and 100m front crawl.

Head for the Dee

THE River Dee will attract rowers from all over Northern England on Saturday.

Rowing official, Keith Osborne, has revealed a record number of entries have been received for the 62nd annual North of England Head of the River Race.

He said: "A record total of 174 entries have been received for the event which is an improvement on 138 last year, and 167 two years ago. In 1997 there was a total of 147 that actually raced."

Osborne confirmed that Saturday's action would start at 9.30am with 74 starters representing 28 clubs.

And the afternoon action, starting at 12.45pm, would see 72 boats representing 34 clubs.

Osborne added: "Last year's winners, Nottingham County, are returning, and they will lead off, ahead of last year's runners-up, Royal Chester."

"The morning races will consist of veterans and women's eights, and whole squad of juniors in quadruple sculls."

"The afternoon races will predominantly comprise of eights and junior women's races."



WINNING COMBINATION - Ben Hultum and Jonathan Hardie in the Junior 18 double scull.

Wins are in abundance

ROWING

ROYAL CHESTER CREWS dominated at the North West Junior Head on the River Weaver at Northwich.

The junior crews were bidding for selection for the North West Team to compete in the Junior Inter-Regional Championships in May.

From the 15 single scull and crew combinations which raced, nine were winners of their category while five were placed second.

Winning crews were: Junior 18 double scull Ben Hultum and Jonathan Hardie; Junior 15 single scull Jonathan Gallagher; J14 coxed quad Andrew Murphy, Chris Wardle, Dale Smith, David Pickering and Adam Whelon; J14 double scull Andrew Murphy and Dale Smith; Womens Junior 16 quad Caroline Brindle, Hannah Blaikie, Chenine Woods and Lizzie Hook; WJ14 coxed quad Meg James, Alex Baker, Lauren Phillips, Laura Whiteley

and Nikki James; and WJ14 double scull Laura Whiteley and Lauren Phillips.

The final win was by Womens Junior 12 double scullers Gillian Rodger and Harriet Lewis, who were making their competitive debut, and they won the under 13 category.

The Mens Second Eight had an encouraging row in the Trent Head.

In a high class entry they finished 18th overall and eighth in Senior II. Some of the crew also doubled up to race in a Senior II class quad in the afternoon division and were beaten into second place in their class by the narrowest of margins - one second.

Overall winners on the day were the Cambridge crew preparing for the

forthcoming University Boat Race on the Thames.

The aptly named "Supervets" Eight excelled by winning Veteran D Class (average age 50). They were the second fastest veteran crew overall, beating many much younger crews including local rivals Grosvenor RC.

The crew of the Veteran Eight who competed in the Lagan Head in Belfast turned in a fine performance, taking three minutes off last year's time over the five-kilometre course, finishing fifth in their class.

Grosvenor rowing club competed on the River Trent at Nottingham and finished first and third in their respective categories.

First to race were the mens novice four, who completed the short course in the morning division.

The four, Lee Horton, Dava Hill, Robin Lilley and Nick Lloyd, achieved a time which not only ranked them first among the novice crews but placed them ahead of several senior crews.

In the afternoon, crews raced over a longer course of approximately six kilometres. The womens senior II crew of Hayley Pierce, Harriett MacLachlan, Karen Hough, Di Moore, Helen Banks, Ailsbn Evans, Adele Smith and Sarah Armstrong, coxed by Jim Bell, achieved a creditable third place behind Oxford Brookes and Auriol Kensington boat clubs.

The mens veteran squad also raced in the afternoon, finishing third to Nottingham and Notts County crews.

Anyone wishing to join the rowing club (new members are welcome at any time) should contact Alex Newton on 07929 972381.

Stand 27 Feb 2003

ROWING

Royals' juniors boost their selection hopes

ROYAL Chester Rowing Club crews dominated at the North West Junior Head on the River Weaver at Northwich last Saturday, in their bid for selection for the North West Team to compete in the Junior Inter-Regional Championships in May. From the 15 single scull and crew combinations which raced, nine were winners of their category while five finished second.

Winning crews were: J18 double scull - Ben Hultum and Jonathan Hardie; J15 single scull - Jonathan Gallagher; J14 coxed quad - Andrew Murphy, Chris Wardle, Dale Smith, David Pickering, Adam Whelon; J14 double scull - Andrew Murphy and Dale Smith; Womens J16 quad - Caroline Brindle, Hannah Blaikie, Chenine Woods, Lizzie Hook; Womens J14 coxed quad - Meg James, Alex Baker, Lauren Phillips, Laura Whiteley, Nikki James; Womens J14 double scull - Laura Whiteley, Lauren Phillips.

The final win was by Womens J12 double scullers Gillian Rodger and

Harriet Lewis, making their competitive debut, and winning the under-13 category.

Meanwhile, the Men's second eight had an encouraging row in the Trent Head on Sunday. In a high class entry they finished 18th overall and eighth in Senior 2. Some of the crew also doubled up to race in a Senior 2 quad in the afternoon division and were beaten into second place in their class by just one second. Overall winners on the day were the Cambridge crew preparing for the forthcoming University Boat Race on the Thames.

The aptly-named "Supervets" eight excelled by winning Veteran D Class (average age 50). They were the second fastest veteran crew overall, beating many much younger crews, including local rivals Grosvenor RC.

The crew of the Veteran eight who competed in the Lagan Head in Belfast turned in a fine performance, taking three minutes off their last year's time over the 5km course and finishing fifth in their class.



Royal Chester's Ben Hultum and Jonathan Hardie who won the Junior 18 double sculls category on the Weaver.

21/02/03 ST

Rowing Juniors impress in GB trial at Boston

ROYAL Chester Rowing Club's GB Junior Team candidates put in good performances at the second open Team Trial held in Boston Lincolnshire at the weekend. In the boys



Caroline Barrett, a creditable fifth in the Junior Girls Division.

division Sean Meehan was 11th, Edwin Wilson 12th and Tom Dowson 28th. In the girls division Caroline Barrett was 5th and Hannah Blaikie 25th. All candidates will now be waiting to see if

they will receive invitations to the closed Easter Training Camp.

The younger Juniors will be making their first competitive appearance of the new season this weekend when they take part in the North West Junior Time Trial at Northwich. This Trial forms a major part of the selection process for the North West Team to compete at the Junior Inter-Regional Championships. Some 15 single scullers and crews will be taking part whilst, at the same time, some of the youngest members will be making their competitive debuts.

At the other end of the scale a Veteran Eight will be competing in the Lagan Head in Belfast.

Royal domination



DOUBLE DELIGHT: J18 double scull winners Ben Hultum and Jonathan Hardie.

ROYAL Chester crews dominated the North West Junior Head of the River Weaver at Northwich last Saturday in their bid for selection for the North West team to compete in May's Junior Inter-Regional Championships.

From the 15 single scull and crew combinations which raced, nine were winners of their category and five were second.

Winning crews were - J18 double scull: Ben Hultum and Jonathan Hardie; J15 single: Jonathan Gallagher; J14 coxed quad: Andrew Murphy, Chris Wardle, Dale Smith, David Pickering, Adam Whelon; J14 double: Andrew Murphy and Dale Smith.

Women's J16 quad: Caroline Brindle, Hannah Blaikie, Chenine Woods, Lizzie Hook; WJ14 coxed quad: Meg James, Alex Baker, Lauren Phillips, Laura Whiteley, Nikki

Rowing

James; WJ14 double scull: Laura Whiteley, Lauren Phillips.

The final win was by women's J12 double scullers Gillian Rodger and Harriet Lewis, making their competitive debut and winning the U13s.

The men's second eight were encouraging on the Trent Head on Sunday. In a high-class entry, they finished 18th overall and eighth senior two. Some of the crew also doubled up to race in a senior-two quad in the afternoon division and were beaten into second place in their class by the narrowest of margins - one second.

The supervets eight excelled by winning veteran D class (average age 50).

The crew of the veteran eight in the Lagan Head in Belfast finished fifth in their class.

Chronicle 27/02/03

Royal double act is off to glorious start



TRIAL HOPES: Sally Orr and Martin Chandler.

ROYAL Chester members have made a promising start to the new season.

Paul Johnston and Tim Birtwistle claimed the first win of the season by taking senior two double sculls at Stourport Head, continuing the good form they showed last autumn.

At the third British senior team trials in Boston, Lincolnshire, Sally Orr put in an excellent performance to be second in the women's U23 lightweight division, while Martin Chandler was 19th in the men's lightweight division.

It will be the juniors' turn this weekend for the second British junior team trials will be held at the same venue. In

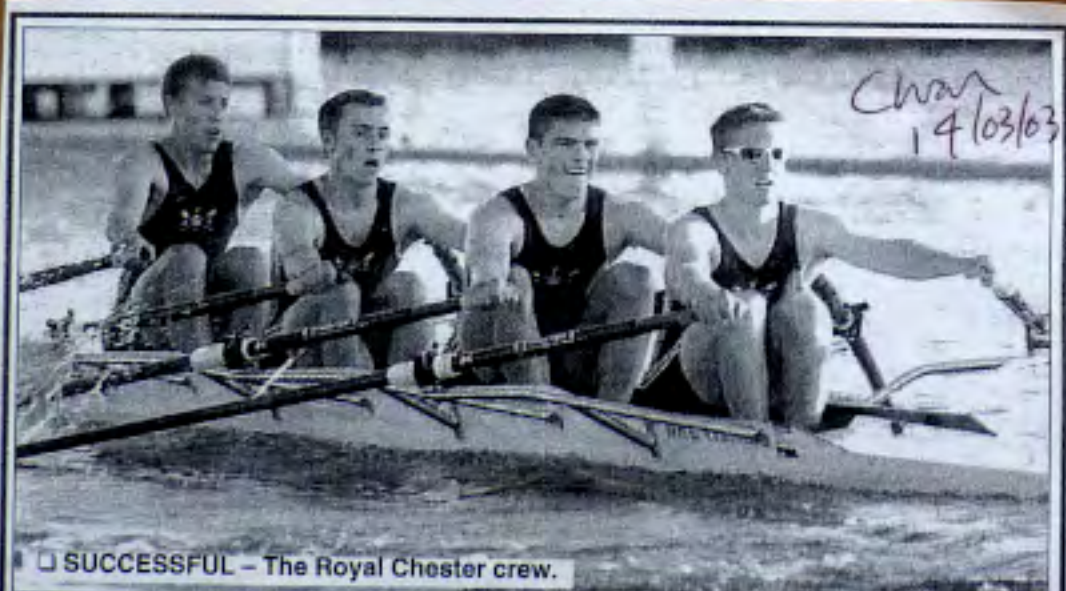
Rowing

the boys' division, Sean Meehan will be aiming to consolidate his ninth position at the first trial in November.

Edwin Wilson will be looking for a good performance after missing the first trial through illness, and Tom Dowson hopes for a big improvement on his position last time.

In the girls' division, Caroline Barrett will be hoping to retain her high ranking, after finishing third in November, and 16-year-old Hannah Blaikie will be trying to improve on her creditable 38th position at the last trial.

14/02/03



SUCCESSFUL - The Royal Chester crew.

The ladies show how to do it

GROSVENOR ROWING CLUB'S women proved to be the fastest on Saturday at the Runcorn professional head race.

The Senior II crew of Hayley Pearce, Harriet MacLehose, Karen Hough, Di Moore, Helen Banks, Alison Evans, Adele Smith and Sarah Armstrong (coxed by Steph Slinn) dominated the race right from the start.

Within minutes the crew had pulled ahead of their nearest rivals by over four boat lengths.

Despite the blustery conditions they then went on to overtake several crews along the 6km course and finished as the fastest women's crew by nearly 40 seconds.

The result is very encouraging and the crew is expected to rise to the challenge when they travel to London to participate in one of the biggest UK head races this Saturday.

Anyone wishing to join Grosvenor Rowing Club, which is situated on the Groves, Chester, should contact club captain, Alex Newton, on 07929 372381.

ROYAL CHESTER were the most successful club at the Runcorn Spring Eights Head at the River Weaver on

ROWING

Saturday, winning four of the five classes they entered.

In the morning division the club's top Junior Quad Scull were comfortable winners of their class, from their younger club mates, and finished third overall.

The "Supavets" D Class Eight, aged 50-55, were the fastest veteran crew overall, by nearly a minute, and finished in fifth place.

Completing the hat-trick were the "John Browne" Veteran E Crew, whose trip to Belfast two weeks ago obviously laid the foundations for their win!

The Novice Eight, competing in their first event of the season, took an encouraging third place in their category.

In the afternoon division, the Club second Eight secured their fourth win of the day and finished second overall to take Senior 2 Class ahead of local rivals Grosvenor Rowing Club first Eight in fifth position.

The crews will be racing next in the North of England Head, in Chester, on Saturday, March 22.

ROWING

Thames success

ROYAL Chester Rowing Clubs Junior crews produced the best overall results of any open club in the country at the Schools Head of the River Race in London last week.

Racing in the top event of the winter season, rowed over the reverse Oxford and Cambridge University Boat Race course, they competed against the top clubs and rowing schools in the country and came away with two second places in class, one fourth, one sixth and one tenth. Missing from the original entry of six crews, due to illness, was the club's top Junior Quad, bronze medalists of last year's National Championships. However the young second quad of James Carew (Christleton HS), Rob Owen (Christleton HS), Jonathan Hardie (Birkenhead School) and Ben Hultum (Bishops HS) raced with maturity to take second place in class. In the Junior Women's Under 16 Quads, the inexperienced crew of Caroline Brindle (Upton HS), Fionna McCann (Christleton HS), Chenine Woods (Catholic HS) and Lizzie Hook (Christleton HS) produced an outstanding performance in the second half of the race after earlier steering difficulties in "heavy traffic" to finish in sixth position.

Pride of place must go to the Junior Under 14 Quad of Andrew Murphy (Christleton HS), Chris Wardale (Christleton HS), Dale Smith (Kingsway HS), David Pickering (Christleton HS) coxed by Matthew Davies (Christleton HS) who received medals and a pennant for second place in class over the short course, but they were closely followed by the Junior Under 14 Girls Quad of Meg James (Birkenhead HS), Alex Baker (Queens), Lauren Phillips (Queens), Laura Whiteley (Queens) cox Nikki James (Birkenhead HS) who were fourth in class. The final crew, the Junior Under 15 Quad of Andrew Ditchfield (Christleton HS), Chris Barker (Helsby HS), Jonathan Gallagher (Bishop Heber HS), Robert Ruitrok (Christleton HS) cox Adam Whelon (Christleton HS) were disappointed to be tenth in class in a highly competitive field, and will be looking for a big improvement when all the crews will again be racing in this weekend's North of England Head of the River in Chester.

These results reflect the increasing strength of the Clubs Junior Section and the growing success of the Project Outcome Initiative in which Royal Chester were original participants when it was launched three years ago, forming official links with Christleton HS and Bishops HS.

Divas in the...

03/03

Mool's out as rowing career starts with splash

without a sporting bone in months ago, has put her studies on hold to chase an Olympic ambition. Barrett, a member of Royal Chester, has the immediate aim of winning the Junior World Championships this summer. In itself a target since she had not won a rowing club in May. She was invited to her first GB trials in October after 11 regatta and head victories from 14 races, including reaching the National Championship semi-finals. "My aim is the 2008 Olympics in China. Two years ago, if anybody had told me I'd be saying those words, I would have told them not to be so ridiculous," she said.

Rowing

way through - and if things go according to plan she may never make it to the exam room at all. "I can always return to my education later. I'll get one chance at this and life is short," she said. Caroline was at Sir John Deane's College, Northwich, when - as a newcomer to the area from her native Norfolk - she joined a rowing crew more to make friends. She added: "I had never been in a boat before and the only sport I had ever done

was in PE and I got low marks at that. I am uncoordinated at sport and it has amazed me more than anyone how well I have done." Caroline was one of six promising rowers chosen to attend a training camp in Switzerland and since her return has finished second out of 146 over the equivalent of 5000m on a rowing machine. "I found at Sir John Deane's I wanted to take it more seriously than the other girls and I was in a crewboat when I wanted to single scull, I owe a lot to my coach Charles Green who is great.

Caroline, who lives at Wimboldsley, near Middlewich, cycles 100 miles, rows 70 miles, dry-rows a further 40 and makes three visits to the gym every week. "I cannot remember what I did with my time before I took up rowing," she said. She was invited to her first GB trials in October after 11 regatta and head victories from 14 races, including reaching the National Championship semi-finals. "My aim is the 2008 Olympics in China. Two years ago, if anybody had told me I'd be saying those words, I would have told them not to be so ridiculous," she said.



OLYMPICS AIM: Caroline Barrett

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03

Cham 03/03

Royals rule the country

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Racing in the top event of the winter season, rowed over the reverse Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race course, they competed against the top clubs and rowing schools in the country and came away with two second places in class, one fourth, one sixth and one 10th.

Missing from the original entry of six crews, due to illness, was the club's top junior quad, bronze medalists of last year's National Championships. But the young second quad of James Carow (Christleton HS), Rob Owen (Christleton HS), Jonathan Hardie (Birkenhead School) and Ben Hultum (Bishops HS) raced with maturity to take second place in class.

In the junior women's U16 quads, the inexperienced crew of Caroline Brindle (Upton HS), Fiona McCann (Christleton HS), Chenine Woods (Catholic HS) and Lizzie Hook (Christleton HS)

Rowing

produced an outstanding performance in the second half of the race after earlier steering difficulties in heavy traffic to finish sixth.

The junior U14 quad of Andrew Murphy (Christleton HS), Chris Wardale (Christleton HS), Dale Sruth (Kingsway HS) and David Pickering (Christleton HS), coxed by Matthew Davies (Christleton HS), received medals and a pennant for second place in class over the short course. But they were closely followed by the U14 girls quad of Meg James (Birkenhead HS), Alex Baker (Queen's), Lauren Phillips (Queen's), Laura Whiteley (Queen's) and cox Nikki James (Birkenhead HS) who were fourth in class.

The U15 quad of Andrew Ditchfield (Christleton HS), Chris Barker (Helsby HS), Jonathan Gallagher (Bishop Heber HS), Robert Ruifrok (Christleton HS) and cox Adam Whelon (Christleton HS) were 10th in class in a competitive field.



TOP CLASS: The Royal Chester U14 quad scull crew. Standing are Andrew Murphy, Dale Sruth, David Pickering and Chris Wardale, Kneeling are cox Matthew Davies and coach Ashley Dillon.

Cham 21/03/03

Royal's four victories at Runcorn



Royals winning junior quad: Edwin Wilson (bow), Ross Flanagan, Tom Dawson and Sean Meenan.

ROYAL Chester were the most successful club at the Runcorn Spring Eights Head at the River Weaver on Saturday, winning four of the five classes they entered.

In the morning division the club's top Junior Quad Scull were comfortable winners of their class, from their younger club mates, and finished third overall. The "Supavets" D Class Eight (age 50-55) were the fastest veteran crew overall, by nearly a minute, and finished in fifth place. Completing the hat-trick were the "John Browne" Veteran E Crew whose trip to Belfast two weeks ago obviously laid the foundations for their win! The Novice Eight, competing in their first event of the season took an encouraging third place in their category.

In the afternoon division the Club's Second Eight secured the fourth win of the day and finishing second overall to take Senior 2 Class ahead of local rivals Genvevor Rowing Club 1st Eight in fifth position.

The crews will be racing next in the North of England Head in Chester on Saturday 22nd March.

03/03

NOT THIS TIME: Royal Chester's Martin Chandler, who lost his long distance sculling title. 2J341539



Former champ left trailing in wake

ROYAL Chester collected nine victories in the 47th County of Chester Long Distance Sculling Championships on the Dee on Saturday.

The event topped 200 entries for the first time with 241 crews and scullers racing in perfect conditions.

It was a disappointing day for other local clubs as well as the singles champion, Martin Chandler, of Royals, who lost his title. Midway in the course he was overtaken by Robert Ockoden, of Nottingham Britannia, who had started third and went on to

Rowing

win by 27 seconds.

Behind the leaders John MacDonald started and finished fourth to score Chester's first success of the day in senior class with clubmate Paul John-

ston also finishing in the top 10 as the fastest veteran.

In women's singles the club's 19-year-old women's captain Sally Orr became the youngest winner of the women's singles title by 17 seconds in her first appearance as a senior.

Two of Royal Chester's junior crews also achieved distinction as the fastest crews of the day in women's doubles and men's quadruple sculls. The girls beat the fastest of their senior rivals by 27 seconds in the morning. Then the boys won the afternoon race by 15 seconds.

The club also won women's junior 16 and junior 15 doubles and Hannah Blake continued her success in singles on promotion to junior 16 class.

The ninth Royals' success was in veteran B double sculls over Hollingworth Lake by 20 seconds.

10/03

14/03/03 Chen

sport in brief

University challenge for rising star Tom

ROWING: Former King's School oarsman Tom James is in the Cambridge crew to race Oxford in the University Boat Race on April 6.

Tom, 18, from Coedpoeth, who goes to Trinity Hall, is the youngest member of the crew, but has had many appearances in Great Britain boats at international regattas.

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In the morning division, the club's top junior quad scull were comfortable winners of their class from their younger clubmates and finished third overall.

The Supavets D class eight (50-55) were the fastest veteran crew overall, by nearly a minute, and finished in fifth place. Completing the hat-trick were the veteran E crew, while the novice eight, competing in their first event of the season, took an encouraging third place in their category.

In the afternoon division, the second eight secured the fourth win of the day and finished second overall to take senior two class ahead of local rivals Grosvenor Rowing Club's first eight in fifth position.

The crews will be racing next in the North of England Head in Chester on Saturday, March 22.

Grosvenor RC's women were the

Chen 7/03

Crews pull together on Thames

Rowing

ROYAL Chester have entered six crews in the Schools' Head of the River Race on the Thames in London next Thursday.

With the junior 16-18 age groups racing over the reverse University Boat Race course and the 14-15 age groups over half the course, the club will be looking for peak performances in what is the major event of the winter racing calendar for juniors.

Following good results last year and recently at the North West Junior Head of the River Race, they will be striving to enhance their growing reputation as one of the best club junior sections in the country, while at the same time competing against the top public school crews.

A further six clubs crews will be racing at senior, novice, veteran and junior levels in the Runcorn Head tomorrow in a build up to the North of England Head in Chester on March 22 and the London Head the following week.

Royals Juniors big day

ROYAL Chester Rowing Club have entered six crews in the Schools' Head of the River Race which is to be held next Thursday 13th March in London.

With the Junior 16-18 age groups racing over the reverse Oxford and Cambridge University Boat Race Course and the Junior 14-15 age groups over half the course, the club will be looking for peak performances in what is the major event of the winter racing calendar for juniors.

Following good results last year and recently at the North West Junior Head of the River Race, they will be striving to enhance their growing reputation as one of the best club junior sections in the country, whilst at the same time competing against the top public school crews.

This Saturday a further six clubs crews will be racing at Senior, Novice, Veteran and Junior levels in the Runcorn Head in a build up to the North of England Head in Chester on 22nd March and the London Heads the following week.

07/03

2004



06/03/04

DOUBLE DELIGHT: Paul Johnston (above) and Tim Birtwistle won both the Veteran B Double Sculls the Senior Two Double Sculls. 2J6N5387

Glorious start for Royal performers

ROYAL Chester crews have made a winning start to the season in long distance and home trial races.

Paul Johnston and Tim Birtwistle travelled to the South Yorkshire Head of the River Race, won Veteran B Double Sculls and rowed over unopposed in Senior Two Double Sculls.

Then at Northwich, the junior squad competed at the North West Junior Time Trial for selection to the North West team to contest the Junior Inter-Regional Championships in April. They came away with an impressive eight wins from the 18 crews entered, some of whom were competing in the same classes.

In the first division for single sculls, there were wins for David Pickering (Christleton High School) in Junior 15 and Abigail Pinchin (Queen's Park High School) in Women's Junior 18.

Further successes were recorded by the Junior 18 Quad scull who returned the fastest time of the day, together with both boys' and girls' Junior 15 Coxed Quads and the J14 and J13 Girls' Quads. The final win

was for the J15 boys' Double Scull of Simon Pougher (Kingsway High School) and Matthew Davies (Christleton High School).

Last Saturday, it was the turn of Veterans to claim the silverware at the Runcorn Head of the River Race on the River Weaver. All three crews which entered won their categories at Veteran D (average age 50), Veteran E (average age 55) and Veteran F (average age 60).

This weekend, the women's first crew will be competing in the Women's Head of the River Race in London, and the following weekend, club crews will be turning out in force to contest the North of England Head of the River Race in Chester.

For the Senior Men's Crews, this will serve as preparation for the Head of the River Race in London on Saturday, March 20, while the Junior Squad will be warming up for the Schools' Head of the River Race on Tuesday, March 16, where eight crews have been entered.

Rowing

06/03/04

Rowing Royals make winning start to the season

ROYAL Chester crews have made a winning start to the season in long distance and home trial races.

On 16th February, Paul Johnston and Tim Birtwistle travelled to the South Yorkshire Head of the River Race and won Veteran B Double Sculls and rowed over unopposed in Senior 2 Double Sculls.

A week later at Northwich, the junior squad competed at the North West Junior Time Trial for selection to the North West team to contest the Junior Inter-Regional Championships in April. They came away with an impressive eight wins from the 18 crews entered, some of whom were competing in the same classes.

In the first division for single sculls, there were wins for David Pickering (Christleton High School) in Junior 15 and Abigail Pinchin (Queen's Park High School) in women's Junior 18. Further successes were recorded by the Junior 18 quad scull who returned the fastest time of the day, together with both boys' and girls' Junior 15 coxed quads and the J14 and J13 girls' quads. The final win was for the J15 boys' double scull of Simon Pougher (Kingsway High School) and Matthew Davies (Christleton High School).

Last Saturday, it was the turn of the veterans to claim the silverware at the Runcorn Head of the River Race on the River Weaver. All three crews which entered won their categories - at Veteran D (average age 50), Veteran E (average age 55) and Veteran F (average age 60).

This weekend, the women's first crew will be competing in the Women's Head of the River Race in London, and the following weekend club crews will be turning out in force to contest the North of England Head of the River Race in Chester. For the senior men's crews, this will serve as preparation for the Head of the River Race in London on Saturday, 20th March, while the junior squad will be warming up for the Schools' Head of the River Race on Tuesday, 16th March, where eight crews have been entered.

Royal Chester winners are in Severn heaven

ROYAL Chester had seven victories at Shrewsbury Regatta last weekend, but the experience on the picturesque but narrow and staggered course on the River Severn proved a learning curve for many oarsmen.

Two senior men's crews were eliminated in the first round, but the senior women's crew of Andrea Townson, Fiona Claymore, Rebecca Falcon and Helen Banks, coxed by Alex Russell-Moore, won senior two fours convincingly. They will now have the use of their recently-delivered £8,000 racing boat as they train for Women's Henley Regatta.

The junior men, with no competition in quad sculls, were raced in senior four coxed fours and senior four eights where they lost narrowly in the final.

There were mixed fortunes at junior 15 level. The J15 boys' A quad of Mattie Davies, Chris Laudler, David Pinkney and Simon Pougher, coxed by Nikki Jones, won in style and doubled up in men's novice fours where they also performed creditably, going down in the semi-final by a small margin to the eventual winners. The B quad under-performed in the first round.

For the J15 girls, Alex Baker competed in a single for the first time and lost narrowly in the semi-final after steering difficulties.

The J15 double of Laura Whiteley and Lauren Phillips were complimented for their steering in the first round, but then their luck changed and they were disqualified for a steering infringement when leading the eventual winners in the semi-final. This led to a disappointing performance in the quad where they lost in the final.

The third victory of the day came from the J14 boys' quad of Laurence Laudler, George Rae, Finlay Carson and James Pougher, coxed by Luke Harrison.

Rowing

Racing on Sunday brought a better ratio of victories to entries when four wins were recorded from just six categories. The veteran D squad were convincing winners in both eights and fours, while the junior 13 boys and girls were gaining valuable racing experience on the difficult course.

The girls produced two wins, the J13 quad of Angie Owen, Harriet Lewis, Gillian Rodger and Helen King, coxed by Hannah Donald, and the J13 double of Fiona Wynne and Harriet Lewis.

■ The King's School dominated racing in most of the men's events at Shrewsbury.

The school took a party of 70 boys and three girls to the event and 38 returned with trophies, eight collecting two trophies, and cox Mark Barton, who spent virtually all day coxing his various crews and was never beaten once, collecting three.

King's crews won eight events, by far the most successful club at the regatta, eclipsing Royal Shrewsbury School, King's School Worcester, Cheltenham College and the Royal Grammar School, Worcester, who shared out most of the remaining honours between them after Royal Chester had their say.

The first eights of Shrewsbury and The King's School met in the latter stages of the day's racing. The tension surrounding this crucial race led to a punchy performance from both, with King's finding the greater power to draw clear approaching the finish, settling to a more flowing and assured rhythm to win the race in style.

Preceding races had seen King's junior crews triumph over all school rivals. The most gutsy performance of the day came from single-sculler Mark Dalton, who reached the final of novice single sculls, where he raced local rival Devaney from

Grosvenor Rowing Club.

With never more than a three-foot lead at any part of the second half of the race, Mark's grasp seemed to be slipping, but he rallied in the closing stages to match and then counter Devaney's onslaught.

■ Grosvenor's veteran squad led the way at Shrewsbury. They were in winning form and collected most of the medals brought home by the club.

On Saturday, Jeremy Lush, Paul Larby, John McMahon, Mike Allwood (coxed by Jo Caunt) won the veteran C class coxed fours over the 1,000-metre course.

Sculler Dave Carter was true to form and followed up his recent success at Merseyside Regatta by finishing first in veteran D and E class single sculls on Saturday, and again over a shorter 600m course on Sunday.

The recently-formed combination of Harriet MacLehose and Karine Boccard showed excellent potential, beating Nottingham Boat Club in the final of the elite coxless pairs.

Novice four, Andrea Clarke, Angela Thompson, Caroline Carter and Steph Worden (coxed by Jim Bell) battled through several rounds of racing, but were unfortunate to be beaten in the final.

Andrea teamed up with Tamara Simmons, Alison Evans and Alex Newton (coxed by Sue Bein) to compete in the senior three division and reached the final where they lost to Trafford Rowing Club.

Coxed four Karen Hough, Di Moore, Sarah Armstrong and Sue Bein (coxed by Alex Newton) reached the finals of senior two class and veteran B class, but missed out in both.

Single sculler Mark Devaney also raced, completing several rounds of racing in the novice division and senior division, but narrowly failed to pick up a medal.

■ Grosvenor welcome new members and anyone wishing to join should contact club captain Jim Bell on 07971 555454.

Chiem 21 May 04

Royals Head for another triumph

ROYAL Chester will be seeking their 10th win in the North of England Head of the River Race on the Dee tomorrow.

They start in front of their oldest rivals, Agecroft, who recently won the Runcorn Head.

The entry of 83 eights is the lowest for 15 years, but the number of junior crews competing in quadruple

Rowing

sculls continues to climb in the 70th year of the event.

The race from Eccleston Ferry to Dee Lane will run in two divisions, starting with 42 veteran and women's eights in the morning (10.30am) followed by 20 junior

quads in four age groups.

In the afternoon (2.30), two crews each from Royal Chester and Agecroft will head the 42 eights contesting the headship. Manchester University will be making a triple bid to repeat their hat-trick in lower classes at Runcorn, where Agecroft beat Grosvenor for the overall race title.

There will be 25 crews from Chester contesting 21 classes. Royal Chester have three veteran eights in the morning race and will be followed by Grosvenor and Royals, heading the women's crews. At the tail of the procession, King's School and Royals will be contesting three of the classes in junior quads.

■ More rowing on page 29.

03/04

SPORT

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GOLDEN OLDIES: One of the Royal Chester veteran eights in action in the Head of the River race.
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Happy anniversary!

ROYAL Chester celebrated the 70th anniversary of the North of England Head of the River Race on Saturday with six wins, but it was Agecroft who were the overall winners for the eighth time.

Spectators at the Red House had seen Agecroft pass 18 seconds behind Royals, but were un-

aware they had been delayed at the start.

After the race, timekeepers' records showed they had been six seconds faster to win by eight seconds.

Two Royals crews finished in the first three in the morning race. The Veteran C eight beat Derby

Rowing
by one second and the juniors won the quad sculls by nearly a minute.

There was a second Royals winner in Veteran F eights, but their winning J15 quad was a second

behind the King's School J14 winner.

The King's School first eight finished fourth in the afternoon, beating three club crews in their class by several seconds. Their second and third eights were both third in senior three and four class, while the J16s won handsomely.

Royal Chester had a double triumph in J15 girls and boys' quads, but they failed to prevent King's J14s winning by three seconds.

The only disappointment for King's was the defeat of the J16 octuple eight by nearly half a minute by Shrewsbury.

Royal Chester winners are in Severn heaven

ROYAL Chester had seven victories at Shrewsbury Regatta last weekend, but the experience on the picturesque but narrow and staggered course on the River Severn proved a learning curve for many oarsmen.

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Rowing

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Chrom 21 May 04

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The entry of 83 eights is the lowest for 15 years, but the number of junior crews competing in quadruple

Rowing

sculls continues to climb in the 70th year of the event.

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quads in four age groups.

In the afternoon (2.30), two crews each from Royal Chester and Agecroft will head the 42 eights contesting the headship. Manchester University will be making a triple bid to repeat their hat-trick in lower classes at Runcorn, where Agecroft beat Grosvenor for the overall race title.

There will be 25 crews from Chester contesting 21 classes. Royal Chester have three veteran eights in the morning race and will be followed by Grosvenor and Royals, heading the women's crews. At the tail of the procession, King's School and Royals will be contesting three of the classes in junior quads.

■ More rowing on page 29.

Four fight for a team place

2004

ROWING ROUND UP

FOUR Royal Chester Rowing Club members will be fighting for places in the GB Junior Team when they attend the Spring Assessments at Nottingham next week.

Following earlier trials, they have received invitations to the assessments which will be run as a prelude to the GB team's training camp for the Munich Junior International Regatta to be held in May.

Caroline Barrett, who has performed consistently throughout all the trials, is in the Junior Womens Sculling Group, whilst Sean Meehan and Edwin Wilson are in the Junior Mens Sculling Group.

Andrew Ditchfield, aged 14, of Christleton High School, is the fourth member of the club to receive an invitation, as one of the coxes on trial.

Andrew started rowing

through the Project Oarsome Scheme in which Royal Chester were one of the first clubs in the country to be invited to participate, and when formal links were created with Christleton High School and Bishops Church of England High School.

Crews from Grosvenor Rowing Club picked up 18 medals, nine tankards and two pennants from the North of England Head of the River Race on Saturday.

In the morning division the Senior I women's crew of Haley Pearce, Harriet MacLehose, Karen Hough, Di Moore, Helen Banks, Alison Evans, Adele Smith and Sarah Armstrong, coxed by Alex Newton, took advantage of racing on their home river and romped to victory in a time of 18 minutes and 6 seconds, 22 seconds ahead of nearest rivals, Agecroft.

The time meant that once again, the eight were the fastest women's crew of the day and they also secured a status win.

In the second division, the men's Senior III

crew of Chris Hudson, Phil Hill, Alastair Slinn, Robin Lilley, Nick Lloyd, Richard Allan, Lee Horton and Joe Robson, (coxed by Alex Newton), raced in one of more heavily subscribed events of the day.

Following in the footsteps of the women they completed the 5km course in the fastest time for their status, overtaking several crews in the process and were all presented with medals and a pennant.

The men's first eight will now travel to London to compete in the Head of the River Race on the Thames.



□ Royal Chester Rowing Club



□ Kings J15 Coxed 4 - Ben Haywood, Nick Fearnhead, Daniel Siddle, Richard Rees and cox Tom Lewis.



□ Grosvenor Womens First 8, fastest womens crew of the day.



□ Grosvenor Mens First 8

05/03/09

Royals make it a winning start

ROYAL CHESTER crews have made a winning start to the season in long distance and home trial races.

Paul Johnston and Tim Birtwistle travelled to the South Yorkshire Head of the River Race, where they won the Veteran B Double Sculls and rowed unopposed in the Senior 2 Double Sculls.

At Northwich, the Junior Squad competed at the North West Junior Time-Trials for selection to the North West team to contest the Junior Inter-Regional Championships in April.

They came away with an impressive eight wins from the 18 crews entered, some of whom were competing in the same classes.

ROWING

In the first division for Single Sculls there were wins for David Pickering (Christleton High School) in Junior 15 and Abigail Pinchin (Queen's Park High School) in Womens Junior 18.

Further successes were recorded by the Junior 18 Quad scull who returned the fastest time of the day, together with both boys and girls Junior 15 Coxed Quads and the J14 and J13 Girls Quads.

The final win was for the J15 boys Double Scull of Simon Pougher (Kingsway High School) and Matthew Davies (Christleton High School).

It was the turn of Veterans to claim the silverware at the Runcorn Head

of the River Race on the River Weaver.

All three crews which entered won their categories at Veteran D (average age 50), Veteran E (average age 55) and Veteran F (average age 60).

This weekend the womens first crew will be competing in the Womens Head of the River Race in London, and the following weekend club crews will be turning out in force to contest the North of England Head of the River Race in Chester.

For the Senior Mens Crews, this will serve as preparation for the Head of the River Race in London on Saturday, March 20, whilst the Junior Squad will be warming up for the Schools Head of the River Race on Tuesday, March 16, where eight crews have been entered.

A Royal flush

ROWING: Royal Chester were successful at every event they competed in last weekend.

At the Metropolitan Regatta at Dorney Lake, Eton, on Saturday, John McDonald and Harvey Worden won senior two double sculls against tough national opposition. And at the National Schools Regatta in Nottingham, the junior quad of Edwin Wilson, Ross Flannigan, Tom Dowson and Sean Meehan won the bronze medal.

Caroline Barrett was disappointed to do no better than fourth in the final of the girls' single sculls, despite taking up sculling less than 18 months ago.

On Sunday, Edwin Wilson and Sean Meehan just failed to make the final of the double sculls after a close race, while the same fortunes befell James Carew and Rob Owen in J16 double sculls.

Paul Johnston and Tim Birtwistle won Veteran B double sculls at Northwich Regatta and at the Northwich Spirit Regatta on Monday, a mixed open eight of Jilly Berisford, Helen Banks, Caroline Barrett, Sally Orr, Harvey Worden, Justin Waller, Paul Turner, James Wright and cox Andrew Ditchfield won the top event of the day and a cheque for £1,000 for the club.

Chamble 29 May 09

Seys Llewellyn, 111-45-77; 2nd, Chris Walley, 66; 2nd, Mrs Ann Brock, 99-21-78.

young age, Simon was previously a member at Aldersey Green Golf Club in Chester.

Howard Chryson and Terry Griffiths, 42pts.

Success for travelling Royals

ROYAL Chester Rowing Club members were competing across the country last weekend and achieved success at each event attended. At the Metropolitan Regatta held at Dorney Lake, Eton, on Saturday, John McDonald and

Harvey Worden won Senior 2 Double Sculls against tough national opposition. At the National Schools Regatta at Nottingham the Junior Squad were competing at the major Junior event of the year and pride of place goes

to the Junior Quad of Edwin Wilson, Ross Flannigan, Tom Dowson and Sean Meehan who won the bronze medal in Championship Quad Sculls, again against tough national opposition. Caroline Barrett was disappointed to be fourth in the final of the Girls Championship Single Sculls but this was still a fantastic achievement since she only took up sculling less than eighteen months ago. Three other crews competed and whilst performing well did not make the finals.

On Sunday Edwin Wilson and Sean Meehan just failed to make the final of Championship Double Sculls after a close and exciting race whilst the same fortune befell James Carew and Rob Owen in J16 Double Sculls.

Locally Paul Johnston and Tim Birtwistle won Veteran B Double Sculls at Northwich Regatta, and at the Northwich Spirit Regatta on Monday a Mixed Open Eight of Jilly Berisford, Helen Banks, Caroline Barrett, Sally Orr, Harvey Worden, Justin Waller, Paul Turner, James Wright and cox Andrew Ditchfield won the top event of the day and a handsome cheque of £1,000 for the club.

strongest stroke - breast she was placed third.

Rowing

Royals' success at Northwich Head

WITH a smaller contingent than normal competing on the River Weaver at the Northwich Spring Head on Easter Monday, Royal Chester crews still managed to record eight class wins.

In the first division, David Pickering (Christleton High School) sculled over comfortably to win J15 single sculls while the Girls' J13 coxed quad of Helen King (Queen's School), Harriet Lewis (Queen's School), Willow Finch (Christleton High School) and Fiona Wynne (Christleton High School), coxed by Laura Whiteley (Queen's School), stormed home to win by nearly 40 seconds over the 2300 metre course.

The second division

produced only one winner for Royals, the J16 quad of Simon Pougher (Kingsway High School), David Pickering (Christleton High School), Chris Laudler (Christleton High School) and Andy Ditchfield (Christleton High School), but this was highly satisfying as they beat the Runcorn crew selected for the North West Junior Inter-Regional Championships by six seconds.

Third
In the third and final division, an eight comprising mainly Juniors gave an encouraging performance to be third overall and winning the Senior 4 class, only six seconds behind local rivals, the Grosvenor first eight rowing in the Senior 1 class.

The Veteran B quad of Paul Johnston, Tim Donovan, Steve Goodwin and Tim Birtwistle comfortably won their class, and then the Juniors collected another three wins, in J15 double sculls - Andy Murphy (Christleton High School), Ollie Cocklin (QPHS), girls' J15 coxed quads - Lauren Phillips, Georgia Whiteoak, Alex Baker and Laura Whiteley (all Queen's School), coxed by Meg James (Birkenhead High School), and girls' J14 coxed quad, which was in fact the girls' J13 crew with Zoe Humphrey (Bishops' High School) replacing Helen King, and Harriet Laudler (Christleton High School) coxing.

09

Standard 29 May 09

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Royal crews land silver and bronze

ROWING

ROYAL CHESTER'S Juniors tasted success at the Peterborough J14 event with silver and bronze medals in the Girls J13 coxed quad sculls.

Pipped for the gold medal by Headington Girls School Oxford, arguably the top girls rowing school in the country, the second placed A crew of Fiona Wynne (Christleton), Harriet Lewis (Queen's), Willow Finch (Christleton), Gillian Rodger (Queen's), coxed by Luke Harrison (Kingsway), survived an anxious moment near the start, when the Evesham crew in the next lane nearly collided with them, to scull strongly, only pulling away from the third place B crew of Angie Owen (Abbey Gate), Charlotte Assinder (Christleton), Helen King (Queen's), Hannah Donald (Queen's), coxed by James Pougher (Kingsway) in the second half of the race.

The boys J14 coxed quad scull of Laurence Laudler (Christleton), George Rae (Bishop Heber), Finlay Carson (Tarporey), James Pougher (Kingsway), cox Luke Harrison (Kingsway) were unluckily drawn in a strong heat, and just failed to progress to the semi-final by the narrowest of margins.

In Girls J14 double sculls, Becky Benson (Christleton) and Lizzie Snebon (Christleton), with little

experience and with only three practice outings together, showed promise and a great deal of courage but were outclassed by considerably more experienced opposition.

This weekend will see a number of crews rowing on the River Severn at Bewdley.

ROYAL CHESTER will again be running their annual summer school, part of the Amateur Rowing Association Project Oarsome Scheme and the clubs Junior Rowing Programme.

The aim is to provide an introduction to the sport for pupils finishing Years seven, eight and nine, both boys and girls, attending schools in the Chester District not already offering rowing.

Royal Chester, one of the first clubs to be awarded Project Oarsome, has recently been awarded 'Club Mark' recognising the support put in place to encourage and develop young talent.

Beginners sessions will be held on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons between 2-4.30pm, commencing on Monday, July 19, and finishing on Thursday, August 26, at Royal Chester Rowing Club, at the bottom of Dee Lane. (The first boathouse on the left, where the



□ MEDAL WINNERS – Royal Chester members, from left, Luke Harrison, Angie Owen, Gillian Rodger, Fiona Wynne, Willow Finch, Harriet Lewis, Helen King, Hannah Dodd, Charlotte Assinder, and James Pougher.

road leaves the riverside). The cost will be £3 per session, and youngsters should take along PE kit, trainers, sweat top, towel and change of clothes. Parents/Guardians of all those participating will need to complete a consent form as part of the Royal Chester Rowing Club Child

Protection Policy. Ring Duncan Little, Junior Rowing Coordinator, Royal Chester Rowing Club, on 01244 316021 (home) or 01244 322468 (club). GROSVENOR are heading for a two-day series of races on the River Severn at Bewdley, near

Kidderminster. The club will be represented along the 800m course by men's women's and veterans eights, fours, pairs, and sculls. Anyone wanting further details about Grosvenor Rowing Club should contact captain Jim Bell on (01244) 311231 or 07971 555454.



WORKING HARD -
The Royals double
scull of John
Macdonald and
Simon Speed



He's in great Nick

ROWING

NICK FEARNHEAD grabbed two victories in the 50th County of Chester Long Distance Sculls.

The 16-year-old Kings School pupil clinched success in the single and quadruple competitions.

He was the fastest schoolboy by 10 seconds in the morning race and then stroked the school's quadruple sculls crew to victory in the afternoon when they defeated Lancaster Royal Grammar School in the Senior 3 Class by 43 seconds.

After a year in the first eight and two more left before he finishes school, his name could well join the list of Kings oarsmen who have reached national and international recognition.

One of the senior scullers he beat by nine seconds is a former Kings oarsman who made sufficient impact on the River Thames in London to become captain of one of the most famous clubs in English rowing.

Ian Pritchard, now a former captain of the 144

years old Thames RC at Putney, started 37 places ahead of Fearnhead, but finished seven places behind, while Fearnhead finished 11th and won the Novice pennant by seven seconds.

In the afternoon his sculling four outclassed Lancaster Royal Grammar School by 13 seconds to finish fourth overall amongst the only crews to break 19 minutes.

The new men's singles champion, Craig Morgan, of Hollingworth Lake, also completed a personal double by rowing in the winning Royal Chester/Hollingworth Lake combination, which was the fastest crew of the day by 41 seconds.

Royal Chester, founders of the event, took the team prize with five wins, while Kings finished with four. The overall entry topped the 200 mark for the fourth successive year.

AROUND THE CHESTER SQUASH COURTS

The Standard, 7th October

Nine local winners in Dee sculling race



John Macdonald and Simon Speed in the Royals Senior 1 double scull.

CHESTER clubs were heavily outnumbered by their visitors in the 50th County of Chester Long Distance Sculls, when they were only nine local winners in the 47 classes.

There were over 200 entries for the fourth successive year, with 19 from Royal Chester and 16 from The King's School.

Five of the Royals single scullers finished in the top 10 in the morning race, which attracted 154 starters. None of them were pennant winners, but 16-year-old Nick Fearnhead of King's was the fastest schoolboy and also won the Novice class.

Tim Birtwistle of Royals was the fastest Veteran in-singles, and there were three winning local crews in quadruple sculls. King's School pipped George Watson's College by two seconds in Women's Juniors, then Royal Chester Women's junior 14s overwhelmed Warrington's Women's Junior 15s by 17 seconds.

In the afternoon there were only 81 starters behind the composite Royal Chester/Hollingworth Lake Elite squad, which won decisively by 41 seconds.

Nick Fearnhead made a second appearance to stroke the winning King's School Senior 3 squad. Then Royal Chester squeezed home first in Junior 16 quad's only 1.8 seconds clear of St Leonard's School.

John McDonald and Simon Speed were convincing winners for Royals in Double Sculls. Behind them King's School defeated Royals by over half a minute in Junior 16 class.

The only other local winner was Sally Orr of Royals, who scored her second win in three years, the Women's Elite event, by more than a minute.

Standard 08/10/04 Hockey

Chester

Fifty not out

ROWING: Royal Chester celebrated the 50th anniversary of the County of Chester Long Distance Sculls, which they founded, by winning five events to capture the team prize on Saturday.

The entry topped 200 for the fourth successive year with 19 crews and scullers representing the hosts and 16 from The King's School.

Five of the Royals' single scullers finished in the top 10 in the morning race, but their only winner was Tim Birtwistle, the fastest veteran by nine seconds.

Nick Fearnhead, of King's, was the fastest schoolboy, winning the novice pennant by seven seconds and the school narrowly defeated George Watson's College, Edinburgh by two seconds in the women's quad sculls.

Royal Chester won women's junior 14 quads and Nick Fearnhead, of King's, recorded a second win when he stroked the school's senior three quad which won by +3 seconds.

Royals' J16 squad excelled to finish two seconds faster than St Leonard's School, Durham who had a formidable record of success in this class.

John McDonald and Simon Speed dominated double sculls for Royal Chester by finishing 48 seconds clear of their rivals.

Royals' fifth winner was Sally Orr with her second win in three years in women's elite sculls.

08/10/04

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2005

Weaver wonders Flashing Blade



GOLD STANDARD: Royal Chester's novice eight crew in action on the River Weaver on Saturday.

CREWS from Royal Chester were among the 59 boats lining up in Runcorn Rowing Club's Spring Eights Head on the River Weaver.

The Chester club's novice eight tackled the tough 7k

course and won their status in a year first time, beating a number of senior crews in the process.

The boys then split into two quad crews for the afternoon and raced again, narrowly losing to a Warrington crew.

Royal Chester's veteran E eight lost by the narrowest of margins - just four seconds - to Pengwern.

Meanwhile, the club's oldest member, 85-year-old Ken Worden, lined up for Royal Chester in the veteran B eight.

Rowing

JAMES Carew's dedication and commitment to his chosen sport has won him Chester's most prestigious rowing award.

Royal Chester Rowing Club member James is the latest recipient of the Francis Lowe Memorial Blade.

The award is given to the person who has made an outstanding contribution to rowing on the River Dee over the year - and Carew, of Great Boughton, is a worthy winner.

The former Christleton High pupil joined Royal Chester at the age of 13 and progressed to compete at the highest level as a junior, winning national gold medals and competing at the Henley Royal Regatta.

However the silver blade was awarded not in recognition of his competitive success, but for the dedication and commitment he has demonstrated in coaching the next generation of Royals.



SILVER SERVICE: James Carew collects the Francis Lowe Memorial Blade from Grahame Jones.

Carew has been honoured for creating and motivating a squad of juniors who were responsible for 30 of the 57 club titles won last season.

His award was presented by Grahame Jones, of the Alderman of the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths, in memory of the late Frank Lowe - Freeman of the City of Chester, Alderman, keen rower and supreme craftsman.

02/05

from Chester, ranked in Division Five finished Bainbridge from Kendal was third. Roger Williams

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Rowing

Regatta wins for Royals

THE Royal Chester Rowing Club senior squad are competing at the highest level most weekends throughout the summer. The latest success came at the Metropolitan Regatta which was held on the future Olympic Regatta course at Dorney Lake, Eton. The men's senior 2 double scull of Tim Betteridge and Simon Speed finished clear winners from a much fancied London Rowing Club Crew. Simon went on to take second place in the senior 2 single scull and Tim was third in Senior 3.

At Loughborough Regatta, Simon Speed again took the senior 2 double scull win, this time partnered by John MacDonald, they easily beat Hollingworth Lake RC in the final. John went on to win the Elite single sculls event whilst clubmate Euan Jones took the senior 3 singles medal.

The National Veteran Championship was staged in conjunction with Loughborough Regatta and Euan Jones went on to capture a silver medal in the veteran B final. He then combined with Tim Birtwistle, Alan Crowther and Paul Johnston to win the bronze medal in veteran B quads.

The sculling squad are now forming crews for Henley Royal Regatta, Veterans Henley and the National Championships in July.

If you are interested in giving rowing a try contact the club Captain Harvey Worden on 07976 302318.

23/06/05

08

ROWING: NATIONAL SUCCESS FOR CITY TEAM

Golden days for the oarsome foursome

11/08/05

ROYAL CHESTER are celebrating a national gold medal success story.

The Club's Junior 16 Coxless four of Mathew Davies, David Pickering, Chris Laidler and Simon Pougher brought their successful racing season to a fitting climax, winning a Gold Medal at the British National Championships.

A promising year at Junior 15 level last year saw medal success at the Schools Head of the River Race and the National Schools Regatta for the crew; and the winning streak continued into 2005 in both sculling and sweep oared boats.

At the Schools Head of the River Race, rowed over the Boats Race Course in London, the crew competed in coxed fours and won their category by a massive 32 seconds - beating the previous record by 23 seconds.

At the Junior Inter Regional Championships a bronze medal was won, the crew finishing just behind St Leonards and Henley Rowing Club. As a result they were invited to the British Junior 16 Trials in early July.

At the National Schools Regatta in May they raced against most of the top British Public Schools. In their final, the Royals crew were beaten by just 1.1 seconds by Shrewsbury School, Royals taking the silver ahead of Latymer Upper School.

The crew recommenced serious training after their GCSEs with just two weeks to the GB Trials. Their opposition was again Shrewsbury School, Latymer Upper School and Kings School Chester together with Eton and Cranford.

The Royals dominated from the start of the race with close rivals Shrewsbury in the next lane. After another closely fought contest the Royals crews reversed the result of the National Schools regatta to win by a margin of 1.4 seconds and with it selection for the GB Under 16 Team to race France.

This would normally have been the end of the season, however, the crew still had the National Championships of Great Britain to contest.

The semi-final was hotly contested by six crews with Royals scraping home in third spot to progress to the final.

The Final day was a scorcher with little wind. The coxless fours race was first up for the Royals Crew, and as in the GB Trial they dominated from the off, rowing with rhythm and maturity and rowing out winners



□ MEDAL MAGIC - Mathew Davies, David Pickering, Chris Laidler and Simon Pougher with their coaches Duncan Little (left) and Tom Armstrong.

by over seven seconds to take the Gold Medal.

□ Royal Chester are running their annual summer school for beginners this month as part of the Project Oarsome Junior Rowing Scheme.

This is aimed, principally, at those completing years seven and eight at school, both boys and girls, although a small number of places may be available for older students.

The summer school started on Monday and sessions will be held throughout the holidays, on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, between 2pm and 4.30pm.

Anyone interested in taking part should take along their PE kit, trainers, sweat top, wet top (if raining), towel and change of clothes. The cost is £5 for each session.

Parents/Guardians of all those participating will be required to complete and sign a consent form which will be provided. This is required as part of the Royal Chester Rowing Club Child Protection Policy.

Rowing is a growing sport in the UK and enjoys an increasingly high profile following recent

success of our crews at world and Olympic level. It is a sport which appeals to many who do not necessarily enjoy the traditional school sports, and whilst ideally rowing athletes are tall, coxes are ideally small.

Royal Chester has a thriving junior section which places an emphasis on enjoyment as well as performance. It is among the most successful in the country with some 80 members who compete at local, regional and national events, and with a small number aspiring to international selection.

Royal Chester Rowing Club can be found by turning left from Boughton into Dee Lane towards the River Dee, and where it reaches the riverside bear to the right. Royal Chester is the first boathouse on the left hand side, where the roadway leaves the riverside again.

For information, ring Duncan Little, Junior Rowing Coordinator, at home on 01244 316021, or at the club on 01244 322468.

□ More information about the can be obtained from club captain, Harvey Warden, on 07976 302318.

Hot deals from Slaters...

**CITROEN C3
SINGLE
ELECTRIC
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£115**

SLATERS Aber Ruth
THE ONLY AUTHORISED CITROEN PARTS D

Golden end to season

THE Royal Chester Rowing Club Junior 16 Coxless four of Mathew Davies, David Pickering, Chris Laidler and Simon Pougher brought their successful racing season to a fitting climax, winning a Gold Medal at the British National Championships.

A promising year at Junior 15 level last year saw medal success at the Schools Head of the River Race and the National Schools Regatta for the crew. The winning streak continued into 2005 in both sculling and sweep oared boats.

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At the National Schools Regatta in May they raced against most of the top British Public Schools. In their final, the Royals crew were beaten by just 1.1 seconds by Shrewsbury School, Royals taking the silver ahead of Latymer Upper School.

The crew recommenced serious training after their GCSEs with just two weeks to the GB Trials. Their opposition was again Shrewsbury School, Latymer Upper School

and Kings School Chester together with Eton and Cranford. The Royals Crew dominated from the start of the race with close rivals Shrewsbury in the next lane. After another closely fought contest the Royals crews reversed the result of the National Schools regatta to win by a margin of 1.4 seconds and with it selection for the GB Under 16 Team to race France.

This would normally have been the end of the season however the Royals crew still had the National Championships of Great Britain to contest. The semi-final on the Saturday was hotly contested by six crews with Royals scraping home in third spot to progress to the final.

Final day - Sunday was a scorcher with little wind. The coxless fours race was first up for the Royals Crew, and as in the GB Trial they dominated from the off, rowing with rhythm and maturity and rowing out winners by over seven seconds to take the important Gold Medal.

What a season it has been for the Young Royals with two golds, a silver and a bronze medal in two different disciplines at the four major domestic competitions, capped by representation for Great Britain.

Rowing is a sport for all ages and both sexes for more information contact the club captain, Harvey Worden on 07976 302318.



Mathew Davies, David Pickering, Chris Laidler and Simon Pougher with their coaches Duncan Little (left) and Tom Armstrong.

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Chester Sports & Leisure Association

**SPORTS
AWARDS**

10th Year

ANNUAL AWARDS

THE cream of the city's sporting talent were honoured for their achievements in 2006 at Chester Town Hall in January.

Lord Mayor Mike Jones handed out certificates at Chester's Annual Junior Sports Awards presentation evening, run by Chester Sports and Leisure Association in partnership with Chester Sports Development.

Ian Tordoff, sports development officer for Chester, said "Young people achieving in sport are great role models. These awards were a fitting reward for their efforts in 2005."

The Junior Team of the Year award went to Royal Chester Rowing Club's 'junior 16' coxless four of Matthew Davies, David Pickering, Chris Laidler and Simon Pougher.

The boys dominated their sport at regional and national level in 2005 and their season came to a fitting climax when they were crowned British champions.

Matthew, David, Chris and Simon were also honoured with the Francis Lowe Memorial Blade,

which is awarded to an outstanding rowing individual or squad over a 12 month period.

The Club Development Award was claimed by Deeside Ramblers Hockey Club.

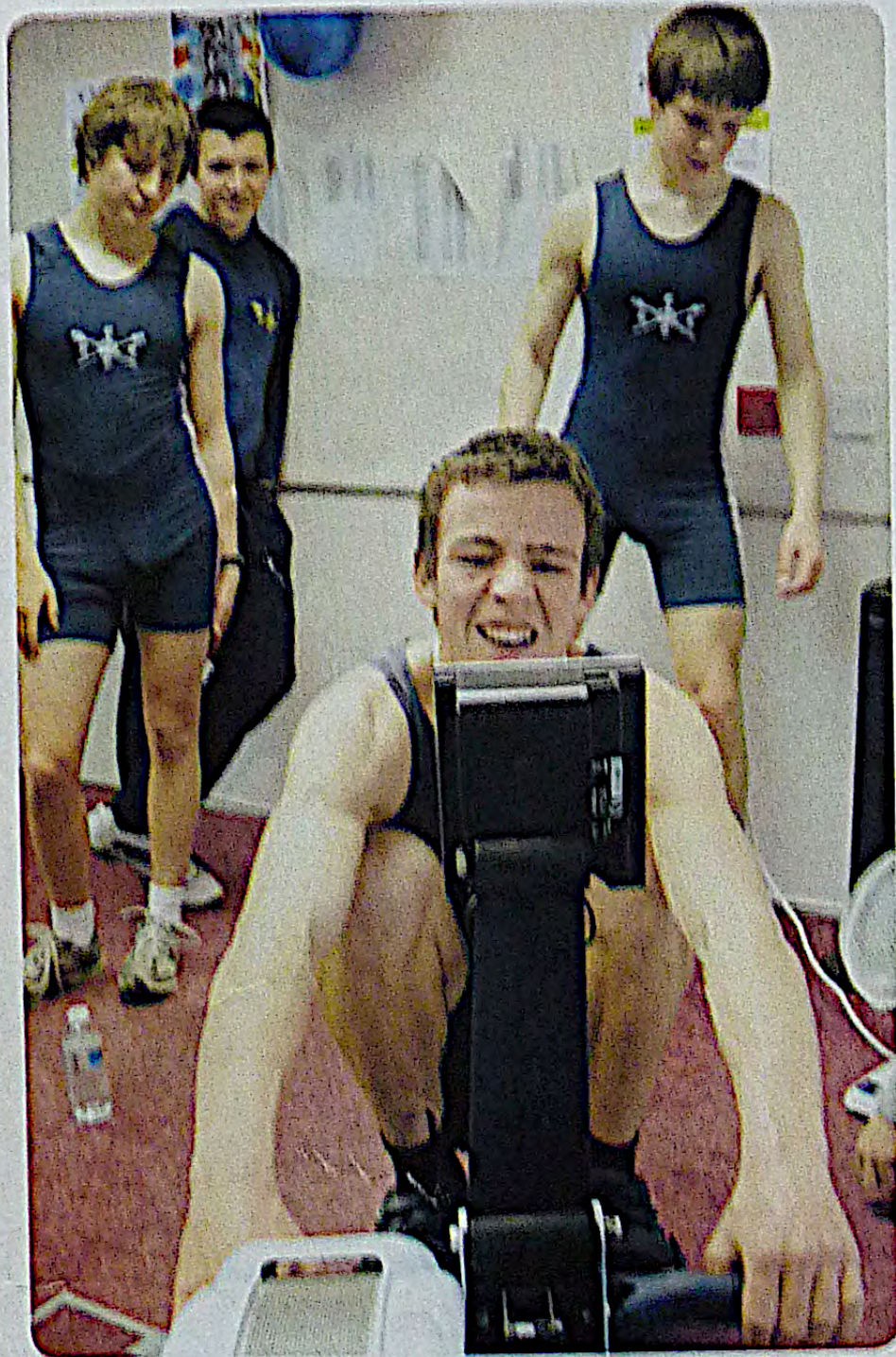


Coach of the year Drewe William (right) with the Lord Mayor of Chester Mike Jones and Rachel Chadwick, winner of the Under 17 and U19 Cheshire squash titles. Rachel is coached by Drewe.



The Junior Team of the Year award was presented to the Royal Chester Rowing Club junior 16 coxless four of David Pickering, Matthew Davies, Christopher Laidler and Simon Pougher.

ANNIVERSARY NEWS: 1996 - 2005



ROYAL CHESTER SET NEW JUNIOR RECORD

Juniors from Royal Chester RC (pictured left) have set a new J16 and under record after rowing 345.8km over 24 hours. 26 youngsters, aged 12-16, completed the ergo-based challenge in Chester Mall on 28 and 29 March.

The aim? Royal Chester RC boys' junior captain Calum McGuicken wanted to increase awareness of junior rowing in Chester while raising money for more equipment – and putting Chester on the global rowing map!

Thanks to Concept 2, the Chester juniors were able to use calibrated ergos on which to attempt the challenge.

WORLD RECORD SMASHED

Ipswich school pupils broke a new world one million metre indoor rowing record for high schools in March. One hundred rugby players from St Joseph's College took part in the exhausting challenge, smashing the record by over two hours to finish in 15 hours, 10 minutes and 7.1 seconds.

Aged between 13 and 18, the boys rowed for two minutes at a time aiming to average 500 metres for each stint on four rowing machines.

Graham Richards, director of rugby at the school, told the *Suffolk Evening Star* that he was delighted with the result.

"The whole experience was fantastic," he added. "Seeing the school all working together made me feel very proud to be part of the event and the College."

The previous record, held by Niskayuna High School in New York, was 17 hours, 39 minutes, 25 seconds.

INDOOR ROWING SUCCESS FOR JAKE

Twelve-year-old Jake Gillbody from North Devon never dreamt that when he tried a rowing machine for the first time this year during a gym class it would lead to him becoming South West Indoor Rowing Champion.

A keen cross country runner and rugby player, Jake told the *Exmouth Journal*, "Our teacher wanted us to row flat out for two minutes, and I managed to get the highest distance. Then he entered me in the South West Championships and I won."

Jake, who battered 60 other pupils to win the title in Plymouth, is now keen to join a rowing club.

A ROYAL CHALLENGE

The veterans are also doing their bit at Royal Chester RC. Nicknamed the 'Royals', they are bidding to become the first to row 135 miles of the Thames from its source to city in an eight.

The three-day adventure will begin on 18 May at the river's source in Lechlade, Gloucestershire, finally finishing at the start of the University Boat Race in Putney. The crew will have a total of 45 locks to negotiate along the way. This is the first time that the route has been navigated by a racing 8 boat before.

Crew member Nigel Burgess explained, "It's quite a big boat – 55ft long and when the oars are out 23ft wide. Some of the upper reaches will be a difficult task with some narrow bridges 14ft wide."

Aged from 49 to 67, the crew have received nutritional and training tips from the University of Chester. The Royals are also hoping to raise £15,000 for a range of charities, including The NeuroMuscular Centre in Cheshire and the Royal Chester Rowing Club Charitable Trust Fund. To support their cause, please visit www.rcrc.org.uk



LEICESTER SAVE THE DAY

Not only was it cold, windy and raining but the Nottingham Rowing Club trailer, with all the boats and oars loaded up for last month's Leicester Regatta, had been taken by another club by mistake!

The trailer had been left at Holme Pierrepont and following the cancellation of a regatta on Saturday, had been taken by a club in error.

On Sunday the Nottingham RC arrived at Leicester without any equipment whatsoever. It was only through the good offices of the home Club that they were able to row at all.

Rowing on the Grand Union Canal in the centre of Leicester, Nottingham Rowing Club won four events: Men's Senior 2 Fights, Veteran D Fours, Novice Fours and Bill Payne won Veteran G Sculls.

"But for Leicester Rowing Club's help this would have been a complete disaster," said Bill.

"They could not have been more helpful, loaning boats and blades and giving us time to get sorted out. We owe them big time."

CHESTER ROWING SPECIAL

00/10/05



Scullers in action on the Dee

Victorious Royals go all the way to win Shield

ROYAL CHESTER claimed six wins and collected the Victor Ludorum Club Shield at the Chester Long Distance Sculls.

Crews negotiated a Head course from Eccleston to the Dee Lane finish. The Royal Chester junior section performed well with wins in the senior 4 singles for David Pickering, junior 16 doubles (George Rae and Jack Lavine) and womens junior 15 singles for Natalie Richmond-Illes.

They were ably supported by the veterans, Tim Birtwistle winning the veteran C singles and veteran B doubles with Paul Johnston, and Jim Higgins joined by John Caruthers of Liverpool Victoria RC to win the veteran G doubles.

Hollingworth Lake Rowing Club took the top single scull honours with Craig Morgan repeating his 2004 win in Elite sculls in 19 minutes 44 seconds. And the Walczak twins, Lucy and Ruth, shared the womens title.

After racing hard over the four kilometre course the junior scullers couldn't be separated, each recording a time of 22 minutes 10 seconds.

St Leonards School Boat Club junior quad were the fastest crew boat on the day in 17:27, closely followed by a Grosvenor RC/Hollingworth Lake RC composite crew and winners of the senior 1 quads in 17:35.

Local crews took their fair share of the status wins with the honours spread evenly.

Grosvenor Rowing Club also collected medals for senior 2 singles (Simon Speed) and senior 3 singles (Tim Betteridge).

And the young Queens Park High School squad performed well with wins in junior 15 singles (M. Adam) junior 14 singles (C. Jones) and the womens junior coxed quad of Rose Butters, Kate Pilling, Alice Watson and Amy Jones, coxed by Bridget Collin.

Kings School sculler N. Fearhead was fifth overall, taking the junior single title in 20:11, challenging the seniors hard. Other wins were junior 15 double sculls (Impfield and Ducker), Nevice double sculls (P. Walker and M. Mackay) and junior 15 coxed quads (Calderhead, Butterfield, Burn, Fanshaw and cox Alexander).



Officials keep track of the times



More action as the boats turn

Rowing

Morgan retains Long Distance Sculls title

THE Chester Long Distance Sculling race once again attracted quality crews to compete over the Head course from Eccleston to the Dee Lane finish in breezy but bright conditions.

Hollingworth Lake Rowing Club took the top single scull honours with Craig Morgan repeating his 2004 win in Elite sculls in 19 mins 44 secs and the Walczak twins, Lucy and Ruth, sharing the women's title. After racing hard over the four-kilometre course the junior scullers could not be separated, each recording a time of 22mins 10secs.

St Leonard's School Boat Club junior quad were the fastest crew boat on the day in 17 mins 27 secs, closely followed by a Grosvenor RC/Hollingworth Lake RC composite crew and winners of the senior 1 quads in 17 mins 35 secs.

The crew comprised Simon Speed, Tim Betteridge and Paul Turner, of Grosvenor, plus Hollingworth's Morgan.

Local crews took their fair share of the status wins with the honours spread evenly.

Royal Chester Rowing Club had six wins in total and collected the Victor Ludorum Club Shield. The junior section performed well with wins in Senior 4 singles for David Pickering, Junior 16 doubles (George Rae and Jack Lavino) and women's Junior 15 singles for Natalie Richmond-Iles.

They were ably supported by the veterans, Tim Birtwistle winning Veteran C singles and Veteran B doubles with Paul Johnston while Jim Higgins was joined by John Caruthers, of Liverpool Victoria RC, to win Veteran G doubles.

Grosvenor Rowing Club also collected medals for Senior 2 singles (Speed) and Senior 3 singles (Betteridge).

The young Queen's Park High School squad performed well, with wins in Junior 15 singles (Marcus Adam), Junior 14 singles (Amy Jones) and the women's Junior coxed quad of Rose Butters, Kate Pilling, Alice Watson and Amy Jones, coxed by Bridget Collin.

Kings School sculler N Fearhead was fifth overall and took the Junior single title in 20 mins 11 secs, challenging the seniors hard. Other wins were Junior 15 double sculls (Impfield and Ducker), Novice double sculls (P Walker and M Mackay) and Junior 15 coxed quads (Calderhead, Butterfield, Burn, Fanshaw and cox Alexander).

Chester scullers put in oarsome display



HOME EVENT: Rowers from the Royal Chester Rowing Club take part in the Chester Long Distance Sculling race.

TMCPK011005SCULL6-004

THE Chester Long Distance Sculling race once again attracted quality crews to compete over the head course from Eccleston to Dee Lane.

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Local crews took their fair share

Rowing

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10/05

December 2005

www.rcrc.org.uk

The Blade

Royal Chester Rowing Club Newsletter



I only came to collect the kids!

I started rowing about 7 years ago as a result of my children starting to row. For most of my time in the club I have tried to help with the organisation of the novices - mostly to encourage them to turn up so I got to row!!



RCRC Capt Ian Addinself

I have completed the ARA Instructor Award along with a number of other club members who coach and support rowing at the club. In the last year I have rowed with Vet crews and competed in John Browne's Vet VIII at a number of events, Enniskillen Head being a highlight. This has allowed me to focus more on the coaching and support aspect of the beginner novices.

So this year it has become a bit of a project of mine to start to fill the gap in the club that has been developing over the last couple of years between the Juniors and the Vets.

If you are a reasonably fit parent of a child who rows here at Royals I would love to meet you and see how we can help you share in your children's pleasure and getting you rowing too.

PARTY TIME!
Unmissable
Sat 17 Dec
the Clubhouse
Live music,
dancing, and a bar
all for £5

Contact Gill Greene on
0151 3272892 or 07952 302706

Relocation progress

At the AGM, our Chairman presented an update on relocating the club, he reported that shortly after the EGM decision to explore the possibility of re-locating the Club to the new site at Huntington our Solicitors advised us that contrary to previous advice the Club did not have a direct access to the public highway. We are a landlocked site, the accessway from the public roadway, where the trailer is often stored, belongs to the City Council. Furthermore, Welsh Water the owners of the large combined foul and surface water sewer running beneath the club site would not permit any new buildings over it.



Since July 2004 negotiations have been undertaken with Chester City to persuade them to combine their shrubbery with the Club's site to create a saleable parcel of land with a direct access. The shrubbery however, forms a detached part of the Grosvenor Park, held by the City Council in trust from the Grosvenor Estate and both their consent and that of the Charity Commissioners would be required to any sale.

The Grosvenor Estate agreed quite quickly, the Charity Commissioners consent has proved more elusive. No matter how the argument was presented they were adamant that the Council's reasons for selling the land could not fit with any of the provisions of the relevant Charity Acts.

At the end of November a way around this impasse appeared to have been found - if the

Club is able to provide an equivalent area of land within its new site which has the same degree of access for the public as the current shrubbery then the old site could be 'swopped' for the new site leaving the Council free to dispose of the old site. Provided that our agreement with the Dee Valley Water will agree then subject to the formal approval of the City Council we shall have a way forward.

Negotiations have also been held with the Technical Manager from Welsh Water regarding the sewer beneath the Club which has a history of flooding the Club and the adjacent properties. Complex proposals are currently in design to divert the sewer making building on our site possible. Unfortunately, these works are not scheduled to start until financial year 2008/09. Nevertheless subject to the formal consent of the Club Trustees and the City Council we now have a way forward there to.

Join the race on Boxing Day!

The club tradition of Boxing Day Races in scratch Crews will celebrate its 35th anniversary as a Charity event for the first time, to support The Hospice of the Good Shepherd. Scratch crews of adults will race in mixed eights, and Juniors Under 15 will be in quad sculls. Registration in the clubhouse starts at 10 a.m, the Entry fee is a donation of £1 per head (minimum) to the Hospice. Racing from the Kissing Gate to the Bandstand will start at 11 a.m. with the finals at 12.45 pm. On a bid to swell our support for The Hospice, members are invited to contribute a prize to the annual tombola organised by Eddie Jones, especially if they are unavailable on Boxing Day.

It's WHO you know...

Many of our larger local employers have various community funding schemes. These schemes have been set up enable them to help out local deserving causes through their employees either as a project donation or match funding. RCRC is that deserving cause! We need to tap into commercial resources to help with the purchase of boats and equipment, whether oars or outboards. **Does your employer operate such a scheme?** Every little helps, please contact Bonner Davies if you think the club may qualify for support with your help.

2006

Evening Leader Thursday, February 23, 2006

51

Chester eight head top class Trent race

ROWING

A STRONG row by the Royal Chester Rowing Club first eight brought them a well deserved win at the Nottingham Head of the River Trent Race.

Against a cold strong headwind the crew convincingly won the Senior Second Division and came fifth overall in a top class race

which was won by the Cambridge University Boat Race crew followed home by their second crew, Goldie, giving them an early indication for the Boat Race in March.

The crew of Matt Neame (Bow), John Macdonald, Tim Betteridge,

Iwan Jones, Harvey Worden, Justin Waller, Paul Turner, Bill Downing (stroke) and cox Nikki Worden will be training hard to challenge as the Head crew on the Dee at Chester on March 18 and also for the Jackson Trophy raced for on the Thames the following weekend.

The second win for Royals was

by the dynamic Veteran D eight of Mike Stevens (bow), Geoff Nuttall, Pete English, Tim Birtwistle, Pete Holland-Lloyd, Nigel Pratt, Miles Duncan, John Boothman (stroke) and cox Judy Davies. They too will want to build on this success at the North of England Head of the river Race and then the Veterans Head on the Thames.

A jaded crew... three, simply not recovered from the heroics

Rowing

Wins on the Trent for Royals

A STRONG row by the Royal Chester Rowing Club first eight brought them a well deserved win at the Nottingham Head of the River Trent Race. Against a cold strong headwind the crew convincingly won the Senior 2 Division and came fifth overall in a top class race which was won by the Cambridge University Boat Race crew followed home by their second crew, Goldie. Early indications for the Boat Race in March.

The crew of Matt Neame (Bow), John Macdonald, Tim Betteridge, Iwan Jones, Harvey Worden, Justin Waller, Paul Turner, Bill Downing (stroke) and cox Nikki Worden will be training hard to challenge as the Head crew on the Dee at Chester on 18th March.

The second win for Royals was by the dynamic Veteran D eight of Mike Stevens (bow), Geoff Nuttall, Pete English, Tim Birtwistle, Pete Holland-Lloyd, Nigel Pratt, Miles Duncan, John Boothman (stroke) and cox Judy Davies.

Standard 23/02/06

SC

The Standard, 23rd March 2006

47

Rowing

Bad day for local crews in Head of River race

ROYAL Chester and the King's School were the only home winners in the 65th North of England Head of the River Race after visiting crews had claimed the headship and 17 other pennants.

Agecroft narrowly avenged last year's defeat by Royal Chester to level the overall score in the series to 10 all. They also won twice in women's eights. However, Royal Chester kept their club flag flying by narrowly defeating a younger Grosvenor crew by two seconds in the veterans' race.

The only other home winner was The King's School Junior Under-15 eight, which thrashed St Peter's School, York by over a minute. Agecroft won twice in the women's eights, but Royal Chester novices, in their first race, had the satisfaction of beating all the other club eights in their class, which was dominated by two university crews from Durham and Manchester.

Shrewsbury took the honours in school eights by finishing close behind the two leaders in Senior 1 and 2 classes. King's tied with King's School, Canterbury for second place in Senior 4, three seconds behind Manchester

University. King's Junior-15 crew then won comfortably by just over a minute.

The appearance of the two Redgrave Trial Eights for Henley aroused interest with the crews under scrutiny by on-board television cameras (like the Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race), competing in two separate classes, a minute behind the race winner. They now await selection for the Henley eight, and the whole exercise is due to be screened in a TV documentary in the autumn.

Local crews' times were:
Morning: Eights: Royal Chester VD 16.28; Grosvenor VC 126.30; Grosvenor WS2 17.47; Royal Chester VE 18.51; Rex VE 19.07; Grosvenor WS4 19.11; Royal Chester WN 19.33; Royal Chester VG 19.47.

Afternoon: Eights: Royal Chester Sen 2 15.03; King's School Sen 1 16.38; King's School Sen 4 16.06; Royal Chester Sen 3 16.12; Grosvenor S2 16.14; Grosvenor Sen 4 16.26; King's School Jun 15 Winner 16.46; King's Sch Chester Sen 4 17.28; King's Sch J15 18.34; Grosvenor N 18.40; Univ of Chester N 18.46; Rex N 20.14.

Sailing

ing start to season

ow on the water and a light... ting time for the sailors in the... race, the first event of the... ter Sailing and Canoeing Club... ment of the club were less... e conditions as they made up... ts on the water. Some of the... ms and crews were also there



Ken Worden (far left) competing in his 60th consecutive Head of the River race on the Dee - rowing here with a Royal Chester Vets crew.

Veterans fly the flag for Chester in season opener



WINNERS - The Royal Chester Veterans Eight with Ken Worden (far left) in his 60th competitive race for the team

ROYAL CHESTER and King's School have celebrated success on the River Dee.

They were the only Chester-based winners at the 65th North of England Head of the River Race - the first event of the new season on the River Dee - after visiting crews had claimed the headship and 17 other pennants.

Agecroft narrowly avenged last year's defeat by Royal Chester to level the overall score in the series to 10:10.

They also won twice in the women's eight. However, Royal Chester kept their club flag flying by narrowly defeating a younger Grosvenor crew by two seconds in the Veterans race.

The only other home winner was the King's School Junior Under 15 eight, which beat St Peter's School, York, by more than a minute.

Agecroft won twice in the women's eights, but Royal Chester's novices had the satisfaction of beating all the other club eights in their class dominated by two University crews from Durham and Manchester.

Shrewsbury took the honours in school eights by finishing close behind the two leaders in Senior 1 and 2 classes.

King's tied with King's School, Canterbury, for second place in Senior 4, three seconds behind Manchester University.

King's Junior 15 crew then won comfortably by just over a minute.

The appearance of the two Redgrave Trial Eights for Henley, and five-time Olympian Gold medalist Sir Steve Redgrave, aroused interest with the crews under scrutiny by on-board television cameras similar to the Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race, as well as cameras positioned along the course.

Redgrave's crews, who included Chester-based Luke Pendlebury in action, competed in two separate classes, a minute behind the race winner.

They now await selection for the Henley Eight, and the whole exercise is due to be screened in a television documentary in the Autumn.

HOW LOCAL CREWS FINISHED:
Morning - Eights: Royal Chester Vets D 16:26; Grosvenor Vets C 126:30; Grosvenor WS2 17:47; Royal Chester VE 18:51; Rax VE 19:07; Grosvenor WS4 19:11; Royal Chester WN 19:33; Royal Chester VG 19:47.

Afternoon - Eights: Agecroft 14:58; Royal Chester Sen 2 15:03; King's School Sen 1 16:38; King's School Sen 4 16:56; Royal Chester Sen 3 16:12; Grosvenor S2 16:14; Grosvenor Sen 4 16:26; King's School Jun 15 Winner 16:45; King's School Chester Sen 4 17:28; King's School J15 18:34; Grosvenor N 18:40; Univ. of Chester N 18:45; Rax N 20:14.



The Grosvenor Vets C team



The Royal Chester Women's Novice team ahead of the opposition



The Grosvenor Women's Sculls team



OLYMPIAN - Sir Steve Redgrave takes an interest in proceedings.

Pictures: RICK MATTHEWS

22/03/06



Diamond day a real family affair for Ken

KEN WORDEN has reached a memorable milestone.

The Chester-based veteran made a record 60th appearance in the North of England Head of the River Race at the weekend.

And, although he finished the race empty-handed, he celebrated his personal achievement with team-mates around a barrel of beer after the event.

Ken, a Royal Chester Rowing Club cox, was joined at the event by his son, club captain Harvey, and Harvey's wife, Nicky, who rowed in the Royal Chester women's boat.

Harvey said: "Olympian Sir Steve Redgrave was at Saturday's race, but even his achievements can't match 60 consecutive appearances at an annual event.

"Most people have missed an odd

race here and there, but my father has rowed every year for the last 60 years which is unbelievable.

"Saturday was a real family day out for me because my father was in action and my wife coxed the men's eight boat."

Ken, a well-known local optician and a member of Chester Sailing Club, made his debut in the North of England Head Race as a cox in the King's School boat in the 1940s.

He is a former winner of the veteran double sculls event and has enjoyed regular race appearances on the River Dee.

Meanwhile, Harvey Worden will be in action for the Royal Chester club this Saturday at the London Head of the River Race on the Thames where 450 boats will set off on the Boat Race course at 10 second intervals.

CRUISING DOWN THE RIVER - the Showboat motors past competitors



ROWING: NORTH OF ENGLAND HEAD OF THE RIVER SPECIAL

Dee-lights to

CHESTER crews came under the gaze of Olympic legend Sir Steve Redgrave as they mixed with the best the region has to offer on the River Dee on Saturday.

The five-time Olympic gold medalist attended the 60th North of England Head of the River Race to oversee the two novice crews he is sponsoring as part of a television programme.

Chester crews won only three pennants with their 21 entries as visiting crews reclaimed the headship and collected 17 other pennants.

Ancroft averaged last year's defeat by Royal Chester by five seconds to level the overall score in the series between them to 10-10.

They also dominated the women's eights with two winners, but Royal Chester narrowly defeated a younger Grosvenor crew by two seconds to win the veterans' race.

The only other home winner was The King's School junior Under-19 eight, who finished St Peter's School of York by more than a minute.

There was also encouragement for the Royal Chester rowers in their first race when they finished ahead of all the other club crews in their class, behind Durham and Manchester Universities.

A minute behind the race leaders, Redgrave's trial eights - recruited in Liverpool to create a crew for Hurdley after six months - finished only 11 seconds apart in two separate classes.

They both raced under the scrutiny of on-board TV cameras and a documentary of the whole story is scheduled for the autumn.

Sadly, Chester's veteran rowerman Ken Worden finished empty-handed in his record 60th consecutive appearance in the race after his crew was overtaken by their opponents.

How they finished
Morning eights: Royal Chester VD 16.28, Grosvenor VC 16.30, Grosvenor WS2 17.47, Chester VE 18.31, Rex VE 19.07, Grosvenor WS4 19.11, Royal Chester WN 19.33, Royal Chester VG 19.47.

Afternoon eights: Royal Chester Sen 4 16.08, King's School Sen 4 16.26, Royal Chester Sen 3 16.12, Grosvenor S2 16.14, Grosvenor Sen 4 16.26, King's School Jun 15 (winner) 16.46, King's School Chester Sen 4 17.28, King's School J19 18.34, Grosvenor N 18.40, University of Chester N 18.46, Rex N 20.14.

Pictures by
Victoria Tetley



CALMER WATERS: Boats saunter down the River Dee after finishing the race.
VT1803210RACE-004



PULLING POWER: The University of Chester novices reach the finishing line during the North of England Head of the River Race on Saturday. Inset: Sir Steve Redgrave was at the Dee to film a new television programme.
VT1803210RACE-003



Picture this: You can order copies of these photographs. Phone 01244 606435

serve Sir Steve



RIVER FUN: Royal Chester Rowing Club's novice women's team.
VT1803210RACE-002



ROYAL APPROVAL: Royal Chester's veteran D team.
VT1803210RACE-001



G-FORCE: Royal Chester's veteran G team, including Ken Worden (front, middle) competing in the event for the 60th consecutive time.
VT1803210RACE-005



FRIENDS AND FAMILY: The Rex Boat Club, parents and friends of The King's School team.
VT1803210RACE-006



THE RACE IS ON: Royal Chester's senior 4 crew go head to head with The King's School in a race to the finish.
VT1803210RACE-007

City reigns at regatta



NO MESSIN': The Royal Chester team which beat Leeds in the first heat.

hk200506regatta-010



TEEN ACES: Chris Thomas and Rosie Butters, both 14, and pupils at Queen's Park High prepare for the competition.

hk200506regatta-004

Date change a success

CHESTER Regatta officials were delighted with the success of the River Dee event, which was cancelled last year due to insufficient entries.

In an effort to prevent a similar story this year, rowers were consulted and the date was changed from August to May.

Jan Chillery, the secretary of the Chester Regatta committee, said: 'It is clear that schools have a difficult time entering crews into races held outside the school term.'

'Also August is a prime holiday time for everyone, so in a team sport like rowing there is often at least one crew member who is away during August. May is a better time - despite the weather being unpredictable!'

THE 274th Chester Regatta celebrated its most impressive entry for 10 years on Saturday

Clubs from the Chester area rose to the occasion, claiming victory in 21 of 34 events on the River Dee. More than 150 crews took part overall.

Royal Chester led the way with nine wins, backed by the double triumph of Grosvenor and Queen's Park High School with six events each.

The regatta was full of close contests, with seven finals decided by less than a length and two dozen verdicts by two lengths or more.

In the eights, the honours went to Royal Chester who, with a successful partnership with Northwich, won the top event by two and a half lengths. The only local derby in this class saw Grosvenor prove too strong for The King's School by one and a half lengths.

Royal Chester completed a hat-trick in the senior two, novice and veteran coxed fours, while Grosvenor dominated the mixed senior and novice fours.

In the women's quadruple sculls, Queen's Park High dominated the junior 14 and 13 classes.

Grosvenor and Royal Chester - untroubled by their opponents in senior four and veteran C coxless pairs - then combined to win the senior two double sculls by four lengths.

But they were less successful when they met The King's School, who easily foiled their



KING KARL: Grosvenor Rowing Club competitor Karl Shone.

hk200506regatta-009

hopes of completing a third win in the novice class.

The King's School defeated Grosvenor by two and a half lengths in the women's senior four and Queen's Park secured a second double sculls win in the women's junior 14 class.

The single sculls produced half a dozen more home winners with two each for Royals, Grosvenor and Queens Park High School.

This weekend the rowing scene focuses on the National Schools Regatta at Nottingham, with competition nearer home for Chester clubs at Northwich on Sunday and Monday



READY TO ROW: Joe Rowland, 14, Tom Young, 13, Ozzy Ghobadi, 14, and Alex Ross, 14, from Queen's Park High School.

hk200506regatta-002



ROYAL OCCASION: Royal Chester Rowing Club's Laura Whitley, Abigail Pinchin, Debbie Knight, Amanda Fleck and Jo Bourne.

hk200506regatta-005



TAKING COVER: Jenny Cumiskey, Holly McCann, Abi Miller and Sophie Donald, all 13, and members of the Royal Chester Rowing Club, take shelter from the wet weather.

hk200506regatta-007



CLASS ACTS: Queen's Park High's Rosie Butters, Alice Walton, Bridget Collin, Kate Pilling and Amy Jones, all 14, at Saturday's Chester Regatta.

hk200506regatta-003



YOUNG GUNS: King's School rowers Tom Marquis, Lester Griffiths, Alice Plews, Daniel Alexsson, and Zak Hulma.

hk200506regatta-006

2010-1-06

ROWING: GB SELECTORS PLUMP FOR CHESTER ACE

Tom out to emulate Redgrave and Pinsent

OLYMPIC rower Tom James has been rewarded for last week's World Cup silver medal with the GB pairs slot for next month's world rowing championships.

The 22-year-old King's Chester product, who comes from Coedpoeth near Wrexham, pushed the world champions all the way to the line in Lucerne, Switzerland, with Oxford Blue partner Colin Smith.

And the GB selectors had no hesitation in picking the Coedpoeth rower's boat when they announced the team for the worlds at Eton's Dorney Lake from August 20-27.

Despite losing to Smith's Oxford crew in April's 152nd Boat Race, three-time Cambridge Blue James has bounced right back to put himself in the medal frame in one of the hardest boats going.

"It's great to be doing a GB boat that the likes of Steve Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent were such legends in. There's loads of history riding in it and I'm so excited about the next five weeks' training and the worlds themselves," he said.

Athens Olympian James has already got one world championship medal in his trophy cabinet, stroking the GB 8 to world bronze in Milan in 2003 when he was just 15.

The Dee rower placed third at the GB trials in April, but like Smith he was ruled out of the first two World Cup regattas because of exam commitments.

Placed in the pair for the Lucerne event, an outside chance of a place in the final was the pundits' prediction, but they stunned the rowing world by making the six-boat medal race-off in the fastest qualifying time before almost beating world champions New Zealand for gold in the final.

"There are still some big pairs to come in, like Australia, Serbia and perhaps the US, but we're in with a shout. We've only been together for a few weeks and haven't been able to do that much work, so I guess we'll be doubling our training now and hopefully finding even more speed," added James.

The duo headed for a punishing three-week altitude training camp high in the Austrian Alps at the weekend before heading to Varese in northern Italy for a spot of fine tuning.

Anyone taking part in the school is being requested to take along PE kit, trainers, sweat top, towel and change of clothes. The first three sessions are free, thereafter the cost will be £3 per session. Those who then choose to continue will be required to apply for membership - presently £96 per year for juniors. Parents/Guardians of all those participating will be required to complete and sign a consent form. This is required as part of the Royal Chester Rowing Club Child Protection Policy. Further details from Junior Rowing Co-ordinator, Duncan Little, on 07929 777636 or the Club 01244 322468. New adult members are being welcome to join the club and should contact captain Ian Addinsell on 07803 000056. Royal Chester have officially christened a leading edge competition rowing eight the 'Austen Elliott'.



TOM JAMES



I NAME THIS BOAT - Young Royals with Duncan Little, coach; Bonner Davies, RCRC chairman and Dr Austen Elliott toast the new eight.

ROYAL CHESTER will again be running their annual Rowing Summer School during the holiday period.

The Summer School is part of the Amateur Rowing Association Project Oarsome Scheme and the club's junior rowing programme.

The aim is to provide an introduction to rowing for both boys and girls finishing years seven and eight and attending schools not already offering rowing in the Chester District including schools linked to Royal Chester Rowing Club through the Project Oarsome Scheme.

It is specifically to find pupils not already involved in other sports.

Rowing is a demanding yet rewarding all year round sport requiring significant commitment to succeed at the top level as demonstrated by a number of previous participants on the course.

Royal Chester was one of the first clubs to be awarded Project Oarsome and has recently been awarded 'Club Mark' recognising the support put in place to encourage and develop young talent and the achievements of junior members.

Beginners' sessions will be held on Monday, Wednesday and Friday between 9.30am and 12 noon commencing on Monday, July 24, and finishing on Wednesday, August 23, at Royal Chester Rowing Club in Dee Lane.

Anyone taking part in the school is being requested to take along PE kit,

'Oarsome' summer school under way

trainers, sweat top, towel and change of clothes. The first three sessions are free, thereafter the cost will be £3 per session. Those who then choose to continue will be required to apply for membership - presently £96 per year for juniors.

Parents/Guardians of all those participating will be required to complete and sign a consent form. This is required as part of the Royal Chester Rowing Club Child Protection Policy.

Further details from Junior Rowing Co-ordinator, Duncan Little, on 07929 777636 or the Club 01244 322468.

New adult members are being welcome to join the club and should contact captain Ian Addinsell on 07803 000056.

Royal Chester have officially christened a leading edge competition rowing eight the 'Austen Elliott'. The boat is named after Dr Austen Elliott, chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Ursula Keyes Trust Fund, in recognition of the assistance of the Trust who had generously contributed towards the

cost of the new eight.

Dr Elliott poured the traditional champagne over the bows, watched by junior and senior members who had gathered after their training session to celebrate the latest addition to the fleet.

This purchase of a new eight resulted from the club being awarded Project Oarsome Xtra status as a further mark of its success in encouraging junior rowing. The award continues its successful Project Oarsome programme for 11-14 year olds and is designed to cater for the 14-18 year old members.

The club now has over 80 junior members and competes at the highest levels, with Chris Laidler and David Pickering having been selected to represent England in the Home Countries Match later in July.

'Project Oarsome Xtra' and the new boat, in particular, which is has been specially designed for the bigger juniors has been bought with Club funds and grant aid from Sport England.

Royals return from Belgium with International honours

ROYAL Chester members have returned from international events with medals.

At the Ghent International Regatta in Belgium, Harvey Warden and John MacDonald won bronze medals in double sculls, while MacDonald also won bronze in the

Under 23 lightweight single sculls. At the same event, Sally Orr also claimed a bronze in women's Under 23 lightweight single sculls.

At a junior international in Munich, Caroline Barrett was competing with the GB junior team and was sixth in women's double sculls

Rowing

and third in the final of quad sculls.

On the domestic front, the club's junior squad had a field day at Merseyside Regatta, recording 13 wins at their first regatta of the season. This proved to be a useful

warm-up for some of the six crews who represented the North West of England at the Junior Inter-Regional Championships at Nottingham on Bank Holiday Monday, when the girls' team were first and the boys' team sixth, giving a combined team result of fourth.

At Shrewsbury Regatta last Saturday, the club had five class wins in mixed novice eights, junior Under 14 A mixed quad sculls, junior Under 14 double sculls, women's Under 14 double sculls and Hannah Blain in women's junior Under 16 single sculls.

Fantastic four's golden smiles

18/08/06 Chronicle

ROYAL Chester RC crews raced at Henley Veterans Regatta with spectacular success.

The veteran B quad scull of Tim Birtwistle, Harvey Worden, Matthew Hackett and Paul Johnson took gold, winning the title for the third time in four years.

They beat a crew from Bewl Bridge RC in Kent by one-and-a-half lengths in

Rowing

a time of 3mins 15secs over the 1,500m course.

It was one of the fastest times of the day.

Birtwistle also won gold in the veteran C doubles sculls with Andrew Rudkin of Canterbury Pilgrims.



VINTAGE VETS: The Royal Chester RC veteran B quad scull of Matthew Hackett, Paul Johnson, Harvey Worden and Tim Birtwistle were winners at the Henley Veterans Regatta.

December 2006

www.rcrc.org.uk

The Blade

Royal Chester Rowing Club Newsletter



President retires

At the recent Annual General Meeting RCRC president, Graham Pointer indicated his desire to stand down after over 60 years service to the club and Chester Regatta.

Graham learned to row at St Edwards School in Oxford from where he gained a place at Oxford University. He rowed in a wartime boat race and after a short time in the RAF he came North and began his long association with RCRC holding many key responsibilities and winning just about every senior rowing event at the established regattas in the North West.

In a 1949 Henley Royal Regatta final, his Royals crew were beaten by a 'Lensbury RC' crew stroked by Keith Osborne, who eighteen years later moved to Chester and joined Royals where he continues to make an indispensable contribution.

He became Chairman of Chester Regatta in 1969-73 and Chairman of Royal Chester Rowing Club in 1970-77 when rowing for women and juniors was introduced. He was captain in 1980-85 and Hon Treasurer 1978-96. After 70 years in rowing, with 50 as a coach, he has succeeded Graham Pointer and has embarked on his 40th season on the Dee.



Keith Osborne

Change and Challenges

This year feels like a new club, particularly in comparison to last. We have an enthusiastic group of men and excellent coaching taking place for all of them. We have grown in numbers and have men's captain and vice captains and women's captain posts filled. We have a new membership secretary and stirrings on the social development of the club. I hear rumours of a functioning bar again, plans for food for hungry rowers and a spring ball.



Apart from the Icicle 8s event, the skills of the new developing men's squad are being kept under wraps until Chris Jackman deems they are really ready to do RCRC justice at an event in the Spring.

I am most pleased to see the increasing interaction between squads in support of each other and the club. Previously reticent and non committal rowers are coming out of the woodwork and things are happening that I never thought likely when I started this job 15 months ago.

A huge range of tasks are still outstanding; the successful maintenance days just allow us to see how much more there is to do. These jobs are getting bigger and more challenging and require money and/or skilled help to complete, but since, without any doubt, we are going to be using the current premises for a good while yet, I want to flag up some issues and look to you to offer to solve them. I must emphasise that I want those offers to come from the membership, not just the current hardworking committee and their friends.

- We need either new stages or the existing ones rebuilding using buoyancy and new timber.
- We need some attention to the slate roof.

- We need some brickwork taking down and rebuilding, pointing doing and so on.
- We need a new front windows to the clubroom - but that is in hand
- We want to dismantle and rebuild the bar to a different layout and have a steel screen front so it can be stocked. Offers please.... Money, materials and manpower
- We also need the maintenance tasks continuing.

Challenges

I want a new way of thinking when you go away to race, you will be expected to function as a club, helping the youngsters and other members, you will agree crew members to help load and unload, you will "always" re-rig your boat on returning, at the latest the following morning to ensure others are not inconvenienced.

I require you to look after the boats you use, report damage and take responsibility for getting repairs done. If there is a little ding in the hull, a loose rigger, or whatever, assume it was your crew and fix it within the next few days. Don't think, 'I am sure it wasn't us' and walk away.

Recruitment - We will be going on a recruitment campaign in the spring, posters will be printed and training set up. I want you the members to tell me where we should put these posters to draw in new members, your place of work maybe?

In Summary - Vets, prove you are not stuck in your ways and do something new for our club this year; Parents of juniors come and be welcomed by us, join the enthusiasm that is bubbling to make things even better for your kids; young adults put that pint down and make an offer to help Richard, Hilary and Steve.

A Vintage Year for Veterans

The 2006 season got off to a promising start when the 1st VIII and Vet D crew both completed hat-tricks. They both won on the Trent and the Dee, and in between, the Vet D were joined by the Vet G VIII in a double triumph at Runcorn.

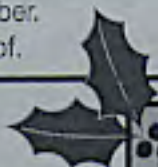
Agecroft avenged last year's defeat by the 1st VIII to regain the North of England Headship, and level the score between them in the series at 10 all. But the club struck back a week later to win the Jackson Trophy for the fastest provincial crew in the 74th London Head, for the third time in eight years, becoming only the second triple winner since the trophy was introduced.

Three winning Mixed eight were produced at Merseyside, Shrewsbury and Chester

and a triple triumph at Bewdley completed 14 wins in eights. Vets won five times in coxed 4s and 4x before their flagship triumphed in VB class at Henley Vets.

There were ten winners in 2x and half a dozen in 1x. The best day of the year was on home waters at Chester Regatta with nine wins in eights, fours, doubles and single sculls. During the year ten wins were scored in double sculls, and there were another half dozen in singles.

At Henley Royal Regatta the Wyfold four lost in the first round to Combined Services by 2 lengths, but the winners were then eliminated by Marlow by a similar margin, before losing the final to Thames by 2 1/4 lengths.



Boxing Day Scratch Races!

The club tradition of Boxing Day Races in scratch Crews will celebrate its 36th anniversary as a Charity event for the first time, to support The Hospice of the Good Shepherd. Scratch crews of adults will race in mixed eights, and Juniors Under 15 will be in quad sculls. Registration in the clubhouse starts at 10 a.m, the Entry fee is a donation of £1 per head (minimum) to the Hospice. Racing from the Kissing Gate to the Bandstand will start at 11 a.m. with the finals at 12.45 pm. On a bid to swell our support for The Hospice, members are invited to contribute a prize to the annual tombola organised by Eddie Jones, especially if they are unavailable on Boxing Day.

ROWING: SUCCESS FOR LOCAL OARSMEN

■ OAR-SOME - John MacDonald, Joe Hewitt, Andrew Davies and Martin Chandler teamed up to earn a bronze medal.



Bad start costs Davies and crew a gold medal

ANDREW DAVIES admitted he was delighted to have picked up a silver medal at the Commonwealth Rowing Regatta but believes a better start could have earned gold for his Wales quad, writes **ROB GRIFFITHS**.

Davies, 25, originally of Nercwys, was in the Welsh Men's Lightweight Quad, alongside Royal Chester rowers John MacDonald and Martin Chandler, and Cardiff's Joe Hewitt which, who took part in the Commonwealth Rowing Regatta held at Strathclyde Park in Motherwell.

After a poor start, Wales recovered and edged past Scotland into the silver medal position by just two hundredths of a second, but were pipped for gold by champions England.

Davies, who now lives in Cardiff and competes for the Rebecca Club, said: "We made a terrible start to the race and

that is something we have been working on.

"At 500 metres we were four seconds down on the leaders but came back to beat Scotland by a narrow margin, and if the race had gone on for another 50 metres then we would have certainly caught England as well.

"We are happy with a silver medal, it is a great achievement, but as athletes you always want the gold and it was a little disappointing because of the way we finished so strongly."

A Commonwealth Rowing Regatta silver medal is a superb achievement for a Wales quad, who brought in MacDonald just two weeks before the competition.

But it is even more remarkable for Davies who has only been rowing for three years.

Davies, a former Castell Alun pupil, is now setting his sights on the Great Britain trials in Boston in October.

He added: "The Olympics would be a dream come true, but I'm not sure that's quite on the cards just yet.

"I've only been rowing for three years so it would be a bit of an insult to the more experienced rowers for me to think that I have a chance of the Beijing games in two years."

Meanwhile, Nick Fearnhead completed a successful season of rowing by helping Great Britain to a fourth placed finish in the Junior World Championships.

Fearnhead of Rhosemor, who was Captain of the Boats at King's School last year, was one of two pupils from the Chester school to be selected for the GB Junior team to compete at the championships in Bosbaan, near Amsterdam, alongside Will Orchard.

The duo helped King's School win silver medal in the coxless four and bronze medal in the Championship V8s at the National Schools Championships, and were also part of the crew that went on to reach the finals of the Princess Elizabeth Cup at the Henley Royal Regatta.

And it was on the back of these per-

formances that Fearnhead and Orchard were selected for GB Junior trials, whereby they earned their place in the VIII boat for the World Championships, with Fearnhead at stroke and Orchard in the number seven seat.

At the competition in the Netherlands, GB were placed in the toughest heat against USA, Germany, home favourites the Netherlands and Lithuania, but they put in a flawless performance to finish in first place and break the course record with a time of five minutes, 38.62 seconds, shaving 16.6 seconds of the previous record set by the Netherlands International Team in 2004.

GB came home in third place in the semi-finals behind Germany and Romania to earn their place in the final, where they finished in fourth spot.

Next season Fearnhead will be rowing for Durham University, and Orchard takes over as Captain of Boats for Kings, while both have been invited to train with the Great Britain under 23s squad.



■ MEDAL JOY - Royal Chester's winning veterans squad, from left, Matthew Hackett, Paul Johnson, Harvey Worden, Tim Birtwistle.

Royal Chester do it again

ROYAL CHESTER Rowing Club crews returned from the Henley Veterans Regatta after spectacular success.

The Veteran B Quad scull of Tim Birtwistle, Harvey Worden, Matthew Hackett and Paul Johnson grabbed gold, winning the title for the third time in four years.

They beat a crew from Bewl Bridge Rowing club in Kent by one-and-a-half lengths in a time of three minutes 15 seconds over the 1500 metre course, one of the fastest

times of the day, and only beaten by a few eights.

Tim Birtwistle also won a gold medal in the Veteran C doubles sculls with Andrew Rudkin of Canterbury Pilgrims.

Meanwhile, Royal Chester are busy introducing the sport to the next generation ahead of the World Rowing Championships taking place in the UK in two weeks time.

The scheme is to introduce both boys and girls to rowing and is targeted at those who have just completed years 7 or 8

from schools not already offering rowing in the Chester district.

The specific aim is to find pupils not already involved in other sports and treat rowing as fun.

The annual Summer School for beginners is being held on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings each week from 9.30am-12noon up until August 25 at a cost of £3 per session.

Further details can be obtained from Duncan Little, at Royal Chester Rowing Club, on (01244) 322468.

ROWING: ROYAL CHESTER APPOINT NEW PRESIDENT

Another top post for veteran oarsman Keith

KEITH OSBORNE has been appointed president of Royal Chester Rowing Club.

Keith, who is currently enjoying his 40th season as a River Dee club official, has succeeded Graham Pointer.

At the recent annual meeting Graham Pointer indicated his desire to stand down after over 60 years service to the Royal Chester club and to the Chester Regatta.

Graham learned to row at St Edwards School in Oxford from where he gained a place at Oxford University.

He rowed in a wartime boat race and after a short time in the RAF he moved north and began his long association with Royal Chester, holding many key responsibilities and winning just about every senior rowing event at the established regattas in the North West.

In a 1949 Henley Royal Regatta final, his Royals crew were beaten by a 'Lensbury RC' crew stroked by Keith Osborne, who 18 years later moved to Chester and joined Royals where he continues to make an indispensable contribution.

Keith became chairman of Chester Regatta in 1969-73 and chairman of Royal Chester Rowing Club in 1970-77 when rowing for women and juniors was introduced.

He was captain from 1980 to 1985



■ KEITH OSBORNE

and honorary treasurer from 1978 to 1996. After 70 years in rowing, with 50 as a coach, he has now succeeded Graham as president.

Royal Chester Rowing Club is the oldest founder club of the Amateur Rowing Association, which has been the governing body of British Rowing for 124 years.

Founded as Chester Victoria at Chester Castle on July 9, 1838, it won its first race at Parkgate two months later, and was granted Royal Patronage by Queen Victoria in 1840.

The Royal Chester Rowing Club offers all comers the opportunity to become involved in the sport - either for competition or recreation. Visit www.rcrc.org.uk or call the captain, Ian Addinsell, for further details on 07803000056.

■ Grosvenor Rowing Club members have produced a number of fine performances in the capital.

The Chester club were represented at the Four Heads event held on the River Thames in London which attracted competition from Great Britain squad crews and international rowers.

Grosvenor's Senior 1 quad of Martin Chandler, Harvey Worden, Iwan Jones and Tim Goldsborough finished 55th overall.

The coxed four of Tim Bettridge, Rick Anderson, Paul Turner and Ste Callaghan, coxed by Sarah Armstrong, finished 108th overall, and were the second fastest senior 3 club four.

And Grosvenor's coxed four of Chris Hudson, Tim Beesley, Luke Pendlebury and Joe Robson, coxed by Sarah Bryson finished 160th overall and were seventh in their senior 3 event.

DIARY DATES

THE dates for next year's major rowing fixtures have been announced, and they are:

APRIL

7 - The 153rd University Boat Race, London, England.

JUNE

1-3 - Rowing World Cup Regatta I, Linz - Ottensheim, Austria.

22-24 - Rowing World Cup Regatta II, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

JULY

4-8 - Henley Royal Regatta, Regatta Headquarters, Henly on Thames, Oxfordshire.

13-15 - Rowing World Cup Regatta III, Lucerne, Switzerland.

27-29 - World Rowing U23 Championships, Strathclyde, Great Britain.

AUGUST

26-2 September - World Rowing Championships, Munich, Germany.