

Press Release from Bedford Rowing Club – 14<sup>th</sup> February 2010

Bedford Rowing Club held its annual Eights and Fours head on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> February. In calm but cold conditions, 211 crews raced over the 2000 metre downstream course from Queens Park to Longholme. There were over 110 Fours and quadruple sculls and about 100 Eights. Racing started promptly at 9.15 on Sunday morning with groups of up to 40 boats going off one after another every hour and a quarter.

Host club Bedford Rowing Club fielded crews from all the squads i.e. four eights, 1 senior quad, 6 coxed fours, 1 veteran coxless four and 3 junior quads and the following crews won. The mixed novice Eight (made up of the standard four men and four women) beat an eight (made up of the non-standard six men and 2 women) from local club Northampton RC by 34 seconds.

Bedford Rowing Club and Star Club had a dead-heat in Veteran C/D/E eights. The Bedford Rowing Club Veteran C crew (minimum average age 43) was 25 seconds faster than the Star Club Veteran E Eight (minimum average age 55) but they dead-heated once the handicap had been applied. The Bedford Rowing Club Veteran C coxed four of Simon Fretwell, Vince Galvin, Michael Hardy, Chris Wisby and cox Lydia Swift, beat crews from Marlow RC and Star Club won by 10 seconds once the 13 second handicap had been applied.

All the Harpur Trust Schools Boat clubs had large entries, as well as other local clubs – Star Club, Northampton RC and Milton Keynes RC.

Wins from local clubs were as follows, where more than 1 crew raced

Bedford School – Novice Eights, Intermediate Three Coxed Fours,

Bedford Modern School – Intermediate Three Eights, Junior 15 Coxed Quadruple Sculls

Bedford High School – Womens Novice Eights

Dame Alice Harpur School – Womens Junior 14 Octoples, Womens Junior 16 Quadruple Sculls,

Star Club – Senior Eights, Intermediate Three Coxless Fours, Intermediate Three Quadruple Sculls

From further a-field there were entries from University of Kent, Abingdon Rowing Club and Staines Boat Club. The Oxford and Cambridge college boat clubs are out in-force. Indeed, the mettle of the marshals was tested with the two Queens Colleges, from both Oxford and Cambridge and the two Magdalen(e) Colleges, from both Oxford and Cambridge racing.

Schools attending included Hampton School and Putney High School for Girls, who have entered for the first time.

The most popular events for both senior men and women were Intermediate Three Eights, whereas for Juniors it was Boys and Girls Junior 14 Coxed Quadruple Sculls – an event for those at the start of their rowing careers. Women's Intermediate Three Eights were won by Downing College, Cambridge and Mens Intermediate Three Eights were won by Bedford Modern School. Girls Junior 14 Coxed Quadruple Sculls were won by a composite crew from Kings School Ely and Isle of Ely RC and Boys Junior 14 Coxed Quadruple Sculls were won by Peterborough City RC. At the Veteran end of the scale, it was the Veteran Handicap CDE Eights (for crew minimum average ages from 43 to 55) with four crews drawn from the two town clubs competing.

The next rowing event run by Bedford Rowing Club is Bedford Fours & Small Boats Head on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2010. Bedford Rowing Club welcomes all ages and abilities. Further details can be found at [www.bedfordrowing.co.uk](http://www.bedfordrowing.co.uk)