

"All Together"

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE
GREAT MARLOW SCHOOL
BOAT CLUB

BRITISH ROWING CHAMPIONSHIPS: A HAT TRICK FOR GMSBC



GMSBC took three crews to Strathclyde in Scotland to compete in the British Junior Championships; the boys J18 pair of Ross Honey and James Wheal, the girls J16 coxed four of Amy Pyle, Leanna Beswick, Hannah Brown and Pippa Young coxed by Lottie Hughes and the boys J15 coxed quad of Oli Peace, Oli Emmett-Bird, Carl Smith and Jamie-Jack Westfold, also coxed by Lottie Hughes.

The Saturday of time trials and eliminators were touch and go as to whether racing would go ahead, with strong gusting winds, but racing in tricky conditions both the pair and the girls four progressed into the top seeded lanes for the finals on Sunday. The boys' quad first race with their main rivals saw them qualify comfortably for the semi-finals on Sunday morning. Sunday dawned a different day, with still a discomfiting amount of rain, but much more favourable wind conditions, making racing fast and fair. The first crew to race was the boys quad in their semi and again, they qualified comfortably in second place for the A final.

Very shortly afterwards came the final for the boys pair. They moved smoothly off the start and came through the 500m mark just in second place, but sticking to the race plan they maintained a smooth long rhythm and the early leaders soon dropped off the pace. All looked extremely good for the next kilometre with most of the field falling further and further behind and the boys maintaining about a length lead over the Thames pair in second place, however in the last 500m the opposition launched a blistering attack and the GMSBC pair could not hold them. Silver medal meant the boys missed out on selection for England but still an amazing achievement.

The boys quad then went into their final, with their biggest rivals, the Windsor Boys School and Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe. 1500m gone, only one length covered the top four boats. The build in the last minutes of the race left the crew from Gibraltar in fourth place, and GMSBC boys, having already secured bronze, were moving closer to silver with every stroke. Our boys finally crossed the line, gaining our second silver of the day. The first three crews all beating the course record!

The very last race of the entire weekend was the girls final, where they were up against Henley who had beaten them at Women's Henley and a number of other regattas during the summer. There were also a couple of strong composite crews in contention. A shaky start saw them in third position at the first marker but soon after they had moved into second position by a small margin. The margins stayed reasonably static for the next 500m but from 1000m onwards the GMSBC crew started moving further away from the field and over the last quarter the medals looked fairly clear with GMSBC in silver.

Three crews = three silver medals, a fantastic day for GMSBC!

GMSBC'S COACH GEN WINS AT HENLEY

GMSBC's very own coach, Genevieve Bailhache-Graham won the single sculls event at Henley Women's Regatta in June. This was a spectacular performance.

Henley Women's Regatta is an international event with crews from USA, Canada and across Europe competing. A record number of 1,800 rowers competed at Henley Women's Regatta over the three days with a big increase in overseas entries and nine different countries represented.

Our top two girls' four also competed at Henley. GMS's WJ16 coxed four did really well to make it through to the quarter finals, where they met their nemesis, Henley Rowing Club. The Henley Rowing Club crew then went on to win the whole event.



SILVER AT NATIONAL SCHOOLS REGATTA



Celebration erupted at the finish post as the GMSBC year 10 girls took silver at National Schools Regatta. The J15 girls coxed four: Amy Pyle, Laura Cook, Pippa Young and Rachel Pearce, with cox Georgina Agar were hopeful that they could do well; this year they have won a number of regattas and heads. The final was a three way tussle between GMSBC, Headington School, and Maidenhead Rowing Club. GMSBC and Maidenhead crews battled hard against each other for the two top slots.

The girls' 1st four, namely Fran Reynolds, Georgina Smyth, Lizzie Harper, Leanna Beswick and cox Lottie Hughes had a fantastic and courageous race, in the semi-finals. In the last two minutes of the race, they gained the crucial qualifying slot and won by 2 feet. In the final, the girls got off to a much stronger start and were in the leading pack after 500m, but possibly the intense battle in the semis had taken too much out of their legs and they were unable to hold onto the top three over the second half of the course.

The club's third finalists were the very strong year 10 boys' eight. Having won the Schools Head back in March as a J15 1st eight, they stepped up a level to compete in Championship Eights at National Schools. Making the final was going to be tough with Eton, Radley, and Hampton also in their semi-final. GMSBC, Radley and Hampton crossed the finishing line, in a nail-biting finish with just 1 second between all three of them.

The final was another close and hard fought battle with GMSBC in the medal pack for most of the race, but having to come back so hard in the semis meant in the final push Westminster who had an easy ride in the other semi-final took bronze.

Amongst the rest of the club, both year 9 octuples made their semi-finals on Friday, which was excellent. In the small boats, Dan Magnussen in 1x, Leanna Beswick and Hannah Brown in 2-, Will Cunningham and Mohan Bains in 2-, and again Dan and James Wheel in Championship 2-, all made their semi-finals and raced well.

MARLOW INTERNATIONAL REGATTA

On Saturday 20th June, the sixth form boys' quad and the year 10 boys quad raced at Dorney against a top class field. The older boys have been improving quickly in recent weeks, from a disappointing early season. They rowed a beautifully professional race in their final, keeping calm and moving well, despite falling behind the leaders early in the race. Once into a strong rhythm they moved relentlessly through the field to put their bows out in front 50m from the line taking first position, the best result of their season to date.

The year 10 boys were pitched against the gold and silver medalists from National Schools Regatta (NSR), where for various reasons they had not quite made it. They were hungry to prove themselves and establish their standing as one of the top crews in the country. By the finish line GMSBC were 6 seconds ahead of the gold medalists from NSR and 10 seconds ahead of the silver medalists. They had also just smashed the National Schools record by 3 secs, in calm conditions.



HENLEY ROYAL REGATTA

GMSBC entered two crews for the first time. A Fawley Challenge quad, our top 6th formers, and a Princess Elizabeth eight, made up of mainly year 11s and 10s. Both crews were asked to qualify and in weaker years our young eight may well have made it but with over forty crews going for 11 remaining places, it was too tough a challenge for this very young crew. However their performance at this major event bodes very well for future years.

The quad had even harder odds, with only 8 crews going through from 47. Their much improved form after picking up the training since the end of exams shone through and they earned their place at the main regatta. Their first round was sadly against San Diego, a selected crew from USA, and while they rowed an excellent race, they lost by 2 lengths to this very powerful American crew. Generously the coach of the Americans came up to Dave Read the following day to say that in the video analysis session he had run with the crew the previous evening he had made a harsh statement to his crew; *"the only reason you won today was you are so much bigger, Great Marlow are sculling so much better than you."* Following a lot of stops and starts in their progress this year the 6th form boys can be pleased with this last race together for this season.



SILVER AND BRONZE AT BLENHEIM REGATTA

On Saturday the 6th of June, a number of our year 8s and 9s raced on the lake in front of the magnificent Blenheim Palace. Despite strong cross winds, the rowers all competed successfully with a GMSBC crew in every final of the events entered.

The Year 9 girls A and B quads both made the final, winning silver and bronze respectively. The crew of the A team were Kereth Magnussen, Alice Armes, Mia Taylor and Auriane Jobbagy with Flo Braybrooke as cox. The team that earned bronze were Polly Coleman, Millie Turner, Devon de Winnaar and Sophie Denson with Mia Agar ascox.

The year 8 boys' double scull, rowed by Robert Petrea and Toby Holden, won silver.

In the afternoon, the year 8 girls' quad, rowed by Hope Smith, Rebecca Galbraith, Lucy Peace, Jessie McAuley and Auriane Jobbagy ascox, won Bronze, sadly, missing out on silver by one foot on the line.



MEDALS GALORE AT MARLOW TOWN REGATTA

A highlight of the summer racing for Great Marlow School Boat Club, has to be competing at the home town regatta. This event has grown in calibre quite significantly in recent years and GMSBC entered their largest squad yet into the event, with twenty crews, ranging from year 8s up to year 13s. The crews made 12 finals winning 6. The most successful Marlow Town Regatta in the club's 7 year history with 28 students winning at least 1 medal. The first medal of the day came from the Year 8 girls quad, Hope Smith, Lucy Peace, Rebecca Galbraith, Jessie McAuley and cox Georgina Agar, who won by several lengths having seen their crew mates narrowly miss the chance to join them in the final. A fantastic win for the girls in their first competitive year of rowing.

Later in Division I, the sixth form boys four and sixth form girls four were racing in adult category Intermediate 3. The boys – Ross Honey, James Wheel, Dan Magnussen, Edward Nunn and cox Lottie Hughes - looked in comfortable control in the heats and for the early part of the final, but came under late pressure and just managed to hold on to win by a few feet in an exciting race. The girls, also cruised through the heat but met a very large adult crew from Maidenhead in the final and despite taking an early lead they were unable to hold it to the finish line. A further medal was won in Division 2 when the year 10 girls who had won silver at the prestigious National Schools Regatta, were in action in their four and once again found open water in their final to win gold.

Another three more finals were to come when the year 9 boys double, the year 9 girls octo and the year 9 boys quad all came second against very strong opposition. All three crews had previously won their heats in style and shown tremendous potential for future regattas.

The boys year 10 eight were magnificent in both their heat and their final with the crowds supporting them all the way to an impressive win against Abingdon School who have raced as the top 1st eight in the country for the last 4 years. A great achievement for a Marlow school at their local Regatta.

The girls school first eight showed no mercy towards their Pangbourne opposition in their final, winning by 2 lengths of clear water. Finally, the last race of the day saw the sixth form boys win by just 2 feet against St Pauls School to bring the medal tally to six over the day of racing.

Fergus Murison, Head Coach said *"All of our crews performed outstandingly well and represented Great Marlow School Boat Club in the best possible way at our home regatta. The crowd's support for Great Marlow School was certainly a boost for the crews as they approached the finish line and we could not have wished for better, or louder, support!"*



THAMES VALLEY PARK AND READING REGATTAS

On Sunday 21st June, GMSBC took 16 crews to the Sprint Regatta at Thames Valley Park, where we made numerous finals. The morning division ended with GMSBC winning the two eights events in consecutive races. First, the senior girls crews won school first eights and then the year 10 boys won their eights event.

These were only outright wins but a very enjoyable days racing was enjoyed by all by a lovely stretch of river.



The following weekend, on Saturday 27th June, we returned to Thames Valley Park, this time to Reading Town Regatta. Again, we made it to several of the finals.

The year 10 boys eight unfortunately lost out narrowly to Abingdon, the girls first four to Maidenhead and the J14 double sculls to Reading.

However, the J16 girls eight won a convincing race against Pangbourne and the J14 girls quad won in a spectacular race against two Borlase boats.

INTERHOUSE REGATTA

The third Great Marlow Inter-House Rowing Regatta was held at Longridge on Sunday 12th July. Hundreds of competitors and supporters turned out to enjoy the afternoon.

Racing started at 11.00 am and carried on throughout the afternoon with finals finishing around 4:30pm. Students competed in boys, girls and mixed crews across the year groups.

The year 7s who have been learning to scull this term also took part and Joel Hammond came out on top as the winner of the Year 7 event. The other single events were won by Rachel Pearce (Year 10), Oliver Peace (Year 10), Mohan Bains (Year 11) and Holly Hammond (Year 12).

Winners of the parents' race, where four coxed quads competed were: Simon Fisher, Andrew Westfold, Martin Emmett-Bird and Llenore Coles, coxed by Corinne Fisher (year 8). At the end of the day, Warrior House won the day, closely followed by Endurance. A good day had by all!



AT THE
INTERHOUSE REGATTA
AND AWARDS DINNER
GMSBC
RAISED A STAGGERING
£4,000

AWARDS DINNER

Marlow's famous Paralympic and six time world champion rower Naomi Riches was guest of honour as more than 180 people attended Great Marlow School Boat Club's 2015 awards dinner at The Crowne Plaza, Marlow.

Naomi is a British adaptive rower who won a bronze medal at the 2008 Summer Paralympics and a gold medal at the 2012 Summer Paralympics.

Winners at the awards ceremony included:

Year 8: Lucy Peace, Hope Smith, Robert Petreaand Toby Holden

Year 9: Kereth Magnussen, Sophie Denson, Tom McIntyre and George Setford

Year 10: Laura Cook and Josh Mckensie

Year 11: Leanna Beswick and Will Cunningham

Crew Awards: Year 10 girls four and Year 10 boys eight

Outstanding contribution Award: Lucy Donovan and Edward Nunn

Overall Achievement Award: Francesca Reynolds and Dan Magnussen



CONTACT

If you would like any further information about the Great Marlow School Boat Club or the Great Marlow Swans, then please contact either:

Caroline Money, Rowing Administrator or **Piers Barnett**, Rowing Coordinator at rowing@gms.bucks.sch.uk

GMSBC YEAR 10 BOYS AT GB/France TRIALS

We were originally not going to send anyone to the trials this year as for a number of reasons certain year 11 athletes were not going to be available for the actual event and standards were not quite up to the level where selection was likely. However, when the year 10 quad broke the British Champs record by 3 seconds at Marlow Regatta in not particularly quick conditions the coaches thought it must be worth a shot.

Despite the crew being a year younger than all their competitors, they performed brilliantly and were right up with most of the other contenders. There were two crews just a little faster than the pack who then had a race off to finally decide selection.

Not this year but looks very hopeful for 12 months time.

The crew decided they would also like to have a go at the coxed four race off for the last half of the eight as they had come all this way. There was a slight issue of not having a cox but this was soon rectified thanks to Lucy Peace (there supporting her older brother). volunteering. They did not have a great row but special mention has to go to Lucy who must be the youngest person ever to trial for GB rowing!

We look forward to seeing you in the new school year in September. Have a great summer!

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