

## Nottingham RC juniors mix it with the best at the National Schools' Regatta

Written by Administrator

Monday, 25 May 2015 10:23 - Last Updated Sunday, 31 May 2015 17:52

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The 2015 National Schools' Regatta, with a record 5,479 competitors entered over three days, saw Nottingham Rowing Club (NRC) junior athletes up there with the best from schools and clubs from across the UK. Junior rowers aged 14 – 18 from Exeter to Aberdeen converged on the 2000 m course at the National Water Sports Centre, Holme Pierrepont to fight it out for podium honours. With benign conditions this year, the rowing lake was an impressive site, being lined on both sides with Spectators' and clubs' marquees nearly up to the 1000 m mark.

With initial entry numbers in the various events reaching up to as many as 43, getting to the final - being in the top 6 - is very much an achievement in itself. NRC featured in six finals races, and in two cases had two finalist crews in the same race contesting the medals. Many Championship events are dominated, unsurprisingly, by GB Team triallists, often backed by the public schools' top level resources and coaching. All credit therefore to our local open club for taking on the best in the UK, and to the support provided by the athletes' families that enables them to compete on level terms, particularly in small boat events.

2015 has clearly seen the overall standard leap forward, underlining the general strength in the sport as well as demonstrating NRC's continuing ability to move upwards with this trend.

For our home athletes, top marks went to Kyra Edwards (Internationals Cup, 19 entries) and Rowan Law (Sculls Cup, 43 entries) both achieving silver medals in their respective Championship Sculling events. On top of this, James Mawby jumped up to bronze medal, to give NRC a rare double presence at the Sculls Cup Medal Ceremony.

Bronze medal in the 21-entry Colonels' Cup also went to the Girls J16 quadruple scullers, Lucy Holgate, Rachel Heap, Hannah Stocks and Charlotte Brown with a tough final from 37 entrants. These four girls "did the double" by also getting in a final the previous day, splitting to row as 2 crews in the Simon Sears JU16 event for double sculls (40 entries).

On Saturday, Katie Swales, and Siena Hayes, both 17, pushed up to 4th in their Ferguson Bowl Final, and were well pleased to be in the mix despite being a year younger than most in this Championship Double Sculls event with 25 entries.

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Sunday's Fox Tankard Championship Double Sculls then saw NRC's lightweights Jack Smith, 18, and Harvey Kay, 17, fighting it out to also reach their final 6 from 26 entries. They finished 5th in a blistering race with no room for errors.

Nottingham Rowing Club, with 24 athletes entered in 13 events ranging from J14 to Championship level (J18) is proud of its youngsters. 11 of these individuals made finals, four medals were achieved (two silver and two bronze), with great memories and friendships forged.

On age grounds, 21 of these athletes are eligible to be here again in 2016, when they will have greater experience to draw on. There is always new talent coming through the system, and they will no doubt be accompanied by others rising in NRC's junior squad to fly the Nottingham RC flag at NWSC again.

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James Mawby collecting his well-earned bronze medal in Championship single sculls

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Girls' J16.4x- crosses the line

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Girls' J16.4x- leaving the medal pontoon