

## Outstanding weekend at Hampton Head for Nottingham Rowing Club junior girls

Written by Administrator

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The Hampton Head was held on Saturday February 6th over a 3000 m downstream section of the River Thames starting at Sunbury Lock. It attracted all the major rowing schools and clubs in the country. River conditions varied, and the organising committee warned of spells of heavy rain and strong winds.

Coaches Martin Kay, a West Bridgford resident and Declan Gamble, who lives in Radcliffe, took a dozen Nottingham Rowing Club junior girls to compete in two events in the heartland of British rowing and were delighted with the results.

The Women's Junior Under16 Quadruple Scull of **Jenna Draycott** (Kesteven & Grantham Girls School), **Abi Clarke** (East

Leake Academy),

**Bella Barlow**

(Nottingham Girl's High School) and

**Aimee Richards**

(Carlton Academy), who last week won a bronze medal in the English Indoor Rowing Championships in Manchester, won their race against 13 other boats by nearly 10 seconds, beating Headington School and Molesey Boat Club into 2nd and 3rd places respectively. This was only Aimee's second on-water race!

The coaches were even more delighted with the newly formed sweep-oared WJ18 eight of Charlotte Brown (Nottingham Girls' High School), Katie Swales (South Nottinghamshire Academy), Ella Kay (West Bridgford School), Rachel Heap (Rushcliffe School), Siena Hayes (Loughborough Girls' High School), Lucy Holgate (Sutton Coldfield Grammar School), Megan Pepper (St George's Academy, Sleaford) and Priya Jenkins (Loughborough Girls' High School), coxed by Eliza Cox, which came second in a field of 14 behind Henley Rowing Club, but took the scalps of several prestigious public schools including Lady Eleanor Holles, Headington and St Paul's School. The change from sculling to sweep-oar is relatively new to the coaches, but urged on by club Vice President Ian Wilson and using new WinTech oars, as were the winning quad, they are clearly learning fast.

Below: the girls' eight in mid-race

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