

Two wins on the River Soar for Nottingham Rowing Club Masters and five trophies for the Juniors in Ghe

Written by Administrator

Tuesday, 12 April 2016 11:15 - Last Updated Tuesday, 12 April 2016 11:33

On Saturday 9th April, a cool early spring day, Nottingham's Masters rowers won two events in the rescheduled Soar Head, an annual small boats head race on a 3,000m upstream course at Zouch near Loughborough. The race had been cancelled in the winter because of forecast high winds.

The Masters E coxed four (over 55s) of **Chris Beesley**, **Andy Townsend**, **Mike Walker** and **Shane McSweeney**

, coxed by

Clare Angus

won in a time of 12m 26s, beating younger opposition and coming third overall.

Tony Lorrimer

and

Stuart Wharton

in a Masters G double scull (over 65s) won their event by just one second.

The Club Juniors were in action too. An intrepid group led by coaches Declan Gamble and Martin Kay spent a week on training camp in Belgium and raced at Ghent International Spring Regatta. They returned with five medals: one gold, one silver and three bronzes.

Martin Kay was keen to stress that the squad had been very well looked after by the hotel and on the DFDS ferry from Dover to Dunkirk: the firm took a keen interest in the equipment and the returning medals.

On the first day of racing **Priya Jenkins** (Loughborough Girls' High School), **Siena Hayes** (Loughborough Girls' High School),

Rachel Heap

(Rushcliffe School) and

Charlotte Brown

(Nottingham Girls' High School) won the Under 23 quadruple sculls despite being an under 18 combination. They beat a much-fancied Gloucester Hartpury crew by 1.8secs. Siena and Charlotte followed this with a bronze medal in the WJ18 double sculls.

Three more medals were picked up on a sunny second day on the 2000 m Ghent course. A joint Nottingham entry of Ella Kay (West Bridgford School) and Aerin Thompson (Nottingham &

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Union Rowing Club) came away with bronze in the lightweight double sculls. In the WJ18 double sculls there were 19 entries; Priya and Siena picked up the bronze, with four Nottingham crews in the first 10. The U23 Gold medalists from the previous day then took on the Swiss national junior quad and came away with a silver medal after a hard fought contest.

The club has now returned to Trentside from various Easter training camps. The women were at Peterborough, the High Performance group in France and the men at Holme Pierrepont in Nottingham. Priority now is to prepare for the 2016 Olympic season.

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Below: Priya, Siena, Rachel and Charlotte, U23 quad winners

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Below: coach Declan Gamble with Aerin and Ella

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