

TYNE AMATEUR ROWING CLUB NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the 3rd issue of the Tyne ARC newsletter, a Henley Royal Regatta special review.



The Henley Edit

This year the Senior Squad sent 22 athletes to Henley Royal Regatta, with entries into the Wyfold Challenge Cup for Coxless Fours (4-), Thames Challenge Cup for Club Eights (8+) and the Wargrave Challenge Cup for Women's Club Eights (8+). The squad came away with fantastic results, and a number of records for Tyne ARC.

This year saw all three crews qualify for the regatta, with a record six races won between them. All crews progressed to the round of 16 (Thursday) and beyond.

It was the first HRR for a number of the squad, and also the first HRR for both the women's 8 shell (Diane Wheeler) and the men's 4- shell (Alex Leigh). The squad also received two sets of new blades just weeks before racing, so were delighted to take to the track with their shiny new kit.

Wyfold 4-

The Wyfold crew consisted of Alex Shaw (stroke), Tom Campbell (3), Ed Gaskarth (2) and James MacLennan (bow). The crew had had a strong summer season, making the A final at Metropolitan regatta, and prequalified for Henley with racing starting on the Tuesday.



Game faces



The first Tyne win of HRR

The first heat was against Lea RC, a seeded crew, whom the boys had faced in several races previously. Lea RC had a fast start, and the racing was neck and neck until the boys put in an enormous push coming past the enclosures to take a phenomenal win and progress through to the next round. Tom later reflected on the race "I thought we were going to get rowed through in the Lea race, every 100 m I was wondering when it was going to happen. I was so nervous for the race, having been beaten by Lea only 10 days earlier, but we found the speed on the day and were able to take the win".



James MacLennan steering the boys to success

Next the boys faced Molesey BC. Knowing that Tyne were tired from a tough race the day before, Molesey threw the kitchen sink at them from the start, taking an early lead. Undeterred, the boys held their nerve and rowed through Molesey to take the win again, making it to the quarterfinals.



Pre-race words of wisdom

Thursday's race was against KARZ De Hoop, a club from the Netherlands who were one of the top picks to win the event. The boys put up a tremendous fight against De Hoop, but De Hoop took the win, and the boys headed to the Catherine Wheel to celebrate a fantastic campaign.

Thames 8+

The Thames 8+ was coxed by Maisie Swindells, with Anto Buchanan (stroke), Joe McConnell (7), Harry Clark (6), Ian Shipley (5), Chris Barwick (4), Robbie Collen (3), Josh Jenkins (2) and Adam Azzi (bow). The Thames 8+ Henley campaign arguably began with a win at Durham Regatta, building through to Henley Qualifiers, where the boys beat (at least) 8 crews to qualify for the regatta, and start racing on the Wednesday.



Pushing off to race Minerva Bath (again)

As Wednesday rolled around, the Thames 8+ lined up against Minerva Bath RC in the heats – the same draw as in 2022, with over half of both crews returning for the rematch. All eyes were on the boys to see if they could make it two-for-two, and cheers rang out along the length of the course as the Tyne 8+ stormed down the track to take the win and progress through to the next day.



Storming down the track



Rousing applause for the boys

On Thursday the boys lined up against De Hoop, the same club who had but a few hours ago beaten the Wyfold 4-. The boys shot out of the blocks, but were outclassed by De Hoop, who were eventual finalists of the event. With both men's crews knocked out, they proceeded on to a night of revelry.

For some of the crew it was their first experience of racing at Henley, with Robbie Collen remarking that it was "an experience I will never forget".



Rowing past the enclosures



NUFC inspired pre-race kit

Wargrave 8+

The Wargrave 8+ was coxed by Emily Thompson, with Jen Peacock (stroke), Hannah Cowie (7), Anna van de Braak (6), Kat Bulmer (5), Beth Dyer (4), Frances Munro (3), Elspeth Chatto (2) and Anna Colley (bow). The women had had a strong season leading up to HRR, with strong results at HWR just a week before, and prequalified for the regatta with racing starting on Wednesday.



A fast start against Lea RC

The first heat was against Lea RC, a crew which the women had lined up against a matter of days beforehand at Henley Women's. Determined to continue their winning streak, the girls stormed out from the blocks, and were able to win their heat and progress to the next day.



Powering past Stewards

The next race was against London RC, a crew who had had strong results all season and were the favourite to win the heat, having beaten Tyne by over 10 seconds at a previous race. With nothing to lose, the women jumped off the start again and comfortably led London RC from start to finish, taking another win.



Another win for the women

Friday's race was against Christiania Roklub, Norway, a seeded crew. As the umpire's flag dropped, the women attacked the start and flew out to nearly a length lead over Christiania. As the race progressed, the Christiania crew began to claw back seats, and took a 1/3 length lead. Both crews approached the enclosures, and the women knew it was now or never. With 200m to go, and with deafening cheers coming from the banks, the women threw everything they had left into the race, rowing through Christiania, taking the win by nearly a length and progressing through to the Semi Finals!

As summarised by Beth later that day "my legs really hurt, but rowing through the enclosures to the roars of the crowds just made me want to take the win for Tyne".



Through to the Semi Finals!

Saturday's Semi Final was a repeat of 2021, lining up against Leander Club. As usual the women had a fast start, trying to pressure Leander as much as they could, but Leander proved the stronger crew, progressing to the final. After an amazing regatta, the girls quickly changed into their finery at the course before heading to the Blue Star BBQ to celebrate.



Post race hydration

Post racing highlights

After a hard year of training, Henley provided the seniors a perfect opportunity to relax, reconnect with old friends, and indulge in a glass of Pimms (or two). A highlight of the event is always Simon Dobson's delightful lunch on Saturday, and this year was no exception, with a delicious spread of food and arguably the best Pimms in Henley. Simon was a fantastic supporter for all the races throughout the week, and the squad are so grateful for his continued and enthusiastic support.

Saturday evening saw the annual Blue Star BBQ, where past and present members gathered to celebrate another year of competitions.



Dobba's lunch appreciators

The squad now look forward to their well-deserved summer holidays, ready to take on the 23/24 season.



BBQ fun

A huge thank you to all our friends, families, coaches, supporters and to the club for cheering us on as we chase after our goals. This was a fantastic and memorable Henley, and we hope to be able to use it as a building block for successful seasons to come.



Dobba's lunch



The squad in their first club AIOs