

BCU Canoe Sprint Racing Regatta July 2009

Regatta report – Promotions and Medals

As team leader by default, I guess it falls to me to write a report.

One thing about Sprint Racing is that it allows you to indulge in that Great British pastime of being obsessive about the weather:

- a) because as spectators and competitors who are generally camping and exposed to the elements for the whole weekend, warm sunshine is preferable to cold, torrential rain/hail/snow, and
- b) wind speed and direction can play havoc with the times, even a light headwind will peg back times by several seconds, whereas a strong wind from any direction can turn the regatta lake into the sea. There again a cross wind can favour nearside lanes over far side.

Anyhow, the July Regatta brought us warm sunshine but a slight head wind, so not bad.

We had four boys competing in under 16s – Nick Boreham, Jason Dyer, Mike Rees-Clark and James Taylor. The standard in this age group was extremely high so despite strong performances from all the boys, they did not manage to reach finals. However, congratulations go to James who was promoted to Boys B to join Jason, to Nick, paddling at his first regatta, who was promoted to Boys C and to Mike who paddled to 4th in Men's C/D 200m K2 with George Barnicoat of Cokethorpe School.

In under 16 girls, Naomi and Isobel Smith competed in the full range of K1, K2 and K4. They both reached the second final in K1 over 500m and on the Sunday Naomi reached the first final in 1000m achieving 8th over all. They put in some strong performances in their crew boats and were rewarded with a bronze medal in K4 500m with the help of Ellie Andrews of Worcester and Paula Henderson of Scottish Development.

In the over 54s (we won't ask how much over) we had Richard Somerset and Gez Martin. Saturday was Richard's Day, as he raced to gold in both 500m and 200m while Gez was 6th and 4th respectively. Richard couldn't quite match that success on Sunday coming 4th in 1000m.

The next Regatta is the Inter-club competition on September 5th & 6th. Entries to Howard by 17th August to avoid paying extra for late entries and to preserve the sanity of your team leader.

Well done everyone.

Ruth Smith

P.S. Cups of tea much appreciated.