

Ghent Rowing Camp and International Regatta

Two bronze, a silver and a gold medal concluded the second day's racing at Ghent International Regatta over Easter, no mean feat with nine nations and 1500 crews racing, many for national titles and national selection.

Twenty five St Peter's rowers went on the annual senior rowing camp to Ghent, Belgium. Two days of intense training were followed by the International Regatta which combines with the Belgian National Championships. With nine countries represented the standard was, as usual, very high. Over the two days of the regatta our crews raced 2000 metres, the full international distance, between four and seven times. It was very intense racing and some of the events had huge entries e.g. the Junior 18 boys' single sculls had 90 entries, the girls' Junior 16 singles nearly 50.

After two days' training the first regatta day had a cross tail wind but was dry. As the wind rose this made conditions more challenging later in the afternoon. Our best results were:

Gold medal: Men's Under 23 quad scull (Jack Robins, Rob Croft, Stan Schofield, Jack Coulthard)

4th/12: Girls' J16 quad scull (Sophie Haslam, Kat Bonner, Lydia Theos, Amber Rose)

5th/6: Boys J16 coxed four (Sam Gowland, Pierre Herrenschmidt, Elliot Millman, Tom Raper, Harrison Smith)

5th/23: Girls' J16 double scull (Kat Bonner, Lydia Theos)

30th/86: Boys J18 single scull (Jack Coulthard)

Other rowers produced very good crew and personal performances, particularly as several rowers had only started rowing in the autumn term and this was their first ever regatta.

On the second day, although tired from the first regatta day, there was a big improvement in most performances. The wind was calm in the morning but got up later to a strong and gusty head wind making conditions difficult and times slow. The fours' and doubles' performances stepped up relative to the Saturday races, showing that race experience overcame fatigue.

The top results were:

Gold Medal: Lightweight Men's quad scull (Jack Robins, Henry Graham, Jack Coulthard, Stan Schofield)

Silver Medal: Men's U23 quad scull (Rob Croft, Zaki Ward, Ed Johnson, George Doyle)

Bronze medal: Girls' J16 quad scull (Jodi Smith, Kat Bonner, Lydia Theos, Amber Rose)

Bronze medal: Boys' J16 coxed Four (James Smith, Kieran Whyte, Pierre Herrenschmidt, Elliot Millman, Grayson Townend)

7th/25: Boys' J16 single scull (Ed Johnson)

18th/27: Boys' J16 double scull (Grayson Townend, Kieran Whyte)

Throughout the trip behaviour and discipline on and off the water, sportsmanship, enthusiasm and effort were very high. My thanks go to all the coaches who supported this trip so tirelessly.

JM 18 April 2016