

Rowing Report 2004/05 Season

The number of oarsmen joining and carrying on in the Club waxes and wanes each year. This year, the 'senior' squad incorporated oarsmen from J16 through to J18 boys. This worked well with the School producing a set of regatta wins in an eight which it has not achieved since 1968. The Club continues to 'get by' on minimal funding for maintenance and renewal of equipment and there are crossed fingers each year when the Lune floods. The floods and gales in the New Year meant a hasty evacuation of the Boat House and an overnight encampment beside the road. Miraculously, only slight damage was sustained.

J14s

A large group of new oarsmen joined the Club this year. Saturday morning sessions were instigated to maximize time on the water in the limited amount of equipment that the Club. One group quickly established themselves as the ones to beat and they duly won the end of year Barbecue Row 'Spanner' Prize for coxed quads. 10mm spanners and lanyards were awarded as prizes in the hope that the juniors take responsibility of providing their own rigging spanners as the Club toolbox is constantly being depleted of them.



J14 Barbecue Row Spanner Prize winners

J15s

The J15s had a well structured year under the guidance of Mr.Sullivan (Bronze ARA instructor). The small group of seven oarsmen started the season with some development to do in order to catch their opposition from North West clubs. They were backed up by an enthusiastic pack of parents who followed along the river banks wherever they went. In the early Head races they were beaten by both Runcorn and Warrington. They steadily improved throughout the winter months and claimed their first Head win at Warrington in January.

By the time the regatta season had arrived there were was an established quad and a double scull of A.Flintoff and G.Leech ready to race. All crews found themselves up against top school crews wherever they went. At York they gained an important first round win against St.Peter's Sch B team and moved through to the final. Here, they met the stronger St.Peter's Sch A crew. They held the race for the first 500 metres but then tired as the St.Peter's crew pushed ahead.



J15 quad at York Regatta

The squad then had their first 'bleeding' at National Schools Regatta where they came 3rd in the first round. Danny Bellion was then selected to train and race at the National Championships in a J15 1x where he made the repechage rounds.

Wins:

Head of the Mersey, Warrington
(A.McHardy,D.Bellion,E.McDonald,S.
Atkins,E.Barton cox)
Barbecue Row – Jago Challenge Cup
J15 Sculls- E.Davenport
Double Sculls Tankards – S.Atkins

Senior Squad

The senior squad comprised of eleven oarsmen (the majority J17s together with three J18s and two J16s).



I.Fishwick at Runcorn Head

The early season training was based around single sculls and ergo work. Early on, Captain of Boats, Matthew Stott, had the edge in the singles coming 14th overall (5th in J18) at Runcorn. M.Stott, I.Fishwick, S.Durant,and B.Wilson came out on top of trials for a quad to take on Agecroft RC at Sen3. They came 5th overall with the J18 quad coming 8th. By half term, sweep oar crew boats were being formed and Ben Wilson started to develop into our fastest sculler coming 2nd at Northwich. The initial selection of S.Durant, I.Fishwick, M.Stott, M.Durant and L.Birkill(cox) for the J18 4+ was to hold throughout the season. They beat Shrewsbury School at Northwich with the quad coming second to Kings Chester.

The four seemed the obvious way to go with wins following at York Small Boats in November against St.Peter's Sch. Trials on the Lune had also unearthed an interesting additional

option. Twins are ideally suited to row a coxless pair. Scott and Mason Durant came out as the top LRGS pair. They then beat useful opposition starting with a win at York against a pair who had returned from GB Squad Trials. Early days! A J18 2x of J.Mercer and D.Sparks won at York as well. The coach had plenty to do keeping a relatively big group busy.



J18 4x- at Runcorn Head

The New Year brought wins at Warrington in three coxed four categories. The squad system was really paying off. With such wins, bringing younger squad oarsmen on became easier and the prospect of



Medal winners at Warrington

useful eight was looking possible. The squad just needed a reason to run the eight and to convince them of their potential. The opportunity came with the invitation to the Head of the Po, Turin at Half Term –see below. In the second half of the Lent term more medals followed for the coxed four and coxless pair at the Yorkshire Head reaffirming these boats as first choices for the summer. The final Head of the

winter at Chester showed the LRGs J18 8+ was getting more self assured coming 2nd behind St.Peter's Sch.

Strathclyde Regatta proved to be one of those days that come off once every so often and are never forgotten. The LRGsBC senior sweep oar squad won all of their events.



Mens Novice 4+ medal at Strathclyde

The Mens Novice four stroked by Ben Wilson led the charge over a 1000m in the morning, seeing off George Heriots Sch., Talkin Tarn, Stirling University, and St.Andrew's Univ.B.C.in the semifinals. A win looked on the cards. This later proved the case. The final of the J18 4+ event stroked by Scott Durant followed a similar pattern with the LRGsBC looking much the sharper than their Scottish counterparts. Glasgow Schools RC, and George Heriots Sch. as well as Castle Semple/Strathclyde Park BC followed behind.

The Durant twins went on to win the J18 2- event as well. Two crews from St.Leonards Sch., Nithsdale ARC, George Heriots Sch., Castle Semple/Strathclyde Park provided the opposition.



Mens Novice eights win at Strathclyde

The question was then being asked: Could the Mens Novice 8+ make it a clean sweep? The LRGsBC 8+ led the pack of Scottish university crews from the start and held on to win a memorable event. The regatta was doubling up as the Scottish University Championships and most were there. St.Andrew's Univ., Heriot Watt Univ., Dundee Univ., and Glasgow Univ. novice crews containing large students were all left trailing in the wake of the youngsters.

The National Schools Regatta in May was a wash and after we all had dried off, thoughts turned the other regattas.Successes, though, continued at York Spring Regatta. The J18 4+ raced in the Mens Senior 4 category and comfortably overcame the opposition from St.Peter's School and Leeds University. The bar was raised for the eight by entering a senior 3 event. LRGsBC beat Leeds Univ. by 2 lengths.



Figure 1J18 4+ at Henley

The J18 coxless pairs competition was a straight final between York City/St.Peter's School and LRGsBC Durant & Durant. This time the York boys got the better of the Durants. The J18 sculling competition was dominated by LRGsBC with B.Wilson beating M.Stott in the semi-finals and then J.Mercer in the final.

LRGS entered both days of Durham Regatta which proved to be a testing weekend. The top four entered Elite coxed fours on the Saturday where they beat Newcastle University before meeting the Dutch students, Skadi Rotterdam, over the long course (1800m though the centre of Durham). The strong Dutch crew won and met LRGsBC again on the Sunday in the Grand Challenge Cup as a warm up to the final against Durham Univ.

Ben Wilson narrowly missed out to a St.Leonards sculler by half a length on the Saturday but went on to win J18 sculls on the Sunday against Matthew Stott.



B.Wilson wins J18 1x at Durham Regatta

The J18 pair of Durant and Durant lost out to a strong St.Leonards School pair in the final. The rest of the J18 oarsmen battled against a strong crew from St.Leonards in J18 quad sculls. The best was saved until last when at nearly 7pm on Sunday evening the LRGs J18 eight won against a

composite Durham School/Cambois crew. In an exciting and close race LRGs were down by a canvas and then pushed through to gain half a length by the bridge and drew away to win.



LRGS J18 8+ wins at Durham Regatta

The sun always shines on Lancaster Regatta. It did for the most part of the day and crews from Tees RC, Hollingworth Lake RC, Bradford Grammar School, The Grange School, Liverpool Vict.R.C., Queen's Park H.Sch. and Runcorn R.C. enjoyed the great conditions. There were several very close races, only won by a couple of feet and even a dead heat for two unlucky J15 scullers.

Ben Wilson won five events (J18 1x, J182x, J184x, Nov4+, Mens8+) completing an impressive string of J18 single scull titles this term, winning at York, Durham along the way. His doubles partner, Adam Walmsley, only started rowing a year ago. Adam won the J18 2x, Novice 4+ and J18 Quad as well as being part of an unbeaten eight this term.



J18 2x at National Championships

There were many ding-dong battles against the Runcorn RC J18 squad. Both clubs entered two J18 double sculls crews which then came together to make quad scull crews. LRGs 4x beat Runcorn at the National Schools Regatta at Nottingham a few weeks ago and in a rematch won again, by half a length, in a very close race.

The Durant twins won the coxless pairs event in a drawn out battle against Liverpool Victoria RC. They then won the main coxed four event beating Lancaster University.

In a day capable of producing heatstroke and hypothermia in the same afternoon, a thunderstorm interrupted the racing and everyone took cover for a brief while with the LRGs Novice Four sheltering underneath the aqueduct. They then won their final and ensured that all J18 squad members won pots.

In the final event of the day, the LRGsBC eight beat Lancaster University by half a length in the Francis Russell Memorial Trophy. The eight has been a real success with wins at Strathclyde, York, Durham and now Lancaster taking the scalps of many

University crews along the way.



J18 2- S.Durant at Nat.Champs.

The four went on to Henley Royal Regatta Qualifiers as a prelude to the National Championships. They put in a creditable performance in the qualifying round of the Men's Student Coxed Fours. The crew posted a time of 7min.21 secs. and although they beat several University crews did not manage to qualify against crews with high pedigrees from Harvard, University of London and Imperial College



Mens Coxed Four at Henley

National Rowing Championships

Danny Bellion (J15 1x) showed that he has the potential by racing through to the intermediate rounds only after an intense couple of weeks coaching in a single scull from Mr.Sullivan.

Three senior crews were sent to Nottingham. The J18 2x of Wilson & Walmsley enjoyed good early round sculls but were then amongst tough opposition. The J18 4+ and J182- had instructions to win their opening heats and avoid intermediate rounds as the Durants were doubling up in both

boats. They did and moved through to finals. On a boiling hot Sunday, the coxless pair raced first and secured a bronze medal behind a Strathclyde pair and Shiplake College. The final of the four was a couple of hours later. LRGS were with the main contenders at 1000m but then could not muster the additional speed and came 5th. A hot day and some tired oarsmen.



J18 2- Bronze Medalists at Nat.Champs.

Head of the Po, Turin – Feb. 2005

LRGSBC travelled to Turin during the Lent half-term holiday to compete at the Head of the Po. JPJago came second in the master's single event on Saturday and the J18 eight came 11th on the Sunday despite having to repair their borrowed boat just before the race.

Links with two rowing clubs in Turin produced different results. Societa Canottieri Armida were extremely welcoming with their hospitality and help whilst in Turin and generous with the loan of a brand new Empacher single for the race. Offers to continue our links with S.C.Armida were made to both ourselves and York City RC. All seemed set for a great weekend's racing with the team staying free of charge at a quality hotel.



welcoming with their hospitality and help whilst in Turin and generous with the loan of a brand new Empacher single for the race.



Site seeing around Turin

Crews from as far away as Turkey made for a colourful spectacle on the river running through the centre of Turin in bright sunshine. What spoilt the trip was the poor eight that the race organisers at Societa Canottieri Esperia-Torino produced an hour before the start for the J18s. In true British style, the boys repaired the boat and raced coming 11th. whilst incurring a broken slide during the race. Needless to say, our disappointments were voiced to the President of the Club after they had promised a 'good quality junior eight'. The squad then booked into a local restaurant for an excellent meal, which helped ease the squad into holiday mode and an extra day was spent sightseeing. Turin is an impressive city getting ready to host the 2006 Winter Olympics. The local cafes around the numerous palazzos were visited and later that evening, the open air ice-rink around a city centre statue provided a great way to finish off the trip.



Head of the Po, Turin

Summary of Senior Wins

Northwich Head J18 4+

York Small Boats Hd.
(S.Durant, M.Stott, I.Fishwick,
B.Wilson, L.Birkill cox)

J18 2- (S.Durant & M.Durant)

J18 2x (J.Mercer & D.Sparks)

J18 4+ (S.Durant, M.Stott, I.Fishwick,
B.Wilson, L.Birkill cox)

Head of the Mersey, Warrington

Mens Sen4.4+ (S.Durant, M.Stott,
I.Fishwick, M.Durant, L.Birkill – cox)
J18 4+ (S.Durant, M.Durant, D.Sparks,
B.Wilson, L.Birkill - cox)

Mens Nov.4+ (B.Wilson, A.Walmsley,
D.Sparks, J.Eardley, E.Barton – cox)

Yorkshire Head

Mens Nov. 4+ (S.Durant, M.Durant,
M.Stott, I.Fishwick, L.Birkill cox)
J18 2- (S.Durant & M.Durant)

Strathclyde Regatta



Mens Nov.8+
(S.Durant,
M.Durant,
M.Stott,
I.Fishwick,
B.Wilson,
J.Eardley,
D.Sparks,
A.Walmsley –

L.Birkill cox)

J18 4+ (Durant, Durant, Fishwick, Stott,
L.Birkill-cox)

Mens Nov.4+ (B.Wilson, A.Walmsley,
J.Eardley, D.Sparks, L.Birkill cox)

J18 2- (Durant & Durant)

York Spring Regatta

J18 4+ (S.Durant, I.Fishwick, M.Stott,
M.Durant, L.Birkill cox)

Sen3 8+ (J.Eardley, D.Sparks,
B.Wilson, A.Walmsley, M.Stott,
I.Fishwick, M.Durant, S.Durant,
L.Birkill cox)

J18 1x B.Wilson

Durham Regatta

J18 1x B.Wilson

J18 8+ (J.Mercer, A.Walmsley,
M.Stott, I.Fishwick, M.Durant,
S.Durant, B.Wilson, M.Stott, L.Birkill
cox)

Lancaster Regatta

J18 1x B.Wilson

J18 2x B.Wilson & A.Walmsley

Mens 2- S.Durant & M.Durant

J18 4x- (B.Wilson et al)

Mens Nov. 4+ (B.Wilson et al)

Mens Sen3 4+ (S.Durant et al)

Mens 8+ (S.Durant et al)

Barbecue Row

Double Sculls Tankard – J.Mercer

Sculling Champion – B.Wilson

Lucas Cup for most improved

oarsman– A.Walmsley

Stephen Helme Mem.Cup – School

National Rowing Championships

Bronze medal J18 2- S.Durant &
M.Durant

J18 4+ 5th.in Final

ROCAP & Fund Raising

The parents committee and boys raised money to buy a set of new oars for the eight. J.Mercer set up a very profitable bag packing event at Booths.

The Friends of LRGS also donated money for three sets of sculling blades.



New Blades