

Wycliffe Boat Club News

When I retired as Chief Steward of the Wycliffe Watermen earlier this month I volunteered to report on news of Wycliffe Boat Club so that Watermen could keep up with what our brilliant crews are achieving. I am grateful to Laura Waters (Assistant Coach) for the following account of the highlights of the 2021 – 2022 season

Trevor Jones, Nov 2022

Scullers Head

After a short break at the start of September 2021 Wycliffe College Boat Club headed off to their first head race of the season. The Scullers Head, raced on the River Thames, is a national event for single scullers. Wycliffe took 7 girls to the event, racing in the Junior Women's 17 and 18 categories. After a tough race with windy conditions the girls produced some brilliant results with the WJ18 girls taking 1st, 2nd and 3rd places in their category and the WJ17 girls finishing 1st, 2nd, 3rd & 4th in their event. In other words they swept the board!

Henley Sculls

A few weeks later Wycliffe attended Henley Long Distance Sculls, a 3,000m race finishing at the Henley Royal Regatta finish line. It was a long day of racing against some tough competition but the Wycliffe athletes didn't let that stop them from bringing home more medals. The WJ18 Quad, WJ18 Double, WJ16 Single and J18 double all won their events while there were 2nd places for the WJ18 'B' Quad and the WJ18 'B' crews.

Junior Sculling Head

After a bit of a break during the first few months of 2022, the first race Wycliffe attended at Dorney Lake was The Junior Sculling Head. It was a wet and windy day but that didn't put off any Wycliffe crews that took to the water in WJ18, WJ17, WJ16 & J18 Quads. Despite the conditions it was a very successful day for Wycliffe, leaving with a gold for the WJ18 Quad, a silver for the WJ17 Quad and two top 10 finishes for the other Wycliffe crews.

Munich Regatta

During the Easter holidays our club captain Ella Fullman was selected as a member of the Junior GB Team to attend Munich Regatta, where she competed in a quad and came 4th in the final. A great achievement for her in her first GB Vest.

National Schools Regatta

At the end of May it was back to Dorney Lake for the biggest junior event of the year, National Schools Regatta, and with the season Wycliffe had been having, it was looking to be a brilliant weekend. Which is exactly what it turned out to be with the 2nd Girls Quad winning their event, the WJ16 Quad finishing in 2nd place and the Championship Girls Quad just missing out on the medals in 4th place. The Championship Boys Quad had a great day of racing and finished the regatta 13th in their event.

Henley Women's Regatta

On into June and the regattas were coming fast, Wycliffe attended Henley Women's Regatta and had boats entered in 3 different categories; they were; WJ18 Quad, WJ16 Quad and a WJ18 Double. All crews made it through the time trial and into the side-by-side racing, the WJ18 2x were unfortunately knocked out by Tideway Scullers in the quarter final. Later in the day the WJ16 Quad met a very strong Henley RC in the semi final and missed out on a place in the final by 1¾ lengths. That just left the WJ18 Quad who fought their way to the final where they came up against Shiplake College, after a close battle Shiplake came away with the win, beating Wycliffe by 1 length.

Henley Royal Regatta

Wycliffe had 3 crews entered into the 'qualifying event' for Henley Royal Regatta this year and 1 crew that had managed to prequalify based on their results throughout the season. The 'Qualifiers' took place in Henley on the Friday before the regatta and all 3 Wycliffe crews put in good performances despite the challenging weather conditions. Unfortunately, the boy's quad and the J16 girl's quad just missed out on qualifying for their event however for the second year running, Wycliffe qualified two girls' quads into the Diamond Jubilee Challenge Cup (the only club to have two quads in the event).

The draw was made and Wycliffe 'B' were set to race local club Hartpury on Day 1 of the regatta. After a close battle over the 2,112 metre course Wycliffe B were beaten by Hartpury by 1½ boat lengths.

Wycliffe A had a bye in the first round so faced their first opponents on Day 3 of the regatta, after beating Kingston Grammar School by 2½ lengths Wycliffe advanced to the next round where they met Henley Rowing Club. Although Henley had a home advantage Wycliffe were able to beat them and earn themselves a place in the semi-finals. This is when Wycliffe came up against international crew Redwood Scullers from the USA, both crews fought hard all the way down the course but sadly ended in a loss for Wycliffe by 2/3 of a length.

British Championships

Just a few weeks after Henley finished Wycliffe headed off to Nottingham for the Junior British Championships. It ended up being another very successful weekend with Wycliffe bringing home 4 medals, the Men's J18 single, Women's J18 Single and Men's J14 single all won silver medals and the Women's J18 double brought home a bronze.

Coupe De La Jeunesse

That wasn't the end of the rowing season for some Wycliffe athletes, though, as Ella Fullman and Kathryn Burton were both selected to represent Great Britain at Coupe De La Jeunesse in Spain. They won a gold and silver and 2 bronze medals respectively. Greg Flower, Director of Rowing at Wycliffe was also selected as the single sculler and 'spare' single sculler coach, a massive achievement for all three!

An Explanation

For those who may be a bit rusty about racing categories here are a few pointers.

WJ18 4x = Women's under 18 Quadruple Sculling boat.

The same boat of junior men would be J18 4x.

A double sculler is a 2x and a single sculler a 1x.