

EUBC NEWS

Summer Racing Season Round up

Metropolitan Regatta | Marlow Regatta | Henley Women's | Henley Royal

Exeter University Boat Club had an excellent summer of racing. As in previous years, EUBC has had a strong presence at all major events from the Metropolitan Regatta to prestigious Henley Women's Regatta and Henley Royal Regatta. This newsletter will bring you up to date with the performance of our squads across the summer racing season.

Metropolitan Regatta

We started our summer racing season at the Metropolitan regatta held at the Eton Dorney Lake. This proved to be a very busy weekend of racing for Exeter University with a large selection of boats entered into both the Saturday and Sunday events.

Highlights from the Saturday racing include:

Seun Olubodun who made it through her morning heat with ease securing her place in the final where she finished a respectable second place. Seun also raced the women's double along with Izzy Lingard where they raced a straight final to secure second place.

The Men's 8 put in a solid race in their heat securing them a place in the A final where they finished a respectable 4th.

Finally, the Men's coxed four raced a straight final to finish an excellent 3rd.

Highlights from the Sunday racing include:

The Men's quad who raced a straight final to finish in 3rd position, despite a last-minute sub into their crew due to injury.

The women's quad matched the men – also racing to a solid 3rd position in their final.

Two Women's coxed fours battled it out in a straight final. A close and tough fought race resulted in a 3rd place finish and a win for the coxed four made up of Anya George, Sophie Evans, Paige Cox, Marie Milet and cox Freya Mugford.

Sophie Evans, member of the winning 4+, said 'It was quite a surprise to win as we hadn't raced that boat before. It was a very tense race, right to the end as Thames RC were fighting for a win, having just overtaken the other Exeter crew. Overall it was a great race, especially for Freya our cox as this is still her novice year'.

The Men's coxed four had another straight final where they battled to the end, unfortunately just missing out on a win in the open academic 4+ by one second.

Overall this was an excellent first regatta for all squads. It was a chance to try out some different combinations and lay some foundations in preparations for the Henley Women's and Henley Royal campaigns.



Women's 4+ collecting their medals.



Men's 4+ on their way to 2nd place.

The weekend of the 22nd June was another busy weekend for Exeter University Boat club. Whilst the women had a strong showing at Henley Women's Regatta the men were back to Dorney to race Marlow regatta.

Marlow Regatta

The men's quad started the day, achieving 6th place in the time trial meaning they earned a spot in the A final. This was an impressive achievement considering they had a sub from Quinton Rowing Club, joining them on the day.

The 4+ followed suit winning their time trial by 6 seconds over a Canadian Crew. In the evening final they unfortunately just missed out on the win.

Sophie Figueiredo, cox of the Men's 4+ said 'Marlow was a mixed experience for our boat, we obtained the fastest time trial of our category. Unfortunately, we were pipped to the post in the A final by a highly experienced Canadian crew. This race did however prompt us to change our race plan ahead of HRR qualifiers'.

The 8+ also had a great start by coming 5th in the time trial, securing a place in the A final later that afternoon. From their performance throughout the day, they managed to prequalify for the Temple Challenge Cup at Henley Royal Regatta, a huge achievement for the boys and EUBC.



Henley Women's Regatta

Whilst the men were racing at Dorney, the women's squad had a strong showing at Henley Women's regatta. Overall, Exeter had 6 boats entered into this regatta which really shows the excellent depth in our Women's squad.

Due to the competitive nature, unfortunately our Aspirational Academic 8 and Aspirational Single did not make it through the time trial. However, it was a great experience for all girls, having the opportunity to race down this famous course, particular the two novice girls who made it into the 8.

After qualifying in the time trial, The Aspirational Academic 4+ and the Development 4+ raced their first heat on Friday evening. Despite both crews having a great start, they unfortunately could not match the speed of their class oppositions.





Tobi Olubodun, a member of the Development 4+ said 'Rowing and qualifying at Henley Women's 2019 was such an exhilarating feeling. I got to train and race with an amazing bunch of girls, who all gave it their all when we were sadly knocked out in the quarter final. I wouldn't change the experience because it had to be one of my favourite moments of racing this year and it has left us all with determination to see how much further we can go next year.'

Exeter also entered both Academic and Championship quads who had their first heats on the Saturday. The Aspirational quad drew the eventual winners of their category, and the Champ quad drew a Leander crew. Despite a solid race from both crews, unfortunately neither progressed any further.

Charlotte Geeroms, next year's senior women's captain, said 'We had not previously rowed together in this boat, but after a good period of training in both Exeter and on the Henley stretch, we felt ready for our race. We had a strong first row in the time trial to qualify through to our race on Saturday. Despite a good race on Saturday we were drawn against the eventual winners, so our Henley campaign came to an end. Although not the results we hoped for, it was a good experience for next year.'



Bella Daniels, a fresher who was part of the Champ quad said 'we had a solid time trial which lead in good stead for our next race. Being Drawn against Leander, we put in a gutsy first half. Even when Leander took the lead, we maintained our composure and determination to the finish line.'



Overall this was a great weekend of racing for the women's squad. With many returners next year, we are excited to see what next year might hold.

Henley Royal Regatta

Qualifiers

With the Temple 8 prequalifying, 4 other Exeter boats took to Henley Qualifiers, attempting to secure a place in the regatta the following week.

Despite a good run down the course, our women's 8, women's 4x and men's 4x did not manage to qualify however it was great experience for them all and we look forward to returning next year.

Our Prince Albert 4+ had a tough challenge ahead of them, with only 4 crews out of 37 able to qualify. However, they rose to the challenge and secured themselves a spot in the regatta.



HRR

Both of our men's crews thoroughly enjoyed the lead up and training to this prestigious event.

Despite our Temple 8's valiant efforts in their race on Wednesday, they succumbed very strong opposition and unfortunately did not progress any further.

Josh Tyrell, 7 seat, said 'I was lucky enough to be racing in the Temple Challenge cup. The whole campaign was unlike anything I experienced when I rowed at schoolboy level. One standout for the whole crew, as well as the PA crew, was pulling together to hire faster racing shells than we had in our own boat house. When looking back at the race I believe the whole crew gave the best account of themselves possible. We had 2 novices in the crew, an amazing achievement for them. We also have 7 returners among us, which gives me belief that the future is bright for our squad.'

The Prince Albert 4 rowed a mature race coming from behind to beat Pennsylvania on the first day. They continued to reach the quarter finals where they were eventually knocked out by a strong St. Andrews crew.

Josh Braithwaite, stroke man of the 4, said 'On Wednesday we faced the University of Pennsylvania. We got off to a slow start, however, despite being down on the other crew we remained very composed and as we came through the enclosures we rowed through the American crew. On the Friday we then raced St. Andrews. It has been very tight between us and them throughout the summer season, but this time St. Andrews came out on top. We gave it our all and we are hoping to push on next year with all our crew members returning.'



Sponsorship

Prior to the summer racing season, the senior men's squad kicked off a fund-raising campaign in order to rent better boats than we currently own at EUBC to give them the best possible chances of success at Henley Royal.

Their funding appeal was met with unbelievable enthusiasm and the men's squad were able to rent a carbon wing Empacher 8+, a 2018 Filippi 4+ and a Filippi 4x.

In particular we would like to thank Fresh Student Living for a substantial sponsorship deal, and Ann's Pasties of Cornwall for providing us with not only funding but delicious post-race fuel! Finally, without the generosity of our families and friends none of this would have been possible. Thank you from everyone in the men's 4+ and 8+.

We are currently still looking for sponsorship for the 2019/2020 season. If you know of any potential opportunities, please email rowing.captain@exeter.ac.uk.



Overall, Exeter University Boat club has had an excellent summer of racing. Our performance at Henley Women's and Henley Royal Regatta demonstrates the hard work all athletes have put in throughout the year.

We are excited to welcome a new cohort of freshers into our boat club in September and look forward to what we can achieve next season.