

Fours Head of the River

Saturday 4th November saw the annual Fullers Fours Head of the river race. The fours head is one of the major events of the winter season and an early opportunity for LRC athletes to see how the season is progressing so far. In all London boated 14 crews including 4x, 4- and 4+.

The top crew (4x) was made of senior Great Britain lwt and included 2- stroke man Danny Harte and quadruple scull Henley winner and GB sculler Rob Williams; they were joined by world champions James Clarke and James Lindsay-Flynn. The crew came a solid 4th overall - missing to the international heavy weights who occupied the top three slots. Afterwards Clarke was typically stoical, commenting "I guess top three would have been the aim - the fourth place is a good result for the club in a very competitive field".

Great Britain U23 medallist Stephen Feeney was joined by Matt Bell, Oli Mahoney and Captain David Finn in LRC III quad. They performed well finishing 18 one place behind LRC II quad made of former Irish lwt internationals including Herbie Griffin, 'Dermo' and vice captain Ciaran Hayes.

In the men's 4- the elite crew stroked by the American Bryan Kitch, found a strong rhythm, supported by Henley winners Weir and Green in the middle pair, with Bart Hudson providing his usual excellent course steering from the bow seat. They finished an impressive fourth place out of all the 4- crews which included GB squad members and Boat race hopefuls.

In the senior 1 4-'s Steve O'Connor was joined by pairs partner Wiklund and the powerful combination of Ward and Main. The Crew had a solid row to come a respectable 80th overall. Although Main acknowledge work was still to be done "its an OK start but we know there is a lot of hard work a head as we come into the business end of the season, I thought Ward did an excellent job with the steering". Ward & Co were just beaten by Killick, Fringes and last years Henley finalists Cowell and Young in LRC other senior 1 4-, the latter crew having been hindered by a crash following poor steering from another other in the division.

In the coxed fours LRC Thames Cup stroke man Danny Pring was joined by Page, Edmondson and ex-Oxford Brookes Henley winner Alistair Cordey. The power of the crew was without question and in the week prior to the event it started to show on the water. The result of second in senior 1 4+ was perhaps not what they had wanted by shows good promise. As Pring commented later "We went out to win the event - so from that point of view we will be disappointed but there were a lot of pleasing things to take from it."

LRC's other coxed four contained Bell, French, Todd and Isaac. They found a good rhythm under Bell's leadership and with Isaac offering good support in the bow seat the crew can be please with there result of 145 overall.

The squad now move forward to arguably the toughest but most important stage of the season - the hard work of the winter will go a large way to determining the results come the summer - however given the results from this weekend the squad can go into the phase with good sprits.