

ROWING: Westminster pull in the trophy

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Westminster School were the stars of the Fuller's Head-of-the-River Fours on Saturday when they swept the opposition aside in the Elite Junior race, writes Paul Warburton.

The quartet of Pierre Thomas (bow), James Fox (2), Daniel Rix-Standing (3) and Tom Fielder (stroke) coached by Bill Mason, hit the finish line at Putney in a winning 19:21.90 mins on the traditional Boat Race course in reverse, with around 2,000 oars kicking up a massive swell on the Thames over the three hours of racing.

There were more than 548 crews in 22 categories thrashing away over the four-and-a-bit-mile course in torrential rain with home-grown interest provided by 16 west London crews including Westminster.

Auriol Kensington launched five boats, with the fastest time posted by the Senior Men's coxed four in 21:17.83, although the women's coxed-four achieved a better result coming third out of 37 in their category.

Furnivall SC, from along the Hammersmith embankment, had three boats on the river, the best of which were their women's team who were less than three seconds down on their rivals from Auriol. Latymer Upper had four boats out,

with their coxless fours ninth out of 44 crews in the Senior Two category being the best result of the Hammersmith's school's day.

Sons of Thames from Hammersmith had three teams, with their women's coxed four, eighth out of the 15 teams in the Senior Twos event.