



Beccles Rowing Club – Cambridge City Sprints Report (11/05/2008)

The Senior Four Double of Benjamin Turner and Nicholas Beck brought home silverware once more from the exciting and well-supported Cambridge City Sprints event held over a tight 350m course on Sunday 11th May.

The crew were once again the only representatives from Beccles Rowing Club and they flew the Beccles flag in impressive fashion as they reached the final of both events they entered and narrowly missed out on a surprising and spectacular victory in the Senior Two final against a well-respected crew from Yare Boat Club.

The powerful duo from Beccles ripped off the line with a trademark blistering start and were up on their rivals within a couple of hundred metres, despite the traditional head start for the crew on the outside of the sprint bend. Their power clearly surprised their opponents, who nevertheless used all their experience to finally come out on top in an exciting race.

The Beccles duo were buoyed by their competitiveness at the much higher status level and went on to claim victory and another pot for the shelf in the Senior Four Double Sculls final in a marvellous race, which they eventually won by the smallest possible margin of a bowball.

The Beccles crew gave themselves everything to do against the esteemed Cantabrigian Club in the final after giving up their major advantage with an uncharacteristically horrendous start which left them floundering on the start line. Their opponents already had a length head start from the race stagger – enough to ensure that the majority of boats on the outside won all day – and they now found themselves well down. However a monumental effort of grit and bloody-minded determination, plus fantastic support from the neutrals on the bank, saw them draw almost level with fifteen strokes to go. Deep oars saw the pair give up the momentum advantage at a crucial moment, but Viking spirit saw the pair dig deep into their competitive will to win in the last ten strokes to haul the boat over the line to the narrowest of victories, much to the delight of the crowd.

Those interested in joining or supporting Beccles Rowing Club are encouraged to visit www.becclesrowingclub.co.uk.