



Beccles Rowing Club – St Neots Regatta Report (27/07/2008)

Historic Day for Brilliant Beccles

Beccles Rowing Club celebrated the formal opening of their fabulous new boathouse in sensational style at the prestigious St Neots Regatta by equalling the most successful day in the club's competitive history, coming away with four fantastic event wins on Sunday over the flagship 500m course.

Phil Marler sauntered serenely home in the Vet Senior Three Singles category, Matt Lawes and Mark Banham sealed debut pots in the Novice Double Sculls, Benjamin Turner pulled off a surprise victory in the Senior Four Singles category and Marler and Turner teamed up to romp home in the Vet Senior Three Double Sculls event to crown a marvellous day's racing for the club.

The event, which was watched by a crowd of thousands, saw crews enter from all over England with clubs from Maidstone, Manchester, Stoke, Stratford and Leeds represented, as well as established rivals from Cambridge, London, Peterborough, Newark and many other clubs from the Eastern region.

The day started slowly for Beccles as first the men's four was forced to pull out of their early draw due to withdrawals. The Mixed four of Mark Adcock, Liz Beedham, Rebecca Haste and Chris Humphries then took to the stage, ably coxed by Stuart Lamb, but were beaten in the first round.

Lawes and Banham raced in the 1000m event on the Saturday in the Novice Double, cruising through early rounds against Norwich Union and Maidstone, only to miss out by a canvas to Rob Roy of Cambridge in a very tight race. Lawes won his early round in the novice single against Globe of Greenwich, but was beaten by the eventual winner of the event from Newark in the second round. He also missed out unluckily by the narrowest of margins, a bowball, in the 500m Novice singles event. Success deservedly came however when Lawes and Banham teamed up again and claimed their debut pots for Beccles in the Novice Double over the 500m course and they moved up to Senior Four status in the process. The crew raced positively throughout and whilst helped by a dramatic capsize by Maidstone in the semis, they showed class and determination in the final to ease past Norwich Union in impressive fashion.

Phil Marler had a fabulous day, comfortably winning both events that he entered in typically attractive and fluid fashion. In the Vet Senior Three Single category neither Peterborough in the semis, nor Boston in the final, had any answer to his efficient power and technical superiority as he put another pot on the shelf. Marler then



teamed up with Benjamin Turner to record another solid victory in the Vet Senior Three Double Sculls against a combined RAF and Newark crew in the final. The recently formed crew showed potential and an abundance of power to romp home comfortably.

Turner then capped a memorable day for Beccles when he unexpectedly won the Senior Four Singles event in only his sixth outing in a single. After cruising past Globe of Greenwich in the Quarters with something to spare, he was made to work hard by the winner of 1000m Novice event from Newark in the semis, but kept his opponent at bay throughout with some timely surges. In the final Turner was briefly behind off the start against Peterborough, but applied heavy pressure and rowed through his opposite number, who then lost composure, hit a buoy and capsized allowing Turner to cruise home and move up to Senior Three status.

Beccles Rowing Club Captain Jon Benest- Bartram commented proudly: "This equals the greatest racing day in the club's history and it is perfect timing that it coincides with the opening of our wonderful new boathouse facility. We thank all those who have helped us and we hope that are repaying them a little by bringing trophies and success to Beccles"

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