



## Beccles Rowing Club – Peterborough Regatta Report

Beccles Rowing Club sent five strong crews to race at the Nationally-recognised Peterborough Regatta, where they were up against some of the best clubs and individuals that Amateur Rowing has to offer. The benchmark event is hugely well attended and boasts a purpose built multi-lane 500m course and attracts crews from all over the country. As well as the usual suspects such as Oxford, Cambridge and major clubs from the Thames, the north was well represented and naturally the more local Peterborough and Bedford crews were typically strong.

Beccles crews set off at dawn for an early o'clock race start and were given a great early boost with a superb performance from James Gilbert in his Novice single. James is fast becoming a central figure at the club with a great deal of off-the-water work, now allied with some real race pedigree. He had a slow start in his heat and was last at the halfway mark, but an incredible surge of controlled power saw him win his heat in spectacular fashion. There was more than a hint of well-coached class in his performance as his rating hardly rose as he romped through the field and into the semi-final, much to the delight of his Beccles fans.

Captain Phil Marler and John Cowan were next to take to the water in their Intermediate 3 Double Scull. A powerful, but controlled race saw them finish in a comfortable second place to a polished crew from Bedford. They progressed smoothly to their semi-final with something to spare.

Conditions then took a considerable turn for the worse and James Gilbert, racing well above his status at Intermediate 3, was made to wait for his opponents in cold, wet weather. James raced well and finished a creditable third, showing no signs of fear at the higher level. Gilbert then returned to his actual status of Novice for his semi-final, though was still somewhat suffering the after-effects of getting extremely cold, which was not ideal. He performed gamely to come in third in his semi-final, but over the course of the event showed bundles of exciting promise and he is certainly one to watch for the future. Skilled, powerful and hungry for pots, he will certainly be the focus for some intense coaching going forward.

Marler and Cowan were then back in action in their Double Scull and were thoroughly impressive, with a comfortable win in their semi-final, combining power and precision to completely dominate good opposition and bag an excellent central lane draw for the final. Their experience and hard-racing style certainly marked them out as potential winners.

The men's Veteran Novice Double Scull then took to the water with Mark Adcock and Mark Taylor on board, in a big, powerful crew combination. The crew were racing in a relatively unfamiliar boat, but performed solidly to claim a comfortable third place, which was what was required to see them into the final later in the day.

The two Marks then teamed up with Marler and Cowan to form a monstrous Men's quad, which has power to burn. Also requiring a third place to reach the final, they achieved their goal in a very tight semi-final, coming home by a short head in second place, again claiming an important central lane draw in the process.

There was no rest for Adcock and Taylor as they once again took centre stage shortly afterwards in the Men's Double scull novice final. The powerhouse pair left nothing on the bank, but came home in third place against some high class final opposition. The two Mark's are a rapidly-improving combination and they will continue to challenge for silverware throughout the season.

Captain Marler and Cowan were out next for their Intermediate 3 Double Scull final and despite an impressive row, they too found themselves crossing the line in third place. The Beford crew from their earlier heat proved have more in the tank and their quality was noticeable.

The Men's quad completed an excellent run for Beccles, with three finals reached from five crews entered, though once again the Beccles four came in third after an extremely close, hard-fought final which was one of the very fastest races of the day. Once again Beccles gave it everything they had on a day when margins were tight for the silverware. The support on the bank for Beccles was excellent as usual with Clare, James, Erin and Kelly particularly voluble on the sidelines.

Captain Phil Marler commented after the event "This is a fundamental part of what Beccles Rowing Club is about, competing at the high end of rowing for silverware. We have the structure, the equipment and the coaching in place to really put Beccles on the national coaching map. What a fabulous opportunity for all of us. Let's step up to the plate and do what it takes to be successful."

Those interested in competitive rowing, and would like intense bespoke coaching, should contact Captain Phil Marler via [www.becclesrowingclub.co.uk](http://www.becclesrowingclub.co.uk)