

British Rowing Junior Championships 2022

Summary Report

Events held at Holme Pierrepont are quite regularly hit by wind and rain but as far as I can remember this is the first time hot weather has affected the racing schedule. With the removal of the semi finals the time trial results increased in significance for those crews hoping for A Final positions and the chance of a medal.

With 11 crews out of 64 reaching the A finals this was a big improvement on last year and to come away with 4 gold medals a great achievement for the clubs involved.

Chester le Street continue their run of single scullers medalling at Champs with Johnny Cleugh (J14) and Harvey Burford (J16) getting Gold medals. These boys have been unbeatable on the local circuit and went into their final races with a great deal of pressure and expectation from parents, coaches and all in the northern region. They again demonstrated on the national scene that they not only have the technical capability but also have the true character traits necessary to be successful in single scull events at the higher level of competition.

Tyne ARC have also provided outstanding single scullers in the past and in their current cohort it was Issy Johnson who added to that group with Gold in the WJ15 Single Sculls. She set her stall out early in the A final with a great start and a determination to dominate the field, giving her a 5 second lead by 500m. However, in the final stages a battle developed between Falcon RC and AB Severn RC for the Silver medal and this was bringing them closer to Issy. She responded to the danger and hung onto the gold medal position.

The WJ14 coxed quad from Hexham RC have had a successful season. They had already gained the Holme Pierrepont experience by attending JIRR 2022 where they came 6th in dreadful conditions. This time they demonstrated they were the crew to be beaten by coming first in the time trial, with a 5 sec margin, giving them the prime lane in the A final. However, in the A Final Henley were determined Hexham were not going to have it their own way and Henley crews are known for their ability to step on in finals where medals are at stake. At 500m there was only 0.3 sec between the crews and it was only in the final 200m that the Hexham crew managed to create a lead that took them to the Gold medal.

The above accounts focus on those who achieved medals but there were another 60 crews who all represented the region in a favourable way, many achieving better final positions than they originally expected. This is highlighted by the number of crews achieving high positions in the minor finals. These crews prepared for the event and have gained valuable experience, which they will take into next year. Hopefully, enabling them to be better prepared to attend and be more successful in 2023.

A full list of northern results by event and by club will appear on NEROWING and shortly there will be comparative data with previous years.

Enjoy the summer break

Pauline