**Tees Regatta 2019:**

**Report to Tees RC AGM 15th March 2020**

**Summary**

The competition took place on Saturday May 18th on the River Tees. The course was the same as for recent years: upstream with the free start 200 m from the Barrage to the finish by the River Tees Watersports Centre. The 4 lane 850 m buoyed course was laid out and provided a majority of multilane races. The regatta ran from 8:30 to 19:00, with races every 4 minutes in 3 divisions. Results are on the Tees RC website.

We had good weather. Red Cross provided First Aid cover. There were no significant safety issues.

The Mayor of Stockton on Tees attended but in a change from previous years there was no formal presentation at the end of the day.

As ever, I would like to thank all club members, family members, friends and other volunteers who made the regatta successful, and raised significant funds for the club. The feedback from our visitors – athletes, coaches, umpires and supporters – was unfailingly positive.

**Racing**

We received 364 entries by the closing date, and were able to accommodate nearly all. Of the 360 crews in the draw, 347 raced. There were 690 competitors, with “rowing ages” from 11 to 78.

The following boats competed:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 8x+ | 8+ | 4+ | 4- | 4x- | 4x+ | 2- | 2x | 1x | Total |
| 2019 | 8 | 17 | 21 | 7 | 41 | 52 | 6 | 105 | 90 | 347 |
| 2018 | 4 | 14 | 19 | 2 | 35 | 57 | 7 | 95 | 102 | 335 |
| 2017 | 2 | 9 | 24 | 0 | 27 | 54 | 5 | 97 | 113 | 331 |
| 2016 | 2 | 18 | 34 | 2 | 29 | 45 | 6 | 123 | 106 | 365 |
| 2015 | 0 | 14 | 24 | 0 | 29 | 43 | 7 | 101 | 75 | 293 |
| 2014 | 1 | 9 | 22 | 0 | 15 | 50 | 0 | 89 | 81 | 267 |

It was great to see 4-boat races for both Open and Women J14 Octuples, and a healthy number of 8’s racing. There was a small fall in Junior entries, to 208 (2018: 223; 2017:177). There was a welcome rise in Senior entries to 94 (78; 119; 138). Masters entries were unchanged at 58 (2017: 51). Open and Women entries were 174 and 176 respectively, and there 10 Mixed entries in 1 Senior and 3 Masters events. Again we did not receive any enquiries for adaptive or para-rowing.

We were pleased to welcome 15 visiting clubs, schools, colleges and universities from the Northern region, up slightly from 2018. 7 clubs attended from outside the region, down slightly from 2018, but again there were no Scottish visitors.

The draw had 146 races, equally divided between 3 divisions. Because of scratchings, we were able to combine remaining crews into straight finals on the day and lose 8 races, which made keeping to time easier. 2 events with straight finals were lost because of scratchings, although 1 crew was found another event. Racing was scheduled from 8:30 until 19:02. (Can’t remember and didn’t note down if we were late starting or finishing.)

**Racing organisation**

We moved to Oar-Online software to prepare the draw and enter results. It produces updated race schedules as crews progress, and these were printed and distributed to the start, marshals and umpires. We may now be confident enough to do away with the manual recording of results at the start and commentary. The results and composition of races are also uploaded onto Twitter so competitors and coaches can view them on their phones. We are very grateful to Richard Mortimer of Durham ARC for adapting his software for our 4-lane course, and assistance before, during and after the regatta.

**Financial**

This year we had both our major events, the May regatta and the autumn Small Boats Head.  In consequence we received £9,676 from entry fees as against £7014 in 2018 when we lost the SBH due to weather.  In 2019 the Regatta raised a surplus of £5,315 as against £2,319 in 2018.  The Regatta Committee were able to release £7,000 to the Club’s general funds this year whilst retaining a reserve for funding the 2020 events, in particular the Regatta where we need to maintain and improve the regatta course (which is arguably the best multi lane buoyed course north of Nottingham) as well as provide excellent facilities and racing on the day.

 The funds would not be generated without all the willing volunteers making the events possible, in particular the army of cake and sandwich makers who support the catering team and its brilliant contribution to the Regatta surplus (£4,349 ((£1,902))."

**Specific points**

We are grateful to the Canals and Rivers Trust, Stockton Borough Council and our own members for clearing driftwood from the river and the banks. Stockton, Thornaby and District Scouts manned the car park once all the trailers had arrived, provided PA and the Finish Box. Stockton Borough Council very generously printed the bulk of the Regatta paperwork for us, provided gazebos and the riverside car park.

We must also thank umpires. The regatta would not run without them. As ever, we need more umpires to keep our events running – please consider signing up for the free training and helping rowing in the region.

A wrap-up meeting was held and some action points identified.

Square Blades had a ‘pop-up’ shop which appeared to work well

**SBH/LDS (from Alan Puddick)**

Good turnout, good weather (especially welcome after last year’s cancellation).

We had a record number of entries for both the LDS(203) and the SBH (171). The number of participants in the two events was almost identical (467 v 464) as there tends to be larger boats in the afternoon. We had agreed to restrict the number of boats to around 200 so some were turned away for the LDS – this is under review.

Usual grateful thanks to all the volunteers – one problem of increased numbers is the requirement for more volunteers which became an issue as we would have liked more helping hands in some areas – i.e. more help needed.

**This year’s regatta - 16th May**

The 2020 Regatta will run substantially similar to the 2019 one (subject to Coronavirus advice).The call for volunteers will appear soon – the regatta is only 2 months away! We need a good turnout for preparation, running the event and tidying up. As usual, you need to volunteer for at least 1 division in order to be entered. We aim to give our visitors an enjoyable day, with a well-run and competitive regatta. I know the Club will give them a great welcome.

Stephen Heath
Tees Regatta Chair
14th March 2020