

STIRLING ROWING CLUB MAKE WAVES AT STRATHCLYDE PARK

Stirling Rowing Club enjoyed a record number of entries at Strathclyde Park Regatta last weekend 28th and 29th April with a team of 34 competitors compared to 10 just three years ago. Strathclyde Park which will also host the European Rowing Championships this August, welcomed over 40 clubs to the competition including teams from the North East of England and Northern Ireland.

Stirling had a broad range of abilities and ages competing with the youngest member of the team being 11 and the oldest at 71. For some members of the club it was only their second competition.

Saturday presented some tough conditions with strong winds and waves along the course but the Stirling crews put in a strong and steady performance with many crews qualifying for finals and medals won in the Women's Master B Novice Coxed Quad for S Engstrom, K Aberdeen , M Buchan, J Robson and S Brett and Silver in the Women's Novice Double for J MacLennan and E Butler.

On Sunday calmer water with some sunny spells made for better rowing conditions – ideal for some of the younger juniors who were competing in the single sculling events. Stirling had some strong performances in the morning but built on their medal successes throughout the day with wins in the Open Masters FG Single Sculls for W Brown, Open Restricted 1 Double for G Hall and R Marchbank, Women's Restricted 2 Double Scull for N Firth and L Arnott, Open Restricted 1 Quad for R Marchbank, G Duff, J Dunse and K Plank and a brilliant Silver for R Waddell, Q McDonnell, J Matthews, R Reid and L Arnott in the Junior 14 Coxed Quad.

One of the main highlights of the weekend was a win in the Open Masters FG Quad for D Sannachan, A Hilley, I Robb and D Plank who have a combined age of 266 years in their boat and over 150 years of rowing experience. They showed the youngsters how it is done! We also had three crews from Stirling competing in the Women's Restricted 2 Double scull – all of whom made it through to the final! It was also the first regatta outing for Stirling's new 'Eight' boat racing against Belfast and Tyne who just pipped Stirling by inches in the Masters event in one of the closest races of the weekend.

As always the club could not achieve this success without the many volunteers and parents who ensured Stirling crews had a well organised team and strong vocal support over the weekend.

The next event for the club is Castle Semple Regatta on Saturday 12th May.

