

Aberdeen Boat Club's Report written by Charlotte Delcros

A group from our Women's Masters Squad made the long journey south to Nottingham for the British Rowing Masters Championships. Lead by coach Gary Bain, and only a week after a successful Scottish Championships campaign, the squad had eight full-ABC entries, as well as three rowers in a composite 8+. The squad were also able to provide 5 coxes for other clubs.

Our first race of the Saturday was in the W 50+ 8+, in a composite with Walton RC and Star Club. The conditions at the start were challenging, but the 8+ managed to attach and stay aligned whilst the other competitors had more complications. The crew managed to keep calm in the disorder surrounding them and used this attitude to pull away from their opposition and win their race.

The third block saw four ABC 2x crews' race, with two of our entries in W B 2x, one in W C 2x, and one boat in W D 2x. The W B 2x of McCormick and McCulloch came second in their heat and progressed to the final where they came fifth. ABC also had a W 36+ 4+ entered in this block, who were able to position themselves at the front of the pack early in the race. They managed to keep this position until the finish, adding a medal to the ABC haul to round off day one.

Sunday saw more of our fours and eights race, with coxed fours off first. The W C 4+ came fourth in their final, a fraction of a second off a bronze medal. The W B 4+ were in a two-boat final but lost their race by two seconds.

Our Women's Masters C 8+ had a strong start in their Championship event on Sunday, leading from the outset. They faced strong competition from the B crew from London Rowing Club but ultimately kept them at bay to claim the gold medal.

Block 3 had our last ABC boat, the W B 4- who raced in a final combining Masters B and C crews. The C crew who started first held that position till the end, with ABC and London RC fighting it out for silver. Ultimately, ABC finished in the bronze position.

After that, it was hands on for the whole group, in order to get the final boat de-rigged, and the trailer loaded for the long journey back to Aberdeen. In what was probably one of the day's most impressive times, we were able to leave Holme Pierrepont at 16:10, only 40 minutes after our last crew left the medal pontoon, ready for a 10-hour drive home.

Aberdeen Boat Club displayed strong performances across the weekend. Sweep rowing was particularly successful with everyone competing in a 4+/- or 8+ winning a medal in at least one event. A special mention also goes out to our members who helped other clubs out by stepping in the cox's seat, helping two of these crews onto the medal podium. We had four members volunteer to cox Tideway Scullers School boats, with a bronze medal in the Op D 8+ event, as well as one who coxed an eight-club composite W E 8+ which finished in first place.

