



*Jaggs/Pilkington portage Crofton Bottom Lock. The previous day the water level had been higher.*



*Prins-Mills/Teeuwen swimming at Crofton.*



*Likewise de Dreu/Hoff.*



*Mixed juniors Davies/Sumpton cross the bywash.*

New safety rules this year related to lights, spraydecks for C2s and yellow dayglo hats for nonstop crews. A planned relay race had no takers so that idea is unlikely to surface again. The tracking system is useful once you have got the hang of it. For example, it showed a crew some way from the river at Palmer Park in Earley, among those who retired.

Water levels promised fast times in the boat but difficult conditions on the slippery mud out of it. Most injuries over the years have related to head collisions with bridges and nearly all the swing bridges on the canal had to be portaged this year as the water level was too high to get

under them. Guy Dresser said he had never seen the canal so high in his 30 years of involvement with the race.

Crofton Bottom Lock was more difficult than any proceeding it. On Maundy Thursday the towpath had been underwater and there was a line of powered craft moored below it, waiting to ascend. The lock was still brim full on Good Friday with water flowing over the gates at each end. Some of the problems were illustrated as de Dreu/Hoff, one of only half a dozen Endeavour crews, launched. They were joined by Prins-Mills/Teeuwen, last year's junior winners and one of only two



*Third placed junior ladies Freer/Griffin at Honeystreet.*



*Winning junior ladies Kiggell/Diggle at Crofton.*