



*Start of the men's K1 200m final.*

now facing a charge of £110 per day just to park on the grass. The only retailer present was a local ice cream van normally on the far side of the course, so paddlers expecting to be able to replace items broken or left at home were in trouble. The loss to traders of not being in their shops over the weekend, effort in loading and unloading vans, driving to Nottingham and staff wages and accommodation mean that supporting the event is just not viable.

The change of the month brought a change in the weather. Although the light drizzle of the overcast Saturday morning died away and there

were sunny intervals, the headwind was to build up through the day. This was not to be a regatta for breaking records.

It is often said that numbers of competitors are boosted by the short burst of interest of the media with the Olympics every four years. Entries belie this. Hardest hit are the masters classes, numbers well short of their pre Covid levels. If adults do not come, they do not bring youngsters with them. The canoe classes have long struggled for numbers but even major kayak classes often did not need all lanes for finals. Three and two boat finals were not unusual. There was even the



*K4 500m race. Note the trade stand area.*



*Lee-Smith leads Burgess in the women's 200m.*