



*Amathus take the S14 senior final from Secklow by exactly one second.*

dropped off by car at team tents. The long march to reach these is not acceptable for everyone, least of all for amputees. Presumably the Serco parking arrangements have some bearing on this problem.

Saturday began calm and sunny although a light headwind developed during what proved to be a long day of mostly 200m races. After working through heats, repechages and semi finals, the first grand final was for the S20 open, taken by Wraysbury, followed very closely by Secklow Hundred from Milton Keynes and Amathus from Liverpool, just 0.37 sec separating these first three.

The S14 women's final saw another Wraysbury win from Soaring Dragons of Loughborough and Secklow. Wraysbury failed to start in the corresponding men's event, the win going to Secklow from Amathus and Soaring. The excitement here was for 3rd to 5th places, 0.08 sec separating Soaring from Notts Anaconda and St Neots.

Crews take their pace from their drummers, not so easy when there are several other drummers in action close by. The Soaring drummer in the S14 senior class was wearing bright orange sleeves to make his arm movements more conspicuous to his crew who, like Three River Serpents from Durham and Manvers of Rotherham, had a mixed crew. Wraysbury were top dogs again from Three River Serpents and Manvers in the grand final.

The S20 mixed title went to Amathus from Wraysbury's only 2nd place and Typhoon of London.

Because of the problems of boat sharing and the need to unload and load large crews there is a tendency for delays to accumulate and this was the case today with the 2km race being nearly an hour late, well after sunset with the last finish at 7.15, making it hard for officials to distinguish the silhouettes of finishers against what remained of the light.

A dragon boat is not the easiest of beasts to handle on the turns. Rounding the top turn for the second time, one of the Preston boats took off with a 270° turn which pushed it to the tail end once control had been regained. There were five open crews, Wraysbury winning from Amathus. First of the 18 mixed crews, the next fastest boat, was Secklow.

Blustery conditions overnight had blown through by the morning but some crews were caught out by the closure of Adbolton Lane for the Maid Marion running marathon.

This was the day for 500m races. The cup minor final for the S20 mixed crews was won by Three River Serpents B but there was a dead heat for the next place, 8th overall, between Bristol Empire and Typhoon. The major final was taken by Wraysbury again from Amathus and Secklow, the remaining crews well behind.

Much the same happened in the S14 women's grand final, Wraysbury leading Soaring and the others strung out behind.

Once again time was slipping and some minor finals and repechages were pruned from the programme to assist those with long journeys home. Such was the case with the S14 men, Amathus with a narrow win over Secklow, the others trailing. The S14 seniors were similar, Wraysbury winning from Secklow.

The final race of the championships was the S20 open, Wraysbury with a massive 6 second win over Secklow then Notts Anaconda and Amathus.

Of the 11 national titles up for grabs, Wraysbury took eight plus a 2nd place, having failed to contest the S14 men's events.



*Wraysbury beat Soaring Dragons in the women's S14 500m final.*

- 200m:** S14W: 1 Wraysbury, 59.78. 2 Soaring, 1:00.26. 3 Secklow Hundred, 1:00.74.  
**S14M:** 1 Secklow Hundred, 51.93. 2 Amathus, 52.23. 3 Soaring, 53.51.  
**S14S:** 1 Wraysbury, 51.91. 2 Secklow Hundred, 53.98. 3 Manvers, 56.46.  
**S20Mix:** 1 Amathus, 52.24. 2 Wraysbury, 52.58. 3 Typhoon, 53.47.  
**S20O:** 1 Wraysbury, 50.24. 2 Secklow Hundred, 50.41. 3 Amathus, 50.61.  
**500m:** S14W: 1 Wraysbury, 2:42.80. 2 Soaring, 2:44.27. 3 Amathus, 2:49.25.  
**S14M:** 1 Amathus, 2:18.22. 2 Secklow Hundred, 2:18.42. 3 Manvers, 2:24.62.  
**S14S:** 1 Wraysbury, 2:22.58. 2 Secklow Hundred, 2:23.58. 3 Manvers, 2:31.47.  
**S20Mix:** 1 Wraysbury, 2:12.34. 2 Amathus, 2:12.96. 3 Secklow Hundred, 2:15.01.  
**S20O:** 1 Wraysbury, 2:07.52. 2 Secklow Hundred, 2:14.01. 3 Notts Anaconda, 2:14.94.  
**2km:** S20O: 1 Wraysbury, 9:54.12. 2 Amathus, 10:00.48. 3 Secklow Hundred, 10:23.74.

## New IDBF president

Claudio Schermi of Italy has become ICBF president. It is the first time the president has not been British, Mike MacKeddie-Haslam and Mike Thomas being the first two holders of the post.

## Extra day for large entry

The programme for the 19th European Club Crew Championships in Ravenna had to be increased from four to five days because of the large number of entries. Unfortunately this resulted in extra costs for both competitors and organizers.



*Interesting times for a Ukraine crew in the 16th world nations championships in Pattaya, Thailand. They managed to complete the last 300m of the 2km course, in last place, despite being submerged.*



*Prince William has taken part in a training session with the British team in Singapore. He was in a winning boat and kept up with the high stroke rate.*

## Super spenders

Hangzhou is to host a Super Cup event this year, to feature marathon, slalom, polo, sprint and kayak cross. Prize money of nearly US\$400,000 will be on offer.