Saturday, September 14, 1907

THE REGATTA SEASON ENDS

Sixteenth Anniversary of Teddington Reach Festival

Skiff Club's Four Championships

For the sixteenth anniversary of the Teddington Reach regatta the executive were faced by considerable doubts as to the weather. It was, of course, a great thing to have the day free from any suspicion of rain, and this was so much to be thankful for that it seems almost ingratitude to deplore the fact that there was a total lack of sunshine. This, however, was really the one thing wanting from the spectacular point of view, and to the absence of the sun's rays must be ascribed a marked decrease in the number of those afloat. Yet the sunless day, although depriving the scene of much of the gaiety that it had last year for example, was not without its compensations. Competitors found that what was required of them induced quite enough heat without being exposed to the warmth of a September sun, and the reduced attendance on the river conduced greatly to the smooth working of the regatta.

It was, therefore, with much equanimity that the executive set earnestly to work on the day's proceedings, and very busily were they engaged. On Saturday Mr. R. F. M. Bigby had a new colleague in the discharge of the secretarial duties, this being another member of the Thames Rowing Club, Mr. F. G. Long. Mr. Long's introduction was made under happy auspices, as the entries to be dealt with numbered seventy-nine, and the endeavour to compress this number into workable order needed not a little ingenuity.

Once again the Albany Club very materially assisted in the success of the regatta by placing the splendid river lawn at the disposal of the executive for the use of contributors to the funds, and so comfortable are the conditions under which the proceedings may be witnessed by those who avail themselves of this privilege granted to subscribers, that the lawn has always a well-filled appearance. The club also provide excellent accommodation for the very necessary lunch, and on Saturday His Worship the Mayor of Kingston-on-Thames, Councillor J. M. R. Francis, who is one of the vice-presidents of the regatta, was present. Himself an old rowing man, and formerly identified with the Twickenham R.C., it was peculiarly fitting that in such an assemblage of those devoted to aquatics, Mayor Francis should be a welcome guest. During the afternoon the band of the 3rd and 4th East Surrey Regiment, under the guidance of Mr. S. G. Vaughan, played a programme of bright music that was most acceptable.

Skiff Championships

In dealing with the four Skiff Championships the ladies should first be mentioned. The contest in which they were exclusively concerned was not without its sensation, as the Misses R. and M. Wethered scored most decisively, and the three crews rowed a race that was greeted at its conclusion by hearty cheering for those who had striven so gallantly.

The other championship in which ladies took an active part, but had to rely entirely on their own efforts, was the ladies’ and gentlemen’s double sculls, and it was particularly unfortunate that this was the only rowing event in which the umpire exercised his prerogative of disqualifying a competing boat. The regret was intensified when it became generally known that the competitors who were compulsorily retired from the championship were the holders of the trophy, and no doubt next season Miss L. Pocock and Mr. H. N. Wakefield will make every effort to once more secure the title and trophy for Eton.

…continues with details of races held and the names of winners.