



Easter Term 2025

With weekly regattas and daily training, Easter term ensured the business of everyone at HBBC.

Arguably the most hectic and jam-packed term of the year, there is plenty to look back on and celebrate now the year has come to a close. From a historic regatta win to a new landing stage, there is much to unpack.

The summer term has been excellent for the club, with three wins for both squads at Hexham and Durham Regattas, alongside the exciting return of our landing stage! These successes reflect the dedication of our rowers and exec, from strong senior crews picking up wins to the many novices who committed themselves throughout the regatta season.

Looking ahead, we’re excited to celebrate the official opening of the landing stage in October and welcome alumni back to share in the club’s achievements.

On behalf of the club, I would like to thank all those involved in the arduous task of procuring our landing stage — we are so grateful to have our spot on the Wear back to full use. I am very excited to see everyone build on their hard work on and off the water, and take it into the new academic year, hopefully continuing to pick up wins! - Dominic Exworthy, Club President



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Pre-season

Easter term began with a week-long pre-season for senior and novice rowers. The double, pair, and four got out on the water for race starts and regatta practice. Off the water, the boat house was dusted and cleared, and a barbeque evening was arranged to accompany the final repairs to Boynton, ready to row after over 3 years out of action. Senior and novice men also endured their long anticipated 2km erg tests. Despite hot weather and heavy training, some immense scores were achieved, with plenty of sub 6:40, sub 6:50 and sub 7:00 minute scores for the senior team. The novices impressed too, scoring largely between 7:10 and 7:30, demonstrating 20-30 second improvements on their last 2ks. The women did their 2k tests a few weeks later with both the seniors and novs achieving some amazing scores with most people achieving below 8:40.



HBBC's regatta season kicked off with Durham City Regatta. A variety of crews, both experimental and experienced, were sent out to test the waters before larger regattas, mainly Durham Regatta. Regardless, all crews had been working hard towards it, especially the novice crews, rowing in integrated '2nd 8s' instead of novice boats. The regatta also coincided with the first sunny weekend for months, and everyone involved in the day was excited and feeling good.

11 crews in total raced over the weekend of the 10th-11th May, with many highlights and positives to build on. The Men's 2v held Queen Elizabeth HS by a canvas until problems emerged in the boat, with a footplate snapping in half, another footplate ripping out and lodging itself under 7 seat's slide, and a stuck clam forcing square blade rowing from one of the squad. However, it was an action-packed race providing valuable experience for the 2v squad. HBBC's main successes occurred later in the regatta.

Henry Barker in the 1x beat his opponent easily in the first round before a loss in the second round, and the main victory lay with the Women's 2v, who beat a very strong Grey College 8 before an unfortunate loss to St. Leonard's in the second round. Overall, results did not reflect efforts, and the weekend was highly indicative of the immense effort put in by all the squads, sacrificing time over easter to keep ready for regatta season. A huge shoutout also goes to the men's and women's novice crews, competing in their first regattas, and some their first races and first races in an 8. Many more to come!



Tees Regatta

Less than a week after Durham City Regatta, HBBC sent 3 crews to Tees Regatta, consisting of a men's 2v 4+, a women's 1v 4+ and a men's 2-. Despite beautiful weather for Durham City Regatta, the northern weather had reverted to normal and the Tees looked choppy and grey as crews boated. However, each crew pushed through and raced well. The pair strode ahead of the 3 other crews for the first few hundred metres yet ultimately blew and finished in an honourable 3rd place. The men's 2v 4+ raced next, up against an unfortunate draw of Cuth's and Castle's 1v crews. The men raced well against tough opposition, yet finished 3rd, losing out by half a seat to Castle and length to Cuth's, wrapping up the morning action for HBBC. In the afternoon, the Women's 1v 4+ raced. They put up a tremendous shift against tough crews and fought a highly tense and contested race, finishing bow ball to bow ball against DARC yet confirmed afterwards that they had the edge, resulting in an impressive 2nd place finish for the women to bring the day to a close.



Wansbeck Regatta

To bring May to a close, HBBC submitted a 1x to Wansbeck Regatta. Our rower, Henry Barker, was drawn against Lambton RC, and unfortunately it was not his day, losing by 5 lengths.

After a prolonged period of lack of results on paper, everyone, especially the pot winners, returned to Durham happy, slightly wet, but most importantly confident for next week's Durham Regatta.

**See the next page for
race photos!**

Hexham Regatta

The first big regatta of the season for HBBC, and this showed as they sent 11 crews of varying sizes to Hexham. Fuelled up with 5am starts and McDonald's breakfasts of varying quality, the boat club were hyped for the day. In between taking shelter from the lashing rain, crews enjoyed personal and group successes throughout the day. The women's 2x, the mixed 8+ , and the women's 2v 8+ came out on top.

The women's 2v 8+ rowed with a disadvantage to begin with, using a new 8+ thanks to Vespoli being grounded and damaged. Despite this, they eased past a good Cuth's side before suffering defeat later in the day. The mixed 8+ also smashed it at Hexham, dominating their first race by a 4 length win before going all the way to win their band, winning the final by 4 lengths, marking HBBC's first sweep win at a regatta in over 2 years. The W 2x also impressed. Starting with a ½ length win and comeback against Chad's, they built momentum in the 2nd round, beating Northumbria Univ. by 1 length. In the final vs City of Sunderland, they showed total control and won by 5 lengths, marking HBBC's first regatta win in over 2 years. These winning performances reflected everyone's utmost focus and hard work in training up to this moment.

HEXHAM IN
PHOTOS...



MIXED 8+



W 4+



W 2x



MIXED 8+



OP 8+



OP 2v 8+



W 8+



- 11 crews submitted
- 16 Durham Regatta debuts
- 9 races won
- 10 HBBC pot winners
- First Durham Regatta pot in an 8+ since 2016

Wins for:

- Int 8+
- Op NCA 4+
- Op Coll 4+
- Maiden 4+
- W Maiden 4+

The term’s largest and most important regatta came around very quickly after the successes at Hexham Regatta. After recent wins, breakages of boats, a new landing stage and afflicted crews, it was safe to say the morale around the boat club was varied yet confident. However, it was particularly exciting due our recently opened new landing stage, and sofas and chairs were set up and crowds amassed beneath the HBBC flag to cheer on the day of racing.

The first day of racing was set to be a big one. Squads knew the importance of success in the biggest regatta of the year and arrived excited and focused. The Beg 8+ opened the day, suffering a defeat to QE, with odds against their favour due to a late boat swap. However, an improvement in form and composure reflected their hard work in recent training. Later on, the W Beg 8+ faced the tough opponent of Durham School. The race was hard fought by all, yet Durham School took the lead and were forced to work hard to keep it, but eventually won the race. To round off the day, the men’s 2v 4+ faced Collingwood. Windy conditions hindered the race for both sides, yet consistency over raw power for Collingwood helped them to a slight win as they edged past us on the finish line.



However, the main highlight of the day were the 3 victories and pot winning campaign of the Int 8+.

Starting against Cuth’s, they rowed to a comfortable victory before being drawn against Lancaster University, who they lost to at Hexham by ½ a length. Everyone was keen for revenge and were focused as they got back on the water for round 2. Lancaster took the edge to begin with, pulling ahead towards Collingwood before the race settled at bow ball to bow ball. The home crowd at Hild Bede put in a massive shift and our 8 surged ahead by a seat approaching the final 200 metres. Lancaster pushed for a comeback and made a gain, yet were held off as our 8 qualified for the final.

York ran a successful campaign in their band and were our opposition for the final. Having given everything to beat Lancaster, the crew were ready to give it one last shot. Quick off the start, our 8 pulled ahead. York surged back but couldn’t catch up, and slowly but surely a ¾ of a boat length was established. The crew were overjoyed as they crossed the finish line and celebrated as soon as they got back on land.



Durham Regatta: Sunday



Sunday of Durham Regatta held much success and built on the club's strong Saturday performances. All crews carried our momentum and transformed Sunday into a great day for rowers and onlookers alike. Our brand new swanky landing stage was busy early on, bustling from morning through until evening to cheer on the 7 crews HBBC submitted on Sunday.

Our very own alumni crew, the NCA 4+, were first to row. Having prepared hard with a night at Jimmy's, they were feeling super fresh and ready to take on the Wear. They kicked off with a ½ length win over South College before beating Trevs in Round 2 by 1 length. They suffered defeat in the 3rd round by 2 lengths to Grey College.

Our college Top 4, racing in the Op Coll 4+ category, impressed against tough competition. After weeks of thorough seat racing, the pressure was on as we lined up against Trevs in the first round. Bow ball to bow ball until Elvet, the race started and maintained intensity. However, our top 4 pulled ahead after Elvet and despite late pushes, beat Trevs by ½ a length. In Round 2, we were up against Collingwood. Our top 4 maintained pressure on Collingwood throughout and a last-minute wind closed the gap significantly, yet overall we were beaten by 1 length, arguably Collingwood's toughest competition of the day who went on to win the overall category.



Our Maiden 4+ crews were up next, with the men taking to the water shortly after midday. Up against Collingwood first, the men executed their race start perfectly, pulling away quickly and beating Collingwood easily in a comfortable race. Facing Trevs in Round 2, both crews gave their all yet Trevs beat us to the line and eventually went on to win the competition. However, this marked the novice men's first win of the year, reflecting their immense work put in during a busy exam season.

The Women's Maiden 4+ were next, racing St. Chad's, where they rowed to a comfortable 1 ½ length win. In the second round, they faced and beat Cuth's, driving hard to achieve a win of ¾ of a length. In the 3rd round, they were unfortunately beaten by Hatfield, putting an end to their impressive run against good college opposition, highlighting their dedication to training over the recent weeks and months.

The Op NCA 4x- raced at 15:24, a highly anticipated race with HBBC's newest purchase. The quad faced Northumbria University and displayed some very fine rowing yet unfortunately we're edged by 2 lengths by the strong university side.

Next up was the Op NC 1x, facing Tyne ARC. Both scullers had very strong starts and kept a close gap, yet Henry was ultimately edged by 1 length.

Finally, to round off the busy day, The W NCB 4+, representing the women's top 4, faced a tough competition against a strong Leeds university crew. They put in a good shift and were in front for the first half of the race but were unfortunately overtaken passing Hild Bede and were ultimately beaten to the line.



DURHAM
REGATTA

IN PHOTOS...



Hild Bede College Day

Early in May the whole college came together at Rushford Court to celebrate everything Hild Bede, with events, a formal, cathedral service, and a prize ceremony celebrating some of Hild Bede’s top achievers through clubs, societies, and essay prizes. This included a particularly impressive haul as 11 HBBC members collected a prize, with some unfortunately absent. Many congratulations to the following for winning awards ranging from boat club commendations to full colours: Luisa Aarhuus, Thomas Rymell, James Gibson, Solomon Davey, Jacob Popoff, Dominic Exworthy, Charlotte Davis, Willow Bradshaw-Murrow, Eleanor Pitt, Millie Vaughan, Honor Pink.

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An exciting piece of news and event that happened this term was the purchase of our new quad as HBBC has looked to diversify its fleet. Many HBBC rowers have been keen over the past year for more sculling and in larger boats, so when the opportunity of a quad at a very decent price came in from DARC, the exec voted that it was simply an offer too good to resist. Since the purchase, the boat house has been looking fuller with its addition and squads have been getting out more frequently in sculling sessions, with plans to get as many people sculling as possible. At Durham Regatta, the boat made its debut, unfortunately edged by a strong Northumbria University crew yet displaying some smooth rowing after only a couple of weeks of training. In the near future, plans for the quad include a naming process which will be advertised across our platforms. Plans at the moment include a raffle where the winner can name the boat.

Stay tuned to the boat club instagram, facebook, future newsletters and our new website for information on how to get involved in the naming of the quad!



New Landing Stage

Everyone in the boat club has been aware of the lack of a HBBC landing stage over the past 2 years, being reminded of this on the walk to and from Collingwood every training session. Many thanks are extended to Collingwood for their patience and generosity over these past 2 years for sharing their landing stage while ours was being checked, surveyed and evaluated. Finally, after much excitement and trepidation, an announcement that the landing stage would be built imminently was circulated. The team put in a mega shift and built a brand new shiny metal landing stage in time for our Varsity races against Cuth's. The exec, builders, estates team and everyone else involved worked hard behind the scenes for this to happen and deserve a good deal of thanks.

Whilst the landing stage was unofficially blessed at our varsity races as crew members jumped off it into the river, there will be an official ceremony and event to commemorate the new landing stage, including a reception followed by the blessing of the landing stage followed by a race with a possibility of a dinner afterwards. This will happen on the 14th October.

New Website

Whilst still in the works, HBBC exec have been busy producing a new website for all things boat club. This will contain news, photos and videos, exec profiles and everything else that's going on at the club. Make sure to watch out on HBBC socials for news on its progress and release, as there is sure to be a lot to cover about it! You can have a peek right now at hildbedeboatclub.com!

Hild Bede vs. Cuth's Varsity

Hild Bede vs. Cuth's varsity was an exciting day for more reasons than one. This was also the debut of our new landing stage, as various crews set off from Hild Bede for the first time in 2 years to battle Cuth's down the Wear. Every battle was hard fought and everyone involved was in good spirits. Cuth's edged us overall, yet the Men's top 4 eased to a win over the Cuth's top 4, and the men's 8+ faced a fearsome race, both crews absolutely neck on neck as they propelled off the start rating above 40 as Honor screamed her lungs out at us. Cuth's lead briefly before our 8+ overtook them passing Hild Bede and kept around a seats lead until the end. Afterwards, teams exchanged stash, had a picnic and enjoyed a croquet game on the Racecourse.

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HBBC Beach Day

In mid June, half the club took to Crimdon Dene beach to bask in the sun after Hexham regatta and exams. With a good turnout, we played plenty of rounders and spent a lot of time in the sand -- some of us more than others since we completely buried Trymell. It wasn't all fun and games though, we got our democratic hats on and voted in our new HBBC gardener, Elen, to look after the landing stage for the next year. Since this is clearly not how to spend a day at the beach, everyone took to the cold north sea to wrestle, play a plethora of ballgames, and general bobbing-up-and-down frivolities. The whole day was topped off with a BBQ of dubiously cooked burgers, practically mooing, followed by an extensive cleanup of our rubbish including only a couple incinerated burgers.

