

OARSOME RACING AT HOT REGATTA



PICTURES: ALISTAIR WILSON, EN180942

SPORT



UNPRECEDENTED crowds gathered along the scorched banks of Hurst Park to celebrate racing at the Molesey Regatta last weekend.

The two-day event meant excited spectators were able to watch crews compete in some superb racing while enjoying the music and beer festival.

Molesey crews fought hard to defend their local territory, eventually winning the coxless fours by beating the 1921 Club to the final, lifting the Vinters Cup which was first presented in 1899 and is sponsored by RJ Dance.

The junior club that

performed best overall was Guildford Rowing Club, winning the famous Victor Ludorum Cup.

"On land the crowds gathered to enjoy the atmosphere," said assistant secretary for the regatta, Fiona Wood.

"The music kicked off under the shade with Ken Marshall, Dr Slideshow, Bonnie and Clive, Eve's Garden, Vintage Girl to mention a few, but all local artists.

"The music ranged from old to new - the youngest act being 12-year-old Layla who brought the house down.

"The revelry continued

with the Motown Girls and the adults and children danced the evening away against a sunset melting into a calm Father Thames."

She added: "The beer festival was a huge success. The thirsty crowds drank the bar dry, saved by our local micro brewer Oddly Brewery with more supplies on the Sunday to survive another day.

"Parents and the locals gathered together to celebrate the last day of racing and then, after a hot day, calm descended as the event came to an end.

"Thoughts are now on to next year. Be there."



Kingston Rowing Club's WJ15 crew: Livy, Sophia, Otilie, Jessie and Alex



Individual sculling races were interspersed with events for larger crews as the regatta crowds enjoyed a full weekend of competition