



J B SHARP MEMORIAL REGATTA SERIES INC.

Established 1924

Proudly Sponsored by BMG AVIATION

"Committed to Growing Rowing"



12 Railway Street,
Hurlstone Park NSW 2193



convener@jbsharpregatta.org



+61 438 405 356

2020 J B Sharp Memorial Regatta Series Report



Mark Tietjen of Glebe Rowing Club receives the Memorial Cup from Chairman Terry Maher

It is my pleasure (and relief!) to once again enclose the 2020 JB Sharp Memorial Regatta Series Committee Annual Report, in respect of the 96th year of the JB Sharp Memorial Regatta Series.

In a year marked by unprecedented challenges to our way of life due to the coronavirus pandemic that saw key events such as the 2020 Rowing NSW Edward Trickett Club Championships, Australian Rowing Championships, and Tokyo 2020 Olympics and Paralympics cancelled or postponed, it was somewhat miraculous that during this time, the JB Sharp Series was able to continue in operation, and was able to use the necessary changes to improve the operation of the series.

I would also like to express our deepest gratitude to Mr John Sharp AM and the Sharp family for their ongoing support of the series. The dedication of the sharp family to the series' mission of growing rowing is somewhat legendary, ever since the commencement of the series – many lesser folk may speculate that there must be some kind of reward to the family for their ongoing support, but this could not be further from the truth.



The 2020 Series commenced some 2 months later than usual, due to the uncertainty around whether the series would be able to proceed. However with revised protocols and after seeking expert medical advice, the series commenced at Glebe RC with the traditional short course 500m regatta in Blackwattle Bay.

For the first time, clubs were requested to enter all crews to comply with COVID-19 safety protocols, but the series re-affirmed its stance that **no seat fees would be charged**, allowing all crews to compete freely.

Unfortunately, the largest boat class of eights was unable to be included in the revised schedule, but the series still had strong numbers given the circumstances from clubs such as Abbotsford, Balmain, Drummoyne, Glebe, UTS, and MLC School. Glebe however, being the 'home club', were dominant, setting up a strong lead on the pointscore.

The UTS / Haberfield Rowing Club Regatta was held only one week later (on account of the late start to the series) on the traditional Iron Cove Course. The lovely day was viewed not only by the competitors and coaches across the course, but also online, in a new first for the series, as it began to livestream the events, allowing socially distanced spectators to nevertheless capture all the action. The success of the Livestreaming means we will seek to continue this in future seasons.

It was also pleasing to see an increased number of competitors attend, with more than double the number of seats in the regatta. The strong support of the UTS / Haberfield Club meant that this was the largest of the regattas in the series, seeing new novice competitors from university clubs as well as other clubs and schools competing, and every event contested other than the Men's Novice Quad, with 36 competitors in the Handicap Sculls divisions alone.

Drummoyne Rowing Club hosted the next regatta, being the third regatta in as many weeks (again to catch up due to COVID), and due to the late start of the series, the improved weather also certainly did a great deal for the athletes competing! The racing was quickly demonstrating however that the battle at the pointy end of the point score would be very much between UTS, UNSW and Glebe Rowing clubs – those at the geographically opposite ends of the series.

The Balmain Regatta was unfortunately required to be cancelled due to strong winds – an unlucky coincidence given the regatta was cancelled for the same reason the previous season (both weekends being so rough that the regatta would not have been able to have been held at any of the Iron Cove Courses.

The final regatta of the season was hosted by Leichhardt Rowing Club. As well as being excellent hosts, LRC staged a significant comeback to catapult themselves into the podium contention... but it was not enough to displace Glebe RC from the top spot, who dominated the series overall following their strong start, and consistent results in the balance of the series.

Congratulations however to every competitor, and thank you to all the coaches and volunteers who made a series so threatened by disruption nevertheless so successful. The full results of the season are below, and I



congratulate each of the competitors and clubs for their achievements. I would like to also thank the JB Sharp Memorial Regatta Series Committee and each of the clubs for their significant work in organizing and hosting each of the regattas of the series. Enormous thanks must also go to Barry Moynahan, treasurer and commentator of the series, Kim Mackney, handicapper, Terry Maher, chairman of the Committee (and previously convener for over 20 years), and also to Owen Nix and Rowing NSW for their continued support in regatta secretarial duties.

It would also be remiss of me not to thank the incredible efforts of the front-line health workers, the policymakers, the community more generally, and all those who have been a part of Australia's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In reviewing last year's report, I was reminded at how very real the threat of COVID was to our activities, way of life, and lives themselves, and how recently we had been devastated by the 2019-2020 bushfires. Looking back now with the benefit of hindsight, I am amazed at how lucky we have been comparatively – but really it is not luck at all, but the hard work and dedication of so many people.

In such a difficult time, it is even more important for us to acknowledge the efforts of BMG Aviation in its support of the JB Sharp Memorial Regatta Series. BMG Aviation no doubt had an extremely turbulent year with the shut down of international travel due to the pandemic, but nevertheless found a way to ensure they were able to support the series in 2020, and continued their extremely generous sponsorship. We could not be more grateful for their dedication to the series and its competitors.

The support of BMG Aviation for the JB Sharp Series allows us to continue to offer races to anyone who wishes to compete, without having to think about whether they can afford the entry fee of the event. It is essential to the series' continuation – simply put, it is the financial support of BMG Aviation that allows us to continue to present the series without requiring race fees from competitors, to provide high-quality racing, and safety equipment such as our dedicated safety boat for novice and para events, and medallions for the winners of events in the series to appropriately reward competitors in our most valued junior and novice events. Thank you again to Damian Hooper and the staff at BMG Aviation for their now 11th year of support, and we look forward to continuing the very successful relationship in the years to come.

Sincerely,

Liam James

Convener

JB SHARP MEMORIAL REGATTA SERIES INC.

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RESULTS

Following the Leichhardt Regatta, the winning clubs and crew were presented with their silverware.

The **J.B. Sharp Memorial Cup** – overall point score – Glebe RC (167) University of NSW (98), Leichhardt (89).

The **Walker & Hall Chalice** – handicap scull point score – (Male) Benjamin Wheen and Marcus Della Marta (11), Joshua Zhang (10);

The **BMG Aviation Chalice** – handicap scull point score – (Female) Em Barac (17), Daniela Borgert (16), Sasha Kovarik (12).

The **Sid Sharp Silver Tray** – men's novice & U16 point score – Glebe (46), Balmain (17), Leichhardt (15).

The **Kayser Shield** – women's open & intermediate point score – Leichhardt (41), Glebe (16), Drummoyne (13).

The **Glebe Centenary Shield** – men's open & intermediate point score – UTS / Haberfield (40), Glebe (26), University of NSW (21).

The **Balmain Rowing Club Bullock Horn** – men's and women's open eights point score –
Not Awarded.

The **Kevyn Webb OAM Cup** – men's novice scull point score – Glebe (28), University of NSW (14), Sydney University Board Club (8).

The **John Sharp Vase** – women's novice and Under 16 point score – Glebe (43), Leichhardt (23), University of NSW (20).

The **Lea Insurance Brokers Trophy** – women's novice scull point score – University of NSW (24), Glebe (8).

The **Combined Men's & Women's Under 16 Scull \$ 500 BMG Aviation prize** was awarded to UTS / Haberfield Rowing Club.

The **Para Shield** – combined para point score – Balmain RC (16), Drummoyne RC (2), Glebe (1).

The **TRAINEE BRO OF THE SERIES MEDALLION** was awarded to Jennifer Pollock for her work during the series.



BEGINNER OF THE SERIES MEDALLION S were presented to Heather Cox of University of New South Wales Rowing Club, and Darcy Cameron of Sydney University Boat Club.

BMG AVIATION SCHOLARSHIPS

Two **BMG AVIATION Scholarships** of \$ 1,000 each were awarded to 2 young aspiring champions, one male and one female.

The **BMG AVIATION Scholarship** recipients for 2020 were Sophia Miller and Archie Osborne of Glebe Rowing Club. Congratulations!

On behalf of the Sharp family and the Committee I would like to thank the many competitors; the Boat Race Officials; Rowing NSW and BMG Aviation for their support and contribution to another successful series.



VALE – LOUIS PETRIN

The Sharp Series Committee was devastated to hear earlier this year that Rowing Stalwart, boat race official and rowing historian **Louis Petrin** of Drummoyne Rowing Club had passed away unexpectedly on 8 April 2021. Louis was an incredible figure in the rowing community – a tireless and selfless volunteer, a meticulous historian, and a kind and gentle soul.

Having been introduced to the sport via his daughter Nicole, Louis developed his love for rowing through competition, officiating, administration, and in carefully preserving the sport's history. He was a regular official for the series, and his knowledge of the sport was second to none. In 2020 he was recognized by Rowing NSW as their volunteer of the year, and has been recognized by his club, the State body, Rowing Australia, and internationally for his love of the sport and his commitment to its history.

Not only a passionate rower and member of the rowing community, Louis had been a very successful scientist and businessman, having founded Arrow Scientific after a successful career at Sterling Winthrop and Pfizer Chemicals. This mental discipline had certainly carried over in his approach to the sport, in his roles as a competitor, official, and enthusiast.

It was Louis' goal to develop a Rowing History Museum in Australia to house the medals, trophies, memorabilia and artifacts that he had collected, and intended to continue to collect, for the preservation of the sport. On behalf of the JB Sharp Memorial Regatta Series, the oldest continuous winter rowing series, and its committee, we express our sincere condolences to the Petrin family and Louis friends, which we know included the vast Rowing community within NSW and Australia.

Louis will be sorely missed by all, may he rest in peace.



ABOVE AND RIGHT: Louis presenting the Kayser Shield to Daniela Borgert of Leichhardt Rowing Club, and Louis holding the prestigious Kings Cup Trophy at the Sydney International Rowing Regatta.

