



Over 350 athletes (all aged 14 and below) arrived at Blenheim Palace early on 11th June for the sixth Blenheim Palace Junior Regatta. Against a spectacular backdrop of the Palace and its beautiful lake in the heart of the Cotswolds, the event offers an incredible opportunity for young scullers to experience competitive racing over a multi-lane 500m course. For many of the scullers it was their first time racing, and all of the young athletes coped remarkably with the racing experience.

During the lunch break, eight members of the Oxford University Women's Boat Club executed a competitive race in two quads with commentary from Oxford Head Coach Christine Wilson. Winners of the sculling races throughout the day were awarded bronze, silver and gold medals by OUWBC athletes, with opportunities for pictures.

Particular congratulations go to Walbrook RC, who won the Victor Ludorum laurels. Oxford-based Hinksey Sculling School hopes that introducing young athletes to competitive racing early on in their rowing careers will encourage them to continue – the youngsters certainly enjoyed the unique experience, with one coach commenting “they’re so lucky, they’ll never forget it!”

For spectators too, the event proved enjoyable: as one parent pointed out, “it’s just like a traditional English fete, but with a regatta to watch!” Oxford-based Hinksey Sculling School, who inaugurated the event in 2010, are already hard at work planning the next BPJR in 2017.