

HENLEY HIGHLIGHTS REGATTA SEASON

Royal Henley - most English of the world's sports centres - puts on the highlight of Regatta season. A gay extravaganza of summer fashions turns the clock back to the years when to be seen at Henley's Stewards Enclosure was almost equal to being presented at court. This year, under a beiling sun that makes the river glitter like a priceless jewel, all the pre-war brilliance is recaptured. 1,000 oarsmen from many different nations flex their muscles to do battle in the most famous of all Regattas. With a record-breaking number of entries, Henley has to make it a five-day fling, the first time this has happened for 100 years. In the Wyfold Cup, many forecasts are upset by the brilliant form of Queen's College, Cambridge, second team. Meeting Vesta rowing club, they gain an early lead and hold on to it to finish winners by 1 1/4 lengths.

In the coveted Grand Challenge Cup, a fighting performance by Trinity College, Oxford give them a great victory over the much fancied Dutch crew from Amsterdam. The boys from Holland take an early lead, but as they come up to the enclosure, Oxford stroke Chris Davidge puts in a spurt and Trinity race on to win. A triumph true to the tradition of Royal Henley.