



# J B SHARP MEMORIAL REGATTA SERIES INC.

Established 1924

Proudly Sponsored by BMG AVIATION

*"Committed to Growing Rowing"*



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## 2022 J B Sharp Memorial Regatta Series Report



*Daniela Borgert of Leichhardt Rowing Club receiving the JB Sharp Memorial Trophy from John Sharp and his sons Alex and Lachlan Sharp.*

The return of the JB Sharp Memorial Regatta Series for its 98<sup>th</sup> year in 2022 was a substantial relief, both for myself and for the Sharp Series Committee. Given that the series was able to return as a result of the subsidence of the COVID-19 pandemic (which, although still ongoing, had entered a new phase where life was returning to some semblance of normality), I'm sure that this and the return of many other facets of ordinary life was a relief for many.

Given the cancellation of the series in the 2021 year (an event which had not occurred since the Second World War), it was significant that we were able to return to racing in such a smooth and well controlled manner. I thank all of the clubs, the Boat Race Officials, and the volunteers, as well as Rowing NSW for their support in enabling the series to run so well on its return.

Further, I would like to especially thank BMG Aviation for its ongoing support of the series. Noting that we were able to preserve the sponsorship funds for the 2021 cancelled series, the Sharp Committee resolved to



extend BMG Aviation's sponsorship to the 2022 season without seeking additional funds for that year, in recognition of their support despite the cancellation of the series.

The 2022 series began with the now regular opening regatta at Glebe on Blackwattle Bay, and the competitors were the beneficiaries of a well laid and, at least initially, calm racecourse. It was pleasing to see entries from as far afield as Newcastle Grammar attending the very first event, the Men's under 16 single scull, in which two divisions were contested. Both Glebe and Leichhardt presented a strong showing at this regatta, though it would have been nice to see other clubs providing additional crews for the Glebe Regatta and continuing our support of their race course, which remains under threat from the construction of the new Fishmarket facility.

Thanks must go to Glebe for both hosting such a successful regatta but also fielding so many crews in the event, and also to Mosman, Balmain, Abbotsford, and the above-mentioned clubs for their support of this regatta.

On 19 June the series continued with the second round at the UTS Haberfield Regatta, in which Glebe again put in a very strong showing, now being joined by UTS / Haberfield, Drummoyne, the University of NSW, Tara School and the attendees of the previous regatta. UTS / Haberfield RC in particular had some particularly strong results in the crewed events, while Glebe continued its strong showing in the under 16 and the handicap single sculls. It was encouraging to see such strong competition in the Women's open eight between UTS / Haberfield, Leichhardt and Drummoyne, and in the Men's Open eight between UTS / Haberfield and Glebe, with UTS / Haberfield winning both events. High levels of interest in the under 16 single scull events and the novice events was also very good to see, and a sign that the Sharp series continues to achieve its goals of introducing new rowers to the sport and growing rowing.

Unfortunately the winter weather once again intervened to cancel the Drummoyne regatta, leaving the next regatta to be the Balmain regatta on 17 July, held for this year on the UTS course, given the reconstruction of the Balmain Rowing Club. The regatta was well attended, with more than 160 athletes competing across 260 seats in the 18 events. I note that the winter series regattas are traditionally smaller than the regattas held in the summer season, but this is more a result of the limited number of events in the regatta, which allow the series to be held in the morning and finished by lunchtime, and not due to any lack of support of the series. We are grateful for support of all clubs that develop new and young rowers to compete in the series, and it is fantastic to see the support of all events across the programme.

At the Balmain regatta, it was particularly encouraging to see so many scullers competing heavily in the under 16 and also in the handicap sculls competition, with at least 17 women crossing the line in the Women's handicap single sculls, and almost a dozen in the Mens handicap single sculls. Recognition must go to UTS / Haberfield Rowing Club for its strong competition in both of those events, and to the University of NSW for its strong showing across the regatta in a number of other events, being the only non-Bay club to have such strong results.



The final regatta of the series was held on the Leichhardt Regatta Course and hosted by Leichhardt Rowing Club on 31 July 2022. Despite a very strong push from Glebe and from University of NSW, ultimately Leichhardt prevailed in the overall point score for the series, and they are to be congratulated for their efforts. In addition, the spectators were treated to a thrilling final race off for the Women's handicap single scull trophy, with Glebe's Lucy Yabsley prevailing over UTS / Haberfield's Jessica Salmon in the final race off.

I would once again 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 remains legendary, ever since the commencement of the series, and we thank them for their unwavering support.

Congratulations to the competitors, and thank you again to the coaches and volunteers who made the return to the water so successful and smooth. 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 (who is gradually handing over the reins), the other commentators for each regatta, 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.

We also thank BMG Aviation in its continued support of the JB Sharp Memorial Regatta Series. 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 the staff at BMG Aviation for their ongoing 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 – Leichhardt RC (272) Glebe RC (202), University of NSW RC (140).

The **Walker & Hall Chalice** – handicap scull point score – (Male) Henry Blackwell (14), Cauan Guimaraes (10), Elliot Collins (8).

The **BMG Aviation Chalice** – handicap scull point score – (Female) Lucy Yabsley (12 – winner, race off), Jessica Salmon (12); Kate Wareham (12).

The **Sid Sharp Silver Tray** – men’s novice & U16 point score – Glebe RC (67), Leichhardt RC (53), University of NSW RC (16).

The **Kayser Shield** – women’s open & intermediate point score – Leichhardt RC (67), UTS / Haberfield RC (57), Drummoyne RC (32).

The **Glebe Centenary Shield** – men’s open & intermediate point score – UTS / Haberfield RC (42), Glebe RC (37), Leichhardt RC (34).

The **Balmain Rowing Club Bullock Horn** – men’s and women’s open eights point score – Leichhardt RC (14), Glebe RC (2), UTS / Haberfield RC (8).

The **Kevyn Webb OAM Cup** – men’s novice scull point score – University of NSW RC (41), Leichhardt RC (32), Glebe RC (14).

The **John Sharp Vase** – women’s novice and Under 16 point score – Leichhardt RC (65), Glebe RC (48) University of NSW RC (24).

The **Lea Insurance Brokers Trophy** – women’s novice scull point score – University of NSW RC (46), Leichhardt RC (21), Glebe RC (8) & Abbotsford RC (8).

The **Combined Men’s & Women’s Under 16 Scull \$ 500 BMG Aviation prize** was awarded to Glebe Rowing Club.

The **Para Shield** – combined para point score – Balmain RC (12), Drummoyne RC (2).

The **TRAINEE BRO OF THE SERIES MEDALLION** was awarded to Mun Lum for tireless work during the series.



**BEGINNER OF THE SERIES MEDALLION S** were presented to the beginner squad of the University of New South Wales Rowing Club, and Kelly Clifton of Glebe Rowing 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 2022 were Carter Clifton of Glebe Rowing Club and Siara Ortolani of Leichhardt 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.

