



Caption competition. Deadline 5pm Sunday 27th. E hammer@rowingservice.com or text 07710-538114.

### TODAY

#### Who to watch in the finals

12.45 M4+ GB won the race for lanes in this straight final: Simon Fieldhouse, Marcus Batemen, Tom Parker, Hugo Lee, cox Seb Pearce.

13.30 LM4x GB did not win race for lanes in this straight final

13.45 LW2x One more shot for reviv- alists Jane Hall & Helen Casey some useful Aussies and Chinese

14.00 LM2x Flying Danes Rasmus- sen & Hansen, and two-times Olym- pic champions Kucharski and Sycz  
14.15 LM4- Ireland and GB take on 2005 champions France and upstart Chinese

14.30 W4x All-conquering Debbie, Sarah, Fran and Kath?

15.00 W8+ Scrap has Yanks and Aus- sies in centre lanes

15.15 M8+ The Humdinger Stakes: Italy, Germany, US, Aussies, Poles & Brits. Yanks favourites, but anybody's PLUS  
Four GB crews in adaptive finals

#### Today's timetable

Finals from 11.45 to 15.15

AW1x, AM1x, TA2x, LTAMx4+ M4+, LM2-, LW4x, LM4x, LW2x, LM2x, LM4-, W4x, M4x, W8+, M8+.

B Finals from 9.40 to 10.59

AM1x, TA2x, LTAMx4+, LM2-, LW2x, LM2x, LM4-, W4x, M4x, W8+, M8+.

#### Your TV guide

BBC2 live 13.00-15.35 BST

Eurosport live 12.45-14.15 & 15.00-16.30 CET (-1 hour for UK)

PLUS

Closing ceremony

16.30 European champ'ships meeting  
20.00 Athletes party\*

\*Bloggers' note — no, you don't want to go near it

#### Commentaryballs

"Italy are still leading in the lead".

#### Radioballs

"There is a sculler of newt sitting next to you — Chris Baillieu."

#### For one more day only

Contact the Eton Mess

E hammer@rowingservice.com

Text 07710-538114

## Worlds VIIP identity crisis

Hammer Smith reports from the royal apartments, Windsor Castle

Readers of the Mess will be aware that, on pain of death, I was prevented from sharing with you the identity of the Very Immensely Important Person who will visit the championships today. For days and days his or her identity has been a mystery shrouded in an enigma wrapped in a variation. Yesterday I was forced to retreat to the pleasant surroundings above to get some clarity into the situation after the regatta protocol chief, General Reid of the Gurkas and Brigade of Guards, had a severe attack of amnesia just as I reminded him that we should tell the world which head of state was due.

It turns out, however, that the championships' DC (disorganisation committee) has been playing public relations games. The identity of the today's VIIP turns out to be a some-time sprinter and failed MP by the name of Coe who is something to do with London 2012. Instead of the Princess Royal being a trial run for Blair, Bush or Mrs Windsor, as we surmised, it turns out that Coe is a retrospective trial run for the lovely Princess Anne, if you follow me. I am having some difficulty in explaining the situation to the real celebrity's mother.

### Banana frittery

The promoters of bananas JP Fruit (prop Molesey Boat Club) are keen to point out that, among all the ribaldry

aimed at their huge poster of Andy Hodge, they are trying to get the message over that kids should eat five a day (just like the Government does). Their plan to give away fruit to youngsters at Dorney was scuppered when the caterers protested that this would undermine their business. I cannot wait for JP's next campaign — Hodge promoting Cox's orange pippins.

### Cox without sox

Noted on the medal podium yesterday: cox without socks accompanied by crew with socks; medal winners with different length socks. Disqualify them, I say.

### FROM THE MESS CRIME DESK

#### Whole nation hijacked

"Jimmy" Haggerty writes: It started with something that seemed trivial to most — the unexplained disappearance of a barrel of beer from the Leander outpost — but it's amazing how things can get scaled up in this life. By yesterday, it was a whole nation that had disappeared.

After watching the coxed pairs final, won by Serbia, there was only one question ringing round the packed grandstands — "Who stole Montenegro?" Meanwhile, there have been no sightings of Lane 7, which disappeared on Friday during a dead heat on Eton Rowing Lake.

Police in Caversham and Holme Pierrepont are understood to be on the case.

Who ate all the pies? p2

THE ETON MESS 9 WILL BE PUBLISHED TOMORROW, MONDAY AUG 28

## The Maple Leaf Rag

Hello there.

Well, I'm sorry I didn't get to talk to you yesterday. I am afraid I was rather busy and suffering from a bit of "World Championships lag". When you get to my age, unlike you remarkable volunteers like Heather Foster, Tim's mum, who was her usual effervescent, entertaining self yesterday in spite of a sore throat, you get to slow down a bit after a series of ten hour days.

Anyway, a large number of misguided Canadian geese got their programme mixed up and landed to watch the first race, the men's lightweight double sculls C final, and Canada weren't racing, so they played with Chile instead. The first A Final saw the USA finish a close third but a poor flag third when the stars and stripes would not go up the mast. Perhaps it was something to do with the geese, since it went

up OK when Canada took the next bronze.

Oh yes, meant to say. I noticed after the first race that Fred Smallbone seemed to be expanding his transport empire from the shore to the medal winners' landing pontoons. There he was directing Australian, Chinese and American women all over the place. Intrigued, I went investigating. Fred is now Man in Charge of Boat Catchers, a hardy breed who hold the riggers as the crews disembark and are there to row away the boat if necessary. They are all his protégés from the University of West of England, where Fred coaches (and one of his products was Peter Reed of the GB four). Two of those on duty yesterday had rowed with Reed, and one of them got to scull Marcel Hacker's boat away when the silver medal German left in an ambulance. (Give the lad a drink). Marcel is OK and so is his boat.

Cheers,

ALF

### CRIME DESK EXCLUSIVE

## Who ate all the pies?

*Esteemed Worlds commentator Ali Mowbray would like to report a dreadful crime.*

A few days ago, Ms Mowbray had baked a fine cake to give to the GB women's quad. A very fine cake: three layers, chocolate fudge icing, a whole bar of 70% cocoa chocolate in the covering, the works. Just the thing to set four tough ladies on the road to the final.

There being nobody around in the Camelot-sponsored GB team tent behind the boat racks at that time in the morning, Ali left the cake, well packaged up and addressed to the GB women's quad, care of Debbie Flood. She also labelled it 'fragile' to deter careless nosy parkers. Unfortunately she thinks she also left a sticker on below adding "the cake, not Debbie".

By the time Ms Flood, who was expecting to collect it, turned up, the cake was an ex-cake. It had vanished, vamoosed, disappeared. Ms Mowbray spent much of the morning sizing up the GB coaches to work out which one was waddling too much to be able to pedal his bike. Mind you, not to point the finger, but the Irish and New Zealand crew tents are not a million miles away from the British one.

Regular MESS readers and GB supporters will be relieved to hear that a fresh cake has been successfully baked, delivered and (we assume) eaten.

### MESS COLOUR SUPPLEMENT Paradise Pond

Take me down to the lake at Dorney  
Where the girls are pretty and the men are horny — Guns and Roses

## SHOW BIZ DESK

### Eurovision National Anthem Contest

First round judgments from the media bench:

- Australia: too repetitive
- Serbia: too long
- Netherlands: too dignified
- Great Britain: too much "quelling of rebellious Scots" (verse 3) (*Guess who wrote this — Ed*)
- Italy: too bouncy
- Belarus: too strident, with too big a finish
- New Zealand: too Welsh, q.v. *Men of Harlech*
- Canada: too American... oh, Canada!
- France: too French
- And (almost forgot):
- Germany: nil points.



## Yesterday's caption competition:

"The GB men'scox-less four's lyceras had shrunk a bit after their impromptu dip in the lake."

(M Bagley)

"A fire extinguisher was placed handy in case friction from the GB supporters' synchronised hand-claps set fire to their goodie bags." (Anon)

## QUOTES OF THE DAY

"What happened there, did they not see the flag!!!!"  
— David Tanner, GB team manager, after the adaptive four dropped a length at the start of their heat.

"For our next race we need to work on trying to get rid of this horrible burning sensation in the lungs."  
(Karen Cromie, GBR TA2x, who has been rowing for just 5 weeks)

"Do you think that at the gay regatta they would allow a straight final?"  
— 'Shambles' Shambrook, GB squad psychologist