

Danson Dashers provide drama

ROWING enthusiasts from all over the country flocked to compete in the biggest ever all-day rowing regatta in Welling's Danson Park on Saturday.

Amateur rowers from 31 clubs, some from as far afield as Hertfordshire and Bedford took part along with local crews from Gravesend, Greenwich and Erith.

Organised by the Erith Rowing Club, the popular Danson Dashes—the largest regatta in South East England — drew a record 126 entries from both male and female crews.

Despite the good racing conditions, there were several moments of drama during the day.

A team from the Poplar Rowing Club broke their novice fours final and the race was re-run, and the Globe Senior 'B' Pairs were disqualified when their cox was found too light after a heat.

Later, a member of the Star Rowing Club made a spectacular splash when his boat capsized at the start of a novice sculls heat.

Although wet through, he won his heat and found more drama in the final when his blades clashed with an opponent's and an appeal was made. But he still managed to come out best in the re-run.

Spectators, including a number of Bexley councillors, were also able to enjoy an exhibition of judo techniques and competitive fighting by the Picardy Judo Club.

Presenting the trophies after the day's events were Bexley's Mayor and Mayoress, Councillor Frank and Mrs Isabel Sellors.



WINNERS of the women's coxed fours in the Danson Dashes—the Curlew Rowing Club. Left to right: Nicky Dunkley, Rosalind Glenn, Sue Daly and Beverley Quinn. (P/80899/3)

Results of the finals were: Junior under-16 sculls, S. Bennett (Globe RC) beat D. Gallagher (Globe RC); Novice sculls, I. Higgins (Star RC) beat N. T. Prett (Maidenhead RC); Novice fours, Guildford RC beat Wolfson College RC; Ladies Novice fours, Gravesend RC beat Poplar RC; Senior 'C' sculls—lightweight, L. J. Britten (Poplar RC) beat L. R. Henderson (Maidenhead RC); Junior under-16 fours, City Orient RC beat Globe RC; Ladies senior 'C' fours, Curlew RC beat LT District RC; Veteran fours Guildford RC beat Crowland RC; Ladies novice sculls, T. Pettit (Broxbourne RC) beat A. McCafferty (Alpha RC); Senior 'B' fours, Maidenhead RC beat Eton Excelsior RC; Senior 'B' sculls, R. Garrard (Broxbourne RC) beat A. White (City Orient RC); Senior 'B' pairs, Star RC beat Crowland RC; Veterans sculls, H. M. Stephenson (Crowland RC) beat D. Wilson (Broxbourne RC); Senior 'C' fours, Gravesend RC beat Guildford RC; Ladies pairs, Alpha RC beat Henley RC; Senior 'C' sculls, D. Wright (London RC) beat D. Wardrup (Eton Excelsior RC); Elite pairs, City Orient RC beat Erith RC; Elite sculls, J. Serwener (Guildford RC) beat R. Lupton (Gravesend RC); Double sculls, City Orient RC beat Poplar RC; Elite 'B' fours, City Orient RC 'B' beat City Orient 'A'.