

2008 Mutual and Federal Universities Boat Race Results

By Kerr Rogers

The Mutual and Federal Universities Boat Race began on the Kowie River in Port Alfred on Thursday 11 and ended on Saturday 13 September with the final races. The boat race is the highlight on the University rowing calendar, the only event of its kind in South Africa which attracts the best student rowers from around the country.

The weekend belonged to the University of Witwatersrand who clinched both the Men's A8 and Women's A8 trophies together with the Men's most improved trophy, improving from 5th position last year. Defending champions Rhodes University achieved 5th position in the Men's A8 and were 2nd in the Women's A8 final. The University of Stellenbosch B crew defended their trophy beating the University of Johannesburg crew in the B final with Rhodes University finishing 3rd. The Rhodes University Women's B crew dominated their race beating University of Johannesburg B crew by a clear 2 minutes winning back the trophy that they won last year.

The boat race is modelled on the famous Oxford/Cambridge race which began in 1829 and is rowed over 6km for men and 4km for women. The South African Universities boat race began in 1980 (men) and 1988 (women) which Rhodes has won 14 times (men) and 13 times (women).

The highlight for Rhodes University on the weekend was the Women's A final which saw Rhodes 11 seconds behind University of Witwatersrand in the Heads race. The Rhodes crew had a brilliant start going into the early lead along Bells Reach, however the powerful Wits crew caught up at the Bay of Biscay clashing with the Rhodes crew and eventually overtaking them. The Rhodes crew were unable to catch them and Wits won by 13 seconds.

Mutual and Federal sponsored the boat race for the eighth consecutive year. "Our support not only reflects the commitment we have to the sport of rowing, but also the respect we have for team effort, talent, professionalism and the ambition that participating athletes demonstrate", said Mokaedi Dilotsotlhe, General Manager for Strategy and Marketing of Mutual and Federal.

HEADS RACES - Thursday 11 September

MENS A

		<u>TIME</u>
1	University of Witwatersrand A	17:16:05
2	University of Johannesburg A	17:43:07
3	University of Pretoria A	17:57:43
4	University of Stellenbosch A	18:05:26
5	Rhodes University A	18:18:12
6	Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University A	18:19:82
7	University of Cape Town A	18:32:01

MENS B

1	University of Stellenbosch B	20:13:11
2	University of Johannesburg B	21:02:84
3	Rhodes University B	21:24:31
4	University of Witwatersrand B	21:27:11
5	University of Kwazulu-Natal A	22:37:13
6	University of Fort Hare A	22:59:35
7	University of Pretoria B	24:11:51
8	Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University B	24:14:69
9	University of Cape Town B	24:30:31
10	University of Stellenbosch C	25:50:45
11	University of Fort Hare B	26:03:18
12	University of Kwazulu-Natal B	31:05:27

WOMENS A

1	University of Witwatersrand A	13:49:00
2	Rhodes University A	14:00:92
3	University of Johannesburg A	14:52:43
4	University of Pretoria A	15:04:97
5	University of Cape Town A	15:23:83
6	University of Stellenbosch A	15:49:12
7	Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University A	16:59:87
8	University of Kwazulu-Natal A	17:05:79
9	University of Fort Hare A	17:57:06

WOMENS B

1	Rhodes University B	15:36:32
2	University of Johannesburg B	17:23:67
3	University of Stellenbosch B	17:48:56
4	University of Kwazulu-Natal B	24:16:73

NOVICES

1	University of Fort Hare A	04:41:30
2	University of Johannesburg	04:51:90
1	University of Fort Hare B	04:29:40
2	University of Kwazulu-Natal	05:53:80

FINALS: Friday 12 September and Saturday 13 September

MENS A

		<u>TIME</u>
1	University of Witswatersrand A	18:25:00
2	University of Johannesburg A	18:51:83
3	University of Pretoria A	20:10:94
4	University of Stellenbosch A	20:35:63
5	Rhodes University A	19:32:23
6	Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University A	20:02:92
7	University of Cape Town A	20:40:86

MENS B

1	University of Stellenbosch B	20:45:52
2	University of Johannesburg B	21:12:73
3	Rhodes University B	20:25:36
4	University of Witswatersrand B	20:55:70
5	University of Kwazulu-Natal A	22:47:19
6	University of Fort Hare A	23:23:65
7	University of Pretoria B	25:31:51
8	Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University B	26:07:13
9	University of Cape Town B	25:01:53
10	University of Stellenbosch C	27:03:48
11	University of Fort Hare B	30:04:24
12	University of Kwazulu-Natal B	34:41:16

WOMENS A

1	University of Witswatersrand A	15:00:30
2	Rhodes University A	15:13:21
3	University of Johannesburg A	16:06:03
4	University of Pretoria A	16:55:75
5	University of Cape Town A	16:40:38
6	University of Stellenbosch A	18:56:67
7	University of Kwazulu-Natal A	16:43:54
8	Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University A	17:49:44
9	University of Fort Hare A	18:12:73

WOMENS B

1	Rhodes University B	17:48:39
2	University of Johannesburg B	19:10:53
3	University of Stellenbosch B	19:30:26
4	University of Kwazulu-Natal B	25:56:83

NOVICES: MEN

1	University of Fort Hare A	04:03:31
2	University of Fort Hare B	DNR

NOVICES: WOMEN

1	University of Johannesburg	04:41:43
2	University of Kwazulu-Natal	22:31:18

TROPHIES

BEST DRESSED AT FINAL DINNER (Donated by Mutual & Federal)

Men's - Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University

Women's - Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University

MOST IMPROVED (Donated by Mutual & Federal)

Men's - University of Witswatersrand A

Women's - University of Pretoria A

NOVICES (Donated by Mutual & Federal)

Men's - University of Fort Hare A

Women's - University of Johannesburg

MENS B - The Leslie Gearing Prow

The winners - University of Stellenbosch B

WOMENS B

The winners - Rhodes University B

MENS A - The Cambridge Rudder

(Donated by the Cambridge University Engineers Association)

The winners - University of Witswatersrand A

WOMENS A - The Isis Blade (Donated by Martin Kennard)

The winners - University of Witswatersrand A