

The crew formation weekend was fortunate to have excellent weather and racing conditions.

I would take this opportunity to thank all the helpers and organisers that made the weekend possible.

The testing took different formats for different groups depending on the numbers of potential candidates.

Men Sculling: Synek was a clear winner and showed he is still the dominant force in Czech Sculling.

Behind him was a good race with a tight under 23 group that is selected as a U23 M4x- Zima/Potucek/Sisma/Baldrian

Rimak, as a SA athlete, was also in this group withdrew himself for a Club project.

It will be interesting to watch who from this group of youngsters can improve enough to challenge for Synek's crown in the future.

Lightweight men:

A tight battle in the singles was followed by testing in the doubles, Vastril again showed his dominance in the bigger boat and combined with Simanek, as winner from the singles to make the best combination.

Cincibuch and Hajek showed that despite not being the fastest lightweight double they were still the best heavyweight option and so will change categories.

Kopac will be the spare for these two doubles and race in the single.

The U23 Lightweight men showed the group who were medalist at last years European Championships are still training well and are working towards upgrading their position. Friedrich/Zapletal/Smolic/Cermak

Men's Sweep:

A dominant performance from Helesic and Podrazil means they continue for another season unchallenged in the pair.

Melichar and Tikal finishing second and will form the basis of a potential M4- and due to the absence of two athletes from last year's four further testing is required before any final selection can be made.

There was a large gap of 17 seconds before the U23 crews started to finish but, disappointingly, having achieved a ranking from the racing in the pairs and nearing the conclusion of some tough testing working towards a 4- selection, the group made the decision to withdraw and only focus on the European Championship later in the season.

Women sculling:

Knapkova was back in the single and though initially challenged by Antosova won by a good margin to reclaim her number one position and selection for the single.

Also winning by a clear margin was Neuhortova in the lightweight single, both athletes under the direction of Kacovsky- a nice double triumph for him.

Behind Knapkova was last year's double scull of Antosova and Fleissnerova. This boat remains unchanged.

First of the U23 scullers was Karova and after some further crew boat testing, she will form part of a 4x with Laznickova/Flaminkova/Hartmanova

Supporting this boat is Solarova in a single and Jurkova/Chourova in a double.

Other selections: A Lightweight U23 double of Valsova and Necesova and Zabova/Zabova in a W2- .

The next steps for these crews are racing at Duisburg Regatta (11/12 May) and then for the SA athletes racing at the European Championship (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> June).