

News

23 March 2009:

Cambridge Property Lettings gets their oar in...

On Easter Sunday, 23rd March, four Cambridge University crews braved the sleet and icy winds to row against their Oxford counterparts at Henley-on-Thames, in a set of head-to-head races, which were the culmination of months of gruelling training and preparation. Cambridge Property Lettings were delighted to be one of the sponsors of the women's lightweight crew, in their "Sponsor a Seat" campaign.



Not only are we proud to have been part of this Cambridge institution, but there is also a personal connection. One of our tenants, Jenny Davenport (pictured above left) was rowing at seat number 6 in the crew. When we first met Jenny, she was only thinking of trialling for the lightweight crew. Hearing of this Gill Hames (pictured above right, wife of Trevor Hames our Managing Director), was able to provide encouragement from her personal experience. Gill rowed for the Cambridge Lightweights herself at seat number 4, exactly 20 years ago.

"Rowing for the University was a huge privilege," remembers Gill, "and racing at Henley against Oxford an unforgettable experience. It was definitely worth all the pain of early morning outings in the rain and dreaming of food, which you couldn't eat! We won, which was of course incredibly exciting, but I think I was nearly as thrilled by the thought of being able to eat a chocolate fudge brownie!"

Unlike the heavyweight crews, the lightweights have to constantly watch their diet, as they face disqualification if they weigh more than 59kg on race day. This pressure is on top of 12 training sessions a week, including outings on the water, weightlifting, circuit training and the dreaded timed ergos (sessions on the rowing machine). "It's been pretty all-consuming," admits Jenny, a vet student at St. Edmund's, "but it was all worth it when race day finally arrived." Jenny's crew snatched a narrow but clear win over Oxford, finishing ahead by just one third of a length – the closest verdict in the women's lightweights for ten years, and sadly the sole victory on the Cambridge side.

Commitment, discipline, teamwork, striving for the best results – all qualities which Cambridge Property Lettings are proud to be associated with. Our congratulations go to Jenny and the rest of the women's lightweight crew for all their hard work and dedication in preparation – and of course for their success on the day!