

HEALEY REGATTA,

For over a century, Healey Royal Regatta has been one of the gayest sporting events of the English summer - whether it's a weekend outing for the family, a get-together of rowing enthusiasts, or just an excuse for a new hat. A London deckside crew are here - the Poplar and Blackwall Club, with their 87-year old coach and 166-year old cox. Here's the final of the Wyford Cup, between the Royal Engineers (on the far side) and Brockville Club of Canada.

And victory goes to the Sappers' four, by less than a canvas.

The oldest and biggest trophy (the Grand Challenge Cup) dates from 1839.

Oarsmen from all over the world compete at Healey. Here's T. Kotzerka of Poland, the holder, beating Tony Fox of London in the Diamond Sculls.

And now for the Grand Challenge Cup itself; an all-foreign final, between the French Army (on the far side) and the Rodolubben Three Towns of Sweden. Everyone expects a close race, and at first it looks as though they're going to get it; but the French are the more powerful eight, and after a neck-and-neck start they begin to pull away from the Swedes yard by yard.

And in the final stretch, the French Army have taken the lead - they're a good length ahead as they flash past the post.

Coxes may all look alike from a distance, but you can tell this one's a Frenchman. And he's certainly got something to be excited about - his crew have won in seven minutes, six seconds, the best time of the regatta!