

Rowers repeat 1954 epic

SCOTCH College has won the Gosse Shield for the Head of the River Schoolboy First Eights for the first time since 1954 in a dramatic repeat of history.

Scotch College held on to win the 2000m race by less than a second from a courageous and gallant Prince Alfred College crew.

In 1954, the same two schools rowed, with an identical result.

Prince Alfred led narrowly from St Peters after 200m with Scotch half a length third.

After 500m, Prince's was about

level with St Peters with Scotch just a third of a boat length behind, but already these three crews had gained more than a length over the rest of the field.

Scotch then moved past Saints and level with Prince Alfred and these two crews then produced the classic stroke-for-stroke, side-by-side rowing racing which stirs the blood of the enthusiasts in this sport before Scotch pulled away.

The lead was only slight, but Scotch held it to the finish, winning by a margin of 0.9sec in a time of

6min, 9sec for the 2000m. The schoolgirls First Eight Head of the River was won by present Australian champion, Walford, for the fifth consecutive year.

The schoolgirls race saw a very even competition when five of the six crews were still almost in line after half of the 2000m race had been covered with only Adelaide High out of contention.

Walford took command and won by more than a length from Unley just ahead of Pembroke with Wilderness fourth. Walford also won

the girls under 14 and under 15 titles.

Pembroke had its share of glory, winning three consecutive races — the girls second eight and both the boys and girls first fours. With the under 14 boys quad scull victory, Pembroke gained the most titles for the day.

Scotch also won the boys second eight, Prince Alfred the boys under 15s, Christian Brothers College the boys lightweight four and Wilderness the girls lightweight four.

— PHIL MANGELSDORF