

St Peter's, Scotch claim eights titles

THE St Peter's boys won the SA Schools 2021 Head of the River rowing first eights for the sixth year in a row, but it was the schoolgirls' title race won by Scotch which had the small crowd roaring.

The schoolgirls' first eights racing has seen close contests all season and the grand final was outstanding.

After the first 500m, defending champion Seymour

was on level terms with the Scotch and Wilderness crews.

At the halfway 1000m marker little had changed, as Scotch led by about 2m from Seymour with the Wilderness and Walford crews a quarter of a boat length further back.

The Scotch crew, coached by London Olympian Bryn Coudraye, made its winning move over the next 500m and set up a boat-length lead.

Then in the closing stages the Seymour, Walford and Wilderness crews all stormed home fast to close the gap, with Wilderness finishing a close second, 1.33s ahead of Seymour, which was just 0.15s ahead of Walford in a most exciting finish.

The Prince Alfred crew did everything possible to upset the favoured St Peter's schoolboys' first eight, being level

after the first 500m of their race for the Gosse Shield.

St Peter's had only half a boat length lead by the halfway mark, but gradually forged ahead to win by two boat lengths. Scotch was third and Norwood Morialta fourth.

Prince Alfred won the Cudmore Cup for the boys' first fours, while Pulteney Grammar School won the girls' first Fours for the Medlin Cup.