

Our appeal helps club to get new equipment

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Latest kit: Junior members of City of Bristol Rowing Club with their new boats

Photograph: Dan Regan

We'll make waves in our new rowing boats

ROWERS in Bristol have struck gold with a new "stealth" boat donated after an appeal in the *Evening Post* – and a second boat courtesy of Sport England.

The Bristol-based Spielman Charitable Trust stepped forward to fund a £12,000 boat for juniors at the City of Bristol Rowing Club after reading of their meteoric progress from no hopers to podium finishers.

And the club is set for a double celebration after Sport England confirmed they would splash out with a £8,500 grant on another boat for the club's juniors.

The young rowers have already reaped the rewards of their first new acquisition, a shiny, black Stampi boat nicknamed "Stealth".

Shortly before Christmas the girls under-14s and under-15s coxed quads raced it to gold medals at the Wycliffe Head of the River race and broke a course record in the process.

The club scooped an impressive haul



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of five golds, three silvers and five bronze medals at the event in which they finished last across the board last year.

The money from Sport England will buy a Canadian prototype from the firm Wintec in recognition of the astonishing progress the junior boys have made and led them to compete in the Falley Challenge Cup at the Henley Royal Regatta.

Delighted: Junior co-ordinator for City of Bristol Rowing Club Mike Murphy, who said the youngsters have made great progress

Junior co-ordinator for the club Mike Murphy, 44, from Ashton, told the *Evening Post*: "It was one of those things where the Spielman Trust just came forward as soon as they saw the article. They were looking to allocate some funding in the near future and asked me to write down what we did with the children.

"I nearly fell over when I saw the cheque.

"The results at Wycliffe just show how much training the guys have done.

"It was a mile stone and they wanted to prove how far they had come. It was a great performance."

The club is based at Baltic Wharf in the Harbourside and now has 100 junior members with a race group of more than 30 training three times a week.

The Spielman Trust provides grants to a range of institutions and individuals, particularly those engaged in caring for and educating children and young people in Bristol and the South West of England.