

The Scarlet Blade

This is your pre-heads edition to let you know who to look out for at Kingston and the Tideway, updating you on the progress at the Club on the water and in the clubhouse.

Head Races

At **Burway** head we sent just five eights and came back with three winning crews. The first and second eights continued training at Kingston, so our promising Senior B crew started at number one. Despite losing a fin and boating a substitute they managed a fourth place and won the Senior B penant by over 30 seconds. The women's Novice eight has been impressing everyone with their progress and also won their penant by a considerable margin (and beat some unclassified eights easily as well !). The third win was by the Veteran eight coming in equal on time with Quintin despite Guy Lewis breaking a stretcher plate on the second stroke !

Other heads entered with less success were Henley Fours Head at which we had Senior A, Senior B, women's Senior B and women's Senior C fours. The Molesey Veteran Head was also a little disappointing with the stroke-woman discovering the benefits of the new Aylings seats when she found that the old carbo seats do not run properly on the rails. However, the crew have sworn revenge at Kingston !

A preview now, of Kingston Head run impeccably once more by Brian Colbourne. We have entered only nine eights and two fours covering almost every category and status. Our first eight are making their first appearance of the season and have been looking awesome in practice. Starting number one they should happily remain there subject to accident. Thesecond eight has been disrupted by illness, injury and travelling by the first eight, but ought to be stronger than most club crews. TheSenior B eight has looked capable of a penant win and their confidence is high. The Senior C and Novice eights have improved markedly since their disappointing performance at Burway head and their dedication to training is due to pay off for Nick Ronald, Ian South and Colin Maddison. The women's first eight is going well and the Senior C eight should come close to a win. The Veteran eight will be strengthened by Tim Crookes and will be looking to get the better of Quintin this time around.

The Head starts at 3.00pm.

The **Women's Head** this year had a record five entries from Kingston in a field of over a hundred for the first time. Our first crew started number 2 and did extremely well to finish in 5th position. The Senior C and Junior crews also did well despite an ill-timed netball tournament the same morning ! The Novice women's eight who have been on such good form with the possibility of a penant were the unfortunate victims of a broken rigger after the third minute. They finished the course still managing to beat over fifty crews ! The 'Grannies' crew starting at the back of the field had been trainign almost as hard as when they rowed full time and with Guy Wibberley's guidance they finished a very creditable 31. All five crews finished in the top half of the field.

The **Bass, Hughes and Underwood** was a bit of a washout this year as Molesey could not raise a Veteran crew and entered a crew containing five members who were over senior status against our Senior C crew. They could however raise a first eight which was summarily dismissed

by our senior A crew by some 200-250 meters! The Senior C eight rowed above themselves and may well have won had it not been for some atrocious steering which had even their own crew looking embarrassed at the end. A good deal of trouble went into providing food for a very entertaining morning - a pity only two of the Molesey crewmen bothered to show up. We will have to hope for better next year.

Bar Extension

Following some legal hold-ups on our agreement with Courage the extension has been held up slightly but I understand that building is planned for the first week of April to avoid any disruption of our social events.

Club Dinner

A very enjoyable evening once again capably organised by Louise Norie. The room at Twickenham was ideal and it was great to see so many active men and women supporting the event. 140 people attended and voted the evening a resounding success. Our thanks to Mike Rosewell for overcoming some personal discomfort to give a highly amusing speech as principal speaker. Thanks too to Peter King, Graham Orris and Maurice Hayes for their contributions. The Pou-Pah cup for the best contribution to the club outside rowing went deservedly to Andy Kapica for his work on the building elements of the club.

Regalia

R.R. has asked me to point out that he is now taking orders for:

Club Blazers	£95.00
Waistcoats	£40.00
Caps	£15.00

Bow ties, regatta ties and buttons are available at the club. Maurice Hayes is taking orders for all-in-one shorts and vests and Maggie is still looking after the general club kit.

Social Events

First on the agenda is the Kingston Head itself, where the bar will be open all day and hot and cold food will be on sale in the club room. After the Tideway Head there will be a disco organised by Paul Wensly which was very successful last year. On the following Saturday will be a Canadian Club Party night which will be a 'themed' evening of drink, food, drink, dancing, drink and dressing up - oh and there will be some drink on sale at bargain basement prices. Watch the notice board for details!

Sunday lunches will be recommencing in the next few weeks and any offers for doing a meal will be gratefully received since Louise has her hands full with the other events.

The Remenham Dinner is to be held at the club this year and members are invited to attend, see Richard Higgins for details.

Power Sprint Regatta

This is a brand new event which is a national 500 metre sprint competition held in six regional heats culminating in a final at the Bristol Docks on Bank Holiday Monday 25th May. The event will be covered in four forty-five

minute programmes on Channel Four and will feature three categories - mens eights, womens coxed fours and mens sculls. The prizes are an eight, a four and a scull for the clubs of the winning crews. We will of course be entering our strongest crews for the events.

However, since this is an ideal opportunity for the club we have decided to change our sprint regatta to the same day as the regional heat - Monday 4th May. It will be an exciting, hectic day and will be seen by some tens of thousands of people from Canbury Gardens since it is also the day of the Festival of Sport !! Your help in making the day run smoothly is absolutely vital since it is a great chance to both make money for our racing this season and keep the clubs name to the forefront of British Rowing. There will be races every three minutes from about eight in the morning until early evening (the Power Sprint organisers expect up to 30 eights to enter the race alone!) We need help with food, entertaining the event sponsors, DAF, help behind the bar, organising crews, marshalling etc. Jim Svenson-Taylor is organising the event, so contact him if you can help.

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OK scandal mongers here it is again, the Nigel Dempster of Canbury Gardens has been out and about.

The Dinner was a positive feast of gossip and I may return to the occasion from time to time to resurrect little snippets to remind you of what a good time you had! John Grove was seen to be "carrying" his duty as host to our representative from Twickenham a little too far when he carried her across Canbury Gardens. Unfortunately he dropped her in one of the larger puddles and proceeded to squash her with his not inconsiderable bulk. His requests for her to take off her dress so that he could clean it were not taken up - as far as I know!

Scully Burrows took the term 'a quiet holiday break' a little too literally on his recent skiing trip coming back with a Barry Sheen type pin in his leg. He was considerably cheered by Farrell Mossop when he asked if the pin was on the outside of his leg and told Farrell that it was, in fact, on the inside to stop his leg rusting. When I asked how he had his accident, I believe the story has been slightly enhanced when I was told that he overtook a competitor on the ski jump - in mid air and landed a touch awkwardly.

I was pleased to note that a memembr of the committee's request for the active oarsmen and women to behave themselves was adhered to at the Dinner. However, the person concerned was conspicuous by his state of inebriation which culminated in one of the longest kisses (or conversations two inches from the ear) ever seen at a club dinner. Subsequent research shows that this is without precedent in the Guinness Book of Records. Well done R.R.

Another interesting snippet has been passed to me regarding two of our guest speakers. This may also have been exaggerated a touch, but I understand that Graham Orris and Mike Rosewell had a few problems on their way home from the dinner. It seems that their chauffeur had never been further than the Oxford perimeter before and needed plenty of guidance on the way to Twickenham. On the way back the two unfortunante passengers dozed off to discover on awaking that the sign posts read Basingstoke and not Oxford. A ninety minute drive therefore took some four hours - their story and they are sticking to it.

COME TO THE CLUB SOON - THERE'S PLENTY HAPPENING!

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