

SCARLET BLADE

A feast of information for you in your summer edition. Did you see the Daf Sprint ? Have you seen the bar extension ? Have you heard about our regatta successes ? Our Henley results are very promising, we have a new sponsor and the Scarlet Blade has been working overtime on the gossip.

Daf Sprint

As I am sure you all know now we hosted one of the heats of the new competition attempting to bring rowing to prime time television. The event featured men's eights, women's coxed fours and men's sculls rowed over 500 metres and televised on Channel 4. We were allowed three extra entries at Reading the week before and our girl's four managed to qualify for the finals.

On our own stretch we had Farrel Mossop competing in the singles at the last minute because of a mix up in times. He did marvellously well to finish second and qualify for the finals sporting his new Japanese impersonation. The women's four were very impressive being featured as one of the top crews in the event and justified this position by winning their heat comfortably. The eight were very impressive in their heat with the second fastest time, but encountered some bad wash and just failed to qualify for the finals in Bristol.

The finals were well organised in every respect in Bristol with the exception of a large balloon with the sponsors name on it which confused the womens four's cox, Carol Grant sufficiently to encourage her to wind the crew down when well ahead. Unfortunately the balloon was 50 metres from the finish and meant that the crew missed the row-off for the final prize (a new coxed four) by half a second. Farrell again showed his determination by reaching the race off for the prizes and came third with a poor scull for him, but still won a pair of Sutton's sculls.

Regattas

We are having an excellent domestic season with 96 wins at the time of writing and we are on course for a new club record with the main 'pot hunting' part of the season still to come. The figure does not include the number of races and lost finals that should have been won !

We have had wins in novice, senior C, senior B, senior A, elite B, elite, women's novice and senior C eights and in coxed fours, men's senior B, senior A, women's novice, senior C, senior B and senior A. Not to mention men's senior A and elite coxless fours, senior A and elite pairs, novice, senior C, senior B and elite sculls, women's senior C, senior B and unclassified double sculls. I am sorry not to mention all by name but we could be writing for a week !

At Kingston Amateur Regatta, again well run by Wibbo and his committee, we won nine events and the Victor Ludorum for the umptenth time. This success was repeated at Henley Town and Visitors and on the Sunday the elite eight won the £250 prize offered for that event. We are sending a staggering 75 entries to Stouport 'International' weekend, which should see us break the 'ton' for the season's wins.

Great credit must go to all the coaches at every level since it is rare now for a crew to go out and not be coached by someone. Many thanks to you from grateful oarsmen and women.

Henley 1987

At this year's Royal Regatta we entered three Thames Cup eights, a Wyfold four, a Britannia four, a coxless pair and a single in the Diamonds. Two eights and a pair were asked to qualify and succeeded comfortably which was very gratifying for the third eight which had won its last senior C pot just two weeks before !

However, this was to be no flash in the pan as they proceeded to the next round with a comprehensive victory on the Wednesday. A marvellous effort by the crew and their coaches Nick Ronald and Ian South. The club first eight prepared well and looked to have gathered enough speed to challenge the fancied Irish crews, but they had a nervous opening row and came second to a crew they should have beaten. The second eight had the type of draw they must have hoped for and rowed with great style to reach Friday where a heavy Thames crew managed to hold on to win.

The coxless pair of Aquilina and Johncox moved smoothly through the first round to win as they liked only to find themselves against the russian World Champion Pimenov brothers. They will tell you they tired the russians for the Sunday meeting with Holmes and Redgrave - especially after a few Pimms !

Farrell Mossop again performed better than his critics suggested he might by easily winning his first two rounds before succumbing to the russian champion on Friday,

Whilst this was keeping all the Kingston Henley contingent entertained our two fours were working their way smoothly and professionally to Saturday beating some fancied crews on the way. The coxless four then came up against the world silver medal

winning Nottingham County four who really should have been moving up to the Stewards event. Despite an excellent first half of the course they were beaten by a crew which won the final very easily.

The coxed four had previously beaten the Vesta four who had been selected by the Stewards, they then demolished the Irish challenge on the Saturday (they were also selected) before meeting a very experienced Lea coxed four in the final. The Lea crew contained previous Henley winners and had been together for the whole season. Our boys had been together just seven weeks. Despite repeated attacks on the Lea's early lead our crew lost by two lengths; they are our first Britannia Cup finalists for six years.

National Championships

We had fifteen entries for the Nat Champs this year and some fine results. The eights were disappointing once again with the heavyweight eight finishing sixth in the final and the lightweights surprisingly only fifth after a much better row in the heats. The coxed four were trying to avenge their Henley defeat by the Lea, but drew the slowest lane and just managed to hold off two fast finishing Scullers fours for the bronze. Farrell Mossop attempted to produce his electric finish once again and was a fraction of a second behind new Kingston member Mark Pollecutt who got a bronze.

The coxless four scratched when two of the crew were selected for a quad for the Match des Seniors, whilst in the women's quad event we had two representatives. Rebecca Goswell and Kristina Grant, in their composite crew, overhauled the experienced quad containing the Daf Sprint four (with no cox!) to get a creditable silver. In lightweight doubles one of the original oarswomen at the club - Sue Chamberlain - had a very comfortable win giving her the distinction (with her partner Dominique) of being British and French champions.

Of our other entries, the women's junior Under 16 four came fifth once again. Ian South's junior eight (when was the last time we entered one of these?) came fifth and stroke Bill Burrige was selected to row in the Anglo French match, winning the coxless fours event.

AGM

The AGM was well attended and passed the new rule adding a new category to the membership fees. Henceforth part time rowing will be encouraged with a half rate fee. Maybe this will encourage prompt payment! Matthew Christie was appointed captain for next season and we all wish him success.

Sponsors

At Henley we followed a new format for providing kit for our first eight and two fours. Thanks to Rob Thompson we have secured a new joint sponsorship agreement with Alfred McAlpine and Parmane Marine (based just above the railway bridge) which will provide us with major sponsorship in years to come if we treat them well in a trial period of one year. More of this later....

We were also helped by National Mutual Life who provided tops for other qualifiers. Our thanks to Dave Longden for organising this. Thanks also to Jim Suenson-Taylor for providing more sweat shirts at a time when our crews were looking decidedly scruffy. This has turned out to be not only a cheap way for the companies to advertise to a lot of people at Henley, not only a good way for us to provide our Henley representatives with kit, but a good source of future sponsors. If you or your company would be interested for next year (it would cost around £300) please contact me for details.

Bar Extension

If you have not seen the developments here you really ought to pop down to the club for a drink. The extension, (or the Kapica wing) has taken shape and now only needs to be finished off and decorated. It has added a lot more much needed space and will look magnificent when totally finished. A vote of thanks here to Andy, Tim Crooks, Scully, Guy and the boys for their good work.

We need volunteers for opening the bar earlier. If any of our 'senior' members could open and run the bar from 7.45 to 9.00pm please contact Dave Longden or Guy. A new Sunday rota is being devised, please make it known if you can do a session.

Scarlet Blade

The last edition of the year from your well-red reporter.

Life is tough on the bar committee, Andy Reynolds has escaped to the middle east to get away from the pressures of pulling pints and women, for the pleasures of giving a little personal coaching to Caledonian girls in Dubai. We all wish him great success - but watch out we have our spies there too !

The Dateline service to the club has been working overtime again. Rumours of bells other than those signifying the end of a race for a loving couple of long term members (there is a brand new hayes on the horizon.)

One of our national champion scullers has been seen recently with one of our senior C girls deep in late night conversation, on rigging ?

Some of our senior A men have been increasingly popular with the junior women's section, although I understand their coach has

been keeping their mothers informed (but what about the Higlet's mothers ?)

Carol Grant has been putting on a brave face after the Daf Sprint disaster. She was seen sporting a new T shirt at Henley emblazoned with the caption "Finish - what finish ?" Ron Needs please note.

Fancy an evening meal out ? Your rowing reporter found a couple of familiar faces in the Kingston Pasta Bar one Sunday evening. The service is much recommended - not to mention the bribes - why not pay a visit. Who knows they might provide the same service for us at the club lunches next season with all that practice.

We have been doing very well in the national papers following Henley once again this year. Did anyone see our bar manager in the Observer Magazine a few weeks ago ? and does anyone know if he was using rouge on his lips or was it neat Pimms ?

See you next season and may the wins be with us !

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BOAT NAMING

We are aiming to give our new sponsors, Alfred McAlpine, as much publicity as possible this year. We are planning to enter a strong eight for the Boston Marathon on 20th September to try to beat the current record (over 50 years old !) and get under the magic 3 hour mark.

Before this, we will be having a boat naming ceremony at the club and we ask for as many people as possible to attend on Sunday 6th September at 11.30am. There will be free champagne and a chance to get your picture in the local paper!

Put those dates in your diaries and please try to come down. If we impress them now we will get some more money for the next season.

Another set of dates to remember (you really must get a File-o-Fax OK yah) are DATES OF THE OARSMENS' MEETINGS:

Mens' meeting is Thursday 1st October at 7.30 pm sharp

Women's meeting is Tuesday 6th October at 7.30 sharp

Coaches meeting - by invitation or if you wish to help in some way is Tuesday 29th September at 7.30pm.

LATE NEWS

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