



**KINGSTON  
ROWING  
CLUB**

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PLEASE REPLY TO:

THE SCARLET BLADES

One third of the season gone already and the groan of our oarsmen and women continues from early morning until late at night. This is the pre-head edition to keep you updated on the form of our crews.

The small boats heads are over.....1987 potential.....Head preview...  
...building up-date.....the Annual Dinner.....Sponsorship...social events  
...and the Scarlet Blade is on the prowl.

Squad Breakdown

All the training groups have been developing well since October and have split themselves fairly naturally into five groups.

A) The 'Development' group, run by Richard and Tim, is based on the successful four and double of last year. It is good to see Chris Andrews back at the Club to replace Jim Garman who has gone up to Cambridge (our best wishes to him for March). We have a highly promising new young four who have been impressive trainers and we hope they will be hot on the heels of our international crew.

Maurice Hayes has been invited to join a squad lightweight eight development group at Hammersmith and our three top women have received a similar invitation from Ron Needs for the women's group. The squad numbers fifteen.

B) The 'Club' group, run by Scott and Paul Reynolds helped by Keith Jackman, has also been hard at it although a number of injuries, illnesses and excess Christmas holidays has limited their progression. However, we expect a strong Senior A eight and a very strong Senior B eight to materialise from the twenty oarsmen currently training.

C) The mens Senior C and novice group under Nick Ronald aided by Colin Maddison and Ray Fricker has been most encouraging in their general enthusiasm. They are a little behind on their progress due to injury, lethargy and Australian holidays but with some application they will soon recover the ground lost. The squad comprises sixteen people.

D) The 'Club Women's' group ably run by Maggie Phillips and Stuart Brierley have progressed steadily. The group has suffered from a large retirement by Club regulars from last year, but have worked hard in small boats and will now be looking to increase the workload up to the heads. The regular members are ten strong.

E) The Senior C, novice and junior women's group is showing excellent progress. There seems to be a resurgence of interest in our sport at this level with as many as three eights boating some weekends. Louise Norie, Richard Higgins and Richard Roland have been imparting their knowledge to good effect and I am told to watch out for the novice eight, some of whom dwarf the men's Senior C's !

This squad numbers around thirty.

F) In addition to these groups there has been the Chairman's Veteran eight, including a strong new stroke who has been keeping the men up to scratch - although I don't think Astrid will be allowed to row in the Heads ! Colin Green's Veterans boat every Sunday and are on the look-out for some new recruits. There is also a women's 'Heavies' crew rumoured for the women's Head - a sign of the progression in the Club - baby-sitters are needed here I think !

All in all a very satisfactory start. A cool 100 oarsmen and women are using the equipment with not too many problems because of the smooth organisation of the coaches. Land training has been well ordered and happily split between the school gyms, the canoe club and our own gym. Of course if there are any other former regular oarsmen who wouldn't mind spending perhaps a day a fortnight on a bike please give Scott a call.

### Small Boats Head

The Fours Head was disappointing from a results point of view with no wins this year. However, in view of the poor conditions at the start of the race added to the fact that our ten crews started in the top 150 (there were 500 entries this year) when the conditions were at their worst, the results were not too bad.

Top crew was the Phelps, Greenaway, Mossop, Wensley coxless four who finished 19th. Since we do not own ten fours the main problem was practice in the boats, so we must be satisfied with the experience gained.

It was a different story at the Club's Small Boat Head. A very well organised event with a very successful disco on the night before tiring out our opponents. We covered almost all the events and won almost as many as all the other clubs put together. Special thanks go to Maurice Hayes for his organisation and to all who helped him - a very good Club effort.

At Walton Small Boats Head there were four divisions for the first time and we were well represented in each with twenty pairs and a dozen scullers. Paul Wensley and Farrell Mossop started number one and finished there after some erratic timings. Overall a good day for the Club with wins in Senior A coxed pairs and women's Senior A sculls as well as a string of close finishes in other categories.

At Burway our girls won Senior B pairs and novice doubles to show that the training is moving the right way. Other sculling head wins were by Kate Holroyd, Chris Andrews, Penny Chapman, Richard Phelps and Paul Wensley.

### Head Preview

We will be going to three eights heads this year so crews to watch for will be our men's Senior A, Senior B, Senior C, women's Senior C and novice eights at Burway (21st February) and Kingston (21st March). The same women's crews at the women's Head (14th March) where the first eight starts fourth. The Tideway Head is on the same day as the Boat Race on 28th March and we will have a very fast first eight which Richard and Tim are grooming (this may well be at Kingston also, to retain our No. 1 position) as well as possible pennant winners in Senior A and Senior B. Do try and support the crews especially at the Kingston Head which will be more than ably run by Brian Colbourn as usual. (A 2.30 start is the norm). You can help make this as big a success as usual, please offer your services.

## BASS HUGHES AND UNDERWOOD

We have four pairs going to squad trials on the 31st January and 1st February, so we have re-arranged the annual match with Molesey for Sunday 8th February, starting at 11.00 a.m. The crews will be a first eight, Senior C eight and Veteran eight, racing from the Mole to the Club side by side. There will be a buffet and a band organised at the Club afterwards so come down and cheer our boys on and warm up in the bar afterwards.

## EQUIPMENT

As usual we never have quite enough of the best equipment. We have recently bought a second hand carbo from KGS to ease the pressure on eights, and a new set of womens oars from the Small Boats Head profit. We have been offered a cheap video camera, ergo and coxless pair which we cannot afford. In addition, we would like to buy another coxed four for the women as well as up-dating our eights. In short we need a new sponsor. We have sent out copies of the video to potential sponsors with no success so far. Many people are trying to help in this area, but we need an assurance of some money soon in order to book the boats. If you need a copy to assist you, please let me know. Let's make this the best year the club has known.

## BUILDING WORK

The landing stage was opened in November by Leslie Parsons. A magnificent engineering achievement for Andy Kapica ably assisted by Guy, Matthew and Scully. The next step is to build the bar extension which will happen at the beginning of February. We have the money and the agreements with the builders, so it's all systems go, more news in the next edition.

We also have plans drawn up to house our older boats under the balcony on special racks enclosed by plastic sheeting. This is the first step towards a permanent addition to that side of the Club.

## CLUB DINNER

The Club Dinner will be at the Rose Room at Twickenham Rugby Ground on Friday 13th February (I hope you're not superstitious!) at 7.15 p.m. for 7.45 p.m. The room is magnificent and I feel sure the dinner will be a huge success. The principle speaker will be Mike Rosewell. The price will be a very reasonable £13.40 per head and this includes a coach from the Club if required. A form to return to Louise Norrie is enclosed, and please state if you would like to use the coach.

## SOCIAL EVENTS

To re-confirm the exciting events coming up, we have food and competition on Sunday 8th February with the Bass Hughes and Underwood event - starting at 11.00 a.m. There will be food and an all day bar at the Kingston Head on 21st March, followed by a disco in the evening. Keep your eyes on the notice board for any impromptu events like Colin Ellis' curry lunch and an overseas lunch. As a spin-off from our Record Breaking Row last year we will be organising a party night and there will be very cheap cocktails made with "wonderful" Canadian Club Whisky - which really isn't too bad! There will be raffle and auction for some Canadian Club designer clothing to help raise money for a video camera and recorder for the club. Watch notice board for dates.

## SCARLET BLADE

May I first of all thank you for giving me so much to write about this time round. If you are not mentioned it is because there is such a lot to choose from!

What is it about Australia then? Everyone seems to be going - first Steve Trebble went to survey the beer factories and the Sheilas on the beach. Then Helen Spooner went to check out the rates for Bruces ('Telerates' I am told) and to use the fact that there is a lot of airspace to weave her way around the outback. Uncle Nick Ronald didn't seem to get out of bed for a month so I won't tell you what he was checking. Of course we have our own resident Koala in Grant Watkins our editing wizard who managed to escape from the sun-drenched, bronzed beautiful women, cool lager and the choice of playing in the Aussie cricket team (they've tried everyone else). Personally I would give a four-x anytime for a pint of Brakespeares!

One of the highlights of this year's panto, apart from the record minimum time to write it and find people to perform, was the mutual baiting of junior men and the Higlets take-off of everyone in the Club. I think Richard Higgins must now be the most taken-off character since Eddie Waring! A good time had by all and John Eves sends his thanks to those buying raffle tickets and donating the Playboy Christmas special which his daughter won. Has anyone yet told Leslie Dunlop and Donal Casey that they slept together at the panto?

The cry is out for more birthday parties like the recent Higlet coming of age party at which a coronary unit was on permanent standby for the likes of Uncle Nick, Richard 'Rambo' Wells, RR, and Richard Higgins himself. These girls seem to be growing up quickly, but I'm sure Rambo did not expect to be asked for help on homework for 'O' Levels!

Mystery is surrounding the recent wager between Colin Ellis and Matthew Christie announced by Stanley West at the rum punch party recently. What was the wager? Maybe this is more like an "Agatha" Christie, we are just missing a body or the like, perhaps the name will stick even if we never hear the solution. Anyway, our thanks to Basil Gray and his wife Ros for the punch, but none to "Him" upstairs for the weather.