

# The Scarlet Blade



Dec 1987

At last it's here. The all new Scarlet Blade complete with new headline and newspaper format giving you all the news from the club, forthcoming events and the latest results on the river.

We will be having guest writers for amusing insights into rowing related activities. If you would like to submit a short article please send it to me at the club. It can be in your own name or a pseudonym to protect the innocent!

Round-up of events to the end of 1987.

The Small Boats Head has already been mentioned but two notable omissions were the womens coxless pair of Keeley Jackson and Sue Pratley who expressly asked for a personal mention. Maurice Hayes, who did a splendid organisational job on one leg, has asked us to thank all those who helped with the food on the day and those who brought food for sale. Very appetising and profitable for the club!

The Burway Small Boat Head was well attended by the club men's and women's squad. Nigel Toone and John O'Neil maintained their remarkable winning sequence in coxed pairs - elite this time. There were also wins for Sarah Wright and Natalie Evans, Fiona McAnena and Camilla Sykes as well as a resounding win in veteran sculls by Scott Tunbridge (OK - there were only two entries!)

At the squad trials there were good performances by Farrell Mossop in the sculling trials and by all the senior girls who maintained their interest for the next set of trials.

On the social front, we had a highly successful Barn Dance, organised by Chris Andrews, and a fantastic turn out to see the Christmas Revue. This event was co-ordinated by Anna Chate and had contributions by every squad training at the club as well as the old faithful Revuees. Judging by the reaction of the audience, the fact that this Revue was twice as long as any before did not affect peoples' enjoyment. (The show ended at around midnight!)

The climax of the show was the KRC Revue video, produced by Scott Tunbridge and edited in marathon sessions and with tremendous skill by Grant Watkins. The nnnn-nineteen hours he spent on one day added to the other all night sessions, gave us one of the funniest programmes seen over the whole Christmas period! Our thanks to Grant, who has just spent a well-earned rest on the green slopes of a ski resort.

The video is being copied and will be ready for purchase on VHS by the dinner (more about both later).

### Forthcoming Events

The club calender is almost ready and will be circulated shortly. However, if you want to bring your diaries up to date, the club will be represented at the following heads:

- 30th January - Stourport
- 20th February - Burway
- 27th February - Worcester
- 12th March - Womens Head (10.00am start)
- 19th March - Kingston Head
- 26th March - Tideway Head (10.30am start)
- 9th April - Scullers Head (10.30am start)

For your information the Boat Race takes place on April 2nd starting at 2.30pm.

### DAF Powersprints

We have been selected once again to host a heat of the Daf Powersprint Championships for our region. In their wisdom the organisers have arranged for all the best crews in the country to race off at our event. Good for spectators, but tough for the competitors! However, this time they will put six crews through to the Grand Final which will be at Peterborough's man-made course. The date of the event is Sunday 8th May - we will need lots of help to make the day go well and profitably!

### Kingston Sprint Regatta

This year will be held on the normal date of Bank Holiday Monday 30th May. We are currently negotiating with sponsors to provide prize money for some of the events to attract a good entry. If you know of any companies prepared to donate up to £500 for an event please contact Scott. Please note the date and lend a hand or come and see our crews in action.

### Bass, Hughes and Underwood

Our challenge has gone up to Molesey to race for these trophies on Sunday 21st February. Do come down on this day because even if they duck out we will put on a show and a Sunday Lunch.

### Bar Area

Slow but sure progress; we now have a carpet in the extension courtesy of Andy Tompkins' company Siemens. The beer barrels have now been moved downstairs to the newly constructed storage area where the old workshop used to be. The kitchen floor has been levelled and retiled. If anyone has any ideas for furniture for the extension - which will not cost us too much, if anything, please let us know.

### Equipment

We now have our refurbished eight back from the Serpentine smash-up as well as the coxless pair. Simon Allen has repainted and repaired the red eight and is working on the blue eight now. We would really like to keep these boats but one will have to be sold if we do not come up with the £4,000 balance required for the new eight.

The two new fours are due in February so we will be back to full strength ready for the summer onslaught.

### Sponsors

We are currently having discussions with McAlpines for a new sponsorship deal for this season. As usual we are on the lookout for companies to support us. Our next priority is a new womens four (or 2?) which is well overdue. We obviously stand a good chance in this year's Daf sprint and hopefully we will win some prize money at our regatta, but we do need the input of another sponsor for the womens side of the club. We have last year's video to show plus a package describing our most marketable features. Once again if you've got some ideas don't leave it until the summer, we need the input now!

Part of the offer to the sponsors is another record attempt. We have two to go for and both are beatable with the right training and support. The Loch Ness record has stood for many years now and looks ready for an attack. The second is a 24 hour endurance record which stands at 130 miles (our 112 mile Oxford-Westminster row took 14.5 hours). The proposed time to attempt the record is in August/September of this year to get the best weather conditions. More about this soon.

### TSB Trustcard

In the last newsletter we enclosed forms for the Trustcard which will give £5.00 to rowing for each card applied for and £1.00 to the club. Although this does not seem much there are 400 of you and there is a prize of £2,000 to the club with most new cardholders by the Head. So send for a card now, there are more forms at the club. (You don't even have to use it for us to get the money).

### Club Dinner

Demand for tickets is tremendous this year, so get your requests off to Louise Norie ASAP to avoid disappointment. If you have a potential sponsor bring them along, it's an ideal chance to hear what is happening at the club. The videos will be played before and after the proceedings and they will be on sale if you want a permanent record of the club to bore your friends.

### **\*\* LATE EXTRA \*\***

Club Dinner -

Steve Redgrave cannot speak at the dinner as he is off to training camp early. Dan Topolski has kindly agreed to take his place. With his record in the Boat Race he should prove a most acceptable substitute.

### Videos

This is another source of income for the club and we still have around thirty of the record row for sale. The new Revue video will also be available at a reasonable price - please be generous - it is for the club.

### Veteran Dinner

A 1988 Vet's dinner is planned for 11th March and is open to all members of the requisite age. Invitations will go out this month, so prepare your wallets, book your hangovers and have a good reminisce ..... "we went off the start ....."!

### Other News

RR keeps on to me about all this wonderful new kit which is now available. He is also taking orders for Regalia - club blazers, waistcoats, bow ties, gold buttons, caps, spats and spurs. If you want to look the part - or something - this summer, contact him.

John Pierce has done a marvellous job with the red trailer, refurbishing it to look marvellous. Our thanks to him and his helpers.

### Sunday Lunches

Keep an eye out for a new series of Sunday Lunches. Chris Andrews will be donning his pinny for the first one soon. Why not pop down to the club to see when the next one will be. Sundays are very pleasant and the bar is open from mid-day until you go home!

## DOWN BY THE RIVERSIDE

Happy New Year .....

This is a new column to go with the new look, re-vamped (sorry Vamp), Scarlet Blade. Hopefully we'll be able to keep you even more in touch with what's going on at the club, both on the river and behind the scenes.

Well, of course not much has been happening on the water recently apart from Walbrook getting in the way. You may be interested to know that according to Maurice (who should know about these things) at the end of 1987 we had more wins than at the end of '86 which bodes well for the season to come.

The club is ever expanding - no one ever sees them but apparently both Kingston Poly and KCFE row from our boathouse now (even more members)!

**Upstairs .....**

Of course over Xmas we had the Revue - Matthew must be a popular Captain going on how often he was mentioned. The Rum Punch Party was a success (hic) - pity about the rowing.

**Downstairs .....**

Now, I remember when the girls down here used to complain that they didn't have any boats to row in - our leader Cap'n Matt (Womens' Olympic Liaison Officer) has taken this to heart; so now the complaint heard most often is that "some" of the girls get all the equipment.

Talking of boats, you may have seen that the storm-damaged ones are starting to return from the menders. Actually I think all this damage is simply a ploy by Scottie to arrange more boat naming ceremonies - and why not? hic.

So what do we have to look forward to; well we have new rules regarding status - it's all on points now and the new system gives us much greater flexibility but could be a mathematical nightmare for the coaches. You may yet see Tim Crooks rowing Senior C's - oops - it's called Senior III's now.

Up and coming events include the Daft Sprint on TV again - that's the one where you row 490 metres and then float and see if your inertia is enough to win the race.

Well, I'd better close now before I upset anybody else. See you soon - good rowing.

**Ed.** If you think you can write a better or more imaginative, amusing article, send it in - next edition is pre Kingston Head.

## SCARLET BLADE

A marvellous Christmas for little gems, you really have been busy recently - well done.

We may as well start with the one that all those by the name of Nick will be dreading. And I won't disappoint you! The recent Senior C squad supper was a resounding success for anyone called Nick. It was held by our gallant secretary, Nick Ronald who proceeded to lose his shirt, shoes, socks and trousers as well as a few other things later on to one of his female guests. Two of our other new veteran women also needed escorting home and who better to oblige than a pair of Nicks - Taylor and Bullen. Suffice to say that your correspondent has been kept closely informed of the progress and will provide subsequent 'anickdotes' (sorry) in due course.

A fond farewell to Wibbo. Guy Wibberley has found life a little chilly in Camberley recently so he is escaping to the warmth of Africa once again. However, he is making the most of his farewell by having loads of departure parties, like the one where he was at Nicky Maull's house (yes, a female Nick!) with some of his loyal originals (about 8 of them). No wonder he has been smiling so much recently.

Some new arrivals and pending arrivals to report. Paul and Julia Downs, a member some years ago, have just produced another son. Gill and James Suenson-Taylor are now the proud parents of a daughter, and Tony and Debbie Ellis are expecting their second as we speak - it must be something in the water - so keep out of it! Congratulations to Libby MacIntyre and Andy for taking the big plunge - I mean announcing their engagement; frantic consultations with the rowing calender have set the date for the 27th August - which is proving to be a popular date since Boysie and Joan are also planning to tie the knot the same day.

The Christmas booze flowed freely judging by the number of people desperately trying to train it off now! (Did someone actually see Scott Tunbridge on the ergo the other night?). At one of our vice captain's homes after Christmas, your correspondent enjoyed a splendid evening, leaving before the climax of the heavy drinking with Scully, Vamp, Richard Higgins, and Tim Pride. I wonder how our vice captain got on?

Enough is enough. We hope you have enjoyed your first "All New Scarlet Blade". Watch out for the pre-Head edition and keep out of trouble or the Scarlet Blade will pounce.

SCARLET BLADE