

The Scarlet Blade



Oct 1988

The last edition of the season includes a round up of results at Henley and the Champs, the AGM, the new committee, next year's aims, this years selections and of course, the Scarlet Blade.

Henley 1988

It seems like an age ago, but here are the results of our crews at the Royal Regatta. In general not a good year for us in terms of results, but very good in terms of representation.

Following our achievement of three crews qualifying for the event last year, we were given two immediate places in this years Thames Cup. The third crew, consisting of early season novices and senior IIIs thoroughly enjoyed the experience of pre-qualifying, but failed narrowly in the time trial. The second eight found the pace too hot for them in the first round, but for the majority it was the first time at the event which should have them looking for something better next season.

The first eight had a tough first round draw against the fastest Oxford college crew who clearly fancied their chances of winning the event. stroked by Mark Partridge, the crew rowed well to keep their noses in front all the way to win by a length in the fastest Thames Cup time of the day. In the second round they came up against a Cork crew who rowed above themselves in the middle of the race and although our eight brought the deficit back to a few feet down the enclosures, Cork held on to win. Doubly disappointing for the crew was the strong Galway crew being disqualified, allowing Tideway Scullers to win comfortably - when the Kingston crew had beaten them earlier in the season.

The fours this year were formed very late and the Britannia Cup crew were stroked by the evergreen Paul Reynolds through a comfortable first round win to face Maidenhead in the second round. This Maidenhead crew boasted umpteen Henley medals amongst them with everyone having won at least two in the past! In a tough battle Maidenhead prevailed before losing to the exceptional winners University of London.

The best effort this year came from the Prince Phillip four who had originally entered the Brit. only to be moved up and seeded in the senior event! In the first round they annihilated an American college, surprising even themselves. In the semi-finals the crew, consisting of Chris Andrews, Shane O'Brien, Farrell Mossop, Peter Hope and Carol Grant, came up against the Canadian squad crew selected for the Olympics and pushed them hard before succumbing by 2.5 lengths.

/2

In the Diamonds, Maurice Hayes again qualified comfortably before finding a very large East German too tough in his first race. Still at least a Kingston boat won here as he was using Damian Hammond's bath, er, I mean boat, to race in.

Maurice also doubled into a double scull with former Kingston captain Graham Pratt to beat a crew from Stourport in the first round. In the Wyfolds the lightweight four showed their lack of racing practice this season in losing in their first round.

To show how high the standard is these days even the great Leander Club could only win events in which the National Squad took part, despite attracting the cream of British oarsmen away from their founder clubs.

National Championships

An altogether happier time for our crews with 6 medal winning boats. The coxed four from the Prince Phillip were never really in danger in winning their event (and going on to represent England in the Home Countries and winning that as well!) The girls junior eight coached by Ian South rowed strongly to achieve a bronze medal and gain selection for the Anglo-French international.

Also in the junior events, Sarah Birch won silver in J16 singles and Christa Thorpe won a bronze to add to her eights Bronze in a composite J16 double scull. It was quite a day for the family since Richard also won a gold in heavyweight coxless fours and gained selection for the Match des Seniors (in which he came second by just a few feet.)

In women's lightweight four Judy Waldock and Sue Pratley crowned a season of starving by winning a silver medal in a composite crew with Staines. The most remarkable result was the gold medal in coxed pairs by Andy Tidey, Paul Reynolds and Sam Burgess-Allen. Sitting back in the pack with less than 500 metres to go it seems that Boysie decided to "have a go" and went straight through the field to win by over a length.

Other Regatta News

Kingston Amateur Regatta had a poor year in terms of entries with Bedford offering cash prizes. It seems that we must find more medium-sized sponsors to help cover costs and provide an incentive for crews to come to our events. Anyone with any ideas here should contact Scott Tunbridge or Colin Maddison. The event was well managed as usual and I am sure the entry problem will be just a temporary setback.

The total of wins is still looking healthy although down on last year's record-breaking performance with about 70 wins at the last count.

Matthew Christie

As you will see from the AGM report to follow, Matthew Christie is standing down as captain in favour of Farrell Mossop. The Scarlet Blade, on behalf of all club members would like to thank him for his efforts over the season, since it is an onerous task taken on by few people and the volume of work involved is enormous. Although it is said every year, lets make sure the next captain has your support in actions as well as words. Find out what you can do to help over the next few months.

AGM

An averagely attended AGM this year with the main points being the election of Farrell Mossop as captain and a detailed report on our finances by RR. It seems we must try to pull in our horns and earn more money from social events. We also need to have more 'workers' on the Committee, in other words people who are prepared to do things to help the club for the full 12 months.

In an attempt to assist in plans for next year I will outline once again what the responsibilities of each committee member will be. If you want to help, have some good ideas or are prepared to front some event or other, speak to the relevant person as soon as you can so that we can get things underway early next season.

Guy Lewis:- Executive Committee Chairman, Canbury Boathouse Committee member and Boathouse. These functions cover the supervision of the rest of the committee to make sure they do what they promise! In addition the Boathouse responsibility covers the routine maintenance of lights, cleanliness and all things 'upstairs'. Canbury Boathouse is the governing body of the club and includes Tiffin School representatives.

Nick Ronald:- Club Secretary, covering all club correspondence and he is the man to see if you want to hold a party at the club - something we would like to encourage.

Richard Rowland:- Treasurer, and Canbury Boathouse Committee. RR pays the bills and keeps us solvent with his judicious book-keeping. Any donations should be aimed his way to keep him happy!

Ian South:- Transport and Accommodation - covering boat transport and accommodation for Henley, National Champs, overseas regattas etc.

/4

Lindsey Montague:- Social - midweek food! At last someone to feed our faces after training. Also sub-editor of this publication.

Lesley Dunlop:- Social secretary - responsible for the major functions. They will need lots of help on these things so keep the ideas coming - lets use our large membership to good social effect.

Dave Longdon:- Bar administration. Dave will handle ordering and the accounts.

Les Hughes:- Bar committee. We will need more volunteers here to help keep the bar open all the time. It's good fun - and someone might even buy you a pint! If you want to help - even on a Sunday every 4 or 5 weeks, please let Dave, Les or Guy Lewis know.

Steve Fraser:- Regatta entries. Ok we all know the rules now, payment in advance. Steve will ensure we know what is coming, what it costs, where it is and keep the books straight this year.

Paul Reynolds:- Schools, colleges and local authority liaison. Promoting the club at the local schools and promoting rowing at the local colleges is the primary task.

Maurice Hayes:- Sculling rack fees, local journalist, supervising boat maintenance and Kingston Small Boats Head. Maurice will allocate rack space, fees and collect the money as well as keeping an authoritative eye on damaged boats and blades.

Colin Greene:- Membership secretary - make sure Colin is aware of any change of address or if you want to introduce any more social members - all are welcome to drink at the club.

Scott Tunbridge:- Sponsorship, Kingston Sprint Regatta and the Scarlet Blade Editor. Sponsorship is a vital area and I need some help! It is impossible to cover all possible areas. Anyone prepared to help in any way in contacting potential sponsors, helping to type proposals, ideas for raising money, or any other tasks let me know ASAP.

Leslie Parsons:- Our President and source of inspiration.

Farrell Mossop:- Captain and mentor!

Now is the time for us to build again on what has happened in the past few years. If we are to compete with the likes of Leander, Thames Tradesmen, Lea, Tideway Scullers, Notts. County and Thames we must generate more funds. We must try to ensure we have successful events to replenish our funds and keep the bar ticking over the enable us to complete it's refurbishment.

Land Rover Appeal

We had a great response to the last newsletter with another £300 raised, but we are still some £1,500 short of the target. The next time you are at the club, get yourself a share. They only cost a fiver each and earn yourself the chance to win the cash prize. We need the money to pay for the vehicle so please be generous - and thank you to those who already have been.

Olympic Selection

Our sincere congratulations to Ali Bonner, Kim Thomas and Fiona Johnson who have been selected for the Olympic team. At the same time our commiserations to Lizzie Chapman, Ann Redgrave and Alison Barnet who came so close. Our thought will be with them in Seoul along with our best wishes.

Training Venues

An annual problem, but we are still desperate for training venues for the new season. If anyone has any ideas please contact Farrell Mossop ASAP so that we can cut down on the use of the clubroom.

Subscriptions and Rack Fees

At the first committee meeting of the season it was agreed to raise the subscriptions once again. The new subs are: Full £90.00; Student or Casual £55.00; Junior £30.00; and Social will remain the same at £20.00. It should be remembered that for those who wish to remain or indeed join Remenham Club, that this Social fee must be maintained. We need more social or drinking members, who why not bring a friend to the club one evening or weekend, get them drunk and get them to join!

The rack fee has also gone up to £75.00 maximum with discounts available for regular scullers. Maurice will be contacting all members shortly to explain in more detail.

Pre-Season Meetings

The pre-season meetings for all active oarsmen and women will be: men - Wednesday 21st September; women - Thursday 22nd September at 7.30pm. Farrell will outline the master plan and we can all drink lots of beer!

SCARLET BLADE

It's been a big year so far for Paul 'Boysie' Reynolds. A good finish in the Scullers Head, a leisurely stroll round the London Marathon course in 3.5 hours, a gold medal at the national champs, oh, and he was married on 27th August. Perhaps Boysie will slow down, play with his computers, put down the soft top (on his car) and put away the Grecian 2000. We somehow doubt it - good luck to you Paul, but more luck to Joan!

Also married on 27th August were Libby McIntyre and Andy Anderson who has slavishly refused to get involved in any rowing activity apart from boosting the bar profits! Good luck to the two of them as well.

I don't know what oarsmen put on their cornflakes (or All-Bran) these days, but it obviously hasn't done any harm to Maurice and Claire who are expecting their first child early next year. Maybe it was the collapsing honeymoon bed or a desire to get things going before the Scullers Head next year! Anyway, we wish them well.

New captain Farrell Mossop has started as he means to go on by getting his teeth into a really tough coaching job for the next biggest event prior to the Olympics - the FISA Veterans Championships. He is coaching the 'old treacles' eight (otherwise known as womens veteran A) on a regular basis. There have been a few comments though from the crew that he can't seem to take his eyes off stroke. Still, so long as everyone benefits then who are we to complain?

As we write the club's veteran men are also pounding the waters in full training for the Veterans Championships in Strathclyde on 9/10 September. With entries in veteran B, C & D coxed fours, veteran D sculls and veteran B and C eights, the club is well represented. If the event is true to form there should be LOADS OF GOSSIP to fill the next edition!

Have you noticed the new womens senior III coach? It is none other than the former Molesey captain who considers coaching down at Kingston is of more value than assisting the novices of Molesey. Well, they are prettier and looking at the Stourport results, more successful. But a word of warning - don't buy a life insurance policy from this man!

What has happened to the club's older lightweights I hear you all ask. Well I'll tell you anyway - Dragonboats. No, not an ugly girls' crew (just a joke) but a form dongling perfected by the Chinese. Still at least it is good for sight seeing since they have recently toured Hong Kong and Singapore where they competed with the world's best (don't ask the result!) However they seem to have got the bug (they were told about the red light district) and are training for next year's world jaunts!

Well that's it for another season, there's only a month to go before the suntans start to fade and we hear the sound of stretching flab (yuck!). I hope you will continue to follow the club's fortunes next season. Remember to pay your subs promptly or I will get your name wrong yet again. Final apologies to Shagnasty and Manning.