

The Scarlet Blade

Summer 1988



KINGSTON CLUB
ROWING

The early summer edition packed full of information on what the club has achieved so far this season. We have information on regattas, the DAF Sprint, the Kingston Sprint, social events, Henley prospects, the Land Rover appeal, veteran supper, boat naming and the SSSScarlet BBBBlade!

Regatta Progress

Quite a few good wins behind us even at this early stage of the season. Some of the highlights included a medal in Belgium for Judy Waldock and Sue Pratley rowing with two Staines girls not so far behind the squad crews. A good mens novice eight win at Putney in the old Sims is always nice to report and shows us that the next generation of club rowing is in good hands.

The next regatta weekend was that of Thames Ditton and Nottingham City, where, at the former event there were excellent wins for the womens Senior I four, Don Casey in Senior III sculls and a most encouraging win for the Senior II eight over a much fancied Tideway Scullers eight. This crew contains two Canadians and an Irishman of dubious status, but is the main Scullers hope for the Thames Cup. Up at Nottingham the Senior III eight came up against some stiff competition on the Saturday losing quite heavily, but turned the tables on some lesser crews on the Sunday for a good morale boosting victory.

At Twickenham, the promising womens novice eight won convincingly amid much jubilation, both in the boat and on the bank from their numerous 'coaches'. The senior II womens four highlighted the current problems with old equipment by losing in the final to a Sons of the Thames crew rowing in a new Janousek with Dreisegacker blades. The Bentalls four is now celebrating nearly 10 years of constant use.

At the Docklands Regatta the new pair Hope and Glory (eh, I mean Shane) came away with the open pairs title using their power to overcome a difficult cross wind. The new junior womens eight has made good progress under the gentle, quiet, softly softly approach of Ian South! They had a good result whilst finishing second in senior III womens eights.

The Senior I eight had the worst of the conditions in lane one storming to nearly one lengths lead before Thames overhauled them about halfway down the 1750 metre course and in the calm conditions of lane six pulled away to nearly three lengths. However, the Kingston crew has yet to be beaten by a prospective Thames Cup crew.

Damian Hammond had his first trip in his new scull which was made for Perti Karpinnen, the Olympic sculling champion, and looks more like a pair! Poor Damian did not cope with the conditions as Perti would and finished well down.

Leyland Daf Sprint

You may by now have seen the first couple of programmes of the Channel 4 televised Leyland Daf Sprint. The Kingston heat was on June 19th, and the final is on June 26th at 6.00pm.

The Kingston heat was run without any problems (except for the TWA sticking their proverbial oars in) and was commended as the best organised of the heats. From a Kingston point of view it was a highly successful day all round. The only black spot being the eight's failure to secure a place in the finals following some changes in the crew the week before and a lack of practice.

The womens four showed the value of practice together by eclipsing the best crews outside the National Squad to win their opening heat and the overall regional event in fine style.

Tim Crooks had also been putting in plenty of work using every available moment outside his school time and his blossoming family to put in a few more miles. The time was not wasted as Tim relived some old memories by defeating his young opposition with some powerfull sculling.

This meant that the club won the £400 prize for the most successful club at the event and the TV people went home happy that they had used our stretch of the river once again.

The DAF Sprint Finals

The final was at Peterborough on the same man-made 1000 metre course which proved an ideal setting for the vagaries of the event. There was a medium cross wind for most of the day which meant some small steering problems for the crews. Tim and the womens four of Kate Holroyd, Astrid Ayling, Sam Wensley and Belinda Holmes, progresseed easily through the first heat. Tim then moved comfortably through to the final three with the second fastest time.

For the women, though, there was another disaster following from the self inflicted (or Carol-inflicted as some might say) slip up last year. The first semi-final showed a win for an improved Thames four in a reasonable time and Kingston and Tideway Scullers were the fastest in the first heat and were expected to be so again. However, the wind direction changed, and one of the crews did a false start, delaying the second semi final by another 10 minutes. This was enough to make it impossible to match the times from the first heat, so the two fastest crews failed to progress. Great disappointment for the crew once again, and for Matthew Christie who had spent so much time preparing the crew. Thames eventually won with ease.

It was was down to Crooksie to save the day and he did so in a heart stopping race with a Scottish sculler half his age! Tim stormed off the start to take just over a length but had to repel the sustained attack from his young opponent. With the considerable crowds all screaming for one last effort, Tim managed to heave his boat over the line a matter of a foot in front. There is no truth in the rumour that he provided a tight finish just for the watching millions on TV!

The eights was another nail-biting race won on the last stroke by Tideway Scullers over UL.

Kingston Sprint Regatta

With all the other events on over the Bank Holiday weekend, it was almost inevitable that the Sprint Regatta would suffer. The entry was poor, but it provided another good example of Kingston members working together to organise a successful day's racing.

There were too many Kingston wins to name everyone personally but there were a few highlights worth reporting in more detail. At one end, there were good wins for Dave Skinner (good luck from the Scarlet Blade when you take over the helm at Emanuel School next year) and Sarah Wright in novice sculls. Lizzie Chapman celebrated her call up to the womens National Squad (along with Ali Bonner, Ann Redgrave, Fiona Johnson and Aggie Barnett) by winning Womens Senior III with ease.

Andy Mills beat Don Casey for Senior II sculls whilst Andy Kapica showed his son how to hold onto the sculls by winning Veteran B. Farrell Mossop gave Gavin Reddin a race to make up the numbers, he also gave him a beating for his trouble! Peter Hope and Shane O'Brien won elite pairs.

There were comfortable wins for the open coxless four and eight, the latter beating a composite 'Dragon Boat' crew containing four Kingston members. The Senior I eights was won against strong overseas opposition, the Dutch crew, Nereus calling in on their way from the Docklands to Nottingham to take a one length beating.

A good omen for the future was the wins by Kingston Poly in womens novice fours and mens novice eights. A testament to some strong coaching from Camilla Sykes and Les Hughes, both good Kingston members.

One of the most closely fought races was between two Kingston crews in Senior III womens eights. In fact we had three crews involved in the event with the more experienced crew stroked by Camilla Sykes beating the Junior womens eight for the right to race the eight which won their novices at Twickenham. After a close fought battle the ex-novices managed to pip the more experienced crew by half a length and were seen celebrating their achievement for many hours later in the bar. That is Senior III (C or Junior) racing as I remember it!

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Land Rover Appeal

OK, it's another request for money. All right you have already done lots for the club. When was the last time you needed to use a Land Rover? I understand that you have not even seen it yet. So what if the club can't really afford it. Hasn't the bank already loaned us most of the money.

So I've now covered most of your excuses, it costs around £3,000 per year in hire charges and petrol to ferry our boats around the country. We need this Land Rover. We also need your help. So far we have received 6 (yes SIX) offers for shares in the vehicle. The response would be funny if we had not already bought the vehicle and are using it now for regattas.

Please buy a share at a cost of £5.00 or maybe two for around £10.00. There is a prize of £100.00 for the lucky winner when we have achieved our target - 600 shares, so we have a 1% response so far. There is a poster at the club to show how we are getting on, it looks really bare right now. Send your cheques to me - Scott Tunbridge or Richard Rowland the treasurer and we will put your name up on the poster making you eligible for the draw.

Veteran Supper

You veterans, or should I say, us veterans, with your wives, husbands, girlfriends or boyfriends (or toy-boys!) are cordially invited to a Veteran Buffet supper at the club on Friday, 22nd July, 7.30pm for 8.00pm by our captain Matthew Christie. Guy Lewis will be co-ordinating the evening so send in your replies on the attached form to give us an idea of numbers. The cost is the same as last year.

Please try and come, we will be happy to see you once again - all members over 27.

To:- Guy Lewis, c/o Kingston Rowing Club, Canbury Gardens, Kingston on Thames, Surrey.

* Delete as appropriate

I will/will not ^{*} be attending the Veteran Buffet Supper on 22nd July at Kingston Rowing Club

Signed: Number of guests

Henley Preview

Here is the latest on crews that have been entered for this year:

Thames Cup

Once again we will enter three eights for the club and college eights event. The first boat is based on three members of the successful Senior C crew which qualified for and did so well in the Thames Cup last year. They have performed well in the status required for Thames Cup and must be seen to be in with a chance depending on the Irish entry, which was allowed to enter last year whilst being 'over qualified' because of the Irish points system. The principle coach is Scott Tunbridge and he has been ably helped by Dermott Sweeney, Matt Hiley and Keith Chapman.

The second boat, which is being 'minded' by Nick Ronald and Ian South, is one which has recently been formed from the most promising members of our Senior III eight and the reserves for the first eight, strengthened with two more experienced men from last year.

The third boat is the rawest senior III crew who have come up from novices this season. They will, however, have to qualify, but last years equivalent crew did wonderfully well to get through, so who knows?

Prince Phillip

We are keeping our fingers crossed here, but we have a potentially fast, recently formed crew, with Chris Andrews, Farrell Mossop, Peter Hope and Shane O'Brien combining for a potentially fast boat. One hopes that it is not too late for them to come good. Bob Winkless, their coach, certainly hopes so.

Britannia Cup

There have been some problems with the elite squad with differing aims resulting in Julian Ormerod joining the exodus to Leander to try to become an Under 23 international in his last eligible season. The new crew of Terry Hine, Paul Thorpe, Bob Charnley and the evergreen Paul Reynolds may well surprise a few people. They are fit and strong and ready for some success. Bob and Matthew Christie are assisting.

Wyfolds

Good luck to this years entrants - the 'lightweight' four of Andy Mills, Steve Frazer, Duncan Hanton and Don Casey who have been watched over by Charles Graham. Henley is just a warm-up race for these boys who will be battling for lightweight honours at the National Championships a couple of weeks after Henley.

Goblets

Peter Hope and Shane O'Brien are doubling up in this event and have gone well in their events at the Docklands, Kingston and Nottingham. They are also making an appearance in Amsterdam (lets hope its just with Scarlet Blades and not scarlet lights!)

Diamonds

Maurice Hayes is making his annual pilgrimage to this event and one hopes for his sake that he is not involved in another of those epic 2 feet results. Maurice is also attempting a double scull with Paul Wensley.

So there is plenty to entertain you again this year. Keep your fingers crossed for a good draw for all our crews and they will do their best to stay in for you to shout for them!

Social Events

The Veteran Supper we have already mentioned on July 22nd. Please come and hear how we have progressed this season to date.

Kingston Amateur Regatta is on Saturday 9th July and we are sure to be well represented. Colin Madison is filling Guy Wibberley's size fives this year, so give him some help or just come and cheer on our crews - there will be dozens! Guy Lewis is celebrating his 40th birthday with a barbecue at the club after the rowing is over.

On the Sunday after the regatta, 10th July, we have a very full day. At 12.00 noon there will be a boat naming ceremony for our second sponsor, Parman Marine, there will be some bubbly on offer so come for a slurp. Following this, Stanley West will give out another bumper prize of £250 to some lucky person. Finally, to completely finish you off, the Senior III squad are cooking a Sunday lunch of epic gastronomic proportions (like Earthquake, Moses, Ben Hur and Jaws they tell me!). Limited numbers only - about 80 I believe!! A list will be up on the board, write up your intention to come or ring in your order!

Scarlet Blade

A few red faces all round this edition. We must apologise to a few people for wrong name checks. We reply to a certain ex-member who has gone on to such wonderful things with his rowing, and we have been keeping our eyes and ears open - read on....

Firstly my apologies to both Alan Manning and Brian Marsden for confusing them with that most unsavoury character from Molesey, Bill Manning in the last edition. It seems my attempt at bringing in some gossip on our older members has backfired. However, I still want to hear from you, let us know what your old cohorts are up to these days and we will pass it on.

We had our first overseas respondent recently, with 'young' Guy Wibberley telling us about his view from the hotel window - which overlooks the swimming pool - it's a hard life (and long may it stay so, says Guy). Keep the correspondence rolling in Guy, and send us some pictures - I am sure we will be able to print them in due course - especially the black and white ones!

Another letter we received was from one of our members in Devon. We have mistakenly been sending his copy to a pub in Winkleigh, I am not sure if this was his local, but I trust we have now remedied this error.

Your comments on 'the Dinner' letter in the last edition have been noted - especially the bit about the three trouts. Perhaps a suitable theme for next year's Xmas Revue.

Congratulations to Dittons Skiff Club on their epic paddle along the entire length of the Thames in a three man skiff. A marvellous achievement inspired by our own record achievement two years ago.

It seems that Fred Peyton and Alan Manning have been getting in some practice for this distance as well, with a long distance skiff round the east end of London and back up the Thames. I gather there is no truth in the rumour that they called at every other ale house on the trip and only realised they were lost when they did not recognise a pub name. However, they did complete their journey as indeed they always do, though I would recommend they plan their trip back next time with the tide to make things easier.

Some people may have ready my letter on the subject of professional rowing and coaching at Leander where they have been continuing their practice of poaching the best oarsmen in the country. There are now five former Kingston oarsmen rowing in four boats at Henley. One day we will get to keep these men and teach Leander a lesson in developing our own talent.

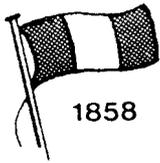
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The letter in Rowing magazine was replied to by Andy Holmes, an oarsman who has gone from strength to strength since he became an international in Kingston colours. For those who did not see the letter, he claimed that he rowed for nothing at Kingston's expense in 1981. For those of us who were around that year, it comes as something of a surprise that he did not even pay a subscription or regatta fees. Perhaps a retrospective bill might shake him from his complacency.

Bad luck to Steve Frazer who came a disant second in the Senior III breaststroke at Kingston Sprint.

Last but by no means least, congratulations to Guy Lewis, and you may well ask why? I know he does look 50, but you'd be surprised at the lengths he goes to, to persuade us otherwise. Guy will in fact be celebrating his 40th birthday at Kingston after the regatta on July 9th and I'm sure he would'nt refuse a drink!

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**KINGSTON
ROWING
CLUB**

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PLEASE REPLY TO: NICK RONALD

27th June 1988

Dear Member,

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

I am writing to give notice that the Annual General Meeting is to be in the Club Room on Sunday, 24th July 1988 at 12 mid-day. All members are welcome to attend, including those who are no longer active at the Club.

Yours faithfully,

Nick Ronald
Honorary Secretary

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Ever thought of becoming a Committee Member or helping with the running of the Club ?

As training becomes even more demanding, it is increasingly difficult for active members to involve themselves in the administration of the Club. There are always many jobs to be done and perhaps of most importance is the organisation of social events, maintenance of boats and transportation to regattas.

I would be most pleased to hear from anybody no longer rowing full time who can devote time to helping with any of these or other activities. You need not join the main Committee but could sit on one of the sub-committees, such as those for the Bar or social functions.

If you should just wish to "lend a hand" or have parents, brothers, sisters and so forth who may be able to help I will be pleased to hear of them also.