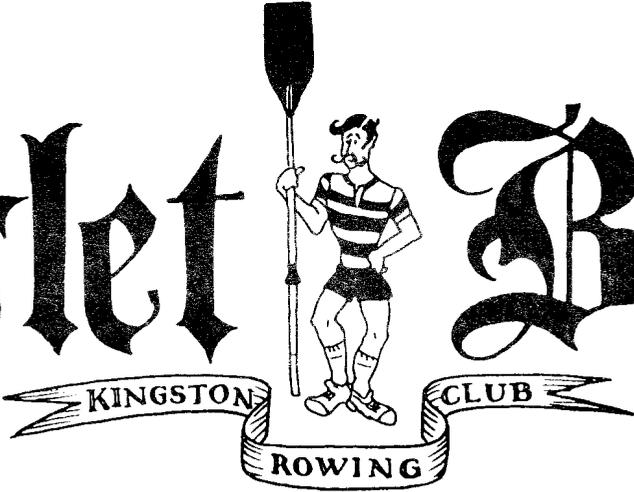


# The Scarlet Blade



Welcome to the first offering for 1989. We are all hoping for great thing this year, not the least of which is a prompt delivery service to all our members!

In this issue we review Small Boats Head results, the great Christmas Revue, remind you of the forthcoming social events, finally print Scully's prose and a bit of fun in the Scarlet Blade.

## Head Results - Update

At Walton, Chris Andrews again showed his superb form by pushing Olympic oarsman Anton Obholtzer, the overall sculling winner, to finish just a few seconds behind whilst also winning the Senior III pennant. In doing so he inflicted the first defeat of the season on Richard Stanhope. He joined with Maurice Hayes to win open mens doubles. Other wins for Maurice and Kate Holroyd, Simon Mepham and Duncan, Sarah Birch and Giselle Payne and Krista Thorpe.

The Kingston Small Boats Head had a good entry and proved very profitable both for the club and individuals thanks to Colin Maddison assisted by Maggie Phillips amongst others. University of London did not get their entries in for the Fours Head so they appeared in force, just pipping the club for the Saxon Blade victor ludorum prize.

At Burway the womens senior group dominated events with doubles wins for Lizzie Reid and Rebecca, Sue Pratley and Alison Burford and pairs wins for Sarah Merryman with Sue Pratley and Jo Prout.

Maurice and Duncan did an awayday to Stourport to collect open sculls and SIII and Novice respectively. The junior girls went to Hampton Head and came away with a fine win in WJ16 coxed fours.

We entered 6 crews of all levels in the Womens Head. Maurice's scullers eight (Maurice wasn't in it) pushed two squad crews and Cambridge and finished fourth by only a second, taking the club pennant, Ian Shore's eight were the second club boat home. Meanwhile the Treacles Eight continued their world domination of veteran rowing, by retaining their Head title (let's hope they recover in time for Vichy in September).

## Tideway Head

We are anticipating eight crews for the climax of the winter season. The first two boats are in development and we should get a good idea of their form from Kingston the previous week. With current standards being very high and Leander having poached the best young oarsmen in the country, a finish in the top twenty would be a real achievement.

Spring 1989

The Senior III squad has been chopped and changed to accommodate the first two crews but will be fit and strong enough to challenge for the top places in their event after the premier schools. The veterans and part time crews should ensure a placing in the top 100. We also wish Chris Andrews good luck with the National Sculling Squad crew's attempt to overhaul the two specialist squad eights and the Lightweights who usually excel in long distance races.

The last of the long distance time trials is the Scullers Head, in which we will have some 20 plus entries including possible pennant winners in Chris Andrews, Maurice Hayes and our best women entrants: Ali Bonner, Aggie Barnett and Kate Holroyd. I hope the Scarlet Blade tips do not have the same affect as the old Desmond Hill curses! And we wish everyone a safe and fast trip over the traditional course.

Overseas Report

We have had a note on what looked remarkably like loo paper from a Mister S. Houlders (Guy Wibberley to the uninitiated) about one of our former coxes and current TV star, Julian Clary. The snippet printed here is from the South African "Sunday Times" and is self explanatory. Julian is currently strutting his stuff at the Comedy Warehouse in the West End and has his own camp show soon to appear on TV and briefly appeared on the Comic Relief show.

We are hoping to persuade him to do a 'turn' at the Club in the next few months- so watch this space.

Our congratulations go out to Mr and Mrs John Wilson and dog on the birth of their baby son to offset the growing womens section (see Scarlet Blade). We sincerely hope that the dog does not treat him like he does fur hats! As Farrell tells the story, he once had to rescue a fur hat in a pub from John's dog. When the hat was released from it's jaws, John, Farrell and the dog beat a hasty retreat on discovering that the 'hat' possessed four legs, a cold wet nose and a tail - the pub owner's Pekinese.

Regalia

RR tells me the following items are in stock: Pullovers, ties, bow ties, ribbon (for boaters), scarves, white long sleeved shirts, red sweat shirts and racing vests. The socks we expect any time. He has not told me what these items cost - see RR and Maggie for more information.

■■■■  
EX-ENGLAND striker Jimmy Greaves, now earning his living as a TV celebrity, has been inundated with complaints from London's "gay" community after calling "camp" comedian Julian Clary "a prancing poof".

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### Christmas Revue

A marvellous evening put together by the faithful few. From the bumper cast of 1987 we were back to the regulars ably assisted by the Senior III squad, choreographed by Nick Ronald.

The evening was organised by Anna Chate and Lesley Dunlop and after Tiffin school showed a distinctly non-theatrical sense of timing by taking back their staging fifty one weeks after we had borrowed it, Paul Reynolds stepped into the breach with some ICL staging which was perfect. Nick Bullen and Ian South both assisted in transport and erection, if you'll excuse the term, and with the usual frantic last minute script writing we were ready.

Last year we introduced a new element which has proved an immensely popular addition to the evening - the KRC Video. The build-up to this video is generally almost as amusing as the end product - possibly a suitable subject for the 1989 production! However, Grant Watkins finally put the finishing touches to the edit just as we were finishing on stage. The problem being that his edit suite is in the West End! One frantic drive and a number of carols later we were ready to show Duncan Hanton in his starring role.

Copies of this video are available from me (Scott) at the club or you can write to me at the club and I will forward a copy when I have received your £10.00 donation to the boat fund. The tape contains the new video and last year's '19' presentation, so you can bore yourself and your friends with our exploits.

### Rum Punch and Scratch Eights

This event went off without incident save that of the unfortunate person who had a broken rigger in the final of the scratch eights resulting in a win for the unfancied boat.

As usual the person drawing the prizes in the 200 Club draw managed to avoid my number but some fortunate person managed to pick a sizeable contribution to his Christmas overdraft! I believe there are still a few tickets left, so contact Stanley West for a number and come down to the bar on a Sunday to hear if you've won.

### Subscriptions

Unbelievably there are still a few people who have not paid their subs! It must be particularly galling for those who have paid since they're now nearly five months overdue. Please remember, the club is run for the goodwill of the members, 90% of us pay reasonably promptly because we know that the bills must be paid. Come on the rest of you, put a smile on RR's face (yes, I want to be there too!) and give us your loot.

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### Forthcoming Attractions

Off the water we are planning a number of events for your delectation or in fact that you might like.

The April Fool's Fancy Dress Disco will take place on, yes, believe it or not, Saturday April 1st at the club. Fancy dress is compulsory and there will be a small donation on the door to cover the cost of the music.

Lesley Dunlop is almost ready to confirm the Summer Barbecue Party where we hope to have a jazz band, on 3rd June. This will be a smart affair, so here's a chance to dust off those glad rags.

The Veteran's Sunday Lunch some weeks ago, was such a success that we're planning another one - watch the noticeboards at the club for further news.

BAR NOTICE: Courage have finally got their act together to bring us hand pulled beer! We will have an official opening after the heads and we hope to start pulling on the day of Kingston head, so come and try it out.

### SCARLET BLADE

There were plenty of worried people on the recent ski-ing trip to France, so everyone was exceptionally well behaved. Well, this is what I have been told to say.

In fact there were one or two minor incidents involving the former UL and Lea oarsman who could not stand the pace and decided to redecorate his apartment on his way to 'talk' to the great white bowl in the smallest room. There was also Richard Wells with a young lady howling the night away in the corridor - they claim it was singing - and providing good sport for people having bets on whether anything happened.

Another person for whom nothing happened was our social secretary who was heard to cry O NO continuously in her sleep (ONO is a common name associated with blond hunks who like crawling under tables and having their clothes torn off and ice cream down their backs.)

One common injury on the holiday was housemaid's bottom (as opposed to knee) which was suffered by Mrs. McIntyre who attempted to sit on every man's knee in Val Thorens.

The newly engaged Uncle Nick and Lindsey have recently developed their holiday snaps to reveal rather more than a well turned ankle - but what we are all wondering is how they took the photographs considering they were both in the bath and the photograph together! Full size blow ups available by male order (but it'll cost you lots!).

/5

You may have noticed the Molesey captain Julian Underwood at the club Dinner doing his impersonation of Herr Flick of the Gestapo. It seems he claims he was doing his Franz Klammer impersonation of downhill racing. I can inform you that in fact his impersonation was more like Frank Spencer falling down the plane steps before he even got his skis on! A typical case of Molesey missing the boat or should we say the piste!

Did you hear Damian's attempt at practising driving in Australia, or should I say down under? His 'new' van had a wipe out on a main road and although he and his passengers were perfectly OK, the police had quite a surprise when Damian (18 stone, 6'3"), Colin Greenaway (6'8") and their friend who is a combination of the two, climbed out. Damian is now a firm supporter of seat belts when his held him whilst upside down and Colin was quite grateful too since he ended just underneath where Damian would have fallen.

The New Year's Eve party was a great success at the club. The problem seemed to be getting home afterwards, with a number of members seemingly unable to stay on their bicycles brought specially to counter the long arm of the law. In fact Anna Chate had considerable problems with walking in her six inch high heels so she borrowed a bike to cycle the half-mile home which also seemed rather difficult. Steve Fraser on the other hand had no problems mounting his bike or cycling in a straight line. It was the bends which got him. He claims the bends kept jumping out at him whenever he attempted a corner.

The inter-squad integration continues apace with the first prize for demand going to Neil Thompson from the mens club group. He seems oblivious to the longings of most of the womens group.

Congratulations now to Claire and Maurice and their new daughter, Katherine and also to Matt and Sue Hiley who are expecting their first born in the summer.

Just one more announcement to make from the Editor, to rock the bastians of batchelorhood! It is that Scott and Louise have announced their intention to marry. Yes it happens to the best(?) of us eventually! Our thanks to everyone who has expressed their good wishes.

Finally we have at last found Scully's prose to British Airways following the loss of his suitcase at the World Veteran Championships in Scotland - they are reproduced overleaf.

All success to our crews for the forthcoming regatta season.

SCARLET BLADE

JOHN BURROWS  
20 CHESTNUT AVENUE,  
WESTON GREEN, ESHER, SURREY

British Airways,  
Station Superintendent  
Glasgow Airport  
Paisley  
Renfrewshire PA3 2BF

23rd September, 1988

Dear Sir,

Re: GLA BA 13695/09 Sep '88

I was crushed! (Or rather my suitcase was). Never having travelled on the Shuttle, I couldn't understand the two hour delay at Heathrow, although told it was something to do with a broken down computer. But all was made clear when the flight after mine had landed and my suitcase arrived totally flattened, carefully bound up with white string. Obviously my very smart Boeing 757 had the suitcase wedged under one of its wheels and only after considerable effort by the pilot were we able to take off over it.

Your lady and gentleman in the baggage section at Glasgow Airport were very helpful (in between laughing) and immediately gave me a piece of paper allowing me to spend £35.00 for the purchase of a new case in which to carry my worldly possessions.

Unfortunately, I was only in your beautiful country for two days while attending a Regatta at Strathclyde Park and had to avail myself of a Glaswegian street trader who was persuaded to sell me a case for the princely sum of £36.00. Unfortunately, this gentleman didn't find my English tone to his liking and was reluctant to issue me with a receipt to pass to your good selves. As a shareholder in British Airways I'm not too concerned about the VAT loss.

But what of the contents? My underpants were not in good condition. I do not feel that I can claim anything from you. However, I was due to attend a banquet that evening at the Hospitality Inn and found that my dress shirt was stained very badly with some expensive aftershave lotion that I purchased especially to attract someone of the opposite sex. The end result what that my dress shirt had an enormous stain down the front and I smelt so strongly of aftershave that nobody would come near me. Not even my male friends after several pints of heavy! No amount of washing will remove the stain and in fact most of my wardrobe now smells faintly. Not of roses, but Peco Raban.

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Fortunately, I carried my camera separately but unfortunately I packed my Tamron telephoto lens (80/120 mm) carefully amongst my underwear. When I examined it, it looked perfect - not a tyre mark or a scratch anywhere. However, when I had my films developed, which I took at the regatta using the lens, they were totally indecipherable, because I gather from an expert who has subsequently looked at the lens, that the prisms (?) are completely bashed to bits internally and the thing is beyond reasonable repair. (He even wanted £15.00 for imparting this bad news).

So, what am I to do? Speak to my insurance company? The response was predictably the sharp indrawn breath and the snid comment to the effect that I should have used British Midland. (Typically, the insurance company's midland based and I took no notice whatsoever).

So, British Airways, I look to you for reimbursement. The lens would cost £120.00 to replace. The dress shirt £35.00 (I'm not a Marks & Spencers man - nothing wrong with their underwear though) and my suitcase as I've already mentioned £36.00. I know you only allowed me £35.00 and I'm quite prepared to waive this extra £1.00. The total sum involved is, therefore, £181.00 and I would look forward to receiving your cheque in settlement by return.

Here's to British Airways ruling the skies!

Yours sincerely,

*[Handwritten signature]*  
PERSONAL DELIVERY TO MR BURROWS.  
MR JOHN BURROWS  
Shareholder.

P.S. I'm writing off the Peco Raban - believe me since that night I've gone right off that smell....

BRITISH AIRWAYS

10 October 1988

Mr. John Burrows  
10 Chestnut Avenue  
WESTON GREEN  
Esher, Surrey

Dear Mr. Burrows

Thank you for your most eloquent letter of 28th September in which you graphically describe the incident that took place when you travelled by Super Shuttle from Heathrow to Glasgow on the 9th of August.

Whilst I appreciate that your objective was not necessarily to provide us with amusement, nevertheless, those of us who have read your letter admire your style and the fact that you can introduce an element of humour into what is after all a serious matter.

However, back to the events that you describe, I have no hesitation but of course in meeting your claim in full and to that end I enclose a cheque for the sum of £180.00 which is in full and final settlement of your claim with us.

On behalf of British Airways kindly accept my sincere apologies, not only for the incident but the resultant inconvenience you were put to during that weekend when you were here in Scotland.

I note from your letter that this was your first experience of Super Shuttle I trust it is not the last, notwithstanding what has taken place.

Yours sincerely

*[Handwritten signature]*  
P.P. Gilbert S Carswell  
Duty Station Superintendent

PS Shortly afterwards the Boeing 757 was taken out of service to replace a tyre, for some inexplicable reason it had a flat spot on it. I wonder why?

PPS Like you I was a Peco Rabanne fan until then - can I recommend to you Cacharel, it really turns them on!



# KINGSTON ROWING CLUB DIARY

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
4th March	Womens Head	Putney	Steve
11th March	Kingston Head	KRC	Steve
12th March	Polytechnic Regatta	Oxford	Boysie/Camilla
18th March	"8" Head	Putney	Farrell
18th March	Disco	KRC	Boysie
1st April	Scullers Head	Putney	Maurice
1st April	April Fool's Fancy Dress Disco	KRC	Leslie/Lindsey
8th April	Video Night	KRC	Scott
May 7 <sup>th</sup>	<i>LEYLAND DAF SPRINTS</i>	<i>WALTON</i>	<i>FARRELL</i>
13 May	Thames Ditton	Regatta	Steve
28/28 May	West Country	Regatta	Steve/Scott
29 May	Sprint	KRC	Steve/Scott
3 June	Walton/B'ham	Regatta	Steve
3 June	Jazz Barbecue	KRC	Lindsey/Leslie
17 June	Marlow	Regatta	Steve
24/25 June	NIR	Notts.	Steve
29/2 July	HRR	Regatta	Farrell
8 July	Kingston Amateur	Regatta	Steve
15 July	Molesey	Regatta	Steve
14/16 July	National Champs.	Regatta	Steve
29 July	HT&V	Regatta	Steve
5 Aug	Maidenhead	Regatta	Steve
12/13 Aug	Stourport	Regatta	Steve
26/28 Aug	Glous/Ross	Regatta	Steve

\* See Boysie (541 3483) to update this diary

\* Thursday night - Supper Night at KRC

AUCTION OF PLEDGES - SUNDAY, 4 JUNE 1989 at noon

At KINGSTON ROWING CLUB, for money to buy boats

WE NEED PLEDGES

Anything you can do, any skill, talent or energy you can put to good use & PLEDGE AN HOUR OR TWO, like:-

- |  |              |             |
|--|--------------|-------------|
| Printing   | Gardening    | Designing   |
| Teaching   | Hairdressing | Secretarial |
| Building   | Carpentry    | Cooking     |
| Legal know-how (conveyancing/drawing up a will?)     |              |             |
| Baking (a chocolate cake each month for a year?)     |              |             |
| Decorating (a room?)      Painting (a picture?)      |              |             |
| Driving (chauffeur to the airport or after a party?) |              |             |

If you can't spare a few hours of your time, maybe you can DONATE SOMETHING WE CAN AUCTION - please ...

Fill in this slip and return by Wednesday, 10 May

I PLEDGE) \_\_\_\_\_  
DONATE) \_\_\_\_\_

NAME (in caps please) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE RETURN TO: JACKIE PROUT/KATE HOLROYD AT THE CLUB OR POST TO: Pledge Organiser, (Kingston RC), Jenifer Bonner, 5 North View, London SW19 4UJ or phone 01-947 6635 and leave your name and number on the answerphone.

Thank you for your help.