

The Scarlet Blade



Free to Kingston Members. To Vampire: £43,267.54

Weather: Probably pissing down

A brief review of the year . . . Henley results . . . Plenty of gongs at the National Champs – Internationals again . . . The AGM – Farrell stands again! . . . New faces on the Committee . . . The new season's preview . . . not to mention the hot line from the Veteran Champs in Vichy – it's all in your super soaraway Scarlet Blade!!!

Dec
1984

Hooray for Henley!

THERE ARE so many things to talk about since our last meeting! Pressure of forthcoming events has meant less up to date information than we hope to give. Many people have expressed an interest in contributing this year and they are all very welcome. See me, Scott Tunbridge, at the club or write to me care of the Scarlet Blade.

Our last brief letter covered the preview of Henley and another large entry in many events. However, since the top end of the men's section is still developing, we had no victories in the Cinquennial year (try saying that after 12 Pimms!).

It proved a marvellous occasion just the same, with an astonishing number of records being broken in virtually every event, including the first sub-six minute eights event in the Grand. As a measure of the standard of this event the West German crew went on to win the World Championships.

The Thames Cup eight was the most successful club crew, rowing through to Saturday. The coxless four had two former Henley winners on board with Maurice Hayes and an Anglo-American Paul Wensley attempting to strengthen the club senior group.

The Britannia Cup coxed four showed a rapid improvement leading up to Henley and rowed well in their first race but showed the result of their comparatively late combination by losing the next day.

Chris Andrews continued his good form in the single by being selected for the potential Squad quad and rowed well in losing to the eventual winners on the Saturday. Terry and June (Gordon) rowed well to qualify against tough opposition. The club also did remarkably well to have a Ladies Plate eight who - despite



Adrift on the tide of life: Mr and Mrs Nick and Lindsey Ronald at their wedding
(See Scarlet Blade)

starting the season at Senior C (III) level - not only qualified but actually won the first round. More credit to the persuasive and continuously successful coaching of Nick "Good God I'm married" Ronald.

The thanks of the club and the oarsmen go to all who helped coach these crews, including Captain Farrell, Dermot Sweeney, Peter Hope and Chris Jones. I know the guys also want to thank Sam Burgess-Allen, Tish Kester, Woodstock and Jo.

National Champs

AFTER A disappointing Henley in terms of wins, the National Championships produced its now usual crop of successes. In case anyone was in any doubt of the strength in depth of the club, that great leveller of "provable success" demonstrates a diversity not seen at any other club in the

country. The men's coxed pair of Stewart Whitehead and Dave Relfe with Sam coxing romped home over more than three lengths ahead. The women's section did the club proud, winning the women's quads and achieving a silver in the heavyweight coxless fours with three of the successful Daf Sprints crew. Maurice Hayes must take a large share of the praise for his coaching.

The women's lightweight four of Rebecca Goswell, Sue Pratley, Judy Waldock and Alison Burford improved steadily throughout the summer and were disappointed to win only a bronze behind the winning composite four, who eventually won a silver medal at the World Champs.

The juniors under the guidance of Ian South excelled, winning a silver in the coxless pairs and a gold in the eights with a virtually scratch combination.

Women go from strength to strength ● RR leaves club after 93 years ● New faces on committee ● Hello John, gotta new Land-Rover? Farrell does it 127 times a season!

THE SEASON continued in the same vein as the last three or four years by passing the "hundred wins in a season" mark for the third time, achieving a new first for Captain Farrell Mossop of 127 wins with around 70 composite successes.

The tremendous contribution of the women to this success is reflected in the purchase of a lightweight coxless four, a new coxed four and the replacing of the old Bentalls eight with another bright, white, light Aylings. With the new coxless four won by the women at the Daf Sprints, the women's equipment is the envy of the other clubs.

The International Scene

CHRIS ANDREWS achieved something thought almost impossible for one of his "advanced" years - breaking into the international scene by winning a place in the Squad quad following good performances at Henley and Lucerne.

Having come up through the club's senior C crews to progress to National Champion in coxed fours last year, nobody has anything but the highest praise for his solo effort. And he did it while holding down a full-time job as a solicitor! In fact, I believe that Chris had to take all of his remaining holiday to make the trip to Bled, showing his dedication to the cause.

Ali Bonner was selected to row in the Olympic pair with Kim Thomas, although illness in fact prevented Ali from rowing in the finals. Rebecca Goswell managed to obtain selection in a lightweight double at the World Student Games and achieved a creditable fifth place.

In the junior ranks Gizelle Payne was selected in coxless pairs following the success at Strathclyde, in the second junior team. The pair produced the best ever women's result by winning their event handsomely. This all means that once again the club is represented at the highest level. That's 14 unbroken years of top success!

AGM

AN uneventful AGM this year, except that it marked the end of an era with RR announcing his retirement from the job of Treasurer, a role he has graced for what seems like forever. For those who do not know he has moved to sunny Birmingham, poor chap, and has handed over the reigns to new boy Mike Bate. Master Mike will be trying hard to fill RR's shoes, although he is not so keen on slipping into his underwear...

Farrell Mossop has been persuaded to stand for another year as captain and he has some firm views on how next year should be run - more of this later.

"Uncle" Nick Ronald has enthusiastically agreed to continue in his role as secretary despite his impending doom...er, happy event of his marriage to Lindsey. With Leslie Parsons once again agreeing to be president the key committee roles are in good hands.

One feature of the AGM worth recording is a peculiar silence. No-one can quite remember the last time Bill Manning did not find a fault in the club system or rules. This is either due to the fact that the committee has got everything right, or more likely that there were too many things wrong to mention!

The new committee

THERE ARE a number of new faces on this year's committee with a new chairman, Paul Reynolds, adding some new ideas to the successful systems nurtured by Guy Lewis. We will elaborate on these in future editions, but in general the targets are to continue to raise the profile of the club as a social place to come to, as well as providing the most successful crews in the country - at all levels.

The other new members currently committed for the year are Rebecca Goswell and Martin Cruddace, with more to come in the next few weeks.

A complete list of jobs and those responsible for them is appended. Also enclosed are the forthcoming social events, at which everyone is more than welcome.

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DO YOU KNOW A GOOD PLACE FOR A PARTY???

We do. It's called Kingston Rowing Club! The only restriction is that you must invite a suitable number of fellow Kingston members, and the party must be organised and run by you. So, whether it's for a birthday, a crew dinner, an anniversary, a divorce or a wedding reception, approach Nick Ronald in writing. As it is we are planning a large number of events this year, ranging from discos to a barn dance, the Christmas Review, the Annual Dinner, another pledge auction, a sponsored row, Sunday lunches and our regular Thursday evening food. We are trying to spread the social load, so if you are prepared to run one event this year see Paul, Angela or Adrian Cole who will be fronting the social committee.

.....oOo.....

We need to use the clubhouse as much as possible to ensure that we raise plenty of money behind the bar for the Richard Higgins master plan: to rebuild the interior of the bar, creating more space to make even more money! If you want to hold a function, whether it is a birthday party or a crew supper, contact Nick Ronald, the club secretary, in writing or personally. We would like to book up every Friday and Saturday until this time next year!

Club Land-Rover

THE CLUB Land-Rover has been invaluable in the two years we have had it, saving thousands of pounds in hire fees. Despite the hiccups with the mechanics it

has more than paid for itself. However, it is now time to think about another vehicle. If anyone has any ideas for raising the £10,000 needed, please speak to (or send them to) Paul Reynolds or Scott Tunbridge. Indeed, if anyone hears of a vehicle with the requisite power we would very much like to hear from them. We will be revamping (sorry Colin) the Land-Rover appeal in the next period to encourage members to help towards this target.

The clubhouse

THE NEXT phase of the club's development concerns the much talked-of expansion. Already Kingston Council is talking favourably about our achievements and our need for more space as well as the better use of our facilities.

To put the exercise into perspective, the total cost of expanding the clubhouse in the only feasible direction - across the hard where the trailers are kept - would be a cool £500,000. However, with active backing from the Sports Council and Kingston Council we should be able to approach a company for support. More on this from Paul Reynolds as it progresses.

Ergos

FARRELL'S first purchase of the year has been received with mixed feelings from the active members! Eight new ergos have been bought to enhance the land training this season - an excellent move to raise our standards. There is even talk of harnessing the ergo power output to feed a generator to cut the electricity bill (just a joke, but what a great idea!).

The new season

THE FIRST oarsmen's meeting has taken place with its normal huge turnout - around 120 people attended of various levels. Farrell has outlined a master plan to keep the squads to manageable levels. The groups will break down as follows:

Senior men: controlled by Dermot Sweeney and aiming for an eight and a four.

Club men: Nick Ronald will again offer guidance and will aim for an eight and a four with a Novice eight as an extra.

Elite women: a group organised by Maurice Hayes, aiming for top-level international standards and to encompass a heavy coxless four or a quad, a pair and a lightweight coxless four and double scull.

Senior women: controlled by Ian South, who will also continue with the juniors. The target will be an eight and a coxed four.

Club women: with Louise Norie aiming for a light and a coxed four.

The sculling group will continue, helped by Maurice, Andy Kapica and Tim Crooks. Within this group will be an elite men's group who may get some help from the new KCS coach Tony Brookes.

Veteran championships in Vichy

'Allo Allo! C'est Kingston!

WE SENT what can be described as a full team of 30 people to this year's FISA veterans meeting in September and came away with a crop of medals, hard luck stories and sore heads.

The women sent the reigning veteran A eight and a crew of young pretenders to challenge them and produced an exciting race for the admiring supporters. Having been allocated the "better" eight the current champs were under pressure to repeat their success, and managed to beat the second Kingston crew into second place just under two lengths adrift.

Two members of this crew then proceeded to clean up the sculling events with

Birgith Sims winning Veteran B and Lizzy Chapman winning Veteran A with ease. They then combined to win the doubles with the same style, a comfortable three lengths ahead.

The men's crews entered as many events as possible and fared best in the older categories, including a nail-biting second place less than half a second behind the winners in Vet C pairs for Andy Kapica and Paul Vye. The Vet C eight also managed second place a length behind the winners. But the Vet C coxed four waited until the end of the day to produce the men's best result by winning, to great delight from the scarlet-clad

Kingston supporters, who certainly made their mark for noise.

In two other events, the mixed eight came up against a very fast Dutch eight to lose their title and the womens's quad surprised themselves by leading for a while before finishing third.

In the evening the hosts catered for some 1,000 guests and were not able to match the Scottish flair for organisation, resulting in an extended meal lasting three hours with gallons of local wine being consumed and much dancing to work it off. More details to follow in the Scarlet Blade - Ha ha!

CATCH THE SOCIAL DISEASE!

Club Activities

THIS YEAR sees the restructuring of the club's social activities. Rather than one person being responsible for all the social events - and being thoroughly pee-d off with it all by the end of the year! - we now have a fully-fledged social committee.

This consists of a whole range of people, from those with experience to youngsters keen to make things happen (you'll have to guess who is in which category as the year progresses). This team has put together a social plan for the year which you should find enclosed with this new-look Scarlet Blade. Please put these dates in your diaries NOW!

These events are designed to cater for all club members and should enable even the slackest to make at least three visits per year. This will increase the level of social activity for everybody, boost our bar revenues and enable us to carry out some of the exciting plans for the next few years (more of these next edition). So, if the "Glam Rock disco" isn't for you, a Family Sunday may be more appropriate - please make every effort and bring some friends or family, or arrange to see old rowing mates and their families.

You'll see from the diary dates column that in the next few weeks there will be an opening disco on Saturday October 28 at which all the new members can integrate and make new friends.

This fits in nicely with winter training. At the end of October we are having a Sunday Lunch, to be run by Camilla Sykes and others from the Senior Womens group (coach South permitting), which will no doubt set the standard for others to follow, with good, wholesome food and fun for all ages. Mr Higgins will be serving luncheon drinks from 12.30 and the meal will be at 1.30. There may be extra space on the day but you are advised to book a place on the poster in the club. Why not bring the other half?

For those who haven't been to the club for a few months, now is your chance to make amends. Family Sundays are for YOU! These represent your opportunity to arrange to meet old friends and get back in touch with all the good things happening at the club. The first Family Sunday is on November 5, and will feature some boat namings plus a CLUB PHOTO!!!

That's made you all wake up... yes, the man who has never appeared in a club photo (Patrick White) will be taking club pictures and crew shots. So bring your

pots, medals, kids, mums, dads and other halves (and your club blazers and ties please) down on November 5 for a fun Family Sunday. Video cartoons will be played from 12 noon in the club room for kiddies.

Advance warning:

Barn dance, November 18, the night before Kingston Small Boat Head. Xmas Revue, December 16 (Anna Chate has already written two sketches on the way back from Vichy, but if you've any more ideas please see her).

If you have any ideas for social events, or if you want to help (or complain!), see Angela Godritch or Adrian Cole.

Mailing list:

This has become somewhat out of date! Please, please *please* update the paper list where the bar book was with your address and phone number. Do NOT - repeat DO NOT - update the members' book - leave that to the membership secretary. It is hoped to computerise this list before long.

HOW TO TALK ROWING . . .

CONFUSED by rowing-speak? Are you embarrassed when someone calls you a bum-shover? Do you secretly wonder what the hell Farrell is on about when he tells you to drop the catch and put the cat out? (Yes - Ed). Fear not! Oarsman's Dictionary of Rowspeak will turn you into an expert! The first line is the phrase, the italic line the meaning - even Vampire could understand it!

The Captain:

My lads showed total commitment
They kicked the opposition's 18-stone bow man
My lads showed total commitment, but they were a little overenthusiastic.
They shot their 18-stone bow man and set fire to their boat.
The lads lacked commitment.
Their 18-stone bow man beat them all up.
My lads gave 110 per cent.
They got legless in the bar at lunchtime, threw up on the head umpire and lost by 14 lengths.
The lads done brilliant.
We won.
Their cox did brilliant.

We lost.

We're taking each regatta as it comes.
I am about to be sacked.
It was really very close.
We lost by 3 lengths.
It was really very close.
We lost by 18 lengths.
It was really very close.
We forgot to enter the race.
The Committee
We are 100 per cent behind the captain.
He is about to be sacked.
It has been mutually agreed that the captain should take a rest.
He's been sacked
It's a shame the captain has joined Leander, but we wish him all the best.
We were about to sack him, but now we can sue Leander instead.
We want to take the club up-market.
We have sold the land to Kingston Council which is to build luxury flats on it.
It has been decided to concentrate more on the women.

Vampire has bored a peephole in the wall of the women's showers.

It has been decided to concentrate more on the men.

We are giving them all the women's boats.

We are planning to make the club more attractive to non-rowers.
Guy Lewis is to turn it into an all-night strip joint and taco bar.

The Coach

This is going to hurt me more than it will hurt you.

This is going to hurt you more than it will hurt me.

We'll take things easy tonight.

I have arranged an eight-mile run, followed by three hours on the ergo and a night in the sack with Angela Godritch.

You're in for a really rough time.

A little snooze, followed by some crochet work, then a night in the sack with Guy Lewis.

The vanishing vest – the pair that never rowed – Anna and her dentist – it's all in your scandal-ridden . . .

Scarlet Blade

IT IS worth starting this column with one of our less extrovert members who usually manages to have a good time at the Veteran Champs. This gentleman is renowned for wearing a vest to all occasions, and this time the ladies on the trip decided that it was time to remove it – on the dance floor! Dermot is now appealing for its return - I am told that he should keep his eye on the club flag pole!

They're building the Veteran women tough these days - ask Guy Lewis. After a training outing in which the mixed eight was followed by a men's eight outing, Guy asked for a pair of pliers to undo the gate which had been tightened (finger tight, she said!) by Lesley Dunlop. More weight training this year, Guy!

More recently at Nick and Lindsey's wedding - which passed without incident on a lovely day - there was some consternation among the congregation when it came to Lindsey's turn to say "I do." It seems that the nerves were working overtime and while Nick's reply was positively forthcoming, his blushing bride was audible only to the one who mattered! Even the vicar was seen to be leaning forward and turning up his hearing aid. We wish them both a happy future of writing club minutes, making Thursday's food and coaching the Senior III's - until their own novices start to arrive.

But back to Vichy. The women's second crew decided to camp out until the final evening, when they booked a hotel room with double bed to make it easier to tidy themselves up for the evening celebrations - that's just *one* room for *seven* of them. They certainly looked the worse for wear the next morning, but we are unsure if this was due to the vino or the close proximity of both Angela and Chris Cutler all night!

Another amusing incident at Vichy



occurred when our new treasurer, Mike Bate, accepted an invitation from former treasurer RR, Scully and captain Matthew Christie to go for a meal and a quiet drink one Friday night. When your correspondent met up with them they had consumed their meal and approximately three bottles of Calvados. When they eventually returned to the hotel it was somewhere approaching 4am! The three of them failed to make an appearance until noon that day - half an hour after RR's eights race! Our heroic trio were noticeably quiet at that evening's session . . . try asking Mike when you next see him if he would care to share a glass of Calvados with you - but stand well back!!!

Delicate and soft-spoken Anna Chate obviously made quite an impact on the locals - one Belgian competitor in particular! The pair were seen in deep and meaningful "conversation" away from the crowd at the Gala evening. The chap must have been a dentist judging from the way he was checking Anna's fillings . . .

Did you know that Nicky Chilmaid is a heavy sleeper? Debbie Ellis found this out when she arrived a little late

after the Gala event. Despite thunderous knocks delivered to the door of their shared room, the Sleeping Beauty within slumbered peacefully on, leaving the hapless Debbie to kip down in the hall. Question is, is Nicky really a female Rip van Winkle, or was she up to something (or someone) else? Naturally, we're sure it is the former . . .

Finally, an event such as Vichy would not be the same without a story about Angela Godritch, who is to polite dinner-party conversation what Ghengis Khan was to crochet work. Having completely organised, reorganised and re-organised everyone's seating arrangements and opened a few illicit bottles of booze (Gabriel Stuer coming into his own by supplying a few cases of local plonk at greatly reduced prices), she then proceeded to give anyone interested enough to look a front-row view of the scantiest red knickers ever seen at a Veterans meeting. As she was also wearing an extremely short red dress there were queues of people waiting to stand behind her as she danced . . .

Captain Farrell Mossop, or "he who must be obeyed," was determined to keep this year's oarsmen's meeting brief and to the point. He succeeded manfully, although he was hardly helped by Boysie outlining our plans for the club in some detail. However, the length of this soliloquy did enable our beloved captain to assess the strength of the new membership - particularly some of the new young ladies, and even more specifically the lovely, lissome blonde in the third row. So impressed was he by her, er, *their* enormous credentials, that he called a meeting of the new members in order to outline his plans for her, er, *them*. Being a shy, retiring lad, however, he failed to progress on the social front, so in the interests of keeping the skipper happy his number can be found in the book behind the bar!