

# The Scarlet Blade



## GUNNING FOR IT!

*New coach, new bar, new boats — but still the same old drunks.  
Kingston Rowing Club is building a bright new future,  
so come on down!*

**T**HERE has been one glaring omission from an otherwise enjoyable and not unsuccessful season under the guiding hand of Captain Nick Ronald - so here is a sincere apology for the absence of the Scarlet Blade for the past season.

In some ways it has been good to hear that members have missed our regular updates on rowing, events, the personalities and the gossip. In the period of silence from an editorial point of view the Committee Chairman Paul (Boysie) Reynolds has been keeping members informed of special events and motivating regular money-spinners at the Club.

The aim of this season (yes, it has started already!) is to produce a bi-monthly Scarlet Blade to complement all the major events of the season. All we ask from you is to pay your subscription quickly, attend as many social events as you can and enjoy your membership of a great rowing club.

### THE ROWING — 1990/91 SEASON

We had yet another new development last season with our first professional coach with responsibility for the men's group. Steve Gunn has been a greatly enjoyable and successful addition to the coaching staff.

He has a refreshing approach to the task and has been ready to help anyone at any time since his return from coaching at last year's World Championships.

He has added new training techniques designed to improve the way the oarsmen train by making them firstly technically proficient, thereby reducing the likelihood of injury, and making sure that they always understand the reasons for their training. He has always ensured that they look to the season's objectives.

### THE MEN'S GROUP

The top men's group was inflated to include the promising less experienced oarsmen from the previous year's Senior III group. This was intended to give continuity to the squad and to try to discover new talent from our roots. All trained together for the season with tremendously encouraging results from all levels.

An extremely experienced club eight pushed themselves to the very top echelons with an 8th place finish in the Tideway Head. Add to this our



Steve Gunn demonstrates his latest coaching technique

unique achievement of five crews in the top 100 at a time when the general rowing standard in the UK has never been higher and you can understand the coaches' pleasure in the results.

Sculling has played a prominent part in preparation and it was no surprise that the best crews over the season excelled in this discipline. The lightweight quad proved themselves the fastest lightweight quad in the country behind the Squad crew, pushing both the squad's heavyweight and lightweight quads at various events before winning their event at the National Championships.

The men's double of Chris Andrews and Ian Dryden showed themselves to be the fastest double in the country over the season before losing at Hen-

ley to a former Henley winner and former world champion Scandinavian combination.

The most enjoyable result in this group was that of former Captain Farrell Mossop who breezed though to his first National Championship gold, showing speed he would have been delighted with in his last international appearance eight years ago.

The remaining lightweights rowed in an eight without really achieving their true potential but one more season should see a number narrowing the gap to the squad. The "development" eight had a similar if not unexpectedly inconsistent season with large discrepancies in their highs and lows. Again this season should see this group blossoming into a new generation of successful Kingston Open oarsmen.

The Senior III group was composed of very inexperienced rowers this year as a result of the expanded senior group. A tremendous asset was the new coaching "find" Geoff Lees, who perhaps lacked only the persuasive arm of Nick Ronald, the former coach of this group, and a more dedicated crop of oarsmen. Those dedicated to the task were beginning to reap the rewards as the season ended.

### THE WOMEN'S GROUP

Strenuous efforts are being made to find an equivalent guru for the women to Steve Gunn for the men. However, with the dedicated efforts early on from Julian Ormerod and by Scully Burrows and Hugh Ainsley the season has been fairly successful. Certainly, with the volume of training and dedication from many of the girls a more structured approach would have yielded even greater success.

Aggie Barnett showed once again that she can only be a whisker from a return to the National Squad. Alison Burford was equally close to selection and it is a great pity that she had to go elsewhere to find the success her

in his inimitable way. Things like rebates for the poll tax payments (business rates?), Sports Council and Kingston Council grants for various improvements, Operation Sweep Oar to tidy up the place, numerous social events, motivating the event organisers as well as making sure the committee does its job. He takes some stick – and rightly so sometimes! – but he, like others, is working hard to help the Club.

Although we lack a major sponsor good "housekeeping" has meant that we have had lots of cash to work with – all credit due to Mike Bates as Treasurer. We have never had such a wonderful selection of boats which are essential to maintain our standards at all levels.

The Captain seems to have been involved in everything and has made



Token lemming joke

such a good impression in his first term that we have allowed him another go! Seriously though, Nick has fulfilled all that has been expected of him, and many other things to boot, and he needs everyone's support again next year. Find out what you can do.

This year there are various committees being organised to get things done. Why not offer to front a project – yes just the one – this season. For example: a Thursday evening meal, Sunday lunch, a disco, a sponsorship approach, one day a month on the bar (still more to follow on this) sourcing the cost of some kit, arranging a training camp trip. There are plenty of things, you can do believe me, and if everyone fronts just one event then the few who end up handling a lot will not be overwhelmed.

Here's a list of the Committee Heads so far:-

- Bar** – Richard Higgins
- Sponsorship & PR** – *Scott Tunbridge and Ann Hodkin*
- Kingston Head** – *Peter King*
- Kingston Amateur** – *John White*
- Kingston Sprint** – *Alistair Court-Smith, John Vorley*
- Small Boats Head** – *Colin Maddison*
- Kit & Clothing** – *Laura Binns*
- Trailing** – *Johnny Donohue, Derek Drinkwater*
- Membership** – *Colin Green*
- Social** – *Carol Cornell, Nicky Wilberforce*
- Racks** – *Maurice Hayes*
- Regatta Entries** – *Duncan Graham*
- Club Annual Dinner** – *Alison Burford, Louise Tunbridge*
- Kingston Ball** – *Guy Lewis*
- Boathouse Upkeep** – *Steve Ross, Ray Rushworth*
- Club Secretary** – *Peter Land*
- Club Treasurer** – *Mike Bate*

## A VIEW FROM THE CHAIRMAN

### MAYORAL FEAST

Yet again Kingston's Mayor, The Worshipful Councillor Smedley, is gracing us with his presence. On November 17 he is visiting to launch some boats, open the new bar and check the progress on the loos and changing rooms.

Pat White will be taking a club photo at 11.30 and there will be a club Sunday Lunch to follow. If you haven't seen the new bar yet come along looking smart and hungry – we might have the pictures up in the bar by then!

### KINGSTON AMATEUR REGATTA

Well, if you weren't there you missed the most successful regatta in years . . .

Yes, Kingston Amateur Regatta is back to stay with 12 hours of racing, 200 entries and lots of other activities both on and off the water. Despite the fact that it was held on the coldest Saturday in July for 10 years, all the time and investment paid off. The weather stopped us making as much money as we had hoped but we now have all the props and expertise to run next year's and improve some more.

John White carried out some post-event research by sending out a questionnaire and all respondents were definitely coming back next year. Well done Clive Hallt and the Committee.

### OPERATION SWEEP OAR

A lot of building work is going on at present at KRC, the first real

improvements for many years. We cannot afford to get it all done professionally so another "Operation Sweep Oar" is planned. Coxes with sponges and coaches with dusters, rowers with brushes, vets with rollers and schoolboys with hammers and saws all go toward getting the boat house etc cleaned and decorated.

If you have an hour to spare on October 26 come down at 10.30. There's a good free lunch afterwards for those who help.

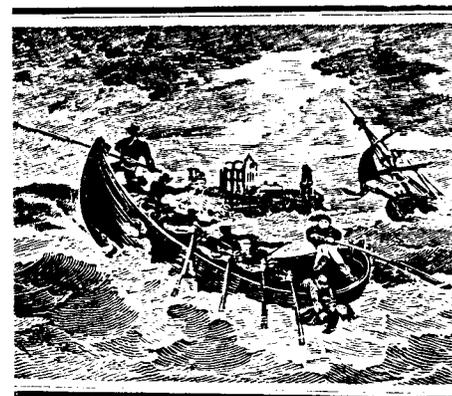
### OPINION

A brief word on the subject of regattas. For some of the older members of the Club it must be mystifying to attend some of the local and traditional regattas and not see a Kingston presence. There are various reasons for this.

Simply, the regatta calendar for club oarsmen and women has changed radically over the years into a two week cyclical programme of multi-lane racing, leading up to the big two – Henley and the National Championships.

Many of our crews attend these regattas to get the best possible racing and thereby achieve the kudos of a win where the best people are racing. This means that events like Thames Ditton, Twickenham, Chiswick, Walton and even Marlow do not get much of a Kingston entry.

To this can be added the fact that either there are no senior events or the course is blatantly unfair and in some cases unrowable with rough water (ie Marlow). In the past we



The rough course at Marlow

have had a good crop of Novice and Senior IIIs coming up to race at these events and we very much hope to see these categories thrive next season.

However, if there are the events early in the season we will try to encourage the better oarsmen to attend a few of the local regattas to give you all a good spectacle and improve their trophy collection

So why are we not winning more at Henley?

Two reasons, the principle one being money. Our best oarsmen are



"That's an excellent suggestion, Miss Triggs. Perhaps one of the men here would like to make it."

dedicated training deserved. It is frustrating that Ian Dryden trained with KRC all season and was rightly allowed to keep his Tradesmans' vest but Alison was not allowed to do so when she rowed there only in the summer.

With the new "all crews must qualify" rule at Henley it was a fine achievement for all the crews who entered to qualify with such ease.

The novice section has blossomed once again with a regular crop of girls progressing through at an encouraging rate. Much credit must go to Hugh, Les Hughes and Camilla Sykes whose enthusiasm has rubbed off admirably on their charges. The Club has great hopes of a new generation of success from this group.

## THE JUNIORS

This group has earned a section of their own with their success coached by Ian South last season. At the last count they had won in excess of 30 events over the season – a remarkable achievement.

This group, led by Claire Payne and Caroline Dring, has continued the success of last year in an emphatic way. Claire was selected for the Coup de Jeunesse and Caroline produced a magnificent set of trials to be selected for the sculling group in Junior Squad selection.

Add to this the Henley win in the quads by a more than comfortable margin and it can be seen that all the groups can learn from this dedicated approach to training and coaching.

## WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Apart from Caroline's success, another highlight was Stewart White-law's selection to the almost unreachable goal of the lightweight National Squad. Stewart has been in consistently fast form all season in his single and was selected for the eight after some exhausting trials.

These two superstars have main-

tained the Club's enviable record of producing home-grown internationals over a period now encompassing 15 consecutive years.

## EVENTS

A brief mention now for the Club events. These have taken on a new lease of life in recent years, with fresh blood and many new ideas.

The Small Boats Heads was impeccably run once again by Colin Maddison and is an invaluable source of income and racing experience for the Club. It is being used more and more for squad and university testing as it is a perfect course, accurately timed and well organised.

The Kingston Head has always been a top class event under the helm of Brian Colbourne but last season Peter King fronted a first-class band of organisers to raise the profile even further, obtaining sponsorship for more personal prizes and with hopes of satellite TV coverage next year.

The Sprint Regatta was resurrected after a one year break by Colin and Boysie and it is hoped that it will develop into a high class veteran event in the future with Alistair Court-Smith at the helm.

The Kingston Amateur Regatta has proved the jewel in the crown, changing courses to a three lane event between Ravens Ait and the Bridge. There were two enclosures and heavy sponsorship from Kingston Council and Bentalls. The day was a great success. The most gratifying aspect for the Club is the number of long term Kingston men deeply involved in the organisation.

The concept of this event has been discussed, like many other things at Kingston, for years, so actually saving a dying regatta and making it a day Kingston can be proud of will benefit both the town and the Club. Great credit is due to Clive Hallt and the gang.

There are never too many people involved in these events, the proceeds

of which provide more equipment and facilities for the Club. If you wish to be involved in any of these events, in whatever capacity, particularly those who may not have been to the Club in recent years, contact Paul Reynolds, Nick Ronald or Scott Tunbridge who will put you in touch with the relevant committee.

There is obviously much more to say about these events and we will take more time over them in subsequent editions.

A final thanks from all of the Club to those hardworking individuals – see you next year!

## SOCIAL EVENTS

It has been another good year for "happenings" at the Club. Again we will pick out a few highlights to remind you of relevant hangovers.

Have you been down to the Club on a Thursday in the last year or two? Yes, I mean you guys and girls who haven't got the time to be there seven days a week or feel they won't know anyone. We have good food, a now beautifully-equipped bar (more on this shortly) and an atmosphere of pure rowing-speak which is as good a place for a reminisce or a meeting-place for new friends as you will find. Come and try it!

The Club Dinner was held on a snowy day which discouraged surprisingly few people, one of which was original guest speaker Chay Blythe, who has navigated the Atlantic in a rowing boat and sailed around the world but couldn't find his way from snowy Hampshire. Next year we'll send the club Land Rover to get him!

Remember, this is still one of the highlights of the year and a great chance to get together old and new blades. If you're short of money save up now – no excuses!

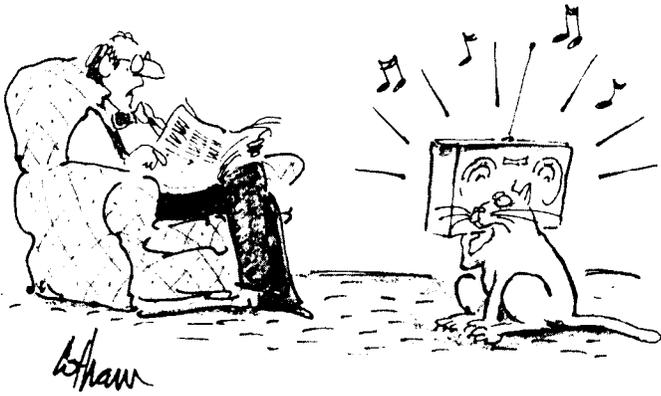
The Henley Ball was another rip roaring success for Guy Lewis. Superb weather, great food, plentiful amounts of good wine and a larger dance floor. The recession has obviously been hitting some of the people who came last year since numbers were down. But we are putting next year's date together now – save up if you have to; it really should not be missed.

The other major event was the Xmas Review and the Watkins-Tunbridge production video. Suffice to say that the 1991 production is well under way and there are still copies of Boatman available at a very reasonable price. See Scott.

## COMMITTEE STUFF

No, this *isn't* a boring bit to skip over, just a brief thankyou to the unfortunate few who run the place.

Paul Reynolds has maintained the tradition of hard working Chairmen



"You're noisy for a cat."

being spirited away by the squad systems of Leander, UL and the like.

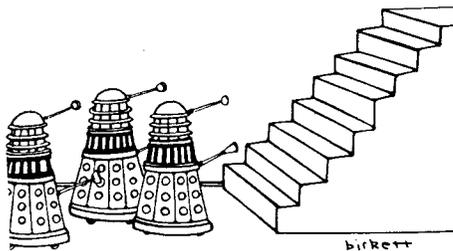
Take Henley this year. Three of the young four who won the World Under 23 Championships won in different crews. Jim Garman (who sculled as Kingston last season but in the Squad crew at Henley) won the Queen Mother Cup, Richard Phelps won the Grand and Rob Bartlett won the Ladies' Plate with Leander. Add to this Stewart Whitelaw winning the Wyfolds (for Nautilus - the light-weight squad), Mark Partridge being in the losing Notts County four (after rowing for us last year) and you can see that we develop the talent but they move on before we reap the rewards.

The solution is to have a six figure fund of money (like Leander) or total council support (like Nottingham) or a combination of clubs (like UL) to support the oarsmen. As a pure amateur club we are doing surprisingly

lighting to go with the new look. In the next two months we will have new curtains - so come and use it!

What we now need is for volunteers to keep the bar open every evening. To this effect we are going to try a new system asking for volunteers for each day in the month with a commitment for a season only. This is how it will work:

All volunteers will have one day in the month when they will open the bar at a prescribed time, normally 7.30 - 8.00pm. They are responsible until locking-up time. There are various perks to this ie the club rarely



"Well, this certainly buggers our plan to conquer the Universe."



"And another thing—you'll have to stop him drawing all over the walls."

well with our oarsmen and our attempts at fund raising. We have paid for six brand new top class boats in the last two years at a cost of over £30,000 - and this excludes purchases like a new trailer, a new towing vehicle and a new launch as well as work on the bar, a new TV etc.

The fact remains we need a big sponsor - has anyone got any more ideas?

#### THE BAR

In case you haven't seen it we now have a new carpet in the bar and new

opens on a Friday, except for an event, and Thursdays have regular staff of three.

If you cannot attend for an evening then you must contact another willing member to take your turn. A list of names will be supplied for this purpose.

With our commitment to the loan to do up the bar, we must keep it open and supplied all year round. By reducing the commitment to only one night a month (or maybe less) we are both spreading the load and reducing the drain on people's time. A separate note on this subject will be sent shortly.

#### COMING UP SOON . . .

A new list of social events is enclosed

but forthcoming highlights include:

#### THE PLEDGE AUCTION

We need your pledge - and then come along and buy something to benefit the Club.

Popular pledges are: to bake and decorate a cake, cut the grass, valet your car, baby sitting, clean the windows, a weekend away with your friends, iron your shirts, butler and



There's usually four of us but Pestilence is running in the 3.30 at Uttoxeter.

cook for a dinner party, a starring role in the new video, a week's coaching, a cabaret from Stan and Ollie . . .

The list is as long and varied as your own imagination. Guy Lewis will front this event. The cut off date is the auction itself, which is Sunday November 17. Watch out for posters and give generously of your skills.

#### THE FIRST DISCO

The date of this is Saturday November 2. Come and have a quiet convivial evening or, er, as it says here: "Get down you cool cats to the Carol Cornell fun experience at a venue near the river and beat the rap" - or something equally as nice.

So, the first edition is complete, in the next edition I would like to include some of your thoughts - drop me a line at the Club and watch out - the Scarlet Blade is on the lookout for juicy gossip.

See you soon!

#### SCARLET BLADE





**KINGSTON  
ROWING  
CLUB**

THE BOATHOUSE, CANBURY GARDENS,  
LOWER HAM ROAD, KINGSTON ON THAMES,  
SURREY, KT2 5AU. Tel: 01-546 8592

PLEASE REPLY TO:

14th October 1991

Dear Member,

Subscription time is with us once again. The rates for 1991/92 are as follows:

	Full price	Price if payment received before 01/12/1991.
Full member	£200	£130
Half member	£150	£75
Student member	£150	£75
Junior member	£80	£40
Social member	£80	£40

Please note that the club appreciates prompt payment - it enables us to put the money to work early in the season. If you anticipate that you will have problems paying you should discuss the matter with the Treasurer, Mike Bate, as soon as possible.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Peter Land'.

Peter Land  
Honourary Secretary, KRC.