

The Scarlet Blade



KINGSTON CLUB
ROWING

FREE TO MEMBERS

ISSUE 1

Chairmans Message

AT THE RECENT AGM those of you who were present will know there have been some changes in the Committee and this seems an ideal opportunity to thank those who have stood down for all their hard work. In thanking those members who have given freely of their time, one in particular, Paul Reynolds, who has Chaired the Executive Committee for the last three years, deserves particular mention.

An organization the size of KRC requires a great deal of administration in order to run smoothly, and under Paul's guidance the Club has retained its foremost place: not only in the Borough of Kingston, but also in the rowing world. This no way detracts from the excellent leadership that Nick Ronald has given our oarsmen and women over the last two years. Nick and Paul's cooperation will be a hard act to follow.

At the first committee meeting following the AGM Peter King was elected Chairman of the Executive Committee. The task now is to continue the hard work promoting the Club within the Royal Borough and within the sport.

We are currently in the grip of the worst recession many of us can remember, so it is now more important than ever to manage the affairs of the Club in a prudent manner in order to weather the current situation. As usual, money is the root of most problems, and your prompt payment of subscriptions will go a long way to help matters. For anyone who has been down to the Club over the last year, the bar, under Matthew Christie's management, is making a major contribution towards the running of the Club. Despite rising costs, it has been possible to maintain prices at reasonably low levels, thus making it a profitable and pleasant place for members to meet. Anyone wishing

to partake of a refreshment on a Sunday lunchtime will find bar snacks provided free (if you are reasonably early), and a double bonus in that you will almost certainly meet our President, Leslie Parsons, who incidentally celebrates his 86th birthday this year.

As you read this newsletter, the beginning of the new season is nearly with us and Andy Tompkins our new Captain, along with his vice captains and coaches, is now commencing the gargantuan task of turning novices into senior 3's, senior 3's into senior 2's and so forth.

The training starts in the gymnasium as well as on the water for the next six months or so and with the Regatta season at a close, the Head season is almost upon us. In the coming months we have the Tideway Fours Head, our own Small Boats Head, Tiffin Small Boats Head and the Walton and the Burway Small Boats Head. Your support at these events is most welcome, and it gives a great boost to all of our crews.

With the clocks going back in a few weeks, the nights are already drawing in, and it is hoped that as the memories of the Summer fade away they will be matched by the expectations of the coming Season.

The next big social event at the Club is the Barn Dance on 21st November but is hoped that you will find time to visit the Club before then to support the oarsmen and women and to meet fellow members in the convivial atmosphere of the Club bar.

The next newsletter will be in early January when Andy Tompkins will be able to give a progress report, and probably give some clues as the crews we will be putting out in 1993.

Peter King
Chairman

Editors COLUMN

"The Scarlet Blade" is back in business and at least four editions will be out this season.

Apologies for the spartan appearance and style of this edition but tight deadlines and a plague of locusts combined to prevent a more professional newsletter being produced - we'll have our act together for the next one.

Thanks to all the contributors who were given only five minutes to write their articles, thanks also to Nigel Main and Aleks Marinkovic for 'subbing' and designing 'The Blade', a penalty for admitting in the bar one Thursday that they worked in journalism.

Contributions will be welcomed in the future on all rowing issues, for example, memories of Henley past I am sure will be enjoyed by all. We also hope to run a gossip column in forthcoming editions. If anyone has any (relatively) clean stories, please send in a plain brown envelope to the editors.

Nick Ronald
Rebecca Jeffries

Captains Message



WELL IT'S time to scrape the mould off the rowing kit, put on the lycra and demonstrate to yourself in front of the mirror that you really haven't lost shape or any of last year's fitness.

Many of our oarsmen have never actually allowed their kit to dry out, to the extent where the regattas of last year have merged into the sculling heads of this year.

Congratulations are to go to Agie Barnett for her selection to the Olympics and to all those who supported her, particularly Nick Ronald and Ian South.

Congratulations also to Stuart Whitelaw on his performance in the Lightweight World Championships in Montreal. He finished fifth in the final, just one second off Bronze and four seconds behind the winners.

Whilst all this was going on the bulk of the Club went on the traditional

weekend jaunt to Stourport. Thanks go to Morris Hayes for his sterling performance in sculling over for the last race to win us the Victor Ludorum and £250 by half a point!

The FISA Veterans Regatta in Cologne came in the supposed quiet part of the rowing season, a band of veteran men and women crinklies crawled out the woodwork and set about the task of showing what rowing should really look like, with 13 medals to come home with they(we) must be doing something right - though God knows what!

The new season is just starting with a frenzy of activity, at least behind the scenes. There is plenty of activity at all levels of rowing at the Club: men and women, senior and junior/novice. To support this are the Vice Captains, Howard Prior and Judy Waldock, and the coaches; Tessa Millar and Nick Ronald (Senior men), Alastair Graham (Club men), Matthew Knights (Novice

Men), Geoff Lees and Damian Mammond (Senior women),

Ian South (Junior women), Les Hughes, Camilla Sykes and Dave Longden (Club and Novice women) plus many others have committed to come down to coach.

The only things we are short of are: money for new boats (see Sue Login with any sponsorship ideas), rack space and, of course that massive fit athlete to pull you over the course.

Now is the time to introduce your friends who have rowed before, or look as if they could do well in a boat to come down to the Club. Coxes, as ever, are in short supply and are especially welcome.

Otherwise the bar is looking good, the beer is good, the coaches are there and the training is just waiting to be done. Roll on the wins!

Social REPORT

KRC has the intention of providing a healthy social environment in which members can seek relaxation and entertainment once the serious business of rowing has been dealt with.

The social calendar is organised to accommodate the rigorous training programme and rowing events, a philosophy that has proved successful in the past.

The events are staggered throughout the year, the first being the Barn Dance on 21st November, with Christmas soon upon us, the excuse for a party is even stronger and the Xmas review is planned for 19th December. The New Year and ensuing summer will herald Pimms parties and the end of season dinner.

Hearty supper parties are offered throughout the season, with Sunday breakfast providing inter-outing sustenance for crews.

Remember, the Club is available for private party hire and is a popular venue for weddings and birthdays.

We look forward to a successful rowing season and an enjoyable social season!

Social Calendar to date...

November 21st.....	Barn Dance
December 12th.....	Scullers Supper
December 19th.....	Xmas Review
January 3rd.....	Rum Punch
February 12th.....	Dinner
July 24th.....	Annual End of Season Dinner
Other ideas include...	
January 16/17th.....	Mixed eights Sunday Brunch
Boat race.....	Lunch and Telly Viewing
April.....	Sunday Quiz
May 29th.....	Midsummer Madness Barbecue
June 20th...Sunday lunch, "May Week was in June"	Blazers and Bermudas.

If anyone has any ideas or suggestion, please contact me at the Club.

Victoria Sampson





Queen's Visit



ON THE 29TH July the Club was delighted to welcome the Queen to the Club House, well almost! She boarded the Royal Barge from the landing stage.

The occasion provided a great excuse for a party and some 100 members and guests toasted her arrival to the background sounds of the Tiffin Swing Band. Scarlet blazers were to the fore and complemented the equally scarlet

Queen's Barge Masters, sweating heavily under their thick uniforms.

Guests included local residents, council representatives, members of the press amongst others, and we were delighted they could attend. The only disappointed person on the day was Vamp, who gave the ladies loo a special clean, but failed to persuade the Queen to use the throne!

Bar TALK

Clothing

IN A FEW weeks well have a cabinet in the bar with a full range of KRC leisure wear on display. We have extended the range to include hooded sweatshirts, rugby shirts - 100% heavyweight cotton, baseball caps and silk ties.

A full list is available at the club and all items have been priced to provide top quality garments at the lowest possible price.

Sunday lunch

AS WE MOVE into the rowing season it is hoped to reintroduce the monthly Sunday lunch at the Club.

This will take a slightly different from before. By using our caterer, David Tyrell to provide the lunch, ensuring that we have tablecloths and waitress service.

This lunch will be sold at cost with the idea of making it into a social occasion for members, their partners and families.

It is hoped that the first lunch will be held on Sunday, 1st November. It will be necessary to make a reservation so please call Kirsten Andersen at KRC during the evenings of the preceding week.

It is intended to hold subsequent lunches on the first Sunday of each month.

Matthew Christie



IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN - SUBS!

Last year was our most successful ever in terms of subs collection. This was partially due to our discount scheme which offered substantial reductions for payment before 1st December.

In view of this success we have decided to offer similar discounts again this year.

The rates for the 92/93 season are;

MEMBERSHIP	DISCOUNTED RATE	FULL RATE
Full	£140	£200
Student/half	£80	£100
Junior	£50	£75
Hon.	£40	£50

KRC Club officials 1992/93

CAPTAIN	A. M. Tompkins	
VICE CAPTAINS	H. S. Prior, Miss J. I. Waldock	
CHAIRMAN	P. A. King	
HONORARY SECRETARY	P. J. Land	
HONORARY TREASURER	M. C. Bate	
COMMITTEE		
A. Andrews - Transport	M. I. Christie - Bar	D. R. Firth - Regatta Entries
Miss S. Frederick - Regatta Entries	C. A. Greene - Membership	
D. C. P. Hammond - Club Regatta	Miss R. Jeffries - PR and Scarlet Blade	
Miss S. E. C. Login - Sponsorship	N. J. Ronald - PR and Scarlet Blade	
Miss V. L. Simpson - Social	Miss N. A. Wilberforce - Kit and University Liaison	

RANTINGS OF AN OUTGOING CAPTAIN *OR* STILL CRAZY AFTER ALL THESE YEARS

NOW IS THE time for reflection.... No chance! I have already been dragged back from retirement to coordinate the senior men's group, whatever that means!

Apparently some of my duties include leaping out of bushes screaming at innocent scullers during early morning outings and slowing the guys down on a Thursday night run. The latter will not be a problem

Well what of last year. I would say it was pretty normal for any KRC Captain - performing an impossible balancing act would probably sum it up best.

Over 100 active oarsmen/women trained on a regular basis and on Thursday nights in the summer when the vets were out on mass, I counted in excess of 140 people on the water; a logistical nightmare. On one occasion we actually ran out of blades. We now have 12 sets.

Boats!!! I never want to hear that word again. For those members who have not actually rowed for sometime I should explain that the modern training programmes require ready access to all sizes of boats, ideally at all levels. Switching from pairs to eights in one weekend is quite normal. Oarsmen and women who want to reach a high level must have their own sculling boat.

It is said that rowing remains a cheap sport, but sculling boats cost between

£2,500 to £3,000 - very expensive for a student or young person starting work. For KRC, providing equipment is a heavy financial burden. We own 10 pairs boats for example, but some are too old and we could do with at least six more. We would probably expect to pay around £4,000 per boat.

But what of the season itself. if someone is prepared to add up the total wins I am confident that it would prove a record breaker. the Club had over 60 small boat and eights head wins and in excess of 70 regatta wins. At the West Country, we picked up 23 pots in one weekend. These were achieved at all levels. The lower end of the mens and womens groups showed particular determination, often competing in boats well below the standard enjoyed by the opposition. The policy of providing ageing, 2nd, 3rd or 4th hand boats for such groups must surely be reviewed.

The season overall was rather frustrating. Many times we were close to first class wins but never quite made it. The defeat of the Britannia four by two feet on the first day of Henley said it all, the fastest time of the day by over 20 seconds in comparison to some heats was of huge disappointment both to the Club and its highly committed crew.

We had our successes at senior level, Allison Barnett and Stuart Whitelaw represented the Club at the Olympics

and World Championships respectively. Both gave up their jobs to do so which clearly demonstrates their determination to be at the top. They also wore their Club colours whenever possible and I would like to thank them personally for this.

At junior level, Caroline Dring and Sarah Birch rowed for the country in the under 23 World Championships and Claire Payne was in the squad at the Junior Worlds. Well done to them all. I would like to add that Ian's juniors all put in an appearance for GB Juniors.

The coaches performed miracles as usual and at the beginning of the season we were lucky to have the services of Steve Gunn again. in April Steve left for international duties but we were very fortunate that Tessa Millar, of Thames Women fame stepped into the breach. She did an equally superb job. Thanks also go to Scott, Ian, Geoff, Damian, Les. Camilla, Dave and this year's Captain for the incredible amount of time they gave.

If you ever get the chance to be Captain of KRC take it! Time consuming it may be, highly frustrating at times, but it is a wonderful Club. full of highly committed people - it is an experience I will always cherish.

Nick Ronald

FISA vets - Cologne '92

A PUNISHING TRAINING routine and extremely rigorous selection procedure (the Chairman of the men's squad selection board was lucky to escape impalement on a zimmer frame) ensured that the best Kingston team for many years represented us in Cologne for the FISA Veteran's Regatta in late September. In fact every member of the combined mens and womens squadron won at least one medal.

The men's coxless four kicked off the racing early on Friday morning and then broke into two pairs to contest the coxless pairs event. Sweeney and Rowlands raced first into the teeth of a howling headwind, but decided to conserve themselves for the arduous racing that was to follow, and cruised home in sixth place.

Crooks and Gait were on next . A fast Norwegian pair led them from the start but with only 100m to go the Kingston pair raised their game and stole victory in the last few strokes in the very fast time of 4min 0.5 sec. This was only bettered by one second by an Estonian pair in the following heat.

Meanwhile, the women's A coxed four of Dunlop, Chapman, Ronald and Sims was covering itself in glory with a comfortable victory against a strong international field. During the medal ceremonies for the Kingston girls near pandemonium

reigned as dozens of German photographers leapt onto the landing stage which all but sank under the heavy teutonic mass.

The Women's B coxed four of Dunlop, Chapman, Philips and Sims fared less well. By 500m victory was looking unlikely and they decided to raise the spirits of the crowd with a spontaneous display of synchronised swimming.

The Kins brothers, Wat and Tom had been selected for the B coxless pairs event but so determined was Wat that the newly elected captain should take gold that he persuaded Tim Crooks to row in his place. despite having to wear a Wat Kins latex mask and a codpiece (for the medal ceremony) Tim stroked magnificently to win by 500m. As Tim and Tom received their medals, none could fail to have been moved by the tears in Wat's eyes.

The early hours of Saturday morning saw perhaps the most dramatic race of the regatta. As the coxed four of Rowlands, Sweeney, Gait and Crooks, coxed by Rachel emerged from the mist, the throngs along the course realised that something special was taking place. The roar of the crowd rose to a crescendo to acclaim their victory by a staggering margin of eight seconds. Later in the day this amazing four combined with two of Bowyer's mates from Llandaff and two illegitimate sons of Nottingham

to clinch victory in the C eight in one of the fastest times of the day.

Meanwhile the eponymous pair of Kapica and Vye once again demonstrated the power of Weetabix by taking their now customary duo of medals in the D and C coxless pairs. Also notable was the win in the B coxed fours by the composite Kingston/Thames Tradesmen's crew which included the inimitable Kins brothers, and a similar composite win in the A coxless four, built around the ubiquitous M. Hayes.

All these victories and creditable second places were greatly celebrated at the time honoured banquet on Saturday night. Despite there being more turkey on the dancefloor than on the dining tables, everybody seemed to have a good time. The high point of the evening was Di Gait demonstrating her prowess in the Greco-Roman wrestling.

The next morning, not surprisingly, the mixed races were an almost unmitigated disaster. The only high point of the day was a mutual admiration photo session.

Thus ended a memorable regatta.

Apologies to Dermot for the slaughter of his article. Copies of the full version are available for interested Vets - Ed.