

The Scarlet Blade



PRICELESS

FREE TO MEMBERS

ISSUE 8

Chairman's Message

by Peter King

Iwould like to begin by mentioning those members of the club who have been away representing this country at the various International Championship Regattas. To reach representation standard takes a lot of hard work and it is a great credit to our oarsmen and women and to their coaches that we have so many.

Congratulations then to Victoria Fangen who won a silver medal in the women's quad at the Coupe de Jeunesse in Hazelwinkel. To Robyn Morris who came 6th in the lightweight women's sculls, and Sarah Birch who came 8th in the lightweight women's double sculls at the under 23 World Championships in Paris; and to Nicola Ledger who came 8th in women's quad, and Claire Fox who won a silver medal in the women's coxless four at the World Junior Championships in Munich. At the World Championships in Indianapolis, Robyn Morris was a substitute in the lightweight women's squad, and Damien West was a substitute in the heavyweight men's squad. Stewart Whitelaw came 6th in the lightweight double sculls, and finally Jane Hall won a silver medal in the lightweight women's coxless four. To all of them our congratulations and thanks for being such great ambassadors for the Club. Those of you who finished the A.G.M. (I being one), by all accounts missed a fairly dramatic meeting, that ended with the Club having neither a Captain nor a Treasurer. Sue Login who was going to take on the job of Treasurer had to stand down for business reasons, and I am very pleased to report that the vacancy has now been ably fitted by Richard Rowland. There were several reasons

for Alison Barnett withdrawing her name, and I know she made a fairly comprehensive statement at the meeting. For those of you not at the Special General Meeting on the 1st of September I would just like to reiterate my comments to the meeting that evening. The main reason for Alison giving up the Captaincy was that she felt that she did not have the support of the members, and in particular the rowing members. The task of the Captain is a very lonely and difficult one, and in a club of our size that task is even harder boating the number of crews that we do. As most of you know Nick Ronald agreed to stand for Captain and he was duly elected unopposed at the S.G.M., I would ask all of you, and particularly the active oarsmen and women among you to give him your whole-hearted support.

Ian South is running the women (almost literally), and Richard Ayling is available for the men, training has already started and it looks as though we have a very promising season ahead of us.

From the water to the land, and we unfortunately suffered some vandalism at the club a few weeks back when some youths on their way home from the pub next door thought it might be a jolly good idea if they set fire to our boat-house. I am pleased to report that the damage caused was minimal but it must serve as a lesson to us all how vulnerable the clubhouse is and I would ask everyone and particularly the active members to be especially vigilant in making sure that the clubhouse is secure. This means ensuring equipment is not left outside and closing the

bay doors after the last person or persons are off the water. As a result of this vandalism we have installed floodlights that automatically switch on if someone approaches the area where the sculling boats are stored or the hard outside the boat bays, hopefully this will deter future acts of vandalism. I would like to extend a sincere vote of thanks to Barry Richardson, Alison Barnett's fiance for not only installing all these lights but also for fixing the other outside lights of the club. He spent a considerable amount of time doing this at virtually no cost to the club and we must be extremely grateful to him, particularly as he is not even a member.

With this newsletter is the club calendar. From the calendar you will see once again there is a full season of events ahead, I hope as many of you as possible will come down and lend your support to our crews especially at those events held on our own reach. The other enclosure is the subscription reminder. We are only too aware that for most people the financial climate of the last three years or so has caused much hardship and only now, very slowly are we beginning to climb out of the worst recession anyone except perhaps the Octogenarians amongst us can remember, it is then for this reason that the Committee has decided to hold the cost of the annual subscriptions at last year's levels. I would therefore ask everyone to be as prompt as possible with the payments of their subs, please remember the "bill season" for the Club is continuous, we still have to pay for the utilities.

By the time you are reading this newsletter a famous landmark of the area will be no more, for the chimneys of Kingston Power Station will have been reduced to rubble. Their departure however makes way for another landmark also situated in Canbury Gardens. Less visible than the previous, Kingston Rowing Club has been associated with the Royal Borough of Kingston for 132 years, and it is not without some pride that we can claim that over this period the name of K.R.C. has been synonymous with the highest standard of rowing. I am happy to be able to tell you that as we start the new season, it is quite apparent that these high standards will not only be maintained, but raised by the oarsmen and women currently training and rowing at the Club. It only remains for me to wish them all the very best of luck.

'blade gossip

by Our Man in the Beer Tent

Oh my God! - Winter training has started in earnest and the athletes (I use the term loosely) have been walking around with the department of retired rodeo riders following the first serious month of training - Ah, those balmy days of summer, when the sun shone 'til nine in the evening and outings (if they took place at all) consisted of a gentle scull down to Raven's Ait and back. It all seems a distant memory now.

Yessiree, Ayling and South are back with a vengeance this year promising harder training to come. The men have the added bonus of mid week morning outings to look forward to - the term "No mercy" springs to mind.

However this para-military regime is starting to pay dividends as Kingston took an early scalp by beating Topolski's Oxford stars by a comfortable margin to win the Weybridge Silver Sculls team trophy. A

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floodlights

report on weybridge is contained elsewhere in this rag, but congratulations to all those who won their event and here's to future successes.

One notable aside of all this frenetic activity has been a return of some of Kingston's illustrious veterans. Steve Aquilina is sculling with the men's squad, even participating in the last ergo test, Farrell is a regular fixture on the morning outings and is always in the top placings in the timed pieces, Scott Tunbridge has been seen on the water on more than one occasion and Paul 'Boysie' Reynolds has also been training and took second place in his class at Weybridge and to cap it all even Mike Bate is threatening to make a comeback.

The new social secs (Rachel and Fiona) have started the season well bagging over £200 net profit in their first week of office. Without any sponsorship (at the moment) the Club has to rely on the bar, social events and Thursday suppers for the extra income needed for equipment etc. So please respond positively if you are approached to do your stint in the kitchen.

More nonsense in the next 'Blade

Pip pip!

Calling all thespians!

In a radical departure from tradition, this year the Rum Punch 8s will be held on the same day as the Christmas Review.

The 8s racing will take place on the afternoon of the 17th December followed in the evening by the Christmas review which this year will include live music.

It promises to be a good day for all, and there are rumours circulating that training has even been cancelled on that day.

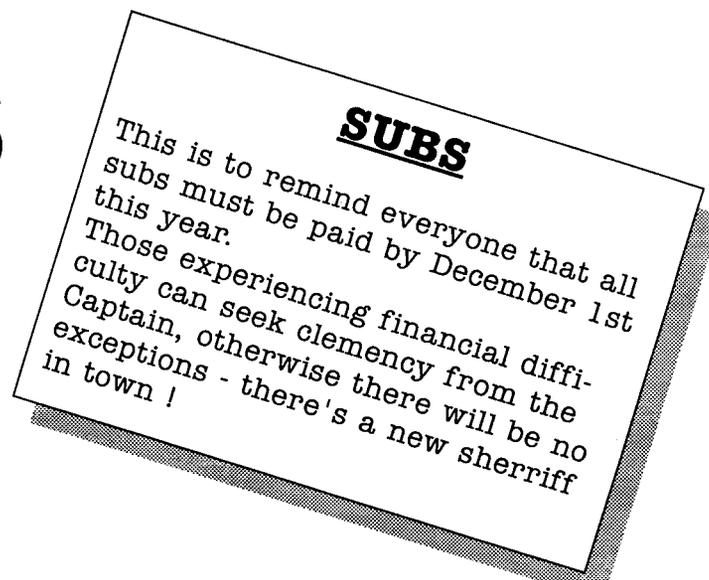
Spread the word and start writing those sketches now!

Calling all veteran or lapsed scullers!

There are a few up-and-coming scullers who are unfortunately without boats. The win at Weybridge was the first of what will be many successes this season and sculling will be a vital element in this years winter training. If you have a boat gathering dust, or are just an occasional user and would be willing to help in loaning your boat out could you please get in contact with Nick Ronald. Scullers are prepared to help with rack fees, insurance costs etc.

Captain's report

by Nick Ronald



Normally at this time of year the Captain reviews the past season, makes wild and exaggerated claims about the five hundred or so wins over the last 12 months and generally congratulates everyone involved. Having been in a state of semi retirement last season you will either disappointed or pleased to learn that I basically haven't a clue about what happened.

I am aware that Ian South's band of conquering women had an even more successful year than normal and I have asked Ian to write a piece for the next news letter. Jane Hall won a silver at the Worlds adding to the gold she won on the previous occasion and many congratulations should go to her. Many other medals were won by the group but I daren't go on because I am sure I will attribute them to all the wrong women.

As for the men - well it was an interesting year and it is probably best left at that! I should say that I did make an attempt

to watch the proceedings at Henley. For the first time ever I was being corporately entertained and I persuaded several senior managers from a city bank, 2 well known Japanese car companies and other dignitaries to walk to the start to watch our glorious coxed 4. Sponsorship being at the forefront of my mind. What did we see - Nothing actually, apparently the crew retired hurt on mass. Full of apologies I carried them back to the start to see the 4- winning in style. Believe it or not they were going to win. Unfortunately enthusiasm got the better of them and they decided to try leaping the booms. Perhaps they will introduce the sport at the next olympics.

Thanks to Stuart Whitelaw who as ever put in a great performance at Henley and reached the finals of the lightweight doubles at the Worlds.

I am actually delighted to be Captain again although it wasn't exactly planned. Despite her disappointments, last seasons Captain Alison Barnett left

the club in good shape with real potential for the future. Quite frankly she has made it easy for me [oophs - could this be another back to basics comment] and it has been a great pleasure to renew acquaintances and meet plenty of new members.

Richard Ayling and Ian South remain the coaches of the mens and women's squads respectively and are basically doing a great job. There is an air of excitement about the Club that I have not felt for sometime and I simply enjoy being there to savour the atmosphere. Several old faces have appeared for the first time in a while and I hope this is symptomatic of the club being on the up.

I will reveal more about the oarsmen & women and their coaches in the next edition but for now I would like to mention we won the team prize at Weybridge smallboats recently. In doing so we beat this years Oxford blue boat squad. Well done to everybody involved! This is the sort of good news the club has been looking for.

Weybridge Silver Sculls

Kingston scored its first success of the year with an impressive win over Isis/OUBC at Weybridge Silver Sculls on October 18th.

Despite the presence of many of last years blue and Isis oarsmen plus this year's hopefuls, Kingston managed to take the team trophy by over a minute. This augurs well for the main racing season and Kingston is set to record many other victories.

Those Kingston results in full....

Team Trophy
Kingston

Senior I - winner
Steve Ross (3rd overall)

2nd
Adam Andrews (9th overall)

Senior III - 2nd
Pete Land

Novice - winner
Phil Drake

2nd
John Gilsean

Vet 'C' - 2nd
Paul Reynolds

Women's Senior III - 2nd
Laura Binns

Women's J16 - winner
Nicky Ledger
2nd
Vic Fangan

Doubles
Senior III - winners
Tom Ryan & Steve Aquilina

Novice - winners
Martin Munden & Matt Stares

Women's Senior III - winners
Kirsty Morgan & Sue Login

Women's J16 - winners
Nicky Ledger & Vic Fangan

Annual Dinner

The Annual Dinner will be held on Friday 10th February 1995 at the Clubhouse, Canbury Gardens, Tickets for the dinner will cost £22. each and will be available from Matthew Christie as from 1st January.

Please complete the tear off slip and send with a cheque (made payable to KRC)

to: M I Christie, to reach him at the address below no later than Saturday 4th February. As seating is limited tickets will only be available on a first come first served basis. Please enclose a **stamped addressed envelope** for your tickets

KRC Annual Dinner

Please send me _____ ticket/s. I enclose a cheque made payable to KRC for £ _____.

The name/s of my guest/s is/are as follows (please PRINT)

I would like to be seated near _____

Please state if any special dietary requirements.

Please complete and return to M.I. Christie Esq., c/o The Fox and Hounds, Portsmouth Road, Surbiton, no later than 4th February.

Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope.

Easy Cooking for Beginners

Recipe No. 1

A CHRISTMAS CAKE

1 cup sugar
1 tsp baking soda
1 cup butter
1 tsp salt
1 cup brown sugar nuts
1 cup dried fruit
4 large eggs
Lemon juice
1 litre bottle Whisky!

Sample whisky to check quality. Take a large bowl. Check whisky again for validity, to be sure that it is of the highest quality, pour one level cup and drink. Repeat just to make sure.

Turn on electric mixer and beat one cup of butter in a large fluffy bowl. Add one peastoon of sugar and beat again. Make sure whisky is still OK. Cry another tup. Turn off the mixer. Break two legs and add in bowl, and chuck in the cup of fried drute. Mix in the turner. Check shisky. If fruit gets stuck in beaters pry loose with a drewscraver. Sample shisky again to check ton-sisticity and to make shure it hasn't gone off. Next sift 2 cups of salt or something Who the hell cares? Check whisky again. Now sift the lemon juice and strain your nuts. Add one babblespoon of brown sugar or whatever colour you can find. Wix mell. Grease oven. Tum cake pan 360 gredees. Don't forget to beat off the turner. Throw bowl out of the window. Check whisky and bo to ged.

Note: A nootle of bum say be mubstituted for ththeeee shiskky. The results rill bill sthe shame.

Watch out for another recipe in the next edition of Scarlet Blade.