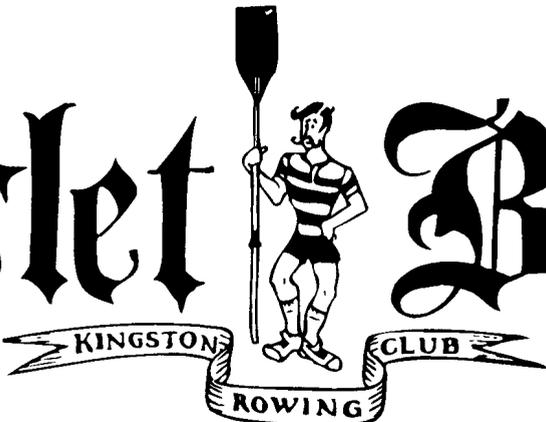


# The Scarlet Blade



PRICELESS

FREE TO MEMBERS

ISSUE 11

## Chairman's *message*

by Peter King

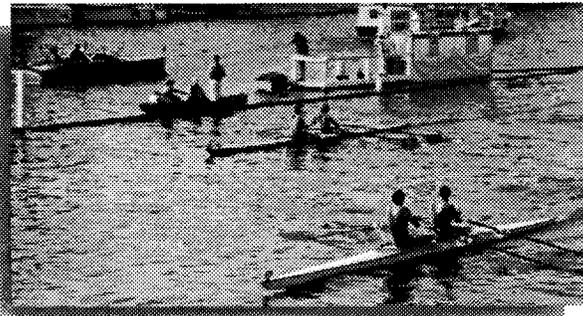
**T**his time last year when I wrote my article for 'Scarlet Blade', I started off by congratulating various members of the Club who had been away over the summer representing the country at the various International Championship Regattas. I am therefore delighted that this year I can once again start my article in this edition of the 'Blade' by congratulating the following of our members. Nicola Ledger, who came 6th in the Junior World Rowing Championships, in Poznan, Poland, in a coxless pair; and Victoria Fangen who won a bronze medal in the coxless four at the same event. Damien West whose coxed four won the 'B' Final in the men's heavyweight division at the World Rowing Championships in Tampere, Finland, Robyn Morris who won a silver medal in the women's lightweight coxless fours, and lastly Jane Hall who with her partner won a silver medal in the women's lightweight coxless pairs, and in doing so produced one of the most exciting finishes of the Championships. Unfortunately a combination of work commitments and a pre-arranged visit to Menorca, meant that I was unable to go to either venue to watch our crews compete, we were though represented in Poland by Ian South, and viewers to the Eurosport television channel will have seen by Richard West in Finland. I believe television producers refer to it as "infill" when there is nothing happening and the camera pans around the crowd, at any rate viewers were

treated to a 2 minute shot of our KRC tie, even if it was tied round Richard's neck! I understand from Ian that whilst in Poznan he along with 5 other officials, and 15 British athletes went down with a major attack of food poisoning, caused by meals served in the student accommodation where they and some other teams were staying. At least 12 of the 56 nations competing were affected by the illness, which begs the question as to whether organisers of these events should be allowed to hold them if they cannot offer accommodation where a reasonable standard of hygiene cannot at least be guaranteed. Those of you who were at the AGM will know that we are inviting members to write to the Editor on any points concerning the Club or any topic that they would wish to raise concerning rowing. I hope you will excuse me then if I use this article and not a letter to register my disappointment and disgust at the coverage our sport gets from the Media. The Times could only find room for a few column inches to cover the World Rowing Championships. I saw nothing at all about the Juniors, only the results, and if it hadn't been for Eurosport television coverage of the Worlds' would not have exceeded 30mins. Maybe someone can explain why a sport that does so well on the international circuit, and has such a keen following of both past and present participants gets only a tiny slot between rifle shooting and syncoated swimming in the sports reports!

Maybe it is time that the people administering our sport did something about marketing their product and the made general public aware that there is a drug free amateur sport alive and well in this country, whose participants still manage to win medals with a fraction of the financial backing other sports receive! If sponsorship was equated to the amount of training hours per week, ours would be the wealthiest sport in the country. In a recent survey carried out on behalf of Adidas, rowing was top with 36 training hours per month, with rugby next at 22 hours per month. Needless to say, the sport that receives most media attention and cash, - football, was bottom of the table at 12 hours per month! Turning to matters at home, in the early hours of the morning back in August the Club bar was broken in to by persons unknown. Not finding any money, they embarked upon, what can only be described as acts of senseless vandalism, causing a considerable amount of damage. I would stress particularly to those members who use the boats to please ensure that if you are the last off the water, and or last out the clubhouse to make sure that it is securely shut up. With the numbers of persons using the Club it is almost impossible to design a fool-proof security system, this means it is incumbent upon everyone to leave it in such a way that it makes it as difficult as possible for people to break into. I understand from the Captain that training began on the 4th September this year, I must say it seems incredibly early to me; if we continue at this rate rowing will become a year round sport, if it isn't already for some people. Lastly news that Leslie Parsons is well and still at Whitton's equivalent of Sunnyview; he still gets all his correspondence and on all your behalf I extend him our very best wishes. The rowing year is now well underway, with approximately nine months left to next Henley, as our rowers set out to climb the ladder to success, may I wish them well and assure you that we as your Committee will do all in our power to help them fulfill these ambitions and achieve their goals. Finally many congratulations to David Biddulph (Sooty) on passing the exams and obtaining his FISA Umpire's licence.

The hard work in the early part of the year, and the encouraging signs showed in many of the regattas and heads carried through to Henley this year to produce one of the most satisfying set of results for many years.

# Henley '95



Steven and German narrowly losing

The excellent weather continued throughout the week and added to the experience.

Apologies to those who know the results, or who have heard various reports from Captains to coxes, but you can't have too much of a good thing.

The veteran 'sunshine' crew faced an Oxford University crew rowing as Isis in the first round of the Wyfold, and although leading at the half way stage eventually lost the race by a couple of lengths.

Kingston's eight in the Thames cup had a good first round beating Cambridge 99 and recording one of the fastest times on Thursday. The next



Damion not making lightweight

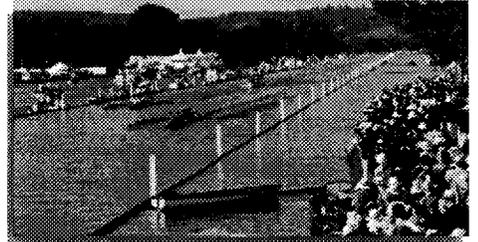
day they met the powerful London University crew, the eventual semi-finalists. UL had the all important fast start and despite a herculean effort by Kingston, managed to win by two lengths. The double scull of Steve Ross and German Zapata won their first round easily, but faced the GB squad oarsmen West and Cassidy and lost in the second round.

The quad fared the best of Kingston's crews, reaching the semi-finals. Having already beaten the Lea easily and their nemesis crew from Reading, Henley, on Friday. On Saturday however they faced the American National Quad, who beat Kingston and then the Russian National quad in the final to win the event.

All those that were at Remenham or at stewards on Thursday to see all our crews winning in a 20 minute period could not help but to feel proud at the Club's achievement and their success was well deserved.

Unfortunately, due to a truly world class field at Nottingham, the success was not repeated at the Nat Champs, there were a few medals however. Kingston's Argentinean German Zapata managed to secure a gold in the U-23 single sculls

and a bronze in the openweight sculls. Sarah Hay secured a gold in a composite crew in the lightweight coxless pairs, and well done to Anna Hopper who in her first season of



The Eight battling it out with UL

sculling won the silver medal with Maria Brandin in the Swedish National Championships in the double sculls.



Adam: I wish I was intellectual as well as just damn sexy  
Kirsty: What are those boys doing in those pointy things on the water?

## MEN'S HENLEY CREWS

### Eight

Ian Duffy  
Adam Andrews  
Tom Ryan  
Colin Mercer  
Crispin Page  
Phil Drake  
Domenyk Honey  
Paul Francis  
Kirsty Wilson

### Quad Scull

Donal Casey  
Richard Smalman-Smith (Molesey)  
Colin Greenaway  
Pete Land

### Coxless Four

Dave Kidwell  
Paul Reynolds  
Howard Prior  
Tony Ellis

### Double Scull

Steve Ross  
German Zapata



The quad doing it in style - can you see the opposition?

# Captain's *report*

by *Nick* Ronald

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I would like to welcome everybody back to the new season which for the majority of our active oarsmen and women started mid-September. It is great to see that so many of you who rowed for us last season have come back for another year because I strongly believe that consistency is the key to our success.

There are some new faces which is equally pleasing to see. All sports clubs require a regular inflow of new talent if they are to remain at the top end of their sport and Kingston is no exception to the rule.

The men's coaching team has remained pretty much the same although I am delighted that Steve Aquilina has agreed to concentrate on the senior 3/2 section of the squad. This is an extremely important role because the oarsmen and women at this level may well become our stars in the future and we must not neglect their development. Whilst Richard Ayling had to build up his coaching team during the course of last season, it is great we were able to start this season with the coaches already on board. In addition to Steve, Damion Hammond, Ian McNuff and John Hampton will be sharing the work load. Gary who continues as Vice Captain will also be helping.

On the novice men's front, Peter King will be coaching on the water but all the men will do their land training as one squad.

On the women's side there has been a major change this year. Ian South is to concentrate on the small band of girls he has taken from junior international to potential under 23's. I should add that Robyn Morris has rowed successfully at senior level for the squad. As far as the club's womens squad is concerned I am pleased to announce the senior coaches will be Flo Johnston and Guy Reece. Both have considerable experience at performing at international level themselves and Guy has coached at all levels. Flo's enthusiasm is tremendous and I have no doubt the women are destined for another good season. Jackie Prout is also assisting coaching the senior women's squad and she too has experience of international competition.

On the women's novice/senior 3 size, we have been joined by Dave Baldwin who is also involved with the parents supporting Tiffins school Boat club. Dave's impact has been immediate and I am confident this squad is also destined for a good year. Dave is being assisted by Lindsey Ronald who is holding regular tanking sessions for both men and women on a Wednesday night.

As Captain my objective is clearly to improve on the very good 1994/95 season which will not be an easy task. I am currently going round to all the squads setting out my objectives and the expectations I have from both the coaches and the oarsmen and women.

The season has started encouragingly and the fourth position overall achieved by Steve Ross and Domenyk Honey in the pairs head was the best result we have had in this event for some considerable time. They were only 12 seconds behind the winners, Haining and Henderson who are recognised as two of the leading scullers in the Country.

I was also encouraged by the high morale and club spirit I experienced when attending the recent Weybridge small boats head. The team we sent was a mixture from both the men's and women's senior squads and the attitude plus the willingness to help each other was extremely inspiring.

If this approach continues throughout the season I believe we can achieve our ambition to return to the top of the premier clubs within this Country.

Lastly may I add that a huge effort is being put in to raising sponsorship to support our aims and ambitions. A small team is currently very pro-active and I would like to mention Sam Walker in particular who has written to many organisations with a red and white logo to persuade them to support the club. The strap line she has developed is RED WHITE AND WINNING and I wish her every luck with her efforts.

I wish you all a good season and hope to see many of you at the club throughout the course of the year.

# Social Programme

The social dates for this year's season are confirmed and a full turnout is expected !

11 November . . . . .	Barn dance (with food)
9 December . . . . .	Sculler's supper
16 December . . . . .	Christmas Review
31 December . . . . .	Rum Punch 8's and New Year's Eve Party -All day event!
January . . . . .	Time to dry out, train, pay off credit cards and save for the Annual Dinner
9 February . . . . .	Annual Dinner
23 March . . . . .	Kingston Head Party
April & May . . . . .	Events to be organised - any ideas to Rachel Knights.
14 July . . . . .	Kingston Regatta party

As you all know, without sponsorship (as yet) the need to support the Club through social events is vitally important if we are to continue to re-new ageing equipment.

The Thursday night suppers have already started, and there are plans afoot to start cooking food regularly on Tuesday nights after training. Please see the noticeboards for the start of this twice weekly gourmet extravaganza.

The bar will of course be the focus of the social events this season and remains the spiritual home of oarsmen past and present (well, that and the Blue Spot).

This season the Bar is under the new management of Dom Honey, and although a novice victualler, he has made a great start. For those non-rowers, he is the one with the cropped hair and the vacant, slightly manic look in his eye. Don't be fooled however, despite his appearance, he's quite friendly and will happily discuss and help plan any party you may be considering at the Club.

Pip, pip.

## In Praise of the Annual Dinner

Time for a bit of a moan. Club newsletters are just too nice these days and I thought it was about time I scratched an irritation that has been aggravating me for years.

I understand that our current membership stands at around 400 at the time of writing, although if you add up all the former members who still have an affection for the club this number could double.

The one event each year which enables both active and passive members to mix and celebrate being a member of the most complete and successful rowing club in the country is the Annual Dinner.

In the last six or seven years we have had around 100-120 people attend the dinner, which considering our membership is woeful. For goodness' sake, there are as many as this on the river on a Thursday evening!

It is my opinion, shared by many, that attendance at the dinner should be compul-

sory on a three line whip or whatever. It's a fabulous evening and it's a chance to dress up and pay tribute to the success we have all achieved either in the previous season or going much further back. Sit next to your former crew-mates and relive the glorious past - this is the only time you won't bore the pants off your friends and relatives.

For those of you who are training like commandos (well OK, a bit harder) nobody's going to hassle you about what you eat, drink, what time you go to bed (or who with) You should take the chance of a lie in the next day. It's a great way to unwind after a tough week and show your crew-mates how great you look out of Lycra! (Do they do Lycra dinner suits and long dresses these days?)

So what does it cost you? Probably £49.95 (roughly) all in including the food, drink, taxi, a hangover cure and Damion will do

## 200 Club

Due to the lack of support for the bar on Sunday mornings (a sad fact, which I am sure could be easily remedied with a concerted effort by some of the more bibulous members among us) it has been decided that a £50 monthly draw should be done on a Thursday evening.

All of the major prizes, namely, one of £500 and two of £250 plus a few of £50 which are in arrears, have yet to be drawn. As there are quite a few vacant places in the 200 Club, this is a good opportunity for new members to join or old members to buy extra places and it will be appreciated that a full complement of members is necessary to keep the 200 club profitable.

Recently the 200 Club was in a position to transfer £5,000 to KRC., which makes it a valuable asset to the rowing club. It is also a good bargain for members giving them the chance of a substantial win (the odds are much greater than the National Lottery) whilst making a useful contribution to KRC., all for the sake of a flutter of £15 per year or £7.50 every six months.

Hopefully, we may attract new members to the 200 Club.

**Remember the next winner could be you.**

you a deal on dry cleaning I'm sure. If you come from further afield there may be the cost of a night at a hotel or stay over at a friend's house. Over the course of a year is this really so much?

To my knowledge the biggest attendance ever was 240, which was probably the last time the event was really 'marketed'. There's no reason why we shouldn't have 300-350 for 1996.

Forget the old excuses, give the organisers a tough time coping with the numbers. You've got about 5 months notice. Book the time, cross off the date in your diaries, call up your mates, talk to current or past crew members, be proud to celebrate your club and its achievements and have a damned good evening out.

Come to the Annual Club Dinner. It's for you - all of you!

Scott Tonbridge