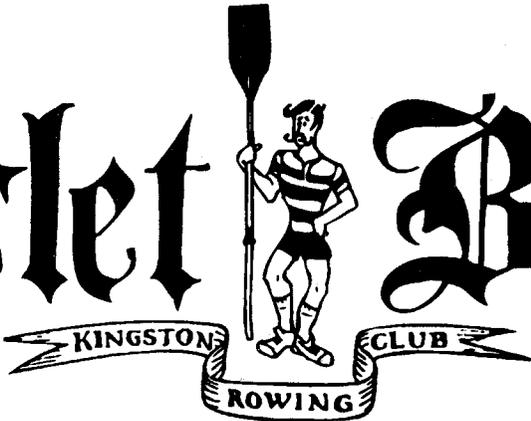


The Scarlet Blade



PRICELESS

FREE TO MEMBERS

ISSUE 17

CAPTAIN'S REPORT

By Gary Meacham

I would like to start this report by thanking everyone who attended the Annual General Meeting and voted me into the post of Captain for a second term.

Unfortunately due to work commitments I have spent a lot of time in Hong Kong, but luckily everyone in the office their has got used to the phone calls, faxes and letters relating to Kingston Rowing Club. It must be said that due to the good team of people at the club, things seem to run smoother when I am not around!

The team of Vice-Captains that I have appointed for the 1997/98 season are as follows:

Mike Smyth	<i>Club</i>
Jane Hall	<i>Internationals</i>
Scott Tunbridge	<i>Veterans</i>

I would publicly like to give a big thank you to Laura Binns who has stood down as Women's Vice-captain for all the time and effort that she put into the post, without whom my own workload would have dramatically increased.

During my first year, it was very pleasing to see the time and effort that a large number of people have put into the running of Kingston Rowing Club, ensuring that equipment is usable, the boathouse clean and tidy and more importantly by helping raise money at social functions and club evenings, as well as not wasting club money which has put us in a position where we can upgrade some of our boats.

On Sunday 26th October we held an Internationals Day and Boat Naming ceremony at the Clubhouse that was attended by the Mayor of Kingston, Club President – Dick Offer, a large number of Vice-President's together with many active and non-active oarsmen/women both past and present.

made to Farrell Mossop and Chris Jones of the Silver Goblets that were presented to them at this years Henley Royal Regatta to mark their win in 1981.

The successful day finished when Ian South showed everyone that he has hidden talents when laying on a superb buffet that was enjoyed by all. I would like

Presentations were made to:

Colin Greenaway	<i>World Cup Quadruple Scull</i>
Tony Larkman	<i>World Cup Quadruple Scull</i>
Edward Fox	<i>Junior Quadruple Scull – Anglo French Match</i>
Sarah Birch	<i>World Championship Lightweight Double Scull</i>
Jane Hall	<i>World Championship Lightweight Single Scull</i>
Robyn Morris	<i>World Championship Lightweight Quadruple Scull</i>
Claire Fox	<i>World U23 Championships Double Scull</i>
Victoria Fangen	<i>World U23 Championships Double Scull</i>
Mary Stevens	<i>World U23 Championships Lightweight Double Scull</i>

Scott Tunbridge started proceedings on the day by naming the Club's new Empacher Quadruple Scull/Coxless Four 'The Scarlet Blade'.

This was followed by a presentation ceremony for the Clubs Internationals during the 1997 season to show how highly the club appreciates their efforts and honours achieved.

As a result of the performances of these athletes, Kingston Rowing Club has recently seen an influx of International, Potential International and Quality Oarsmen/Women during the past couple of months which augurs well for the 1998 season. I would like to wish everyone of all levels/status's continuing success during the 1998 season.

In addition to this a presentation was

to thank Domenyk Honey, Mike Smyth, Steve Aquilina and Ian South for their work that made the day possible.

On the rowing front Chris Elmitt has been retained as the Chief Coach of Rowing and a team of coaches has been formed to work with him. I will give further details on this in the next newsletter.

The Club has started the season very promisingly with in the region of 70 athletes in full time training and the initial Head results have been very promising.

A summary of the results achieved at the Fours Head of the River Race and Kingston Small Boats Head can be found below. I will give full details of the finishing positions of all crews in the next newsletter.

Continued on page 4

MAYOR AND VICE-PRESIDENTS RALLY SUPPORT FOR KRC'S FUTURE

The afternoon of Sunday 28 October 1997 hosted two important events for Kingston Rowing Club, namely, the Internationals Reception and a meeting of the Vice Presidents of Kingston Rowing Club.

The latter event was organised by Dominyk Honey was the first meeting of the Vice Presidents for some years.

Kingston Rowing Club has always been one of the top clubs in the country but the current Committee feel that its lack of achievement at the highest level is due solely to one missing ingredient continuity. The pressures of modern day life frequently mean that a Captain will never hold office continuously for more than two years. Similarly, the personnel on the Executive Committee change year in and

year out and therefore it is difficult for the Club to maintain a consistent approach to the way it tackles the problems which it encounters on a daily basis.

It was recognised that the only elected members of the Club who remain in office year after year are the Vice Presidents and a meeting was called to ask whether they would be prepared to drive a five year strategy for Kingston Rowing Club which would be formulated with help from the existing Executive Committee.

The support for this suggestion was overwhelming and I would like to thank all those Vice Presidents who attended and those who offered their written support for our proposal. A further meeting has been set for 28 January 1998 and it is hoped that that meeting will see the bare bones of a five year plan which will take Kingston Rowing Club into the next century.



Recognition given to Kingston's Internationals, pictured left to right: Ian South, Jane Hall, Colin Greenaway, Robyn Morris, Mary Stevens, Chris Jones, Sarah Birch, Farrell Mossop, Vic Fangen, Claire Fox, Tony Larkman, Ed Fox, Damien Hammond and Chris Elmitt.

Internationals reception a great success

The Internationals Reception was primarily intended to mark the achievement of all those Kingston Rowing Club Oarsmen and Women who rowed internationally this year.

The event was both well organised and well attended and my thanks go out to Dominyk Honey, Steve Aqualina and in particular Ian South, who laid on an excel-

lent spread of food.

Also thanks must go to all those who attended to pay tribute to our athletes including Mayor who gave her unreserved support for making Kingston Rowing Club an integral part of the local community.

In particular, she was most impressed with the Club's new purchase, which has been named after this newsletter in recognition of the hard work the Club members, and in particular the veterans, have put into raising the funds to enable the Club to buy its first Empacher. Everyone should be proud seeing this boat in our Boat House which in turn is an indication of where Kingston Rowing Club sees its future in the next century.

Clearly, the impetus which was gained

by this very successful afternoon must not be lost. In order to keep forging ahead Kingston Rowing Club requires the support of all its members both on and off the water, in particular in finding much needed sponsorship for the Club. In this respect, a corporate sponsorship portfolio has been prepared which presents in a logical and dynamic way what KRC can offer to a potential sponsor.

It is available by contacting either myself or Ian South. If anyone has any sponsorship ideas please do not hesitate to contact us straightaway as additional funding of this nature will provide the driving force necessary for the implementation of Kingston Rowing Club's five year plan.

The Chairman's message

By Peter King

Welcome to this the first newsletter for the 1998 season. Since the last one, we have had the Annual General Meeting and again over the summer months we have had members representing our country at various international regattas. Details of these appear in the Captains report.

Once again the Annual General Meeting was well attended and saw several changes to last year's committee. I am most grateful to those retiring members for all their hard work and I am delighted to be able to report that we have filled every position on the new committee. It must be the sign of a very healthy club spirit when members are willing to do more than just come down, train, row and leave. Each year the start of the rowing season seems to get earlier and earlier and this year was no exception. I feel sure that if the present trend continues we are never going to close down for a break.

In the middle of last July the Parks Department of the Council changed the padlock on the barrier that gives us access along the towpath. They did this without informing anyone or handing out any spare keys. The action has resulted in a massive disruption to the Club when we require a trailer to attend rowing events. Although this has been to some extent

minimised as it happened when the regatta season was coming to its end, their refusal to give the Club a key however, raises some serious questions. I am very grateful to Mike Smyth, one of our members who is a solicitor, for his help in dealing with the matter and it is hoped that the whole thing will be speedily resolved.

As you will know from previous newsletters, we are talking to the Council with a view to getting approval to extend the boathouse. With close on seventy people in full time training, we are finding more than ever the need to enlarge the premises and those of you who have been down to KRC recently, will have noticed that we have now reached saturation point.

The first of a series of meetings between the various departments of the Council, the English Sports Council and ourselves will take place in November with a view to resolving the problem. A lot of preliminary work has already been done and I am hopeful that an early deci-

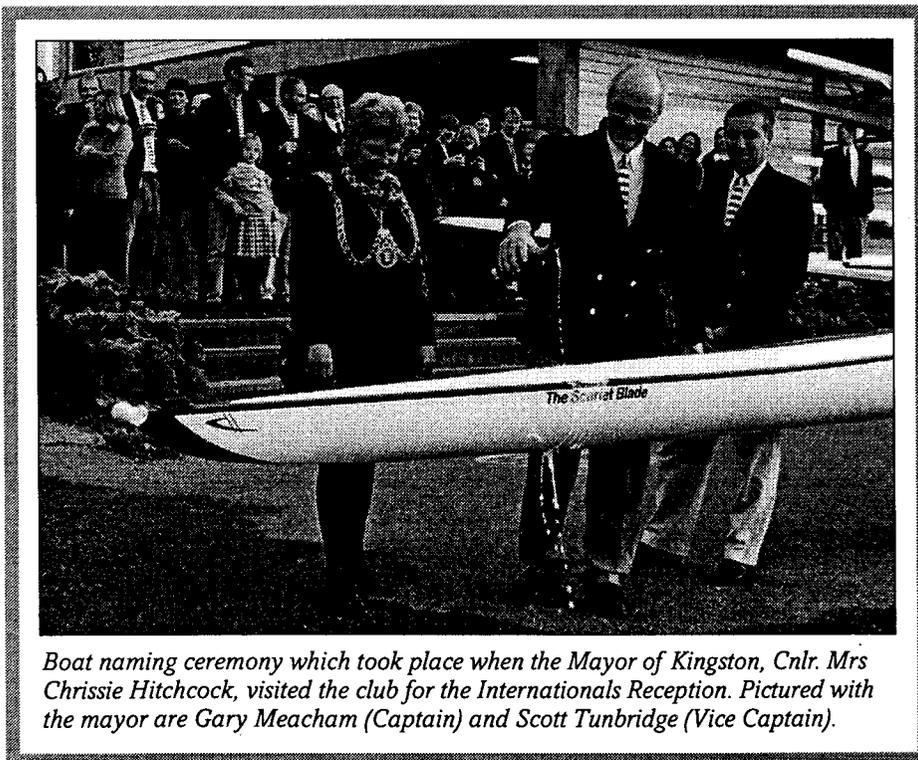
sion can be now reached. I will of course keep you informed of the progress.

Those of you who have not ventured down to the KRC for some time will notice quite a few changes that have taken place in and around the Canbury Gardens. The most obvious being the complete disappearance of the old power station and an up-market housing estate in its place. The introduction of controlled parking in the roads surrounding the Club which is a nuisance for anyone training on a weekday or on a Saturday, and lastly further upstream from the Club, the removal of the water gypsies from the wharf above Kingston Road Bridge. As most of you will know, Kingston Road Bridge will be undergoing a complete overhaul and it will also be widened. Although work has started it seems momentarily to have come to a halt. However it will start again and when it does the new piers for a temporary road will be built. The fear is that if these piers restrict the navigation channels through the bridge, this will have severe consequences for the various Head events that we run. Let's hope they are only slightly wider than the existing ones otherwise this is going to cause quite a few problems.

Originally it was hoped to get this, the first of the newsletters, out to you at the end of November last but due to difficulties we have had to postpone it until now. I very much hope you have all had a very merry time over Christmas with just the right amount of over indulgence and are now ready for the Annual Dinner in a few weeks time. Scott Tonbridge is organising this once again and it will be held at the Brooklands Museum Weybridge, on Friday 6th February.

I look forward to seeing many of you there and may I particularly urge those of you who are unable to come down to the Club that often, to come along on this occasion. It is a wonderful opportunity to meet old friends and renew old acquaintances.

In closing may I take this opportunity of wishing you all a prosperous and healthy New Year. Let's hope that 1998 will bring the rewards our rowers all work so hard for.



Boat naming ceremony which took place when the Mayor of Kingston, Cnrl. Mrs Chrissie Hitchcock, visited the club for the Internationals Reception. Pictured with the mayor are Gary Meacham (Captain) and Scott Tunbridge (Vice Captain).

The Irish eyes are smiling

by Chris Elmitt

The 1997/8 season has followed the EC recruitment pattern started last year. Whereas last year Dave Baldwin recruited a clutch of women's novices from France, the senior men have enjoyed an influx from the fair isle.

The new members have helped to breathe life into a men's group which last year lacked numbers. It was fantastic to see no less than 9 KRC crews racing at the Fours Head in November, with notable performances coming from the first men's quad, the lightweight women's quad and the women's coxed four.

The following day, at Kingston Head, a host of good performances were recorded including the overall first place achieved by the lightweight men's quad of Steve Ross, Stuart Whitelaw, Paul Hone and Johnny Curran. The strength of the men's group (from Open to Senior 3) has ensured that I have already lost count of the number of wins and it is still only November.

As we approach the Christmas break, the form for the group is very much on the maintenance of our autumn elan and a move incorporate Gary Smith's highly successful Senior 2/Senior 3 group into the Open men's group. The plan is to race at Burway Head (stream allowing) just before we break for Christmas and try to target certain aspects of technique in both groups so that we can return in January overweight and unfit but rowing like gods!

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome those athletes who have already helped to contribute to what promises to be a great season for the men:

Stuart Whitelaw (*UL/Great Britain*)
Richard Manners (*ex-Olympian*)
Paul Hone (*Nat. Champs medalist, Vesta*)
Tristan Hewns (*Junior International, Hampton*)
Richard Shirley (*Henley winner*)
Johnny Curran (*Irish Lightweight International*)
Simon Brindle (*UL Tyrian, Nat. Champs Medalist*)
Josh Pert (*Liverpool University*)
Bob Silver (*Landaff RC, Lea RC*)
Paul Hunter (*Agecroft RC*)
Jack Cundy (*Nottingham University BC*)
Andrew Leslie

P.S. Despite the vagaries of Kingston Council Policy (Parks) we had a TRAILER LOAD of men's boats at the National Squad Trails on 22nd November. The two most notable performances were from Stuart Whitelaw (*3rd Lightweight*) and Colin Greenaway (*3rd Heavyweight*)
WELL DONE TO ALL!

CAPTAIN'S REPORT

from page 1

Fours Head

Mens Open Quadruple Scull (composite with Molesey) finished 3rd overall.

Mens Open Coxless Four 6th in division.

Womens Open Quadruple Scull 2nd in division.

Womens Open Coxed Four 2nd in division.

Kingston Head

The Club achieved 12 wins.

It is important that we continue the good work that has taken place during the winter, on during the coming months so that even more improvements are forthcoming and then hopefully we will see the Club reaping the benefits even more during the 1998 Head and Regatta season.

I must now raise the very serious issue of Rowing on the Kingston Reach during the hours of darkness. We are still seeing people go on the water at night without their boats properly lit despite notices around the Clubhouse.

Oarspersons particularly in small boats are not following the Rules.

ALL BOATS MUST CARRY A WHITE 180° LIGHT ON THEIR BOWS AND STERN.

Any other type or colour of light is not acceptable. The Environment Agency who control our stretch of the river are monitoring this situation as a number of instances have been reported to them! If we continue to offend we may find ourselves either as individuals or a club being prosecuted, which could lead to a hefty fine as well as a ban from the river and possibly racing. PLEASE treat this matter seriously as it could have a very serious impact on the future of the Club.

I am writing this report as Christmas approaches frighteningly fast and 1997 draws to a close. I would like to thank everyone at Kingston Rowing Club for their work and efforts both on and off the water during 1997 that has seen the club continuing to move forwards.

Finally, I would like to finish by wishing everyone a Very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous 1998.

Sculling Racks

I have two main information points to pass on this year: First, the club has a large waiting list of *active* scullers waiting to get a sculling rack.

There has been a tendency for some members to use the racks as storage and just pop down for the very occasional scull. This will change this year and I will be writing to several members separately to ask that they store their boats at home.

I remind you all that sculling racks are not a right. The club needs to max-

imise the resources it has, and attracting ~~active members is important to the well-being of the club.~~

Second, I would remind everyone that the rack fees were due on the 1st October. They are £90 for inside racks and £45 for outside racks. Please pay the treasurer directly or put the money in the tin behind the bar. Anyone failing to pay promptly will have their boat removed and the rack allocated to another member.

Simon Mephram