

The Scarlet Blade



A large vote of thanks to Scott and Libby for all their hard work and effort in organising a very successful Annual Dinner. Good food, good company and great entertainment was had by all!

Chairpersons report – Carol Cornell
The new year has provided the committee with a chance to review a number of issues that surfaced during the first few months in office and hopefully, (usually after extensive discussion), we have put most of these points either to bed or developed action plans to deal with them. As all members (particularly those who are active) are aware, this has been a hard start to the season. In addition to the usual end of year turnover, we have been faced with a small decline in active oarspeople with a net result that the club has been running at about 75% of its full potential. To address this we are taking several steps:
Firstly we are seeking to build a clear communication path between the committee and the members, (active or otherwise). To ensure this works we need your feedback, I would therefore encourage everyone to be as constructive and forward-thinking as possible. The committee members are there for your benefit, please use them to communicate through and with.
Secondly we now have a high level of interest from potential novices, this is in addition to the current squad run by Richard Higgins. Therefore, short-term we *urgently* require additional manpower to support Richard in this important sector of the club. Thanks to **Mary Stevens** and **Angela Goodrich** who have volunteered their services. If anyone else can assist on a part-time basis (maybe even bi-weekly or monthly), please give either Richard or myself a call. I can be contacted either by email carol.cornell@infores.com or via snail mail c/o KRC. The Novices will be in the tank at Elmbridge for the next 8 Thursday nights from 7.30 to 8.30 so please spare an hour if at all possible.
Finally we will be advertising, (which many rowing clubs are currently doing on a regular

Another significant vote of thanks is extended to John Perkins who donated a splendid picture of the Cracknell 4-, signed by the chaps to be hung up in the bar. On behalf of all Club Members thank-you very much

basis), both at the men's and women's head, on our web page and by word of mouth. If you can help leaflet cars or have any other suggestions as to ways of attracting new members please pass your thoughts onto any of the committee.
On a very positive note we are delighted to welcome **Jo Brown** to the committee in a (very) social capacity, - **Jo and Steve Fraser** have some great ideas for events. (see social report). **Sylvia Bartley** has been exceptionally pro-active and advertised for Senior 3 women on the web. Thanks also to **Andy Wilson** who has volunteered to become entries secretary. Please help him in this potentially difficult and sometimes thankless task. For those of you who have not recently checked out Rachel Quarrells web-page it now contains a great notice board facility used for all rowing requirements from crew members to boat sales. This year we are anticipating using **Sooty's web page** as our rowing calendar. This can be accessed either through Rachels web-site or direct on ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/david_biddulph/rowing.htm
Other ideas currently being explored by the committee are a Millennium Regatta, and Pubs and Clubs, whilst the **Pledge Auction** is currently being finalised by **Laura Binns and Scott**, the **Internationals Reception** is booked for **Sunday the 14th of March at 2 p.m** with the **mayor and mayoress** in attendance, and Bentalls have confirmed the **sponsored ergo** will take place on **Saturday the 17th of April**.
We have also just confirmed our participation within **Kingston Festival of Sport**, which runs from the **8th of May to the 15th**. We will be running 2 open sessions, on Sunday 9th from 9 a.m.-12 and Wednesday 21st from 7-9 p.m.
Last but by no means least, we have a combination of both new and fully refurbished ergos – so come and check them out. I'm assured they are a pleasure to sit on!

Captains Report – Mike Smyth

The Countdown to the Millenium has started and here at **Kingston Rowing Club** everyone's mind is firmly focussed upon the last regattas of the century! Most of our athletes have been training since October and I am pleased to report that things are shaping up very nicely both on the mens and the womens side.

Firstly let me tell you about some changes to the coaching structure which I implemented in January. Regrettably **Pippa Message** who agreed to take on the mantle of chief men's coach in September has had to shift her coaching responsibilities to Hampton School where she is employed as a teacher. Although Pippa will continue to be involved on the men's side, her additional coaching responsibilities mean that she will no longer be able coach on the water at weekends. This has left a vacancy in this role, which I have filled, at least on a caretaker basis. In addition, **Chris Long's** family commitments have meant that he is also unable to take as full a role as he may have done previously. With two coaches short it does leave the men's side a little stretched and therefore I have had to call on the assistance of **Steve Aqualina** and **Damian Hammond** has also agreed to help me when his international coaching commitments allow him to do so.

On the women's side, Steve's departure over to the men's side means that he has had to resign as Chief Womens Coach. **Ian South**, who has ably filled this position in previous years, has moved into his role on a caretaker basis but due to Ian's heave international commitments, I will be looking for someone who is more permanently based at the club to look after this position in the future.

Ian has also been joined on the coaching side by **Jackie McEwan** and **Gary Smith**. Jackie coached the senior four men last year and after a brief sojourn at Molesey has returned to home waters. Gary Smith you may recall assisted Chris Elmit on the men's side last year and has this year decided to turn his skills as a silver qualified coach to looking after the women. Overall, I am very happy with my coaching team and there are great prospects for the summer.

The main focus for the men is **Henley Royal Regatta** and the **National Championships**. Although the eights Head is not far away all our energies are directed to forming units for the summer which will be put together albeit briefly to form eights for the heads. I will be entering three eights for the main head in March and I understand from Ian that he also has three eights for the women's head.

Finally a short word about sponsorship! Now that units are starting to form for the heads and summer regattas, the need for sponsorship becomes even more urgent. I am keen to secure sponsorship for all areas of the club and the way I would like to proceed is for each crew to obtain some kind of sponsorship for themselves. It is often the case that a crew is a lot more marketable and more attractive to a potential sponsor than a large club, which often demands greater sums of money. In terms of what we can offer the potential sponsor, Kingston Rowing Club is currently developing links with the local press and our new kit suppliers Redhead Clothing Ltd. will be happy to make up any rowing kit that is required. If you have any leads can you please pass them either to myself or to Joshua Pert, so that we can follow them up and ensure that there are no potential conflicts with other things the club is doing.

Thanks for your support!

Treasurers Report – Steve Aqualina

Ergos

Regular visitors to the club will no doubt have seen our three new Concept ergos. The more dedicated of you who have used our older ergos will also have noticed that these have been considerably refurbished. Money for both the acquisition and refurbishment has been donated via the Veteran Fund, the 200 Club, the Boat Fund and the Grand Christmas Draw. Once again many thanks to all of you involved in this fund raising.

Prize Draw

Although it seems a long time ago now, the Christmas Prize proved popular and was a modest success, generating some £250 for the club after expenses. Thanks go to Neil Mears for all his hard work as well as all the club members who took the trouble sell tickets for us.

We are registered to run further draws in 1999. Henley Saturday would seem an appropriate time to stage a draw. Is anyone is interested in organising ticket sales?

Weekday Aerobics/Circuit Training

As part of our efforts to expand membership and club usage we have introduced weekday morning sessions run by professional fitness coach Chris Dring. Sessions are available on Mondays from 11-12am and Tuesday, Thursday and Fridays from 10- 11a.m. The sessions cost £2.50 each and are aimed at local people unable to meet full commitment required for rowing. Creche facilities will also be available, so we hope to see you ex-active members with kids make a welcome return back to the club.

Anyone interest should contact Chris Dring on 0181 876 7469.

Membership Fees

With the Tideway Heads looming a small core of active members have yet to make any payment of subs. I am continually amazed that some people believe that they can use club facilities for free. I will shortly be putting up a list of paying members and hope that those of you that have paid will put some pressure on non-payers to settle up. If you're not on it please do not be surprised if you are asked to stop using club equipment.

Entry Fees

Please note that I have received entry forms for both the Women's and Men's Heads. I will not be entering any crews that include members who have not made any arrangement to pay their subs.

FundRaising - Neil Mears

Thanks to everyone who sold tickets for the Christmas Draw. Overall the event was a success and the money raised went towards the purchase of the new ergo's. Below is a list of all winners:

First Prize - £250 A.Kidman

Second Prizes - £100 B.Steulechner, Josh Pert, and Scully.

Third Prizes - £50 R.Hunter, R.Zimmerman, Mrs.Tricket and K.Bloore

The event will be run next year and we look forward to your continued support!

A message from RR

Rum Punch

Questions have been asked about the Rum Punch party and Scratch VIIIs – where were they? For those who don't know, these are traditional events for (im-)mobile heavies and (after Christmas) heavy immobiles and would normally have been held on 3 January (the first Sunday in the New Year). However, in view of the telegraphed absence of many "active" members and the uncertain whereabouts of many of the less or part-time actives it was decided not to hold the event this year. Under similar unfavourable circumstances a few years ago the event was a major debacle which was a great disappointment and mightily upset those involved.

It would be encouraging to think that the event was widely missed. Perhaps at the Dinner or other similar occasions in the bar you can make your views about this, and how such cross-generational events can be effectively promoted. Certainly the organisational support is there (thank you, Basil Gray).

We really would like to generate the enthusiasm needed to make these events the social landmarks they have been in the past.

RIGHT BEER, RIGHT NOW ! (Social)

Management of the bar was passed to Jo Brown and Steve Fraser last summer. Steve takes care of the stock, equipment and cellar, whilst Jo looks after the staffing, kitchen and private functions.

Profits now directly benefit the health of the club's finances. There is no management commission or retainer to pay. The more free help that can be found, the greater these profits will be. **Volunteers** to serve for the odd hour or two at a club function, Head race, or Thursday evening may even find it enjoyable !

Upon taking over we asked regulars for helpful comments (i.e. listened to whinging) and looked at other rowing club bars (i.e. got pissed after the Four's Head). Changes have been successfully made to cater for all tastes, from the "alcopop generation"* , through "lager louts"** , to the "old farts"*** . Some of the girls squad have displayed a need for something hot inside on a cold winter's night. The barstaff can now oblige with hot chocolate or coffee.

[* promising young talent, ** experienced athletes, *** respected club heavies]

Beer supplies remain exclusively supplied by Whitbread under the terms of a long standing loan agreement. Recent discussion with the brewers resulted in a complete refurbishment of the cellar, new beer and gas lines, pumps and pipe cooling unit, all at the considerable expense of the brewery. Additionally, Whitbread agreed to double the rate per barrel sold at which the original loan is written off. Longer standing members will recall the loan money was spent many years ago to extend and refit the bar and kitchen. Our side of the deal, which relies upon the continued support of everybody, is to keep selling lots of pints.

We are always open: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7.30pm and Sundays from 11.30am. Inexpensive, filling food is cooked on a Thursday night, so why not call a couple of ex-crewmates and use your club bar ?

The hall and bar room are available for hire for functions by arrangement with Jo Brown (Tel. 0181 546 0029). Revenue from the bar at such events contributes significantly to the club's income. Therefore, if you know people looking for a party venue, please put them in touch.

Cheers !

Dates for your Diary

1. Internationals Reception - Sunday the 14th of March at 2 p.m – Mayor & Mayoress in attendance + rowing dignitaries, potential local sponsors and (hopefully) local press
2. Sponsored Ergo - Saturday the 17th of April
3. Kingston Festival of Sport, 8th of May to the 15th
4. Pledge Auction – 2nd quarter, date t.b.c.
5. Bar Opening times - Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7.30pm, Sundays from 11.30am

IRC PLEDGE AUCTION 1999

Despite all the money floating around the sporting world these days, the poor old amateur clubs who do so much to assist the development of the sport, continue to survive on a shoestring. [CUE VIOLINS]

But are we downhearted?

Do we sit and mope in an air of gloom and doom?

NO, WE GET STUCK IN AND RAISE THE MONEY WE NEED!

The greatest idea for this season is a **Pledge Auction**.

Before you ask, a pledge auction is where all the members of the club pledge a deed, or a service, or some worthy goods to put into an auction. All the members and other interested parties attend to bid for these pledges and all of the money raised goes towards a useful cause – such as: **purchasing new equipment**.

Examples of past pledges: 6 coaching sessions, bake a cake, obtain some free breakfasts at the Blue Spot, theatre tickets, complimentary cinema tickets, sample products from your own company, cook a dinner for 6, wash dirty rowing kit for a month....you know the sort of thing.

What next?

Fill in a pledge form including **details of the pledge, your name and a phone number**. You can get one from behind the bar.

The date of the auction is in the process of being finalised, but will definitely take place within the second quarter of this year.

HELP US TO HELP YOU HELP THE CLUB HELP YOU!!!

Scott Tunbridge & Laura Binns

The Committee – 1998/99

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