

The Scarlet Blade



Chairpersons Report – Carol Cornell

The last 8 weeks have been eventful in terms of building works and club activities. Firstly the building. Regular users of the club will have unfortunately experienced a fair amount of disruption to the general club facilities. Unfortunately (and typically) we have had a situation where different parts of the plumbing and heating system decided to shut down simultaneously. This has resulted in an extensive amount of work being required. Key improvements and modernisation has been made in that the plumbing in the gents has been replaced, the boiler has been overhauled and re-wired to enable us to run the showers in the summer without the radiators being on (thereby saving £££'s) and the leak in the boiler room has been dealt with. All of this work will have been completed by this Thursday the 27th of May.

Over the next 6 weeks we will be commencing further refurbishment as part of our equipment and premises modernisation programme. This will include the mens and ladies changing rooms, (including sealing and updating the showers), painting the hallway and main hall area, installing a fire exit door from the mens changing area into the ergo room and very importantly from a safety point of view we will be replacing all the wooden planks on the landing stage.

Once we have the project timetable, we will put copies up at the club, although we will be doing our best to work at off-peak times. Whilst this is obviously costly, (we are keeping costs to a minimum in addition to sharing them with Tiffin), it is necessary work if we are to gain additional revenue from hiring out the premises for selected events and attracting and retaining oarspeople to K.R.C. This also means that there is a very real

need to keep on top of finances and continue the careful bookkeeping policy that is lovingly maintained by Steve Aqualina. Therefore the Committee would request that any outstanding rack, regatta and membership fees are paid promptly without us having to chase the individuals concerned.

Regatta Cards - Some of the "oldies but goldies" within the club have asked if we are intending to issue the red regatta cards again this year. I am afraid that the answer is no, funds were so short at the start of the season we required the cash for equipment rather than the printing of fixture cards. With careful accounting we do intend to resume normal service again next year, therefore as a stop gap measure we will be circulating a paper list of regattas & dates at the Vet Supper, additional copies of which will be available behind the bar. Alternatively there is the option of surfing for your timetable.

A "hot opportunity" has arisen in that there are currently 28 vacant places in the 200 club. Please join up as revenue is used to benefit the club whilst offering you the chance to win £££££'s. A standing order mandate is included within this mailing and places will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

As another revenue generating opportunity, details of the **pledge auction** are also included. Again Scott and Laura need your support for this infamous and very successful fund-raising event!

Finally, on another positive note, we have 18 novice women and 6 novice men (welcome to KRC!) and we desperately need some help to coach these crews. Part-time or full-time all offers would be welcome. Please call either myself or any of the committee listed on the back page.

On a very happy note we have been delighted to receive a generous donation from the Gosling Foundation secured for us by Gabrielle Steer. In order to secure the longevity of club we will be splitting the cash between paying for the interior renovation of the boathouse whilst the remainder will be put towards new equipment. More news on the latter in the next edition of Scarlet Blade.

Captains Report - Mike Smyth

At lot has happened since my last report and that is because the list of results is endless! I last wrote before the Head season had concluded, so here are the details from that point in time to the present day.

Despite being beset with injury problems, the Kingston womens 8 came a very credible 7th at the Head of the River, whilst for the men any result in the top 40 is good going and I was therefore very pleased to see the KRC 1st 8 romp home in 39th place after only 3 outings!

For most of the athletes that was the end of the head season, so what better way to say goodbye to winter training than to head off to for an Easter training camp in Ghent. This was attended by both boys and girls alike, superbly organised by Ian South and aided admirably by Gary Smith .

Everyone enjoyed themselves, trained hard and some of the times being recorded over the 2000 m course gave great promise for the remainder of the season.

The Scullers Head was next on the fixture list (for those brave enough to enter). Surprisingly enough, relatively good conditions prevailed this year and for the first time in a number of years Kingston came home with a pennant. Congratulations to Johny Curran for winning the S3 category and coming 23rd overall. Despite this excellent performance, Johny was not our highest positioned sculler with his doubles partner Simon King finishing 14th overall. More news of these two later on.

By the end of April the regatta season had started to crank into action. Strathclyde regatta was one of the first, where KRC picked up veteran singles (Steve Fraser) whilst Kirsten McClelland-Brooks won the womens senior event. At Evesham regatta, the mens senior squad won S1 coxed and coxless events, with the S3 squad getting through to the final.

Moving overseas, the womens group represented KRC at Cologne regatta lining up alongside many national squads and beating them. Congratulations to Kate Holton who won the SB U23 event, Rebecca Romero who won SB both days and SA on Saturday, Kirsten McClelland-Brooks who achieved 4th and 3rd and who has just achieved 4th place in the world cup held this weekend.

Continuing their success at the womens coxed four represented the Thames lower region at the regional rowing championships held at Nottingham in fact they were the only crew from our region to win. Congratulations to Emma Jowett, Sam Veasey, Keira Howell, Hannah Birch and Sam Walker and coach Gary Smith. (See letter of congratulations on the notice board from Maureen Simpson RCDO).

Next it was the turn of the mens group to travel overseas to Ghent Regatta and the outstanding performance of the weekend was in the heavyweight double sculls in which Johny Curran and Simon King beat all other British opponents including the Leander based U23 selected double to pick up the bronze medal. This all bodes well for the Commonwealth Regatta selection later on in the year.

Attention now turns to the remainder of the racing season in particular to the Henley Regatta and Nottingham Championship. Please look out and support Kingston Crews at the following interim regattas: Thames Ditton, Metropolitan, Worcester, Monmouth, Docklands, Reading, Marlow and Kingston. Happy racing everyone!

Look out for the next edition of Scarlet Blade which will contain full colour photos of our Henley crews, - technology permitting!

In the long-term club success depends upon two things. Firstly the enthusiasm of its members, secondly financial stability. Kingston has always thrived on the former even if the latter has sometimes been a bit rocky!

The kind sponsorship and donations mentioned in greater detail overleaf have given a much needed boost to the club. I am currently in discussion with boat suppliers to obtain the best financial package possible that will take existing equipment in part exchange. – More news later.

Last but by no means least, - as previously stated the club is seriously short of manpower. Please consider how you can help, either on a full or part-time basis, whether in a group or as an individual, whether it is one day a week or one week per month.

If you are interested please contact any of the committee members whose names are listed on the back page.

We need and welcome your support!

Sponsorship

We are delighted to announce sponsorship from The Tupp (suprisingly enough a local public house in Kingston), in addition to Medico Legal Consultancy who have now sponsored the club for a number of years)

A Missive from RR

We have recently heard from Reg Zimmerman, now living near Warrington, with press cuttings relating to the club from 1910 through to 1936, when his father F.R.Zimmerman was an active member (including a period as Captain and on the Committee). The exhortations to "train harder" and the regrets at the fact that "rowing took up so much time all the year round" as reported from various dinners, strike a familiar chord.

If there is more material out there which could be used to update the club's history for the millennium, please let me know, especially as Queenie is talking about reviewing and extending the history books of KRC. Lets make this happen.

Vet Rowing

The world Vet Championships this year is in Seville on Sept. 9th – 12th. This event is open to all rowers who are 27 or older. (Your age for Vet rowing is defined as the age you become on your birthday in 1999). For those not up with the rules we are allowed to enter 2 events per day only, with the mixed events taking place on the Sunday. I have had several enquiries from Antipodean clubs who are intending to go as to whether a KRC Vet squad is attending and if so as to whether we could make up composite crews - Vet B, C and D. If you are interested in going please let me (Carol) know by the 11th of June as there is a chance we can share trailer costs and accommodation with Staines (as we did with Munich).

This is a great event with much fun and medals had by all. Lets see if the Spanish can beat the Germans for entertainment!

Dates for your Diary

Bar Opening times - Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7.30pm, Sundays from 11.30am. Please come and support the bar, which has unfortunately suffered with the refurbishment work. Also if any kind Vet would like to draw up a rota for manning the bar on Sundays and shutting the club up afterwards, you would be most welcome.

Vet Supper – Friday the 11th of June, - replies to Scott a.s.a.h.p. please.

The Committee – 1998/99

Dick Offer	President	01932 783670
Mike Smyth	Captain	(h) 0181 542 2650 (m) 0956 182104
Steve Aquilina	Treasurer	(h) 0181 974 5243
Richard Rowland	Secretary	(h) 0181 892 2015
Carol Cornell	Chairman	(h) 01753 840907 (m) 0467 475581
Jo Ellman-Brown	Committee	(h) 0181 546 0029
Neil Mears	Committee	(h) 0181 755 3132
Josh Pert	Committee	(h) 0181 546 3111 (m) 0467 606354
Karen Relfe	Committee	(h) 0181 549 0577 (m) 0585 773378

KRC Pledge Auction

Held at the Club

Sunday 11th July

at 1pm

The Bar will be open and buffet lunch provided.

Dear Club Member,

We have finally agreed a date for this year's **Pledge Auction** which will have the double benefit of raising much needed funds for the club and very enjoyable afternoon for all club members and their friends.

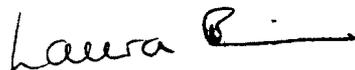
Of course, you can't hold an auction without any lots, so my second request is for you to make a pledge. You can pledge anything you wish and I have given a few examples below:

Slave for the afternoon!	6 German lessons	piggy back to the café + breakfast
6 bottles of wine	wash & wax your car	4 sculling/rowing coaching sessions
bake a special cake	cook a dinner for 4	a round of golf

There will also be some golden pledges – such as a **skiing holiday** or a **weekend away for 2**, which have already been pledged. Is there anything else you can offer – have you got access to a holiday home, does your company offer hospitality packages, are there any 'products' that your company sells that you can donate?

In previous years the auction has raised about £1,500 for the club. This year we have set ourselves a target of **£3,000+**. We really do need your help. Please make a pledge, but, more importantly, **please join us on the day!**

Many thanks,



Laura Binns



Scott Tunbridge

✕

Name : _____ Contact number : _____

Pledge : _____

Please return ASAP to **Laura Binns** (0181 541 0510) at Kingston Rowing Club.

KRC Pledge Auction

How would like the chance to win £500 ?

Or one of many other prizes throughout the year ?

And raise some money for the Club at the same time ?

Well join the KRC 200 Club and you can !

Currently there are 28 vacant places in the 200 Club.

The £500 prize will be drawn on the night of the veterans supper - 11th June

A number will be allocated for each standing order received (the first 28).

If you would like to become a member of the 200 Club then please complete the form below and return it to :-

Bryan Jones
56 Lower Ham Road
Kingston upon Thames
Surrey
KT2 5AW

Tel : 0181 546 3944
email : 106046.2223@compuserve.com

