

The Scarlet Blade



Chairman's Report – Nick Ronald

WELCOME.....

Rather late in the day but I would like to take this opportunity to welcome members, old and new, to the 2000/2001 season. So far a season that has been associated with water but not the "right sort of water" to borrow a phrase from Railtrack. The realities of life are such that I get little opportunity to visit the club these days, a situation I never imagined a few years ago when KRC substituted for a home. When I do get down I have been delighted and impressed by the energy and enthusiasm flowing through the club this season.

KRC is a big club with equally big ambition but we had some hard times towards the end of the nineties. The seeds of renewal were sewn last season and there were some really encouraging results at the later regattas. A positive attitude and a determination to put KRC back on the map as a club successful at all levels brought about a change in fortunes.

The revival is continuing and there have been some equally good results already at the few events that have been able to take place. I have also received positive feedback about training on the water. One of the vets recently told me how he was pleased to be virtually mown down in his sculling boat by several crews

doing battle on the water. "Good to see there is life at the club again". Much hard work has gone in to achieving this. I would like to thank Carol Cornell, our previous Chairman, and Mike Smyth who shared a vision about how they wanted the club to be in kicking off the new millennium. Also thanks to the all too few coaches who will be named and thanked elsewhere in this newsletter. Those who provide support through committee work, running the bar and so on. But let us not forget the active rowers and coxes with out whom the club would not exist. Your commitment is vital to our future success.

I should also mention the international brigade who achievements will be covered by Mike. We are proud and pleased by what you have done for KRC. In this great year for British rowing I should mention the West brothers who are themselves a great advert for what other members can aspire to. Lastly a brief reference to the committee this season. In terms of numbers it is very small and, whilst this is easier management wise, it is not so easy to get things done. The delay in getting this newsletter out is a good example. I hope that other members may help out with specific projects. The good news is that we have a new Treasurer, Laura Binns, who I would like to thank for

volunteering. Thanks also to John Keanne who covered the position for much of last season
As Chairman this year my priority is rowing. This may seem obvious but it is always wise to remember our

performance on the water is our greatest advert. May I wish you all a good year and best of luck to those representing the club on the water.

Nick Ronald – Chairman

Captains Report – Mike Smyth

WHO TURNED THE TAPS ON? (and can you please turn them off now?)

It's been some time since the last edition of Scarlet Blade so you would expect a lot to update you on, but with the worst weather since Sooty started keeping records (Met Office –pah!) river conditions have been so bad there's not been a lot going on of a racing nature since last Summer. But let's start with what turned out to be a glorious end of season pot (pewter) fest.....

KRC's First Olympic Gold Medal

You will have all seen the magnificent spectacle of British athletes winning gold medals at this year's Olympic regatta. What was so special was that one of those athletes was Kieran West who started his rowing career at KRC and remains a member. The final of the Men's eights was for me the most exciting race of the regatta, overshadowing the coxless four victory. The crew demonstrated a dominance from the start and a resilience not to be beaten which stands as an example to us all.

Let's not forget our other Great Britain Internationals as well, who although not picking up any medals at this year's World Championships, continue to fly the KRC flag. They are, Sarah Birch, Jo Nitsche, Jane Hall, Kirsten McLelland-Brookes, Rebecca Romero, Ron Needs and Ian South.

Kingston Men Promoted to Premier League

Whilst at some clubs the season finishes with the National Championships, the Kingston boys and girls have the endurance to keep going through August and pick up some fabulous wins along the way. Perhaps particularly impressive was the KRC novice four which won its novice pot at Staines regatta and finished up Senior 2 by the close of the season!

The Summer also saw the welcome return of the fluffy bunnies – except this time its fluffy bunnies with attitude! A string of wins in women's pairs made them the

feared crew on the regatta circuit – and that was just amongst the KRC members.

Overall, this late charge of wins earned the KRC men enough points to get promoted to the Premier League of the NRL – in fact they earned enough points to finish 6th in the Premier League on last year's standings. Unfortunately, the fluffy bunnies were unable to save the women from the effects of the peculiar points allocation of the League earlier on in the Summer when no points were allocated for our women's eight at WHR, HRR and the National Championships! However, bunnies are presently honing their super powers to return later this season – long live bunny power!

My thanks in particular for this late surge of wins goes to Steve Chasey whose enthusiasm throughout the Summer (after I had enough) provided the necessary inspiration to our athletes.

KRC is the place to be!

Following the success of the Summer, I was very pleased to see so many people turn up at the beginning of the season to start winter training. The Club group has quadrupled in size and is now back to the levels of old. On the men's side the club group is able to boat 3 eights with the possibility of a fourth by March. On the women's side Ian South is also developing the makings of an eight (excluding our Internationals) and Scully is doing the same with the club women.

I was also pleased to see a huge influx of novices (both men and women) – again thanks to Steve Chasey. I sincerely hope that the poor river conditions have not caused them to lose interest and that they will be back when things return to normality.

I am also pleased to welcome Damian West as a new addition to our coaching team. Damian will be helping Steve and me with the club group.

Off to a fine start...

The Winter season kicked off to a fine start with the Pairs Head with wins for Colin Greenaway and Rebecca Romero in the open mixed double and Jane Hall in the open Women's double. There was controversy concerning the times of the mixed double when it was alleged that the timing was wrong such as to put the KRC double in second place. Investigation of an official complaint by the young pretenders however revealed that the KRC double had beaten their nearest rivals by an even greater margin than first thought – a lesson perhaps in keeping your mouth shut!

Next followed the Supersprints. An excellent event now hosted at the Eton Rowing Lake saw KRC lead the club event right up to the final race of the day

when an unfortunate error by our men's double allowed Tideway Scullers to take top honours. Congratulations to our team of: Sarah Birch, Rebecca Romero, Simon Goodbrand, Colin Greenaway and Mark Hunter.

And then it rained, and rained and rained. So here we are with Christmas nearly upon us and we can count the number of outings since October on two hands. Good use has been made of the Eton Lake, but otherwise the water work has been few and far between – can someone turn the taps off? Please!

And finally....

“Keep training. The winter doesn't last forever and before you know it, it will be the eights head and you'll wonder where all that time went to prepare properly. Training now is money in the bank when it come to the Summer.” (Michael Smyth December 2000)

Social Update

The KRC Annual Dinner will be held on Friday the 16th of February at 7.30 p.m.

The venue will be the new prestigious facilities at Dorney Lake Eton.

Coaches will be available to take club members to and from the event.

Please keep this date free..... More details to follow in early January.

Other

Please note that Rum Punch Eight's will not be held over the Christmas break. The river cannot be used at present - in fact there has been virtually no rowing for 8 weeks as you are probably aware. The Committee felt, with no sign of the weather improving, that the it is not safe to risk this event.

Anyone wishing to contribute to the next copy of Scarlet Blade, please send text through to carol_cornell@hotmail.com. Closing date 18th of February.