

Spring 2001

The Scarlet Blade



Chairman's Report – Nick Ronald

I had a frightening thought the other day, we are not far off the AGM and here we are with the season hardly starting! In fact this year in many ways it has arguably not started at all! Water and rowing would go together you would think except, it seems, when the Gods have a bladder problem. You will all be relieved to hear everything is quite normal. The club is being run by a handful of masochistic volunteers prepared to sacrifice their own lives for the enjoyment of others. The club is operating on a shoestring but some how manages to keep going. New training equipment has miraculously appeared in the clubhouse without costing any money, - well at least that is what some seem to think. There is however, a good atmosphere at the club, which is great to see, and much organisation and effort going into the coaching. Just looking at the training programme on email makes me tired, - thank god I don't have to do it anymore! Continuing on the plus side there will soon be some improvements to clubhouse, particularly on the safety side which we are planning to carry out in close co-operation with Tiffin, - more details to follow.

Good luck to all the crews over the coming head races.

Nick – Chairman

The Annual Dinner will take place on the impressive ROSE ROOM at TWICKENHAM Rugby Ground on Friday 23rd March – drinks from 7.00pm, food at 8.00pm.

A coach has been booked to take you from the club (6.45 p.m.) and bring you back – in whatever state around midnight!

Dress Code = DJ, Club Blazer or Posh Frock.

The Key Speaker is Gillian Lindsay with stories of Sydney success!

Ticket prices are held at the same as last year, namely : £31.00 + £3.00 for the coach.

If you need more details please mail carol_cornell@hotmail.com.

Vice- Captains Report – Steve Pratley

At last, the weather seems to be letting up and we have something other than ergo scores to write about. At the time of writing the provisional results for the women's head are 13th and 98th. A good result from a 'home-grown' squad without the assistance of our international oarswomen who are busily preparing for selections.

On the international scene our lightweight girls continue to show their strength, Jane Hall and Sarah Birch coming second in the lightweight trial at Boston in February. Kirsten McLelland Brooks also placed 4th in a composite double. Jane and Sarah now go on to seat race for the double at a camp in Italy.

Rebecca Romero is now quickly finding her feet as in the Senior squad and has been paired, or rather doubled, with Guin Batten and came 2nd in the Heavyweight trials.

At the club level, much of the racing in the south has been cancelled due to flooding and competition has been almost exclusively on the Tideway. Remenham Head provided a good early test for the crews, run this year by London over the full Mortlake to Putney Course but trophies were just out of our reach against strong local crews.

Hell-bent on revenge our first eight were unlucky to miss out on the top spot by just a second at Quintin Head to the hosts. The Women's crew overcame a season dogged by injuries to put in a good result at the same event.

We now look forward to our own Head on 10th March and the Men's

Head on the 17th knowing that the pieces of a good season are starting to come together.

Regulars to the boathouse will know that we are now running out of excuses for failure. The purchase of a range of new weights equipment have kept everyone busy during the week, and some fixed weight equipment has allowed us to introduce novice and inexperienced rowers to a good land training programme in a safe environment. New volunteers have come forward for the Novice group and this is starting to pick up new members again on weekly basis after the disappointments brought by the weather. These crews still need attention, both on the water and off if they are to repeat Scully's successes of last year with the women's squad. If anyone wants to play a part in this success, offers of help will not be ignored.

The arrival of Damian West on the coaching team has also been an invaluable asset. A coherent style is now starting to develop across the squad, and crew selections for the men's group at least, have been a model of good squad management. Our small successes and excellent equipment have not gone unnoticed, and a stream of rowers from other local clubs has started to arrive. It is now up to us to build these new recruits into loyal KRC members. Outside of the obvious coaching jobs, many recent members are struggling to maintain their training under the burden of jobs that need doing around the club. The bar in particular needs volunteers to run it on training nights and staff to run private parties if we are to raise the

funds needed to maintain our excellent fleet and facilities. The club is also running short of anyone with the practical skills to maintain boats, launches and trailers all of which need attention already. Lastly, we are desperate for coxes. When your first VIII bowman is also the women's cox you can get an idea of the situation, competent steersman though he may be. Having missed out on two small boats heads already we also need some serious fundraising for the rest of the season. Watch this space for the return of the pledges auction during late May / Early June. Offers

for this are already being accepted at the club address. If anyone else wants to run an event for the club, please start by calling Dionne Bett on 0802 374364 to bag a place in the diary.

Our competition are getting worried about us again, but before we start to look smug we still have 4 months of hard work until Henley and Nat Champs. Our internationals have a few weeks more than that.

We can't guarantee any reflected glory this year. But we can offer success to those that are a part of it.

Steve

Membership update by Craig Elliott, Membership Secretary

This is my second year as membership secretary and I think I can finally see the light at the end of the tunnel when it comes making the mailing list I inherited in 1999 into a membership database for the club.

We currently have 245 paid up and Life members on the database. This number represents several categories of member within the club. There is the excellent figure of in excess of 50 training athletes, represented by the Full, Student and Novice members. Life members number over 60 but the largest portion of our members are Social members, over one hundred in number.

There is the potential for even more Social members as a conversation with Peter Jennings of Remenham Club revealed. Peter very kindly sent me a list of all Remenham members of Kingston origin. As one might expect, this list bears close resemblance to the list of Social members I have. Closer examination, however, reveals a large number of individuals on Peter's list that are not currently paid-up members of Kingston. As you may know, one of the conditions of Remenham membership is continued membership of the 'home' club. I hope to be contacting these Remenham members soon.

I have a second run of membership cards to produce for members who paid after Christmas. I also have a list of returned mail to sift through so I may be asking for help from members with this. This season no subscription reminders went out in September – I'll try to remedy this, this time round. More from me in the near future.

Craig

A Job to Treasure – Laura Binns (Hon Treasurer)

So I have it, - the perfect job for a girl! At least, for one who likes shopping. Or for a boy who likes shopping for that matter! I have access to four bank accounts, and can spend the money from another two. I have two chequebooks and thousands of pounds of income to 'play' with. But what does it really mean to be Treasurer of Kingston rowing club?

Well, what can I tell you? It involves lots of paper work. For example, if you get your gas bill at home, what happens? Either it gets paid by direct debit, or maybe you ring up and pay it over the phone or bung a cheque in the post. For KRC, a gas bill involves checking the meter, logging the bill, checking that we have enough funds to cover it, logging the payment and cheque number, and billing Tiffin for their share of the bill!

This sounds pretty dull, - so what are the interesting aspects of the job I hear you say? Well, it gives me a very good insight into how the club is run in that I now know where all our funds come from, (approx. half from subscriptions and rack fees and the other half from the bar). I also know who pays on time and who has to be chased! There are two other sources of income, the Annual Dinner (organised by Carol Cornell and Scott Tunbridge) and the Infamous Two Hundred Club (run by Jonesie). The latter two sources being called upon recently when the club is made its large purchase of gym equipment as previously mentioned by Steve.

I also get to see what we spend our money on. Did you know we spend over £60 per week on cleaning? Did you know our phone bill is over £200 per quarter? To this end, one of the things I am going to be focusing upon is raising the awareness of club members as to where our money goes and how we can make it go further. For example, as bar income is half our revenue stream one important way in which we can support the club is by spending more time in the bar, both on training nights and at parties, in fact as much as possible! Talking of which.....see you there!

Laura

River Events etc. – Jim Lawton

There has been rather more water above the boats than is usual this season, as those of you rowing will no doubt have noticed. What with the heavy rain, fast rivers and floods there has been less rowing and racing during this year's winter training period. So the usual events organized on the Kingston reach for your racing pleasure such as the Junior Head and the Kingston Small Boats Head were cancelled. However the Kingston Head of the River Race, on the 10th March, is still on so we will have a full boat house and drink flowing on the Saturday night after the racing.

New for this year is the Kingston Borough Charity Regatta. This will be an all-comers rowing regatta that will take place on 7 May - the May Merrie Bank Holiday. The organizing troupe is many and varied bring together members of

KRC Annual Dinner

Carol Cornell
24 Adelaide Square
Windsor
Berks, SL4 2AQ
01753 840907

Dear Member,

This years Annual Dinner is booked to take place on **Friday the 23rd of March** and once again will take place in the impressive **Rose Room** at **Twickenham Rugby Ground**.

Those of you who attended last year's dinner will vouch for the fact that this is a great venue and one definitely not to be missed! The Rose Room is in the middle of the South grandstand at the Twickenham Rugby Stadium. Look for Gate L, which is situated on Rugby Road off the A316 Chertsey Road. There is an integral bar, which will be open from 7.00pm with the **dinner served at 8.00pm**. (Black tie or Club Blazer, don't forget). The KRC bar will be open from 6.00pm.

We have the usual mix of excellent food, short amusing speeches from good speakers, great surroundings and excellent company. We have secured the services of Gillian Lindsey for the evening and will be confirming additional speakers over the coming week.

We will again be having **tables of up to 10** and it would be great if you could assist us by organising a table with your friends and crewmates - from whatever generation! The cost per person will be the same as last year, namely **£31.00**, with an option of a coach to and from the Club at a cost of **£3.00 each** (leaves 6.45pm).

Last year as with the previous year, the general 'behaviour' was excellent and I know we can rely on your co-operation again to make the evening yet another memorable occasion. The Dinner is one of the few occasions where we can celebrate the successes of **past and present Kingston** oarsmen and women. Do please make a big effort to come along.

We look forward to seeing you there!

CAROL CORNELL

Please reply to the above address enclosing your cheque made payable to **Kingston Rowing Club** **before Friday 16th March** (cost per person £31.00 + £3.00 for a coach seat).

Dress - black tie or club blazer. Drinks at The Rose Room from 7.00pm, **dinner at 8.00pm sharp**.

(No tickets will be sent unless specifically requested).

I will / will not be able to attend the Annual Dinner on Friday 23rd March.

NAME **GUESTS**

I would like to be seated near

Coach from KRC @ £3.00 per person (leaves at 6.45pm). YES NO

I enclose a cheque for a total of £ _____ .