

Summer 2002

received  
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# The Scarlet Blade



KINGSTON CLUB  
ROWING

## CAPTAINS REPORT

It's about half way through the season and probably about time (recovery from glandular fever permitting) I let you know about the plans we have to improve the facilities we can offer the athletes and past members so as to increase the club's success in the future.

## BOATHOUSE EXTENSION

We're hoping to leverage the plans of a few years ago to extend the boathouse. These involved rotating the club round 90 degrees to face the river and building out over the gravel to increase the boat storage area. Anyone who has been to the boathouse recently would agree that we are desperately in need of additional storage and indoor training space. Any eventual building is likely to involve a lottery grant and the close co-operation of Kingston Borough Council, Tiffin School and Kingston University. Andy Hall is managing the initial process of looking into the options, if you feel that you could help, please contact him: [andrew\\_hall\\_kubc@hotmail.com](mailto:andrew_hall_kubc@hotmail.com), [andrew@kingston\\_regatta.co.uk](mailto:andrew@kingston_regatta.co.uk)

## JUNIORS

We have established a regular Junior group at the club, training on Wednesday evenings and Sunday afternoons and catering for children of age 10 upwards. This has been possible through the generous help of a number of Kingston University students. I hope that we will be able to enter a team in the London Borough games and possibly win some regattas in the summer! Looking further ahead this group will form the basis of an application for Project Oarsome, a scheme that will deliver £50k of equipment to the club in it's first year and the equivalent in cash thereafter. To achieve this we need 6 coaches and to raise £14k. If you feel you could help us achieve this please contact me. Alternatively if you have kids who would like to learn to scull, contact Lizzie 07876652809.

## BOATS

During the first part of the season we added to our fleet of boats through the acquisition of a new pair and four for the men (necessary just to get all the male athletes we have on the water). Having discussed the equipment we already have with the coaches, we have decided that going forward the women's squad has a need for two pairs/doubles and a new eight. The latter will almost certainly have to wait until next year. The former may be achievable in the current season but will need a certain element of fundraising. Going forward I hope we can anticipate the demands of the two squads for equipment and through the close co-operation of the coaches, ensure that they compete in equipment deserving of the dedication they put into their training.

#### **MAKING THE MOST OF OUR EXISTING EQUIPMENT**

I would also like to make the most of the equipment we already have rather than letting it slowly deteriorate. We are currently having the girl's coxed four "Tim Crooks" refurbished and hope to do the same with the equivalent mens boat "Ed the Martyr". Over the next few months I hope to decided which of the clubs remaining equipment should be refurbished and which is beyond repair and should be sold. To this end I intend to consolidate the club sculling boats (of which we have 5) on a single rack so that they are easily accessible to members. I apologise in advance that this may mean some private boats being moved though we will endeavour to move your boat to a comparable rack wherever possible. I will also continue the process of identifying the various oars/sculls that are stored in the boathouse. I hope over the next few weeks to sort through the multitude of sculls left around the boathouse (some of which belong to capital rowing). If you have private sculls at the boathouse please make sure they are on your rack and clearly marked. If there are any that are unmarked and in communal areas we will have to assume they are unclaimed and appropriate them for use by the KRC squads.

#### **VETERANS**

One of the things that separates us from some of the other successful clubs in our area is our inability to offer our past members the facilities necessary to entice them down to the club on a regular basis. I would appreciate any comments you might have on this matter, from running regular social events to making available some of the squads boats to use by veteran crews.

#### **BAR**

The bar, as many of you will agree, is an important asset to the club and could, with some improvements become a major draw for people looking to book the club for functions. It has, however, been seen as somewhat peripheral to the functioning of the club. I hope to rectify this by making some minor improvements. We are, as ever, hampered by cost but not short of enthusiastic volunteers. If you have any suggestions as to how the bar environment can be improved (or even better, offers of help and/or materials) can you contact our bar manager, Andy Hall (email address included above)

The atmosphere at the club amongst the current crop of athletes is second to none and both the coaches and the athletes themselves should be congratulated on this and the successes we have already recorded this season. With the summer regattas just round the corner I think we can look forward to one of our most successful seasons in recent years and hope that you will enjoy supporting the club during the coming months.

*Regards*

Damian,

KRC Captain

## **FROM THE THAMES TO THE TAMAKI.....**

The Tamaki river seems a far cry from the Thames at this time of year. Reports from home tell of the rains starting again and the river being in flood upstream of the Tideway. I remember just how frustrating that can be in the lead up to the Heads as everyone's thoughts turn to the up and coming Summer season.

No such problems on the Tamaki in Auckland – for a start its tidal and salt water. Although it does rain in Auckland (and being sub tropical, when it does, it buckets down) I've had a fantastic Summer, and although the regatta season has now drawn to a close, the sun continues to shine. The New Zealanders have been moaning because apparently it's the worst Summer for years, but compared to the English Summer and Winter its been fantastic!

The scenery is a bit different as well. I've traded in pleasure boats for Maori war canoes and occasionally the odd ferry makes an appearance. The leafy banks of the Thames (I'm thinking of Summer!) are replaced by volcanic cones with the Pacific Ocean sweeping past Rangitoto island in the distance. As much as I love my home-town of Kingston very dearly, it has certainly been a very welcome change!!!

### **Home from home**

So far I've had the pleasure coaching with some very good kiwi coaches with heaps of experience both domestically and internationally. We've had a very fulfilling exchange of ideas and philosophies from both sides of the world and I've learnt loads. It soon transpired that they were all good mates of the late Harry Mahon and worked closely with Steve Gunn during his period as chief coach – so its almost like being home from home, though I've certainly not missed the stresses of captaincy and am coaching so much better without them.

It also amazes me that no matter how far you go round the world, you are forever reminded of rowing back at home. Flying the Kingston flag over here is also Pete Godwin, who some of the more senior members will remember for his kiwi humour and who is currently celebrating the birth of his second daughter, and Ryder Senior who made a huge impression in his few years at KRC (I've even got him to take up rowing again at Auckland Rowing Club!). The other day I even bumped into a guy who used to serve me Murphys at Quintin B.C. at chiswick!

I arrived in the country at the start of the NZ regatta season and had a very warm welcome. It wasn't long before I was going along to New Zealand squad training camps and meeting coaches from the North and South island together with New Zealand guru coach Richard Tonks. It was a fantastic exposure to the New Zealand rowing scene and the season culminated during the first weekend of March with the National Championships, held this year in the North Island at Lake Karapiro.

Lake Karapiro is located in the Waikato region of NZ. Although called a lake its actually a dammed river. You can row upstream for miles and it's the north island base for the NZ National Squad. Its steeped with hills on either side, so wind is generally not too much of a problem (very different to Nottingham or Docklands – and much prettier!!) and invariably is perfect conditions for racing.

### **Kingston R.C. gets bronze in New Zealand**

I've been coaching a U19 4X from Auckland Rowing Club. My exams to re-qualify as a kiwi solicitor and barrister had interfered a bit with my coaching activities, but I arrived back on the scene just in time

to play the role of finishing coach. I'd been coaching the guys all year in single sculls so it was good to get them into a quad. They improved immensely over the two weeks leading up to the race and were rewarded on the day with a bronze medal!!

I was so pleased when they crossed the line. The medal ceremony was great - I'm not sure whether it was Kingston R.C.'s first medal in New Zealand but hopefully it won't be the last. Next year the Champs are being held on the icy blue glacier waters of Twizel in the South Island and it will be nice to be able to spend a full winter training the guys up in preparation. Two of them are still U19 next year so we'll be looking for gold!

In the meantime squad trials are kicking off so there's still plenty to do. As the months now pass the temperature will gradually start dropping out of the 20's and it will be odd thinking of all you guys doing your Summer as I'm doing my Winter. I've been doing the English regatta circuit for so long now, the weekends are almost etched into my memory.

So I hope everything works out for you all this Summer and you can build on the success we had last year. If anyone fancies a kiwi experience, I would certainly recommend it!! And, who knows, I may even see you all again soon....

**And finally...**

Whether you dream of sitting on the beach after a hard days work sipping Church Road Chardonnay and watching the sun set over Piha, racing an Americas Cup yacht, rowing the Atlantic, winning a Nat Champs medal, running your own business, getting that extra qualification, or simply being the happiest person in the world, there are no boundaries to ambition. Obstacles are the things that get in your way when you can't see your goal. Push the boundaries back, overcome the obstacles, and go for it - and you won't regret it ... I haven't! Party on!!!!

Mike Smyth. Auckland, New Zealand

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## **A note on Club Blazers**

Last year at Henley, within the refreshment area of Remenham Club, I came upon a discussion being held between several of my (slightly) younger contemporaries. Some were more refreshed than others This discussion was about the fairly recent history of the Scarlet blazer. There were differing views as to what and who was responsible for the general wearing of this item and I feel obliged to throw some light on this subject before the truth is lost.

In my year of captaincy (1972) there was available to club members the "Club" blazer and the "Henley" blazer which was the now very familiar scarlet. Only those who had rowed for the club at Henley were allowed to wear this blazer. This struck me as a great tradition but sadly no longer suitable. Members were no longer willing to purchase both blazers as the price of each item was expensive. This meant the only blazer in use was the scarlet and at the time were not many of them. At this time the club had a number of people joining for a short period, some of whom rowed at Henley and were therefore allowed too wear the scarlet blazer but did not really offer much to the club. There were others within the club who were members for many years and were the hard working backbone of the club, but who were not entitled to wear this blazer. It was my opinion that these people had more right than most to show their affinity to the club especially at Henley where I

wished to see scarlet all over the place. I therefore put this point before the committee who agreed and passed the right of any member to wear the scarlet blazer, although the permission of the captain had to be granted. The committee agreed and from that day the scarlet became the club blazer. It may be that that subsequent captains have also pushed the wearing of the scarlet but the rules were changed in 1972 for the reasons given and should be recorded in the minutes at that time. I hope this clears some differing views, which were being put forward last year.

At this time, 1972, the cloth was held by a small tailor in Kingston who was cleaned out by people ordering and subsequently retired or died from excitement. He gave me the measurements for the white trim which I have now lost, but offer those from my own blazer.

These are:- Pockets and cuff 1 inch  
Lapels and edging 8/10 inch

I make no apology for quoting Imperial measures.

Terry Gostling

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## Racing and results

The season started strongly for both the Men's and Women's squads.

For the Women the disappointment of the cancellation, due to some atrocious weather conditions, of the WHORR where both crews were set to push for top 10 finishes was banished with a superb set of results from the first weekends regatta racing of the year at Wallingford and Marlow on May 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. Victories for the S3 and S2 coxed fours and the Elite double scull at Wallingford set out the squad's intentions for the season. A further win for the S2 coxed four at Marlow on means that the girls are firmly on course for a successful season and to retain their premier division status this year.

The best result for some years in the eights head by a KRC club crew (44<sup>th</sup>) kicked off the season successfully for the men. The men's squad also managed to notch up four wins over the first two regattas of the year. A dominant performance from the S1 coxed four at Wallingford is a good indication of that crew selection for Henley and beyond is well on track and second place in Elite coxless is also encouraging. The weekend however belonged to the novice group who after clinching a win in the novice coxed fours at Wallingford went on to win both the S4 eights and the coxed fours at Marlow the next day. Kingston continue to lead the Men's first division in the league and look set to gain promotion at the end of the season

## **GHENT**

Congratulations to the women's 4- for two 1<sup>st</sup> places at Ghent (beating the selected England crews) and the women's 4x for two second places (just behind the England Commonwealth crew). Excellent results from the girls and Ian and bodes well for a very successful summer!

If you'd like to follow the crews for the rest of the season these are the regattas, which they'll be rowing in over the coming months.

HRR	3-7 July
Kingston	13 July
Nat Champs	19-21 July
Peterborough	11 August

AGM	25 <sup>th</sup> July
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Other events are planned over the course of the season, see the club notice board for details.

## KRC Women Ride High at Henley

KRC's women's squad continued an excellent run of regatta results at the fifteenth Women's Henley last weekend.

The Elite Coxed four (below) who overcame Hereford to record a win by 21/2 lengths topped the results. The club coxed four of Dionne Betts, Anka Guerts van Kessel, Alison Robin, Kate Saxby and cox Sarah Firth were beaten in the semi final by Thames after leading to the barrier.

The Open Quad of Gundula Henning, Michelle Dollimore, Kerry Jones and Jeniffer Ackworth were up against strong opposition from University of London in the second round but fought all the way, sadly this was not to be their day and they were led home by 1 1/4 lengths to the eventual winners. The Winning coxed four and the quad with the addition of cox Olivia Lord will now combine to challenge for a place in the international eights at Henley Royal



**Clockwise From back left: Ruth Jenkins, Ali Williams, Clare Barnett, Anna-Marie Constantinou, Simon Cope (cox), Ian South (Coach)  
Winners of the open coxed fours**

## **What to watch for at HRR.**

Kingston's Men's squad pick up the baton from the ladies this Friday with the qualifiers signalling the start of the Henley campaign. Again this year all but one of the club crews will have to qualify to race at next weeks regatta

This year the club will be represented in four events, the Wyfold, the Britannia challenge cup, the Thames cup and the Goblets. The Goblets crew of Rubens Rubio and Xavier Gonzalez Rojas have been pre- selected this year.

The men's squad have been successful in the run up to Henley with wins at Wallingford, Marlow and docklands indicating that the club continues to build on the success of the past few years.

Coaching duties for the squad have been shared this year with Farrell Mossop guiding the Wyfold and Britannia boats whilst Mike Clarke and Graham Bailey have brought on the eight. All the coaches have devoted as much time and effort as possible this year to ensure success and the strength of the coaching group is an asset to be built on and supported in future.

### **The line ups for this years Henley Royal crews:**

**Britannia:** Dan Genazzini (str), Andy Hall, Tom Waterfall and Richard Haigh, James Ford (cox)

This crew have had an excellent season with strong showings at all major regattas in coxed and coxless fours with Wins at Wallingford and finals places at Metropolitan and Docklands. This crew look set to press for the weekend this year

**Goblets:** Rubens Rubio and Xavier Ganzalez-Rojias

This combination are the selected coxed pair for the Spanish squad and promise to challenge hard for the Goblets

**Thames:** Chris Blight (str.), Mike Wallis, Declan Lindsey, Josef Lackner, Andrew Philip, Ben Nicholson, Matt Evans, James Hepburn, Caroline Ash (cox)

The Thames crew have formed relatively late this year but are showing good speed for a crew who are predominantly in only their second or third year of rowing and many of whom only won their novice pot at the start of the season.

**Wyfold:** Mark Hughes (str.), Keith Lancaster, Nigel Wilson Dykes James Masters (steersmen)  
The Wyfold crew have been in the finals places at every time they have raced this year, however a number of crew changes over the season to get the most out of the boat for Henley means that the best is hopefully still to come.