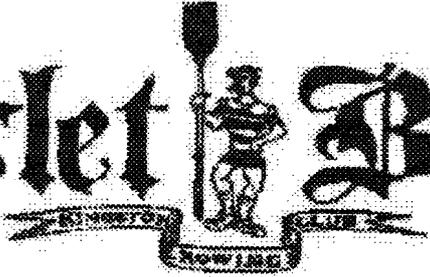


The Scarlet Blade



Kingston Rowing Club's Official Newsletter

Christmas Edition 2008

Captain's Report

It's been a hectic start to the season, with the first few heads out of the way and a stack of wins so far. By the end of November we had recorded 35 wins as a club, across Senior, Junior and Veteran crews, including 10 wins at the Kingston Small Boats Head and 15 wins at Teddington Small Boats Head.

Frustratingly, we achieved another second place in the fours head for the men's top boat, with the girl's top crew coming fourth in Senior 2 quads.

We've also seen junior representation for the club at GB trials, with Roxana Ayling coming 4th within her age category

The squads have grown across the board this year and in particular the novice squad under Matt Evans which continues to grow and is regularly boating 20 athletes on each day of the weekend, as well as a large intake of student freshers. The relationship with the University is starting to pay real dividends, with 6 members of the senior squad in their first year of rowing as alumni, and we look forward to ongoing developments in this area.

We've also consolidated our position with regard to professional coaching, with Ian South taking the dual role of Director of Rowing and Senior Head Coach, and Richard Ayling in the role of Junior Head Coach. This is a crucial selling point for the club, and one which we've been able to develop sustainably, which I believe will take the club from strength to strength over the coming years.

However, with the surge in numbers, any help that can be offered with regard to coaching or indeed launch maintenance would be greatly appreciated, and if you can help please let either myself or Ian know (captain@kingstonrc.co.uk and imsouth@kingstonrc.co.uk).

I look forward to seeing a good turnout for the forthcoming social events and Rum Punch VIIIs, as well as the Annual Dinner, which is confirmed for 31st January.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!

Andy

Chairman's report:

There is a real buzz around the club at the moment, despite the freezing weather and it's great to see so many members training hard and winning races.

The first few months of the season have seen sterling work by Andy, Ian and all the coaches as they have integrated the unprecedented numbers of new members into the various squads. Making sure everyone has a place to train, a boat to row in and a coach to keep an eye on them is no easy task and the results so far this season, particularly at Teddington and the Kingston small boats head, are proof positive that things are going well.

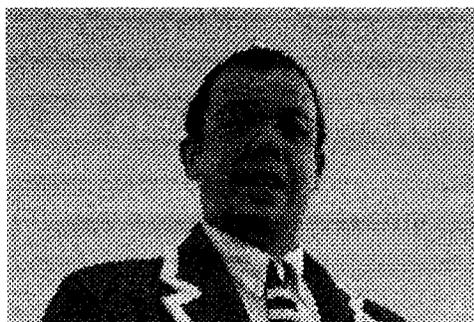
A number of events have already taken place in the run up to this issue of the Scarlet Blade including the boat naming ceremony at the end of September, the Vets supper at the end of October and of course the Kingston small boats head in November. All of these have been well attended and a great success and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved for their time and effort in organising, running or participating in these events.

Away from rowing, the new committee has been working hard on a number of projects around the club and whilst the boathouse improvement work has suffered a setback, with our grant application to SITA being rejected, the landing stage replacement work is progressing strongly through the efforts of Richard Nelson, and we hope have the formal tender responses in the next few months.

Included in this issue of the Scarlet Blade are notices about both the forthcoming Annual dinner and the Christmas Party and I'd like to encourage everyone to come along to both these events if they can and see how well the club is doing for themselves.

I hope to see you there.

Paul Francis



Veteran Section:

Teddington Sculls were completed in atrocious conditions with Helen taking the honours in veteran Novice 4x with Fabienne, Laura and Lori and Rob pot hunting in the senior squad crews. Ray Merrall bravely battled the waves in his single in the first division, but no banana.

Birgith also took on the elements single-handedly but despite coming second overall in the C/D/E category, which should have been a KRC win on handicap, came home empty handed as well as Walbrook chose not to apply the ARA handicap system. However, the fact we all returned upright must be celebrated. It is somewhat worrying when you are so cold that you find yourself with your hands neatly in the finishing position only to discover that one of your sculls is still at the catch and you have not been able to keep the grip.

One of the down sides of rowing veteran, is always having to start at the end of divisions after the juniors, who I suspect were equally frozen.

Kingston Small boats Head was a little kinder on the weather front and pots were had by Rob rowing in the senior squad. He really has got that winning habit now. Once he takes that attitude to his single beware you Russians, he will have you!



Helen this time had a splendid pull in her single in the novice division despite the wind not helping her. Ray Merrall went one better and walked away with the pot for the Vet E 1x.

Carol and Birgith managed a win in the C/D 2x division and our friend from Norway, Grete, sculled Tomcat's boat, watched by a concerned Andy on a bicycle all the way, to a win in the C/D/E category. As KSBH DID apply the ARA handicap system, she returned to Christiania RC in Oslo thrilled with pewter tankard carefully wrapped in smelly rowing gear.

Our next adventure will be the Club Head Ian has threatened us with, instead of going to Walton on the 13th Dec. Let's hope the weather Gods are behind us for once, as I for one would like to be able to feel my hands before, during and after the racing.

Birgith

KRC Leviathan Veterans Report:

The good ship Leviathan has continued to function this season with the traditional monthly sessions continuing since September. Until it got dark a midweek (Thursday) session was organized by Matt "The Weasel" Christie which has now turned into an ergo session, completed just as the Senior Group start their mammoth session.

As well as the "regular" monthly outings, special Leviathan events included both Gabriel "The Doc" Steer's 60th birthday celebrations – meal provided too – well done Gabe and family! A selected Leviathan eight then took on the might of the Molesey "Has-Beens" for what was a competitive session and came out of it with the upper hand. The meal that followed was "top-notch", our hosts doing us proud supplementing the Queenie Offshore samplers with some tasty selections of their own in a very convivial get together. The Leviathan President, Peter "Queenie" King made a brief but humourous thank you speech which had the ensemble in stitches. A return visit to KRC, with meal is planned for spring 2009.

The next Leviathan session will coincide with the Christmas Pudding eights on Saturday December 21st, and there are rumours of a February Leviathan lunch in the offing.

Keep the red bits dry!

L.U.R. Cheston-Porter

KRC Junior Section:

Once again the Junior Squad recorded a great start to the season with junior wins at all the events attended so far this season and with record numbers of applications for membership.

At the *Weybridge Silver Sculls* there were two wins for Ellie Warner and wins for Roxy Ayling, Phoebe Wood and Will Hayes in the WJ16 2x, WJ16 1x, WJ 1x and MJ 1x. Roxy Ayling won the WJ16 1x at *Teddington Small Boats Head* and the WJ14 4x+ of Emily Mayer, Rosie Talbot, Anna Porteus, Francesca Capparello won at *Kingston Small Boats Head*. As this was written, 9 KRC Junior crews from J15 to J18 were due to race at the major Junior race at the *Hampton Small Boats Head* on Dec 6, 586 crews were due to race in the 2 Divisions. 'Well Done' to all athletes.

Roxy Ayling attended the **Great Britain Junior trials** held on the canal at Boston in East Anglia and came a creditable 5th out of 18 in the Junior 16 Girl's section and 51st from 85 Junior J17 and J18 girls over the course, shortened to 3kms due to adverse conditions. This was the KRC Junior's first attendance at junior trials for some years. 'Well Done' to Roxy. Ellie and Roxy are continuing to train for their main aim in the 2x this summer.

The Racing Group numbers 40 athletes in training with the Junior and J16's 6 times a week and the J15 and J14's 4-5 times a week. Richard has this season been joined by Ben Dobbs (Tiffin Girls School) as his assistant, parents Andreas Laake and Richard Bunje have also been in attendance at the weekend.

As mentioned, the Junior Squad was overwhelmed by applications this season with over 60 people applying to join. We were fortunate that Richard Ayling was able to organise two 'Induction Days' for all the potential applicants and we have now managed to accommodate all serious athletes.

The Junior Development Group has nearly as many athletes, and in early December the first of the 2008 Inductees were passed up to the Racing Group, after preparation by the Development Coaching team of Marcus Hoskin, Chris Griffiths, Chris Adams and Richard Higgins.



Parents Support Group:

This season saw to launch of the much awaited KRC Junior Squad 'Parents Support Group'.

With support to initiate the group from parents Gavin Mitchell and Frances Bermingham, the PSG has been created with the objective of providing assistance with racing logistics, fund raising and social events.

Many thanks to the members of the Parents Support Group who did a great job and raised over £500 selling food at the Kingston Small Boat Head.

Jack Petchey Awards:

In September we were fortunate to have Rebecca Romero to present the junior medals for our Jack Petchey Award winners.

Recipients do not have to be the best at sport, work or anything else, but they must have contributed to the club in a significant way. Equally, award winners can be recognised for personal developments and positive personality traits.



Congratulations to Max Wood (for his support and assistance to the coaching team), Emily Mayer (for her enthusiasm and positive attitude), Kitty Sandys (for her commitment to training) and Theoni Dugdale (for her exceptional support as a trainee coxswain / coach).

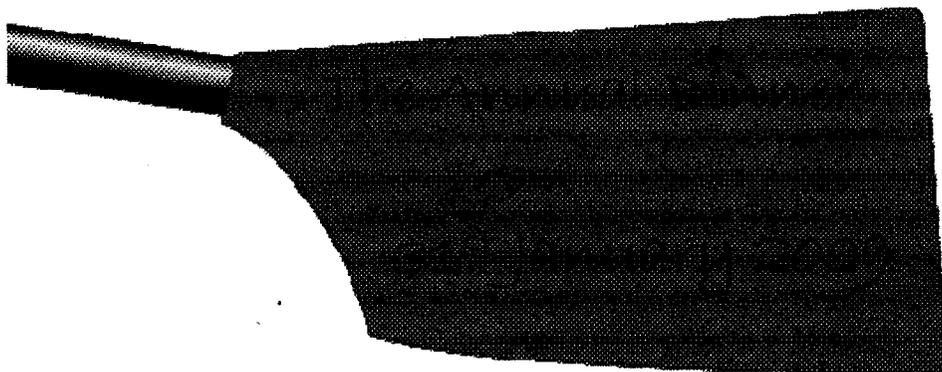


Notices:

In anticipation of having things to celebrate at regattas next year, sartorially sensitive members may wish to acquire new items of Regalia. We have traditional silk regatta ties @ £18 and blazer buttons (large and small) @ £2.50 each; also City (blue) ties, with both the Kingston crest and the "krc" monogram, both now discounted to £5 each. Please contact RR - richard.rr@tiscali.co.uk or 020 8892 2015 - to obtain any of these distinctive articles.

Also, the Club has received promotional material from a company called "RossoNero" relating to a pair of digitally enhanced prints of Edwardian Henley (along the lines of the 1890s pictures at the Club) which that company is marketing. This is nothing to do with the Club, but may be of interest to members; if anyone would like to follow the lead, RR has the contact details.

Kingston Rowing Club invites you to attend



Tickets include a 3 course meal at a great venue, some wine, speakers, awards, coffee and disco

Venue: The Elizabethan Suite, Glenmore House, Surbiton
(<http://www.smh-glenmorehouse.org.uk>)

Time: Arrive 18:30, Dinner 19:30, Carriages at midnight

Tickets: Email ceri_e_jones@hotmail.co.uk before 10th January including any special dietary needs. Alternatively write to Ceri Jones, 37 River Court, Portsmouth Rd, KT6 4EY

Payment: (£45 per person) by bank transfer to KRC.
Sort Code 60-21-05, Account Number 27933644
Reference "Dinner Full Name" (e.g. Dinner Ceri Jones).
Alternatively cheques made payable to Kingston Rowing Club will also be accepted.