



Kingston Rowing Club's Official Newsletter September 2007

Captain's Report **Andy Hall**

From quiet beginnings at the start of last year the club saw continued growth and many wins (despite the cancellation of much of the Head season), culminating in the club qualifying a relatively inexperienced crew for HRR as the fastest qualifiers, a medal at the Nat Champs for the Lwt Women's pair and a haul of medals at the FISA World Masters, not to mention the monthly outing for the Leviathans!

We come from that development to the start of the 2007-8 season, which of course coincides with KRC's 150th Anniversary, and we are in great shape; we have a senior group in excess of 50 athletes training under the supervision of Ian South and his coaching team, and a group of 30 novices keen to move into racing. The junior group continues to grow under the guidance of Richard Ayling, and we are developing good relationships with Kingston University, Tiffin School and KGS.

We now have 12 confirmed entries for the 2007 Fours Head (with hopefully more to come), the most we have had

for many years, which is a good indicator of the depth we have developed, and we're looking forward to building on that throughout the season, with the aim of large competitive entries for the main Heads, HRR, HWR and the Nat Champs.

I can't remember the last time we had as many crews on the water at the weekends, and this is putting a strain on the resources of the club, in terms of coaching and equipment, not to mention space during land training sessions! Currently we have a significant number of volunteer coaches for both the adult and junior sections, but any assistance from members would be greatly appreciated. If you are able to help then please email me; andrewhall@hotmail.co.uk

We also have a significant amount of equipment in the clubhouse that is privately owned but unidentified, ranging from scull roof racks and blades all the way up to single sculls. Please make an effort to ensure that your equipment is identified to a member of the committee and is correctly labelled. From the end of October the club will start amalgamating and disposing of equipment that is unidentified and appears to have been abandoned.

I hope to see you down the club soon, and we're looking forward to a fantastic year!

(Andy Hall)



Chairman's Report **Guy Lewis**

This time last year the Club was facing an up-hill struggle , we were having difficulties in communication with Tiffin School our Joint Tenants of the boathouse over some major repair and renovation works to the building , the Junior group had lost one of their key organisers , the ARA community coach had left and a replacement had not been found , our men's group of athletes were de-motivated and also lost some established men our girls group had shrunk to a few stalwarts .It was like a fairy taleGrimm !

However a year is a long time and during that we have successfully overcome all those negatives to achieve a big fat positive! We now have a strong and workable relationship with Tiffin, the Junior group are a stunning section with 65 athletes already in training and unlike a few years ago none of these guys and girls are hanging about when down, all are boating and receiving coaching, we have an ARA coach heading up our Project Oarsome Commitments. Our men's squad has gone from strength to strength with a group of huge novices winning their first pot at Peterborough and now keen to mix it with the intermediate group this year. Similarly the women's squad has blossomed with great performances at Henley Women's and the Nat Champs.

It has become increasingly apparent that to achieve any sort of success on the river these days a professional coach is required and to this end we

have just engaged Ian South on an expenses basis to coach, set training programmes, mentor other coaches and advise on crew selection across the board and on a seven day a week basis. Ian has an excellent track record and did a lot of work for the club as a volunteer coach and some years ago many of the results on the Internationals Board were as a result of his coaching. However, expenses have to be met and consequently we have had to raise subs and a notice to that effect is with this edition of Scarlet Blade, the new figures are still less than those charged by Thames, Vesta, Molsey, and London etc. Apart from the Active subs we are also increasing Casual subs and Social subs. If you are social and do not come down to the club much and therefore will not be set upon! Please alter your standing order to the new figure now, obviously your Remenham membership is dependent upon your paid up membership of KRC!

The new committee is now in place and together with a number of co-opted members; I am convinced that we have one of the strongest teams for many years to lead us into our 150th year.



AGM Reports **Held 9th August 2007**

The following reports were presented to the Annual General Meeting held on 9th August 2007. They will be of interest as regards the current position of the Club and the resources available going forward to what the Committee hopes will be exciting developments in our 150th anniversary year, and are therefore repeated for the benefit of members unable to get to the meeting.

Boathouse Update (Carol Cornell)

For those members who are not aware the CBH lease is held jointly under the umbrella of Canbury Boathouse Ltd. between KRC and Tiffin School.

At the start of this calendar year we were in a position where the Tiffin Directors of Canbury Boathouse had resigned. Whilst there were a number of reasons associated with this the overriding factor was boathouse Health & Safety. For Tiffin the boathouse has to be treated as an extension of school property, whereas for KRC this is / was clearly not the case. The outcome of this difficult situation was that it became clear after many years of rowing at KRC, Tiffin were likely to move, with the probably venue being Putney.

This was neither acceptable nor desirable for several reasons:

1. Canbury boathouse offers a “one stop shop” cradle to grave approach to rowing and has done so for many years – this would have caused an issue with youngsters feeding into KRC in addition to damaging the relationship between KRC & Tiffin further.
2. From a point of view of grants, one of the priority areas of the ARA British Rowing WholeSport Plan 2005–9 is the introduction of youth into the sport. The loss of Tiffin could (and we believe would) have had significant impacts upon both our position with the ARA and any possible funding for the boathouse.
3. The lease is due for renewal over the next 18 months and conversations are underway with the council, the loss of Tiffin would likely impact upon these discussions.

It should also be stressed here that were Tiffin to move, the travelling distance between Kingston & Putney would serve to make rowing

unmanageable, with the likely result being that rowing at Tiffin would cease.

At this point one of the actions we undertook was to put together a press release which was sent to Old Tiffs, Councillors and local MP’s outlining the current situation and urging them to take action. Many did so and there is no doubt that this contributed in some way to the resumption of dialogue and the re-establishment of the relationship with Tiffin. As of one month ago we are happy to report that the Headmaster at Tiffin once again became a director of CBH.

Other parties with whom we jointly engaged along the way were the Thames Regional Rowing Council and the ARA, both of whom have been immensely supportive in offering advice and action. Special mention is due to Alan Meegan Facilities & Development Director at the ARA who has exceeded expectations!

A key outcome from this situation was to put in place a CBH Management & Development Team comprised of representatives from KRC, Tiffin School and Parents of boys in the boat club. The remit of this group is to focus upon the day to day management, optimization and development of CBH and to act as an interface between the prime users of the boathouse (KRC & Tiffin) and CBH Ltd. The inaugural meeting was held in July. One area where there has been immediate impact is the implementation of Emergency Lighting (& associated wiring checks) and a new Fire Alarm system, both of which would have been necessary in any situation.

Building & Lease

As is clear to users and visitors, the fabric of the building needs much work both internally & externally. An awareness that the lease is coming up for renewal combined with a desire to identify and address key Health & Safety issues led us to use the services of a surveyor (FOC) to identify a list of issues which required attention both internally and externally. For those not aware, under the terms of

the lease with RBK (Royal Borough Kingston) KRC is responsible for the interior of the club, whilst the borough are responsible for the exterior. With the assistance of Tiffin Site Manager Ian Sedgely who has also been extremely cooperative, we enlisted a RBK approved builder to price each of the areas requiring attention which required more specialised attention. At an external level this included;

- Replacement of external rainwater pipes under the balcony.
- Metal windows & doors to be made good.
- External metal staircase made good plus safety hazard treads.
- external decs to the boathouse
- Roof gullies cleaned, swept and roof sealed.

The detail above and pricing has been included in a letter which has been sent to the RBK valuers following the opening up of conversations between the ARA, KRC (Stephen Drury) and RBK, which to date have been cordial. Our goal is to remind RBK of their responsibilities to CBH, remind them of our position under the Landlord & Tenants Act and ultimately secure the longest possible lease at the best price for the club. The immediate action here is for us to make contact with RBK over the coming week now holidays are complete, assess the situation and identify how we move this forward. it is also important to stress our credentials are high with RBK given the efforts of Kingston Amateur Regatta, thanks to organisers and winners alike. Additionally following the potential loss of Tiffin from the borough, our press release went to councillors who made the topic a matter of priority.

Internally there is a similar list of specialist jobs along with many items which can no doubt be undertaken by club members. Currently the CBH Management & Development Team is

prioritising these and they will then be made public to KRC & Tiffin members.

Grants

Through the ARA (& the efforts of Marcus Hoskin), we have become more aware of the grants available to clubs like KRC. At this stage we have been awarded a 1k grant from the Waterways Trust towards the repair of the landing stage. We have also applied for an Awards for All grant (10k) towards the repairs required to make the club “fit for purpose”, (here the ARA have expressed a desire that even if we are unsuccessful we continue to resubmit the application), plus through the relationship we have developed with the ARA (Alan Meegan) we are high on their priority list for possible funding from Sport England. Additionally we are intending to submit an application for a grant from the SITA Trust who supports projects that make physical improvements to community facilities, sports projects and historic buildings / structures. We anticipate the latter being submitted by the end of September.

As a word of caution it would be foolish to anticipate receiving all the awards we apply for. A large proportion of this will need to come from club funding and fundraising. However, we are confident we have a clear plan in place that will be updated via our web site which will see us move forward with CBH as we come into our 150th year.



Stop Press!

Nigel Wilson-Dykes has secured a sponsorship arrangement from a substantial firm of Solicitors based in the Surrey area. This package will be worth around £12,000 to the Club this year! A formal announcement will be made over the next few weeks. This is a major step forward for the club and our thanks go to Nigel.

Treasurer's Report (James Masters)



Income

Growth in subscriptions continues as was the case last year, this is due to improved collection and chasing of outstanding memberships.

Events and bar income have once again made a significant contribution to club funds so I would like to repeat comments from last year and encourage ongoing drinking activities and attendance at the parties! It really makes a huge difference to the club finances.

Expenditure

Very high expenses associated with the Gas supply, due to long-term under payment has now been settled. Purchase of new launches and engines through the 200 club donations. In addition, the outstanding bar loan has been cleared.

Significant progress has been made this year in reducing equipment and boathouse repairs, which has been a huge improvement. In accordance with the committee's and the Captain's aims of improving the facilities and safety at the club a continued vigilance is required on the maintenance of equipment and the boathouse as these are key areas that could dramatically affect our ability to improve facilities.

Next Year

As mentioned last year we have substantial obligations to improve the

Health and Safety position of the club house and the surplus from this year will be put towards that mandatory goal. An enormous amount of work has taken place this year to reduce the burden of the works and if we can maintain the fund raising efforts I believe that our obligations can be met over the coming years.

KRC Socials

150th Anniversary Dinner Ravens Ait Island

15th February 2008

A special one off event to celebrate this significant landmark for the Club will be held at Ravens Ait Island, first home of KRC in 1858, on Friday 15th February 2008 @ 7.00pm.



Tickets £65 per person and will include a four course Banquet. Please reserve and pay for your place as soon as possible (last date for tickets - December 31st 2007) Tickets will go to first 200 applicants. Black Tie and / or Henley Blazer.

Contact Matthew Christie:
matthewchristie@btconnect.com

15, Vineyard Row,
Hampton Wick KT1 4EG.

Cheques should be made payable to:
"Kingston Rowing Club"

KRC Halloween Party 2008



**Bigger and spookier than ever
before!**

27th October 2007

8pm onwards

£5.00 per person

Includes food and disco

KRC Boathouse - Canbury Gardens

Kingston upon Thames

For more info:

events@KRC.hotmail.com

Obituary – “Jonesey”

"Sadly, the Club lost one of its great characters and stalwart supporters in June this year, when Bryan Jones (almost universally recognised as "Jonesey") died of a sudden heart attack. At the time, he was in the Home Park of Hampton Court, running his dog (which, along with sculling, was one of his great loves). He will be remembered for many things, not least his persistent and determined, if sometimes unconventional, appearances on the river, his entertaining and eclectic company socially, his enthusiasm for running and cycling (activities in which his unstinting support for the two Dennises will also be recalled by those around at the time) and the élan with which he took on the `200` Club from

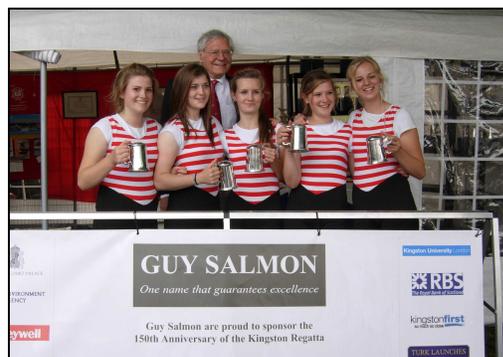
Stanley West. He will be greatly missed. The Club sends its condolences to Rita, Jonesey's widow, Quintin, his son and himself a past active member of the Club, and all his family."

KRC Juniors Section Marcus Hoskin

The juniors have entered the 2007 / 2008 season in really good shape.

This year will see the club celebrate its 150th anniversary and our plans for the juniors are exciting and inclusive for everybody whatever their training aims.

Last season Richard Ayling was responsible for the Junior High Performance Group, which competed regularly during the season, trained to a high standard and from the original group that started in September 2006, all the athletes have won at least once during the season.



Above : Junior Girls Win at Kingston Regatta

Originally this was an experiment, instigated mainly by the J15 parents and introduced by Andy Hall and for the coming season the Junior Group as a whole will absorb some of the experiences that were used by the JHPG last season.

Consequently the Junior Group will be divided into two sections: A Junior 18-14 Year Group headed by Richard Ayling and

The Scarlet Blade – September 2007
a Junior 13-11 Year Group headed by
our ARA Community Coach Phil Harfield

The team of coaches all started off together and as the groups training levels and aspirations became clearer, specific tasks and training sessions have been introduced for each group.

We currently have 65 active junior rowers and more waiting to join which means that support for m our parent group is ever more important. Our first Parents Meeting is provisionally planned for 11th Oct .

Finally I would just like to thank all of our coaches and volunteers who did a fantastic job in supporting the junior athletes last season and without whom we would not be able to achieve half as much – Thanks to you all.

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Henley Royal Regatta 2007 James Hepburn

As a result of an unhelpfully placed wedding, the KRC Thames Cup VIII 2007 only boated in its finalised line-up on Tuesday 26th June, three days before Qualifiers. Over the course of the following training outings, the boat showed encouraging speed with the crew gelling well under the keen eye of Peter Hope, who had watched the boat make steady improvement in technique and speed over the spring, although not rapidly enough to pre-qualify for the Royal.

Full of optimism the crew went into qualifiers as the last boat in the division to run the course, with a certain person accidentally (ahem) infuriating the marshals by delaying the start, thus giving the crew a 'clean' course to row over. The crew produced its best piece so far, and, at the finish, those with prior experience of qualifiers were in no doubt

that qualification had been secured. This was confirmed later in the usual fashion – quite an achievement given the level of experience in the boat with a number of novices on board. Not only did the crew qualify but those stalwarts of the Henley reach cycle path, the KRC Timing Team, nearly choked on their crumpets on discovering that KRC had qualified fastest overall.



Crew: Mike Wale (coxswain), D Smelt (stroke), J Mackinney, A Dracott, J Edwardson, G Leney, J Hepburn, R Thompson, T Blaine, P Hope (coach)

On to the event itself, KRC drew Green Lake USA who, as expected, had a very quick start and were ahead by half a length at the end of Temple Island. Contrary to hopes, the Americans maintained their speed with KRC struggling to reproduce the form shown in the qualifier in gusting winds and choppy water. Assisted by strong support from the Remenham Club, KRC managed to stay in contact before going down by 13/4 lengths.

Disappointing as it was to go out on the first day, it was nevertheless impressive to see so many of the crew get through to HRR at their first attempt and bodes well for the new season ahead.

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Veterans Section Birgith Sims

KRC crew; Ceri Jones, Sandra Mephram, Anna O'Rawe, Helen Gadsden, Carol Cornell, Annie Hodkin, Birgith Sims, Mike Loweth, Andrew Martin, Nick Mephram, Ray Merrall, Rob Thomson and Andy Tompkins.

Some of you may have noticed the veteran section of KRC being a little more obvious this year. It all started with our inclusion in the squad training through the winter, with pearls of wisdom from Colin Barrat and later Peter Hope and Michelle West.

A good fitness base was achieved, and with a hard summer program set by Colin we set off to the World Masters in Zagreb, Croatia feeling confident about delivering decent results.

Zagreb had been baked in 34 degrees C all summer, so we packed the sunscreen and the skimpy T shirts.- BIG mistake- on arrival we faced 8 degrees, wind and pouring rain. Despite near hypothermia (thanks so much for the fleece hat Mikey, you saved my life) Thursday delivered 3 wins for KRC. The most amazing performance by our WA4+, who staged a finishing burst to row through and win by 1/100th of a second.

Friday we had another 3 wins, this time the WD4x holding on to a 31/100th sec. 1st place.

By the Saturday we were a little tired of our men coming in second time and again, when Ray and Rob decided it was time for a medal and put in another storming finish, to take the honours in the D2-.

How wide can a smile get? We were scared Rob's face would split in half.

By Sunday, the weather had turned positively pleasant and we managed another win in the mixed events.

On top of this, Birgith had pimped Mikey, and although no visible income from the crews borrowing him (Swedes, Australians, and whatnot) another medal added to the total was rather satisfying. There is a great photo of Mikey on the website. Cox in total control. Shame we all know he was shooting videos during races and chatting up anything in a skirt. Noanything pretty in a skirt, that Igor would have liked to chat up, was it not for the little woman at home. Never knew a man could be so well behaved!

And then, of course, there was the party. Anna missed a fine opportunity with a Russian rower. OK, so he was a little under the influence, but sobered up and in lycra the next day.... Anna..... legs from heaven and shoulders to die for!!!

Igor was only allowed to dance with a handbag (yes, we DO have the video) and 'Celebrity Come Dancing' eat your heart out - Carol was strutting her stuff with Steve Aquilina from Walbrook

Winners; WA4+ Anna, Ceri, Helen, Sandra, Mikey

WA1x Ceri

WA2- Ceri, Sandra

WD4- Carol, Birgith

WD4x Carol, Annie, Birgith

WD8+ Carol, Annie, Birgith,

Mikey

D2- Rob, Ray

WE4x Birgith

MxE8+ Mikey

MxF 8+ Birgith

A huge thank you to Nick and Andy for tailing out and Nick and Sandra for the use of the Tonka Toy, ferrying around of wet and cold rowers, let alone trailing back.

Maybe YOU should try veteran rowing?? You might enjoy it.

KINGSTON ROWING CLUB

Subscription request 2007/2008

Subscriptions for continued membership of Kingston Rowing Club are due on 1 October 2007 and in accordance with the rules the Committee has set the rates as follows:-

Full membership	£370
Casual membership	£185
Junior membership	£270 (active) £150 (weekend)
Social membership	£ 60

Sculling boat racks

(only available providing the boat owner pays a full sub or is a life member)

Inside	£130
Outside & restricted	£ 70

Payment can be made by Standing Order or electronic transfer to KRC account #27933644 sort code 60-21-05.

Payments can also be made into the tin kept behind the bar! Whatever method is used please ensure that any transaction is referenced with your name and nature of payment.

All subs payments must be made by 31 December 2007. After this time any defaulters will have their continued membership of KRC reviewed without exception.

In case of any query or difficulty contact Guy Lewis guylewis@btconnect.com