

The 1927 Club

WALTON



Walton Rowing Club's rebuilding project newsletter

July 2011

Building progress

We continue to make progress on fitting out the first floor; the balcony is now in place, although the builders still have to put in some bracing-pieces before we can use it, and the fascia will finally "dress" the front of the building. We now have an extra window facing upstream, which really improves the view up the course.



Balcony in place

The flooring and lighting will go into the main upstairs area over the next few weeks, and we are awaiting the bar and kitchen equipment. The fire alarm has been commissioned and was given a test during the barbecue after Walton & Weybridge Regatta!

Plaque-unveiling ceremony

British Rowing's contribution of £150,000 was very important in allowing us to proceed with this building, and we have a plaque to record that contribution. This will be unveiled by Dominic Raab, MP for Elmbridge, on Thursday 15th September at around 8.15 pm.

Although this will not be a very formal occasion (smart casual dress and only very short speeches), we have also invited key representatives from British Rowing and from

Surrey and Elmbridge councils. All members are encouraged to attend.

Regattas

The Club has had a very successful season, starting at **Wallingford**, where the junior quad of Sam and Oli Knight, Harry Lonergan and Elliot Tarrant convincingly won their event, beating Leander, Zimbabwe's national crew and Sir Wm Borlase (winners of the National Junior Sculling Head) along the way. Their time would have put them well up in Elite quads too. The J16 quad were denied their chance of winning too, when the afternoon events were cancelled due to high winds.

Our eleven crews racing at **Marlow Spring** produced seven wins including three in a row from the WJ17 double (Holly Jones & Sam Ball), WJ16's (Holly Stead & Hannah Paremain) and WJ15's (Sophie Thean & Katie Dent). The girls J13 quad of Nina & Katie Giambrone, Megan Houska and Tilly Catlin, coxed by Millie Wills and boys J14 double (Alexi Buckingham and Ross Jones) also won, as did Sam Wilson and the Masters double of Neil West and Glyn Groom.

Another record entry at **Walton and Weybridge** Regatta in pleasant if breezy conditions, resulting in eight wins for the Club. In the morning section our junior scullers showed they can row as well winning IM1 4-, the masters



WJ13 quad—many times winners at regattas this season



IM1 4- winners at Walton & Weybridge

E 4x won after three races and the two halves of our girls J13 quad contested the WJ13 2x final. In the afternoon we won Masters 4-, the girls J13 4x continued their winning run, Callum and Sam won J16 2x, Elliot and Alistair IM3 2x and Glyn and Neil the Masters 2x.

At **National Schools**, Walton won four medals at a very rough and windy Nottingham, and were cruelly denied a fifth when the all-conquering J16 quad sank beneath the waves while leading their race! The Knight brothers took silver in Championship Doubles and then repeated that in Championship Quads with Harry Lonergan and Callum Gathercole. Over the shortened 1000m course on Sunday, Elliot Tarrant and Morgan Bolding dominated the J16 doubles event to take a well-deserved gold medal. Showing lots of promise for the future, Natalie Dailey and Hannah Paremain took bronze in J16 pairs after only a very short time together in this boat.

Sam, Harry, Elliot and Oli won J4x at the **Metropolitan**

Regatta; at **Weybridge Ladies'** the following day, Laurie Fain and Scott Atkinson won J15 doubles, and James Williamson the J14 singles, while the WJ13 quad won again.

A large group of men and women went up to Nottingham for the **British Masters Championships**. The weather was miserable with non-stop heavy rain all day and a very cold wind. Nevertheless we came home with seven medals, our best haul yet. Chris Leonard and James Brown won the pairs and will now try and repeat that feat at Henley Veterans Regatta. Neil and Glyn got the bronze in their pair, and then teamed up with Dave Clarke and Richard Hosking to take the silver in the quads. Dave also won silver in E doubles with Mike Bishop. Richard Smallman-Smith also got an excellent silver in the singles.

But the biggest cheers of the day went to the beginners eight who won the Novice category on the very last stroke as they came back from nearly a length down to overtake Maidstone on the line. Congratulations to Martyn Penny, 'Mac' Mackenzie, Brian Johnston, Richard Jones, Alan Collins, Ian Tarrant, Andy Tomalin, Matt Gaywood and cox Ross Jones. The next few beginners courses have big boots to fill.....! As Peter Knight was then left as the only Novice in the club, he managed to persuade Ian, Andy and Matt to pull him along to a clear victory in Novice fours!

A very hot and humid day at **Egham** saw two wins for the boys and two for the girls. Ross Henderson, Will Johnston, Niall O'Callaghan and Jordan Piddlesden, coxed by Max Byworth, won J14B quads, while James Williamson worked his way through four rounds to win the J14 singles quite convincingly. Katie, Nina, Tilly, Megan and Mil-



Egham winners

lie won the WJ13 event, while Katie had to beat Tilly to win the final of WJ13 singles.

Henley Royal

The high point of the regatta season for the Club must have been Henley, where for the first time for many years we had three crews in the Regatta. The 'A' Fawley quad of Sam and Oli, Harry and Elliot was selected, but the 'B' crew of Callum, Andrew, Morgan and Sam Mottram (all J16s) had to beat 60 other quads just to qualify! They put up a very mature performance but were beaten by Molesey on Thursday.

Captain Neil West and his son Stuart also had to qualify for the Silver Goblets, and had a tight race against a Bristol Ariel crew on Thursday, never really getting clear water. But on Friday they came up against GB pair Reed and Hodge, who beat the Barrier record.

The 'A' Fawley crew won fairly comfortably on Friday (having had a bye through the first round), but followed this up with two excellent races on Saturday against old rivals Westminster and Wm Borlase; the semi-final saw both crews winding the rating up into the 40s as they approached the line, with Walton winning by half a length. On Sunday, however, they were outgunned by a powerful and very mature Sydney Rowing Club quad. It was nonetheless a remarkable achievement for a crew including two sixteen-year-olds and one fifteen-year-old.

GB vests

Morgan Bolding and Elliot Tarrant have been selected as the J16 double for the Anglo-French match next Sunday (July 10th) at Docklands—congratulations to them. Oli Knight will be attending the Junior Men's final trials at Nottingham.

Barbeque 23rd July

We will be holding an end-of-season barbecue on Saturday 23rd July, the day before Burway Regatta. The barbecue will kick off at about 12.30, while we load the boats onto the trailer for Burway, and will continue through the afternoon. Do come along and help to celebrate a very successful season for the Club.



The 'A' crew in its borrowed luminous-green Stämpfli

Boston Marathon sponsored row

The Boston Marathon takes place on 18th September. In recent years we have had a large contingent at this event, and have broken several records. This year the junior squad has decided to do it as a sponsored row to help raise money for the new boathouse; anyone can help by raising sponsorship for this gruelling event.

P&G / Surrey Advertiser

The squad has been shortlisted for an award by the Procter & Gamble Community Matters fund; this is linked to the sponsored row and could raise up to £3000 for the Club. The **Surrey Advertiser Elmbridge edition on 15th July** will carry a voting form: please ask all your friends, neighbours and schoolfriends to buy the paper that day and send in their vote for Walton Rowing Club.

Polo shirts

It is some time since we ordered Club polo shirts, and many of use who own these are in need of a smarter model! So we are intending to place an order shortly. There are two design options: the traditional embroidered logo (as at the top of this newsletter) on the breast pocket, in either dark blue or light blue, or a printed version using the "Walton puddles" design by Nick de Cata, on a dark blue polo shirt. Cost is £12.50 in each case. Please place your orders on the list at the Club.

Captain's meeting

A reminder that the General Meeting to select the Captain and agree the subscription rates for 2012 will be held

at the Club on Thursday 28th July at 8.30 pm. All members (including juniors) are entitled to vote, and the bar will of course be open.

Beginners' courses

We have run two junior beginners courses during the summer, and Brian Martin will be running his traditional course at the end of the school holidays. We have also held one adult beginners' courses, which was very well attended, and will be running a second shortly. All squads are now quite full and any new enquirers will be held on a waiting-list until next year.

Parents—a further appeal for help

The Club is staffed and run entirely by volunteers; some of those volunteers give tens of hours a week to the Club, and every time there is a job to be done it tends to fall to one of the same group of willing hands.

We do need to extend the circle of volunteers who help at the Club, in particular for tasks like helping coaches to boat and supervise juniors, boat and clubhouse repairs and maintenance, publicity and PR, catering and bar rotas.

We believe the Club represents exceptional value for junior boys and girls who benefit from highly qualified coaching included in the subscription rates. The new boathouse is an investment for their future. We would like to appeal again to parents: please can you find an hour or two each week to help your son's or daughter's club to continue to flourish and grow? Please think about the ways you can help and contact Neil or any coach or committee member.

