

The 1927 Club



Walton Rowing Club's rebuilding project newsletter

December 2011

Building progress

Progress on fitting out upstairs continues: we now have lights, a carpet and chairs. Mark Stanley provided a very attractive piece of mahogany for the bar-counter, which was fitted by Mark Neal—many thanks to them both. We should complete the bar fitting-out by Christmas, and will then be in a position to apply to move our licence upstairs and start to use this area normally. Work on the kitchen will start in the New Year.



Plaque-unveiling ceremonies

On 15th September our MP, Dominic Raab, unveiled a plaque recording British Rowing's contribution to the boathouse, at a ceremony attended by Di Ellis, Chairman of British Rowing, and other invited guests.

The following week the Headmasters and Governors of Charterhouse and Cranmore School held further ceremonies to unveil their respective plaques on the front of the boathouse.

GB and England representatives

After their excellent performance at Henley Royal noted in the last newsletter, Oli Knight and Harry Lonergan were selected for the GB team for the **Coupe de la**

Jeunesse in Austria, where the quad won two golds and the double a silver medal. Elliot Tarrant and Morgan Bolding were selected as the J16 double for the **GB-France** match, winning their race comfortably.

We then had no less than five representatives at the **Home International** in Strathclyde: Annie Withers in the girls' eight, Sam Wilson and Sam Knight in mens doubles and Callum Gathercole and Sam Mottram in junior doubles. Annie, Callum and Sam all won their events, in the second case coming through in the last few lengths to win by 3 feet in an incredibly fast time for a J16 double.

British Championships

Another set of very strong results in Nottingham gave the club wins in J16 doubles (Elliot & Morgan), J16 4- (Sam, Callum, Morgan & Elliot) and J18 doubles (Sam & Callum). Sams Knight and Wilson got a bronze in open doubles and finally Sam K won a further bronze in a composite junior quad.

Other Walton members and recent ex-members to win medals included Vicky Tomalin and Lydia Jackson (gold in W80) and Angus Groom (bronze in open 1x). Vicky and



Home International: winning J18 2x (photo Niall Darroch)



Sams W & K at Strathclyde

Lydia went on to represent GB in the European Universities Champs in Moscow.

Burway

Closer to home, we had another successful day at Burway, with wins in J15 doubles (Laurie Fain & Scott Atkinson), MC 4+ (Andy Tomalin, Matt Gaywood, Neil West & Peter Knight, coxed by Harry Gaywood), Mas4x (Mike Bishop, Roger Wotton, Stewart Walker and Neil West), J15 1x (Sophie Thean) and WJ16 2x (Natalie Dailey & Katie Dent). Near misses too for Edward Wilkinson in J11 1x (by 2') and Rory Harris in J13 1x (½ length).

Pairs and Fours Heads

A great seven wins at the Pairs Head included Lightweight winners Sam Lee-Gill and Sam Wilson who came 8th overall. The club dominated at junior level, winning the doubles with Oli Knight and James Rudkin, the pairs with Morgan Bolding and Elliot Tarrant, and the WJ doubles with Katy Denham and Hannah Paremain. The older generation were just as convincing, with Richard Thiemann and Mike Everington winning MasD pairs, Neil West and Glyn Groom winning MasD doubles, and Ali Jackson and Steve Heywood winning mixed masters doubles too. All our other entries came in the top few in their divisions to record Walton's best-ever results in this



Pairs Head winners

event.

At the Fours Head, Richard Clarke and Oli Knight, in a composite J4x with Westminster, were the fastest junior crew, while our other junior quad was 4th. The Mens Lwt 4x were 5th in Elite Lightweight, and 25th overall.

In the Masters Fours Head, we had 3 wins. The D quad won their division by nearly a minute, but the coxless four agonisingly lost out by just over 1 second to a very good Quintin crew. The mixed quad of Steve Heywood, Carol Cornell, Mike Bishop and Ali Jackson stormed through the field, overtaking many of the men's crews to win their division, while Anna Lass, Megan Addis, Nicola Jordan and Katherine Tonks, coxed by Izzy Fish, won Novice quads .

Autumn heads

Walton enjoyed a very successful day at the **Weybridge Silver Sculls**. Not only did we have no less than 18 category wins and 8 second places, but the Beer Festival was judged one of the best ever, with very little beer left over to finish in the following week! Wins included the fastest women and junior women in both singles and doubles and fastest men's and junior men's doubles. As well as this over a dozen new members who learned to row at our beginners courses this summer had their first taste of competition.

At **Hampton Small Boats Head** Walton was again predominant in junior doubles, both boys and girls, with three wins and several second, third and fourth places, while Oli Knight won the J16 singles.

We closed the 2011 racing season with 12 wins at Walton Small Boats Head, taking the total number of wins for the year to 108: our best year ever. The event was also a success for the club, with better weather than we have had for many years—thanks to the many people who volunteered for jobs on the day.

Adult beginners graduate

2011 was also a record year for adult beginners' courses, with three courses co-ordinated by Mike Everington. Several of these crews have now had their first taste of racing, and others are fitting into a regular routine of training in the Walton tradition: on the water followed by the bar! We hope to be able to use grants to purchase a further four training boats, and this will allow us to extend this category of membership and follow the Explore Rowing path being promoted by British Rowing.

Santa's revenge

As usual we will be holding a triathlon (run, cycle and scull) on December 27th, starting at 8 am. Teams can also enter (any combination of two or three people). What better way to fight off the turkey and pudding?

GB Winter Training Camp

Katy Denham, Morgan Bolding and Oli Knight, along with coach Nick de Cata, have gone to Nantes, France for the GB pre-Christmas Camp. We also have another 6 athletes trialling for the GB under-18 team this season, and a further group looking to make the under-16 team. We wish them all the best in their various trials in 2012.

Christmas and New Year Holiday Training

The full session schedule for the holiday period is on the club website (see Latest News).

Major events in the New Year

February and March are all about racing in eights, fours and quads, so we'll be doing more training in those now. Dates to note are:

- Sat 4th Feb Hampton Junior Head
- Sat 11th Feb Molesey Masters Head
- Sat 18th Feb GB Junior trials (singles and pairs)

- Sat 3rd March Women's Eights Head
- Sat 10th March Kingston Head
- Sat 17th March Men's Eights Head of the River
- Sun 18th March Masters Eights Head
- Mon 19th March National Junior Sculling Head (quads)
- Tues 20th March Schools Head

Walton will be aiming for wins at all these events: selection will be based on performances in the Sunday morning time trials, and everyone will need to do a 5000m ergo in the first week of Feb, so get practising now!

Coxes Required

As we will be racing more eights and fours, we will need lots of coxes. You need to be light - less than 60kg, but the lighter the better! You also need a good sense of navigation on the river, and a willingness to learn. Experienced coxes are welcome, but all instruction will be given to new coxes. Coxing positions may particularly suit the younger boys and girls, or novices who wish to fast-track their rowing development and learn a lot about top-level racing in a short time! Have a chat with your coach, or with Neil if you are interested.

More Atlantic rowers

Following David Hosking's achievements of the last two years, Helena and Richard Smalman-Smith set off this year on December 6th for their Atlantic crossing. By 19th December they had covered 400 nm and still had 2100 to go. They are raising money for St Mungo's Hostel: see <http://www.justgiving.com/atlanticdouble-richard>



Dinner Dance

The Club Dinner Dance will be held at Brooklands Motor Museum on Saturday 24th March. This is an excellent venue with a bar and sitting area downstairs while the disco continues upstairs. Put it in your diary now; more details will be available in the New Year.

Chas Newens raffle prize

At the Dinner Dance we will have an additional raffle draw, for a prize donated by Chas Newens at the President's Sherry Party: a four-hour cruise through central London on ML Zephyr, a luxury semi-covered 12-passenger launch (see www.chastheboat.co.uk/shop/acatalog/Xephyr.html). Tickets for this raffle will be available behind the bar throughout the holiday period.



Better Steering Campaign

We are continuing the campaign to improve safety and also help coxes, bowsteers and scullers to steer a competitive but safe line on the Walton Reach. If you have not seen the presentation, please take a look at the slides on the Club website ([Safety -> Better Steering](#)).

Polo shirts and hats

For those who are still looking for Christmas presents (or just want to keep their heads warm) we now have stocks of club polo shirts (£12.50) in both light blue and dark blue, and warm hats (£6) with the Walton logo. See Mike Hendry or Nick de Cata to buy one.



Subscriptions Due

Subscriptions are due for renewal on 1st January. Please don't delay: if you pay in full by 31st January then you pay at the 2011 rates, after that they increase by around 5%. If you pay by standing order then you **MUST** update your standing order, as these are only valid for one year. Those who race regularly should also consider topping up their regatta fee account regularly—we do ask members to stay in credit.

We will shortly be fitting a card entry system; all members will have cards, but if you do not pay your sub you may find yourself locked out of the Club!

Parents and volunteers

The club has been very successful over the last few years; membership has doubled in the last three years. This creates a heavy demand for volunteer helpers in every department.

We particularly need willing hands and assistant coaches during junior and adult beginner sessions; if you are able to lend a hand for even an hour or two a week, this would greatly help those who run these sessions.

We also need more volunteers for breakfast-making and bar duties: please see Sandy Johnston, Sarah Knight or Len Lee.

Of course there are many other jobs that need doing round the club and that can benefit from particular skills; if you are able to help in any way, please see Neil West or Mike Everington.

Have a great Christmas and keep the training going!

