

The 1927 Club



Walton Rowing Club's newsletter

July 2012

"New" boathouse

The addition of the club name to the front of the balcony really makes the boathouse look complete. The only significant item left to be completed is the permanent fire escape, which has been ordered. Once this is in place we will ask for final signoff by the Building Control Officer.



The rebuilding subcommittee has been replaced by a building management subcommittee, which now looks after the maintenance and repair of the building, as well as any further improvements, which will be carried out in priority order as we can afford them.

There will be a lot of activity over the next few months in completing the gym at the back of the boathouse. New flooring and ventilation is being purchased and the multi gym will then be reassembled so that weight training is available for the winter period.

We are looking for a volunteer to manage lettings of the clubroom; we are restricted by our licence to one event a month with loud music, but this does not affect existing users such as the Yoga and Pilates classes. Please con-

tact Ken Roberts if you might be able to help with this role.

We are also very keen to hear from any members or parents, young or old, who could help on an occasional basis behind the bar at functions, or on club-nights. Pay is available for functions and you will be given training, although any previous experience would be a bonus.

Putney Heads

The Club finished the Head season with a great day at the Head of the River Race. The Novice Eight won its division and came 121st, while the first eight came 74th.

At the **Women's Head** our girls eight also went up fifteen places to finish 85th overall and second in their category: a great result for a crew of 15, 16 and 17-year-olds.

At the **Vesta Veterans Head** our Masters Mixed eight won its category, the Masters E eight finished second in its category and the Masters Novice eight, most of whom are still in their first year of rowing, finished seventh in their event.

Junior scullers sweep the board in early season regattas

At the National Junior Sculling Head at Dorney, Walton's top girls' quad of Sophie Thean, Katy Denham, Hannah Paremain and Katie Dent won gold, the J16 boys (Lee



Novice eight: pennant-winners at HERR

Mount, Adam Giambrone, Harry Christie and Matt Georgiou) got bronze, despite losing a seat for part of the race, and Adam's sisters Katie and Nina were in the WJ14 quad that also won bronze, along with Tilly Catlin, Megan Houska and cox Georgie Mercer.

Callum Gathercole, Morgan Bolding, Elliot Tarrant and Oli Knight won the Schools Head and set a new record.



Normal for Nottingham

In "Normal for Nottingham" conditions at the Junior Inter-regionals (i.e. a gale and sinking waves) two Walton crews and a sculler (J16 4x, WJ16 2x and Nina Giambrone in WJ14 1x) won medals to help the Thames Downriver Region win the event overall.

National Masters

In much better conditions at the National Masters Regatta Walton won four golds (in WNovD 2x, NovC 4x, Nov E 1x and Nov D 2x) and three silvers (MD 2x, Nov E 2x and Nov B 2x).

Walton & Weybridge

Back on our home reach, and in the sunshine, Walton had a great day with fourteen wins spanning all statuses from J13 to veteran including novice and senior wins.

National Schools

Walton won a gold and two bronzes at the National Schools Regatta held in Nottingham. The Giambrone twins won our first girls' gold at the event, racing



WJ14 winners at Walton & Weybridge

through from fifth place at half-way to snatch the honours on the line. Sophie Thean sculled well to take the bronze in girls' singles, while Matt Georgiou and Harry Christie took the bronze in a tight race for the J16 doubles. The junior quad was disappointed to come fourth after performing very well in the heats and winning their semi-final.

Red boards in June

For several weekends in May and June we had to contend with a strong stream, including many days of red boards which disrupted training. There were even red boards on midsummer's day!

Egham

The fast-flowing river led to all J12 events at Egham regatta being cancelled, but the girls in particular had a very successful regatta, winning singles and doubles in both J14 and J16. The boys' J15B quad of Niall O'Callaghan, Alexi Buckingham, Ross Jones and Will Johnston, coxed by Izzy Fish, also won.

CAUTION STRONG STREAM

Happy Midsummer's Day ...

Henley Royal

The Club qualified its largest-ever entry for Henley Royal Regatta. The Thames Cup eight, consisting of Richard Lewis, George Appleby, Noel Watson, Jason Lee, Mark Bowers, Andrew Bedford, Elliot Tarrant, Sam Bishop and cox Ellen Potts, rowed out of its socks, particularly on Thursday, when it came from a length behind Thames B at Fawley (the half-way point), to win by a length. On Friday it was beaten by losing finalists Thames A.

The Wyfold four met the losing finalists in their event, ANA of Australia, in their first heat, but still put in an excellent race with a very fast time. The Fawley quad went out to Prince Alfred College, also from Australia. Richard Hosking, with doubles partner Paul Keane from Tyrian, also lost on the Thursday.

We also had many alumni and members giving strong performances in their events, including Sam Knight and Angus Groom in the U23 quad (sculling as UL and Durham) who narrowly lost the final of the Prince of Wales Challenge Cup. Matt Tarrant won the Visitors Challenge Cup for coxless fours in a composite crew which is now expected to go to the European Championships in Varese, Italy in September.

Henley Masters

Mike Bishop and Michele Della Casa got their first Henley medals as Walton won both D quads and E quads at Henley Masters Regatta.

Kingston

In wet and windy conditions at Kingston Borough Regatta, Ed Wilkinson won J12 singles.

GB selection

Congratulations to eleven Walton members who will be representing GB over the next few weeks:

Katy Denham has been selected to represent GB at the **Coupe de la Jeunesse** in Banyoles, Spain on 20th—22nd July. She showed her all-round versatility at trials as unusually she has been selected for both the rowing eight and the quad scull events. Her selection is particularly



Thames Cup eight

significant as, despite Walton's long history of GB representation, Katy is our first ever female junior rower to reach this level. Also selected for the Coupe are Morgan Bolding in the four and Callum Gathercole in the quad.

For the **World Junior Champs** in Plovdiv, Bulgaria in August, Oli Knight has been selected for the quad, which will be coached by Nick de Cata. Elliot Tarrant has also been selected for either the four or the eight (to be confirmed).

Matt Georgiou and Harry Christie will represent GB as the double in the J16 **GB-France** Match on the new course at Gravelines on 15th July.

Matt Tarrant, Sam Knight and Angus Groom are all in the GB team for the **U23 championships** in Trakai, Lithuania this week.

Captains meeting

The General Meeting to elect the Captain for next year will be held at 8:30pm on Thursday 19th July. Ken Roberts will be standing for election, and the Committee will be proposing a small increase in subscriptions for the coming year. All members are entitled to attend and vote.

The General Meeting will be over very quickly, and there is a social evening planned for everyone to celebrate all our recent successes.

Olympic opening ceremony

We will be holding an Olympic Opening Ceremony party for all members and their friends on Friday 27th July from 7pm. A cold buffet will be provided and enough TV screens for everyone to see the action. Costs are £15 for adults and £10 for juniors. Please leave a cheque or cash for your party behind the bar or in an envelope in the office, clearly marked with your name and "Olympic party".

Minilympics

On the afternoon of the Olympic rowing finals (4th August) there will be a Junior Club Regatta. All juniors are welcome to take part; this will be a good opportunity for those who have never raced before to see how it works. There will be events in singles, doubles and quads.

Boathouse opening

An event to celebrate the completion of the new boathouse is planned for Saturday 22nd September. Details will be available shortly.

Door entry system

The Club now has a new door entry system; it is activated by a keyfob to the left of the door. If you regularly or sometimes come down to the club at times when other people are not there, or if you are often the first down from your group, you should ask for your own keyfob (£10 deposit): speak with Ken Roberts, Mike Everington or Mike Hendry. The door should still be key-locked by the last person to leave in the evening and opened by the first person to arrive each morning.

There will be an entryphone for those occasions when the bar is open but the roller-shutter doors are closed.

All members are asked to help maintain the security of the club; don't leave the boathouse unguarded or doors unlocked when you are out on the water. Please close up each bay of the boathouse once all boats are away; in particular when all the eights and school quads are on the rack the Mondegos should be put away and that bay closed. Don't just leave everything for the last person to close up at 11 o'clock at night!



All-in-ones (mens' and womens' styles), and Splashtop

The sculling-boat shed door has also been replaced and is opened by pressing the button located to the right of the door. The combination for the padlock is unchanged; please spin and re-lock the padlock after use, and then close the door by pressing the black button inside.

Beginners' courses

The adult beginners' course that ran through May and June was severely disrupted by the strong stream conditions, but they have all now graduated and most are joining the other novices on Sunday mornings. There is another course in progress and the final course of the year will start on September 30th.

We did hold two successful junior courses, at Easter and at half-term, and Brian Martin will be running his usual junior beginners' and improvers' course at the end of August.

We always need several extra hands with these courses, and indeed coaching novices and juniors generally. If you are able to help at any time, please contact Neil, Ken, Mike Everington or Mike Hendry.

As a result of a grant from Elmbridge Borough Council's Olympic Legacy Fund, the Club is able to support all members who want coaching training, including First Aid and Child Welfare courses as well as British Rowing Level 2 courses. Ken Roberts will be running a specific course for assistant coaches in the autumn; we would like as many people as possible to attend this course, which will help your own rowing and sculling as well as giving you tips on how to help others.

Club kit and polo shirts

Peter Knight has received more Splash-tops, Gilets and all-in-one racing suits, so see him if you want to try or buy anything.

We still have some polo shirts with the Walton logo available, in dark or light blue and in most sizes: see Mike Hendry if you are interested.

Volunteering at Walton RC

We are still adjusting to running a club that has more than doubled in size in the last 2½ years, with membership up from 150 to almost 400. This requires a lot more volunteers to step forward, and we would like all members and parents to contribute in some way: volunteer or be volunteered!

Carron Mount (Lee's mum) has agreed to be the Volunteer Co-ordinator and will be starting this task in earnest when she returns from holiday. In the meantime we are particularly keen to hear from anyone who can help with tasks such as:

- Hedge- and grass-trimming around the club-house and compound.
- Time-keeping and results recording at Sunday morning time-trials.
- Video recording of crews for coaching feedback.
- Catering help on week-end mornings and at our own races.
- Keeping the kitchen clean & tidy
- General sweeping up in the boat-bays and vacuuming upstairs.
- PR and communications.
- Web-site updating.
- Coaching bicycle maintenance.
- Bar and function work.
- Minor building and boat maintenance.

If you can help in any way, please contact Neil, Ken or Mike (Hendry or Everington), or fill in the "Contact Us" form on the website.