

The 1927 Club

Walton Rowing Club's rebuilding project newsletter



April 2010

Building progress

The builders are now very close to finishing the ground floor; the structure is complete and the doors are in place; the plumbing and electrics are being done and the scaffolding will come down before Easter.



Traditionalists will note that Peter Curchod's weather-vane is back on top but—in a break with tradition—it actually points in the direction of the wind! The tiling also incorporates Walton colours, and we have promised to reinstate the Walton tiling in the bar.



Note the Walton colours ...

During the next two weeks we will paint the inside walls white, to get the extra light, and will then start putting up boat-racks so that we can start moving boats back in. We will set up a temporary clubroom in the gym, and will also be applying for a bar licence, initially from this temporary clubroom.

We do have a small problem with the services: despite almost six months' notice, British Gas is unable to find anyone to quote us for reconnecting the gas and electricity in less than four weeks, and will then take six weeks to do it! All the suppliers use the same companies for this work—so much for an open market ...

Phase 2

Although three-quarters of the work is done, we have still hard tasks ahead of us before the building is complete and we can really gain the advantages of the new space. We have drawn up a list of the tasks that need to be completed; many of the early tasks require specialist building skills, but there will also be a need for many hands painting, lifting, digging and acting as tradesmen's mates.

If you think you can help with any of these tasks, either with hard graft or by sponsoring an activity—we still need to buy all the materials— please speak with Mike Hendry or Neil West.

Opening party / ies

We are of course planning a party to celebrate the re-opening. However as there are so many jobs left to do this will take the form of a working-party with a barbecue in the evening. There may be several of these—keep an eye on the website for details. As we won't have a bar, you can bring your own drinks (and paintbrushes).

Walton Spring Head

We will have an opportunity to show off the new building at the Walton Spring Head (the re-run of the Small Boats Head) on Saturday April 10th. This will follow the same general format as the Small Boats Head, but there will only be three divisions (at 10, 11.30 and 1), and

there will be quads and fours as well as singles, doubles and pairs.

The catering will be in a marquee near the finish line at Miskins Wharf.

We still need several more helpers, particularly with the catering and as marshals - please contact Mike Everington if you are able to assist.

Head results

The heads season got off to a slow start, with Burway being cancelled. Walton's eight won the **Hyne Cup** and our Novice quad was in second place; the WJ eight also put in an impressive performance.

At **Hammersmith Head** Angus Groom and Sam Knight came first overall in a composite quad with Westminster, beating many school first eights.

At the **Schools Head**, Alex Jones, Sam and Oli Knight and Angus Groom were the third-fastest quad, while Sophie Walker, Annie Withers, Hannah Traylen, Holly Jones and cox Kieran Reals came fourth in JW4+.



Schools Head quad

At the **Womens Head** the junior eight came 103rd overall: an excellent result for a crew who will all still be junior next year.

The Club had a great set of results at **Kingston Head**. Most impressive was the Intermediate coxed four of Adam Shire, Elliott Tarrant, Sam Wilson and Alex Jones who had never rowed together before. They were joined by brand new cox Alexi Buckingham who steered brilliantly to overtake all their opposition and win by a clear margin. The J14 quad of Laurie Fain, Peter Turner, Oli Knight and Scott Atkinson, coxed by Ross Jones —also a new combination on the day— were 30 seconds ahead of Hampton School in second place. The Veteran eight also won.

The girls coxed four (with Fiona Thiemann at stroke this time, were very impressive, coming second in the senior women's class. The girls quad of Holly Jones, April Kirk, Naomi Allberry and Sam Ball also came second. The girls J15 quad were 4th and the J14 quad put in a very determined row to come 3rd. The J14 boys octuple, containing many J13s, did well to come to come 8th against some very good school crews.

Walton member Matt Tarrant was also in the Oxford Brookes eight that won the overall head prize, and Lewis Knollman was in the crew that won Intermediate eights too.

At the **Tideway Head** a crew made up of Neil West, Alex Jones, Adam Shire, Elliott Tarrant, Sam Wilson, Glyn Groom, Dave Clarke, Mike Everington and coxed by Holly Jones had a good race, overtaking several crews, but were disappointed with their final result of 190th, which reflected the lack of time on the water, and in particular in eights, this winter.

Junior Inter-regional selection

For the Junior Inter-regionals on Sunday 25th April in Nottingham, the Club has been selected to provide the whole mens' J14 squad (single, double and quad) , as well as the womens' J16 double (Holly Jones and Sam Ball) and the mens' J15 double. Seat-racing has started already!



Tideway Head crew

Junior selection

Angus Groom has been selected to represent GB at the junior regatta in Munich; Sam Knight is still in contention and will attend final trials.

Easter Bunny triathlon

For those who remember how much they enjoyed the Christmas triathlon (and forgotten how much it hurt), the next club triathlon will be held on Easter Monday, 5th April. The format is the same as usual: a 6km run to the Top Cut Bridge and back, 17km cycle via Hampton Court Bridge, Lower Sunbury and Walton Bridge, followed by a 7km scull round Desborough Island. It can be done by individuals, or by 2 or 3 people in a relay team (or one runner, one cyclist, both double scull). Register by 8 am, with a £5 per person donation to the new clubhouse fund. Breakfast and drinks will be served afterwards.

Junior Rowing and Coaching Courses

Brian Martin will be running his usual junior rowing course from 23rd to 27th August this year, and Ken Roberts will be running a Level 2 coaching course the same week. Ken reminds members that there are 50% grants available for attending these coaching courses; if you are interested in either course please contact Brian or Ken. Brian is also planning a repeat of his Helpful Parents course some time in the summer.

New Committee and VPs

At the AGM on Wednesday 24th March, Dave Clarke was elected President and Ken Roberts Deputy President. Secretary Mike Everington, Treasurer Grant McKenzie, Bar Steward Len Lee all remain in office, and the other committee members are Alex Cass, Alan Collins, Andrew Cook, Nick de Cata, Mike Hendry, Robert Jordan, Peter Knight, Linda Lee, Brian Martin, Richard Thiemann, Steve Trapmore and Nick Woods,

Wendy Parry and Nick de Cata were elected Vice-Presidents. Wendy did her own rowing at Weybridge Ladies but her father-in-law, husband, three daughters and two sons-in-law have all been members, and Wendy has made a very generous contribution to the New Boat-house Fund. Nick was Captain for eleven very successful years and is still very active as a coach and as our Safety Officer.

Junior registration forms

We still have not received many updated registration / parental consent forms; parents of juniors are asked to complete these each year to ensure that our information is up to date. The forms are available on the Club website (click on "Useful documents" at the top of the home page).

Subscriptions reminder

If you haven't yet paid your subscription for 2010, or updated your standing order, please pay as soon as possible since cash-flow is particularly important to us this year. If you are not sure how much you owe, please contact Grant McKenzie.

Dinner Dance

Thanks to Sarah Clarke, Nick Woods and Ken Roberts for a very successful Dinner Dance at Silvermere Golf Club. We had 120 people attending, which meant that the event itself made a small profit, and the auction and raffle raised just over £1000.