

The 1927 Club



Walton Rowing Club's rebuilding project newsletter

April 2011

Building progress

Huge progress has been made in the last few months: the changing-rooms and showers are now operational, although there is still some finishing-up work to do. Almost all of the first floor is now decorated, although there is no floor covering in the main area. The bar and kitchen have yet to be fitted.



Upstairs taking shape

We have placed the order for the balcony, and also for the extra window facing upstream; these will be fitted in the next six weeks. The permanent fire-escape is also in hand.

Part of this has been made possible by our receiving a further grant from British Rowing, to the tune of £16,200. We have also received a £3,000 grant from Surrey County Council to cover the cost of the CCTV, and £175 from the Waitrose Community Fund, raised during the first month the new store in Walton was open. However a massive effort by Club volunteers was the main factor in getting the decoration completed; there are too

many to thank individually, but Sam Bishop's work spray-painting the walls does deserve a special mention.

We now estimate that the total required to complete the project is under £70,000, of which over £40,000 is already promised or due from HMRC. This is great news, although the totals do include some quite substantial loans from members which must be repaid over the next ten years. So fund-raising will continue for some time yet!

Head Races

An excellent eights head season started with the **Hyne Cup**, which had a record 46 entries including 13 eights or octuples. Walton won the Hyne Cup, the Murtough Cup for IM3 eights, and the Henry Stebbing Cup for the fastest women's eight.

At **Hampton Head** the J13 girls led the way: Tilly Catlin, Katie Giambrone, Megan Houska and Nina Giambrone, coxed by Milly Wills, won their first ever medals for Walton. Annie Withers with her partner Maxie won the girls pairs, and Sam Ball and Cecilia were fourth. Then these two pairs joined forces to win the fours event as well.

There were also silver medals for the J18 quad of Sam Knight, Elliot Tarrant, Harry Lonergan and Sam Mottram, for the J16 quad of Ali Douglass, Morgan Bolding, Andy Bedford and Callum Gathercole, and for Sam Knight and Harry Lonergan in the doubles.

At **Burway** the girls J13 quad won again and the Masters won their eights event. They then recruited evergreen Walton stalwart John Pearce to move them up an age-group to win Masters E eights at **Kingston Head**, and to come second in their class at the **Veteran Eights Head**.



HORR eight

Our depth at boys J16 level is incredible, and bodes well for the next two years at junior level. Callum, Harry, Elliot and Andy comfortably won the **National Junior Sculling Head**. Then joined by Oli Knight and Sam Mottram the squad won an amazing four gold medals at the **Junior Inter-Regional Regatta** at Nottingham: J16 quads, doubles, singles and J15 singles!

The girls J15 double of Katie Dent and Sophie Thean had a brilliant debut race to miss out on an Inter-regionals medal in a photo-finish. James Williamson also just missed a medal in his first championship race in the J14



Womens eighte head crew

single, and the girls J16 double of Holly and Natalie came 6th.

Overall, the Walton crews put in a fantastic set of performances which helped the Thames Downriver team win the overall boys trophy, while the girls came third out of the 12 British regions.

Our **Head of the River** eight contained many of the club's best youngsters and was heading for a very high placing, but a slower crew steered into them near the finish and cost them valuable time. Still, their finish ranking of 113 was a big improvement on their 185th start position.

We now head into the regatta season with events such as Marlow Spring, Thames Ditton, Walton & Weybridge, the National Schools and Weybridge Ladies coming up in the next couple of months.

Junior Trials

There was a large Walton contingent at the GB junior trials in February, where Annie and Maxie were the fastest women's pair. The next junior trials take place over Easter.

New training-boats

Thanks to a donation from the Walton Small Boats Head, the Club has now acquired a training quad from Eric Sims Racing, and has on loan a double and a single as well.



New training quad in use on Junior Beginners course

These are in addition to the much-used Mondegos, which we will continue to maintain.

Easter Bunny Triathlon

The Club will be holding its traditional event on Monday April 25th. Run, cycle and scull on your own or make up a team—it's the best way to get yourself into the swing of competition. The event is open to all individuals or any relay combinations. Register by 8am at the Club - £5 donation per person. Breakfast (bacon sandwiches) will be served after the race.

Sponsored row

For those who will do anything to get away from the television on Royal Wedding Day, the Club will be running a sponsored row from Henley to Walton. Please help by rowing and raising money, by joining a support team on the bank, or simply by sponsoring a crew over the distance. There are sponsorship forms behind the bar, or speak to any committee member. Juniors can do part of the distance, swapping in and out at locks.

100 Club

The first three monthly draws for the 100 Club have taken place: for January Richard Thiemann won £25, in February Louise Roberts also £25, while the £100 prize for March went to Grant McKenzie. The March "bubbly" winner (or bubbly March winner) was Jerry Tomkinson.

The 100 Club is a great and painless way to help the Club: a £12 a year donation keeps you in the draw for £750-worth of prizes, drawn normally on the first Sunday of the month. To win the champagne, though, you have to be in the room when the draw is made! To put your name down (or perhaps one for each member of the family), contact Ivan Pratt [ivan.pratt@sky.com].

Dinner Dance

Sarah Clarke ran a very successful Dinner Dance at Silvermere. Over 100 members attended and the event (including fund-raising on the night) made almost £500 profit for the Club.

Junior beginners course

A very successful beginners course was held from 18th to 21st April, and attracted 17 participants, most of whom will now be joining the boys' or girls' squads.

Walton & Weybridge Regatta

Our local regatta will be held on 21st May, and we expect a large contingent from Walton to enter (and to win!). The organizers would greatly appreciate assistance in several departments; please contact Mike Everington if you are able to help on the day or the day before.

Sunday breakfasts

We are trying to revive the very popular (with athletes and coaches) Sunday breakfasts, after the 8 am training session. We do need some people who are not doing this early morning session to help prepare these breakfasts—please see the notice in the clubroom and put your name down: if you can do even one day this helps to build momentum.

Parents—can you 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 particularly 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.