

The 1927 Club



Walton Rowing Club's rebuilding project newsletter

August 2009

Neil West takes over as Captain

At the General Meeting held on 30th July, Neil West was elected Captain. Neil takes over from Nick de Cata, whose 11-year tenure as Captain has seen an amazing growth in both numbers and success, particularly at Junior level. Some of those winning races for the Club today were still toddlers when Nick was first elected!



Nick

Neil rowed in the Cambridge lightweight eight, but then turned to canoeing, gaining Scotland and GB vests. In 2002 he won the Commonwealth gold medal in quad sculls and has been the World Masters Champion in coxless fours for the past three years. After retiring from business in 2002 he was interim performance director for England Hockey, and during the Beijing Olympics he was Deputy Manager of Team GB. He still races regularly and has been co-ordinating coaching at the Club for the last two or three years.



Would you trust this man to run a rowing club?

Subscription rates held

The meeting also agreed to hold subscription rates un-

changed for the time being, as there will be some disruption if and when the rebuilding project gets under way. However members are asked to consider adding a £25 donation to the rebuilding fund to their subscriptions, and when the building is complete (hopefully in the spring) both entry fees and boat-rack fees will increase.

This means that new members who will benefit from the new facilities will pay more, while those who have put up with the disruption (not to mention the less-than-palatial facilities today) will continue to pay 2009 rates.



Matt Tarrant approaches the line for his Henley medal: the first of many, we hope

Matt Tarrant Henley medal

Matt Tarrant, a recent product of our youth squad, has had a great finish to his season, winning the Prince Albert Cup at Henley Royal for Oxford Brookes and representing GB at the U23 World Champs in Racice, Czech Republic, where he finished fifth in the B final.

Walton's own crews were less successful at Henley: the Wyfold four was the fastest non-qualifier, and the Faw-

ley quad was knocked out on the Friday.

Nick Clarke at Junior Worlds

Nick Clarke was selected for the coxless pair at the Junior Worlds in France; the regatta takes place from 5th to 8th August. Nick de Cata is also in the team as coach to the girls quad.

Sam and Matt at GB-France

Sam Knight and Matt Wade won the Great Britain J16 trials in double sculls to get selected for the GB-France match in Cardiff. On the day the crew was swamped while in the lead, but this was Sam's first GB vest, while Matt is already an experienced international having won this event last year in France with Angus Groom.

National Champions in J16 4-

Alex Jones, Sam Knight, Liam Maloney and James Capel, rowing as a composite with St Georges College, won the gold medal in J16 coxless fours at the National Championships. The crew qualified fastest from the heats and then dominated the final, being more than two lengths clear of the field by 500m and holding a commanding lead through to the finish.

The girls J16 four of Catherine Bawtree, Kat Tviet, Julia Clarke, Joanna Fish, and cox Holly Jones did very well to qualify for the final and finish 5th overall

Walton & Weybridge Regatta

At Walton & Weybridge regatta many of our novices had their first taste of racing. The two Petes, Oscar and Andy made up a new mens novice four, while Jo, Claire, Petra and Sophie took to the water in the women's event. Sido Jensma and Sean Hulley also made their sculling racing debuts with very respectable performances.

There were some great wins for the club: Sam Knight won the J16 singles, and then teamed up with Matt Wade, Liam Maloney and Alex Jones to power away to an "easily" verdict over Windsor Boys in J16 quads. Windsor Boys got their revenge in J15 quads, but Walton won J13 with Bashir Mitchell, Scott Atkinson, Joel Keefe and Oli Knight, coxed by Ross Jones; and also J12 quads with Ross Jones sculling this time, along with Alexi Buckingham, Luka Kebo, Manu Passos-Carr and Honor Lilley coxing. There were also wins for Ollie Tomalin and Nick Clarke in IM3 doubles; Neil West and Andrew Cook in IM2 pairs; James Wedlake, John Davey, Ollie Tomalin and Dom Merrick-Cole, coxed by Holly Jones in IM3 fours and Laurence Fain and Harry Gaywood in J13 doubles.

Weybridge Ladies

Not to be outdone, the girls entered Weybridge Ladies regatta the next day, determined to add to the tally of wins. They achieved it in style, with the girls J16 eight, racing as Novice, taking several lengths out of an experienced Twickenham eight in the final. The crew was Hannah Traylen, Sophie Walker, Naomi Allberry, Alice Correia-Morton, Holly Jones, Joanna Fish, Julia Clarke, Fiona Thiemann and cox Amy Flavell. Fiona also won J17 singles and Julia teamed up with Sam Ball to win J16 doubles as well. Oli Knight also entered the open J13 and J14 singles, winning both!

Thirteen wins overall in one of the clubs most successful week-ends with 64 individual club members entering at least one event! Walton's up-and-coming rowing dynasties made significant contributions with the Clarkes winning three events, and the Knights literally keeping up with the Jones' with five events each!

Honor and Becky



Kingston Junior

Walton's juniors had an excellent day at Kingston regatta, making five finals and winning three events with an overall performance that won the Victor Ludorum trophy for the second year in a row. Our J12 girls, Rebecca Traylen and Honor Lilley, were competing in their first regatta



J14 quad at Kingston

and won a very impressive semi-final before losing to Maidenhead in the final.

The boys then showed how much depth Walton has in double sculling as Laurence Fain and Harry Gaywood won J13, and Oli Knight and Jonny Coates J14. Oli, Jonny, Harry and Callum Gathercole, with Laurence coxing this time, also made the J14 quads final, but had to settle for a close second to Tiffin School.

The highlight of the regatta came in our final race, the J15 quads where the Walton crew have been coming agonisingly close to winning all year. Dan Patton, Dean Robson, Joe Taylor, Sam Young and cox Kieran Reals came all the way down the course neck and neck with Tiffin. The Walton supporters were shouting as loud as they could. We thought they'd just lost out again, but the judges finally announced that Walton had won, to a huge cheer of jubilation and relief from those on the bank!

Fantastic performances that fully deserved the Victor Ludorum trophy and a great credit to the boys and girls coaching co-ordinators Gordon Sandifer and Hazel Thiemann.

Molesey Junior

It seemed that our strong showing in J12 and J14 has put off the opposition and there was no event for several of

our crews at Molesey. However the J13 quad of Sean Sheppard, Bashir Mitchell, Joel Keefe and Byron Girling, coxed by Scott Atkinson, won in a straight final.

Eight wins at Burway

Walton's juniors and vets finished off one of the club's most successful regatta seasons in style, by winning eight events at Burway Regatta. The youngest crew of Laurence Fain and Harry Gaywood got the ball rolling with a very convincing win in J13 doubles. Then the J14 quad of Josh Hyatt, Ali Douglass, Ben Thorne, Jonny Coates and cox Ross Jones were involved in a fantastic final where Wallingford, on the inside of the bend, seemed to pull back the stagger every stroke, but Walton finally came through to win by 1 foot!

Ollie Tomalin ended his junior career on a high by winning the double sculls with Angus Groom, beating a very strong Tideway Scullers crew in the final. Angus' dad Glyn was not to be outdone, winning the veteran doubles with Neil West.



Neil and Glyn

Lydia Jackson also concluded her junior career in memorable fashion, winning the coxless pairs with Sarah Hunt, and then finishing off with a very hard-fought junior singles win too. Great news for Reading University, where both Ollie and Lydia are intending to go next!

The boys J16 quad of Alex Jones, Callum Beddow, Matt Wade and Rupert Adams put on a very impressive performance to beat Weybridge convincingly. And in our last event, Oli Knight stayed in the boat this year and came back from behind to snatch victory in a very tough J14 singles event.

Junior Rowing course

Brian Martin is running his usual junior rowing course in the last week of August. This was very heavily subscribed but he has accepted 65 participants, which will require a lot of coaches, coaching assistants and helpers. Brian would greatly appreciate any further help, from adults in particular, both on and off the water. Ken Roberts will be running his UKCC Level 2 coaching course in the afternoons of the same week.



Picnic at Weybridge Ladies on the last day of the 2008 junior rowing course

Rebuilding project

It is now over three years since Mike Bishop applied for planning permission for a new, two-storey boathouse on our current site. This was granted in November 2006 and we must start work by November 2009.

In between we have been raising the funds and working with the ARA to make sure we have all the necessary plans in place. It is looking increasingly likely (but still by no means certain) that we will in fact be able to start building this autumn: an exciting prospect which will secure the future of the Club and give us a boathouse much better suited to the needs of today's athletes.

If the building proceeds, the existing boathouse will be demolished completely; we will be asking members to spend one or two weekends in September moving boats and equipment, dismantling racking etc. A large party is

planned round the bonfire!

We will only have room to store a limited number of boats on site (in the compound) and so there will be a restricted timetable for boating and very limited changing facilities. We will arrange secure storage off site for other boats and equipment. The building site itself will be a restricted area and members will be asked to keep clear, however we have asked the builders to minimise the area they require in front of the building at weekends.

Please bear with us during the four months or so until we can start to move into the new building; we will have access to the ground floor first, including the gym which will form a temporary clubroom while we put up the boat racks and fit out the upstairs facilities.

Winter training will continue as normal and several other clubs have offered us the use of some facilities while ours are out of action.

Fund-raising will continue for some months, or maybe even years, until the new building is complete and fully paid for.

Please contribute

Please keep sending write-ups and photographs to Mike Everington or to dropbox.yousendit.com/MikeHendry404571. We like to have a report from any event the Club attends, and if possible a photograph or two.

To receive further copies of this newsletter, to make a donation or to volunteer to run an event to raise money for the rebuilding project, please contact Mike Hendry.