

# The 1927 Club



## Walton Rowing Club's rebuilding project newsletter

December 2007

For several years the management of Walton Rowing Club has been aware of the need to rebuild the Club. The current boathouse, constructed largely by members and using reclaimed materials in 1954, is rapidly approaching the end of its life; building maintenance costs eat up a high proportion of the Club's income and the building simply does not offer the facilities and standards to match the level of activity, success and effort the Club sees today.

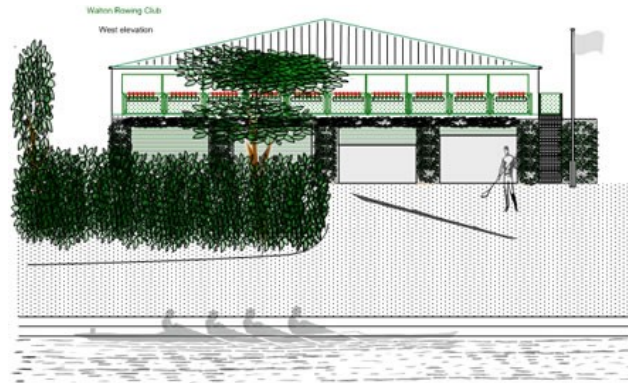
Almost half the Club's boats are now stored outside, where they are subject to weather damage and vandalism. We have very limited facilities for disabled access (although we have several adaptive athletes using the Club) and the women's changing room is hopelessly small.



The boathouse today

On a normal Saturday or Sunday morning there are often over 100 people boating from the Club: members and pupils at the schools and University that boat from the Club, to say nothing of the dozens of coaches, parents and supports who all need and supply cups of tea, and later a drink from the bar.

The Club has for 30 years been strong in junior rowing: in 1975 we were probably the first club to boat a J14 eight,



and in 1977 the first club to compete at the National Schools Regatta. This year the Club's juniors have shown both strength and depth, from Matt Tarrant's GB vest to more than 10 wins in Women's junior classes.

To continue to generate this level of success we need a building that can accommodate our equipment, allow space for safe training and a relaxed social environment for all ages.

### The new boathouse

We now have planning permission for a new boathouse, to be built on the existing site using a steel shell. It will have two stories and a full-length balcony on the river side. Boat storage and weight-training room will be downstairs, with changing, ergos and clubroom upstairs. Full plans are available on the Club's website [www.waltonrowingclub.co.uk](http://www.waltonrowingclub.co.uk).

### Raising the money

The cost of the new building, including demolition and fitting-out, will be close to £400,000, and so a fund-raising committee, chaired by Robert Jordan, has been

set up to raise this sum. "Our target is to raise this sum during 2008," says Robert; "it won't be easy and Club members are going to have to both work hard and provide a significant part of this sum."

We do already have committed funds of £40,000, including support from several local businesses. Grants and loans are also available but are subject to our raising the first part of the money ourselves.

To achieve this, we will be running a series of events throughout the year with a fund-raising flavor. Here are the events for December and January: for details and future events see the website or notice-board at the Club.

December 27th: Turkey Triathlon

January 23rd: Burns Supper at the Club

### Pound a pot

We are also inviting members and their friends to give £1 for every pot or medal won by a Walton Rowing Club member in the Club's name at an open (ARA or overseas) event in 2008. Coxes count too, so an eights win would be worth £9, or a single scull £1. We'll let you know how many crews have won each month, and you can settle month by month or at the end of the year. See the website, collect a form at the Club or call Mike Hendry on 01932 248628.

### The 1927 Club

Anyone who donates £1000 or more to the rebuilding fund will automatically become a member of The 1927 Club. We have formed this Club to recognise and reward the Club's major sponsors and will organise a number of special events for 1927 Club members, including privileged access to some rowing and related events.

## Launch event

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> November saw the launch of Walton Rowing Club's project to fund a rebuild of the current rowing club on Sunbury Lane.

Many local businesses and government officials attended the event. The highlight of the evening was a 1 minute rowing machine challenge. James Wedlake, Sam Lee-Gill, Stuart West and Sam Bishop, four Juniors from the club, were selected to race against the clock. With a crowd of 150 guests behind them the lead changed several times. Captain, and Junior coach, Nick DeCata oversaw the competitors, no doubt with an eye on selection for the coming season. With a strike rate of between 38 and 40 for the duration of the race James pulled out a powerful last 10 strokes to clinch victory.



James Wedlake, Sam Lee-Gill, Stuart West, Sam Bishop and Steve Trapmore (Centre)

Steve Trapmore, newly elected President of the club, said "It's fantastic to see the members and guests new to the sport getting behind the club. This is the first of several large social, family and competitive events that we will be holding over the next 12 months to raise awareness of our ongoing success and future plans. When I joined the club in 1992 there was only a handful of Juniors. Now there are over 60, both boys and girls. There is an addictive competitiveness here which is what got me hooked on the sport. Everyone trains together and races each other. The Juniors learn from the more experienced Seniors and the Seniors have to stay on their toes to keep ahead of the Juniors. The current facilities at the club are badly in need of updating. The new building will ensure the growth and continued success of the club which plays a big part of life in the local community."

## Walton's Matt Tarrant at Junior Worlds

Matt Tarrant was selected in the Men's Pair to represent Great Britain at the Junior World Championships in Beijing.



Matt made it through to the B-Final. The Ukrainian pair powered off the start, but Matt and his crewmate, Matt Anker, kept a cool head. They eased into the lead at the 1000m mark. The dynamic duo then worked at staying off Italy who had a flying finish. Great Britain had enough of a lead to hold off the Italians in the final stages of the race.

## Success at the Silver Sculls

This year's Weybridge Silver Sculls enjoyed excellent conditions. Walton Rowing Club enjoyed it too, cleaning up with 11 wins:



Sam Knight and Matt Wade, J15 2x winners

- S3 1x winner: A Cook
- S4 1x winner: S Bishop
- J18 1x winner: J Wedlake
- WJ16 1x winner: S Wedlake
- WJ15 1x winner: F Thiemann
- WJ14: 1x winner: L Ellis
- VC 2x winners: M Everington / R Thiemann
- J18 2x winners: S Lee Gill/J Wedlake
- J15 2x winners: S Knight / M Wade
- WJ18 2x winners: S Hunt / L Jackson
- Mxd 2x winners: S Bishop / S Wedlake

## Please contribute

To receive further copies of this newsletter, to make a donation or to volunteer to run an event to raise money for the project, please contact Robert Jordan, Steve Trapmore, Phil Ellis or Mike Hendry.