

The 1927 Club



Walton Rowing Club's rebuilding project newsletter

December 2009

Building progress

The builders have made very good progress despite the delays to the start of the project and the foul weather. Those who have been down to the Club in the past week or so will have seen that it is already completely demolished and construction of the foundations has started.



Temporary arrangements for rowing and changing

All boats have been moved to the compound, and most oars and sculls to the sculling-boat shed. There are two tents behind the sculling-boat shed that we can use for changing and sitting between outings etc.

The first tent is a general club/seating/meeting area. The second tent has a curtained-off corridor with boys changing at the near end, and girls at the far end. The porta-loos are reached by going along the corridor and out the back of the changing tent.

The tents will not be locked, so do not leave any valuables in them overnight. They are quite well hidden, so bags etc can be left there during outings, but to reduce

any risk, avoid bringing valuables to the club.

All rowing will continue exactly as before, as always subject to weather and stream conditions.

The sculling -shed is opened with a combination lock: ask your coach or a committee member for the code. The garage door handle is only used to latch the door fully shut, and **MUST NOT BE LOCKED**.

Lifejackets and megaphones are kept in the shed. The silver First Aid box is inside the door on the left-hand side. Additional supplies and silver blankets are in the club-room tent.

There are fire extinguishers in the sculling shed and clubroom tent.

Most boats are racked in the compound: they must go back on the same rack each time. The point where the boat rests on each rack is marked with coloured tape. As each space is very tight, a lot of care is needed when taking boats in and out. And don't forget to tie boats down!

During the working week, cars and minibuses should be parked further up Sunbury Lane to leave the coned-off area free for deliveries and contractors vehicles. At the week-end we can park as normal.

Thames Valley Skiff Club

The Valley has very kindly agreed that all Walton members may use the Valley as temporary social members. This means that we can enjoy a drink in the Valley at those times when the bar is nor-



mally open, i.e. Tuesday and Thursday evenings and Sunday lunchtimes. We are also welcome to sign up for Valley social events, although we will also try to arrange some specifically Walton events.

The Valley is located at the end of Dudley Road (turn towards the river from the car parts shop on Terrace Road); turn left at the end of Dudley Road and the car-park is on the right. The car-park is quite small so you may have to park up the road (or walk along the tow-path).

Gym training at Halliford

Winter circuits have got off to a great start. Meeting every Tuesday and Thursday at 7pm during term-time, there have been over 40 people for some sessions, despite chief slave-driver Nick desperately trying to think of ever more ingenious ways to make people hobble and ache the next day. Participants range from 10 years old to over-60's, so if you want to have fun and get fit at the same time, come to Halliford School gym!

Teddington Sculls

To show that we have not only been clearing out boat-house and bar, our nine crews entered at Teddington on Sunday 8th November achieved six wins and three second places. The Junior quad of Matt Wade, Rupert Adams, Angus Groom and Sam Knight posted the fastest time in the first division. The Veteran quad of Mike Everington, Neil West, Glyn Groom and Dave Clarke followed up by winning their class too. Adam Shire was the fastest single of the day, winning IM3. Andrew Cook and Oli Knight respectively won Novice and J14 singles comfortably. In the afternoon division, the Veteran coxless four of Neil West, Chris Barrs, Ed Ball and Duncan Graham also won.

The girls' crews did well too. In the WJ quad, Fiona Thiemann, Sam Ball, Annie Withers and Joanna Fish did a quick time, but were second to a very fast Oxford crew - this was Annie's first ever race and the future looks very bright for her. The girls four had to move up to Senior as there were no other juniors, and came second to Twickenham. Ali Douglass and Callum Gathercole also came a close second in J15 doubles.

Oli is British Indoor Rowing Champion

At the British Indoor Rowing Championships in Birmingham Oli Knight rowed 1199 m in 4 minutes (an average of 1:40 per 500 m) to win the J14 title by 1 metre!



Oli displays his certificate

Four out of five at Hampton

Hampton Junior Small Boats Head on 28th November had a massive 820 entries on the start list, and many more were turned away as it was oversubscribed. Walton entered thirteen crews, but only five could be accommodated in the race. However those five did us proud, winning four Gold Medals to be the most successful club there.

Angus Groom won the Blue Riband event: Junior Singles, by 0.5 secs from a field of 65 scullers. He received the massive Hampton Shield for his victory. Sam Knight had an even bigger field of 80 scullers in J17, but convincingly beat them all with a very strong scull.

Possibly our most impressive performance came from Holly Jones and Sam Ball, racing their J16 pair for only the

second time. Their winning time also made them the fourth-fastest women's pair overall, and beat half the J16 boys' pairs too: definitely a crew to watch for the future. The WJ17 pair of Hannah Traylen and Julia Clarke had to recover from clashes with several slower pairs who would not get out of their way, but they still posted the winning time in their class to complete an amazing afternoon for Walton Juniors.

Top clubs and schools like KCS, Emanuel, KGS, Marlow, Molesey, Monmouth, Borlase, St Pauls, Star Club, Thames, Tideway Scullers, Upper Thames, Westminster, didn't get a single Gold Medal and we got FOUR!!

Fours Head and GB Junior trials cancelled

High hopes of winning the Junior Quads title at the Fours Head were dashed when the event was cancelled after our crew had already boated and sculled up to the start. The very high winds also caused the cancellation of the first GB Junior 5km trial at Boston.

However, the Veteran Fours Head the next day, saw calm conditions and blue skies. The Vet D quad of Mike Everington, Mike Bishop, Glyn Groom and Dave Clarke finished well up the field in 8th place overall, but missed out on the Vet D pennant by 4 seconds. Neil West, making a rare appearance in a coxed four, won the Vet C pennant in a Walton/Crabtree composite. Ian Robinson won the VetD coxed fours, also with Crabtree.

Walton Small Boats Head

We still need many more helpers for Walton Small Boats Head on 12th December. Please contact Mike Everington (07964 683046) or Neil West if you are able to offer any assistance with marshalling, timing or at the club.

We will have a temporary marquee on the lawn at the Club on the day, where teas and sandwiches will be served. Sharon Fish (01932 223863) is organising and has asked for donations of wrapped sandwiches, rolls and cakes. She would also be very grateful for any offers of help during the day and beforehand for setting up.

The results will be announced and prizes given at Elmbridge Canoe Club as soon as possible after the race. There will also be catering at the canoe club during the afternoon so volunteers are required to man that as well.