

The 1927 Club



Walton Rowing Club's rebuilding project newsletter

January/February 2008

Walton Small Boats Head

Four weeks before the Small Boats Head on 15th December there was heavy rain and snow in Oxfordshire and flooding in Gloucestershire. The water appeared to be going down gradually, and on the Sunday before the event Mike Bishop and his team were fairly confident it would run as normal.

However, on the Monday it became clear that the flow-rates in the river were dropping but the Environment Agency was unlikely to reduce its "red board" rating, and urgent talks were held with the management at Dorney Lake. After a nail-biting week, on the Thursday it was decided to move the event to Dorney—a lot had to be put in place in two short days.



Racing Walton Small Boats Head at Dorney Lake

On the day, the conditions on the river at Walton were actually very good, while at Dorney there was a biting wind. Two minutes after racing started it was found that—despite having followed the advice of Mikrotime and Dorney officials—the start timing team could not

read numbers on crews' backs, so there was a 20-minute delay while the lanes were changed.

Mike Bishop says "the marshals managed to avert a revolt but we did have some very cold and unhappy competitors". Then for a short period in the late morning the waves near the start caused problems for less experienced crews. However after that everything went well and several crews actually asked, and were allowed, to race again. The organisers would like to thank all the officials, with a particular mention for old member Charlie Harding, who spent all day on the rafts after having flown in from the States that morning.

Walton winners were:

VB2x: Paul Hone & Richard Hosking (2nd overall)

J2x: James Wedlake & Sam Lee-Gill (3rd overall)

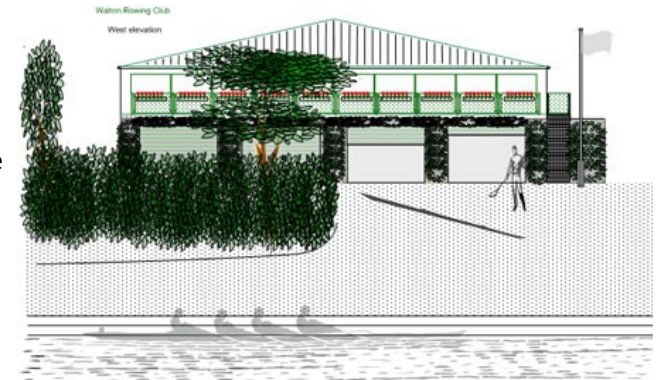
J152x: Matt Wade & Sam Knight

S2 2x: Steve Pugh & Mike Everington

Sadly the move to Dorney, which involves a charge for each competitor, meant that this event raised much less money for the Club than usual—but at least it was possible to run an event and to give competitors a race that day.

Turkey Triathlon

The Club held its annual Turkey Triathlon on December 27th. Most of the 25 competitors ran 6 km, cycled 17 km and sculled 7.5 km: enough to work off even the most generous Christmas dinner! Paul Keane was the overall winner in 88.34 minutes, but he was closely followed by the fastest team (Stuart Chamberlain & Richard Hosking), fastest veteran (Paul Hone) and fastest junior (Sam Lee-Gill). The next Triathlon is planned for Easter.



Hyne Cup

The Hyne Cup race—formally between the first eights of Walton and Weybridge RCs, but with other events that involve all the clubs on our reach—was scheduled for Sunday 3rd February, but had to be cancelled because of stream and wind conditions on the day.

This meant that the Winter Barbecue, which we were planning to hold on the same day, was also cancelled.

Squad news

Paul Keane came eighth in the senior lightweight trials and should be invited to final trial at Hazewinkel. He is hoping to be selected in this Olympic year. He is training hard and awaits the next stage.

The February junior trials on 16th/17th February offered Matt Tarrant, Dom Meyrick Cole, James Wedlake and Andrew Cook a chance to progress to the spring assessments and eventually final trials. Matt and Dom came first and fifth respectively and really have increased their chances of selection at the highest level. Andrew and

James need to find another gear ready for the next effort at Springs.

Captain Nick de Cata says: "All our prospective triallists are having to work extraordinarily hard to balance their commitments to school, work and training; the demands of trials can never be underestimated. I am never quite sure how they do it all."

At Molesey Veterans' Head on February 10th the Veteran 4- of Kit Davies, Duncan Graham, Ed Ball and Chris Barrs won the Veteran C division. A Senior 3 eight and a Veteran C quad performed at Burway Head on February 16th and both came second in their divisions.

Two eights are currently training hard for the Head of the River Race on 15th March (9.45 start).

Cranmore new gym and sculling-boats

Walton President Steve Trapmore opened a new fitness suite at Cranmore School in December; the gym is exceedingly well-equipped, including six ergos. At the same time headmaster Michael Connolly named two new lightweight sculling-boats: St Peter and St Paul, which were



Steve Trapmore cuts the tape to open the new fitness suite

blessed by Fr Martin Ashcroft. The package was funded by the Rowing Foundation, Cranmore Parents Association and the boys' own fund-raising activities. The Cranmore squad, which rows and trains regularly at Walton under the eye of coach Brian Martin, was on hand to

demonstrate and gain tips from Steve.

Burns Supper (report by Phil Ellis)

On January 23rd Mike Hendry organised a Burns Night supper for about 20 members. A large freshly-shot haggis was brought down from the Highlands, along with some of Scotland's finest neeps, tatties and Cullen skink. Men and women were both seen wearing kilts, and Robin came equipped with ginger wig and tam o'shanter. After the food, washed down with English ales and Scotch whisky, came the entertainment. Ian Robinson looked back to his previous life as a Gulf oil millionaire and read Ozymandias, several other poems were recited both humorous and thought-provoking, and our host gave an impressive recitation of The Cremation of Sam McGee by Robert Service. Amy Ellis played a snazzy Scottish jig on the fiddle; she also won the prize for shortest kilt of the day, and we hope that this particular aspect of the evening will see more enthusiastic and daring competition next year - no, not you Robin.

Thanks to the Hendrys and Linda Lee for doing the organising. A great evening was had by all and £300 was raised for the new boathouse.

Supper at the Club on 19th April

Linda Lee is organising another supper at the Club on 19th April. Look out for the notice at the Club and sign up quickly, as places will be limited.

Junior Club Regatta on 26th April

Gordon Sandifer is organising a Junior Club Regatta on April 26th. This is an opportunity for the Intro members to have possibly their first taste of racing, and also to join in mixed crews with more experienced racers in a scratch event which last year produced a very tightly-fought final—see the pictures in the Gallery on the website.

Pound a Pot

Forms for the "Pound a Pot" initiative are available on the bar, or you can download one from the Club website—see the "Pound a Pot" link on the homepage. Please seek as many pledges as possible from business colleagues, friends and relatives—so far we have around ten of these



The final at last year's Junior Club Regatta

signed, which should represent around £1500 for the rebuilding fund.

100 Club

Gordon Sandifer is organising the usual 100 Club, for which subscriptions are now due. Each number costs £12, and you are encouraged to take out several numbers to maximise your chances of winning. There is a draw each month, with prizes of £25 or £100, and a bonus of a bottle of champagne if the winner is in the room when the draw is made.

Please consider taking out one or two extra numbers this year—perhaps in the name of a family member. You can leave a cheque for Gordon behind the bar or make a payment directly to:

Nat West Bank, 73 High Street, Walton-on-Thames KT 12 1DW: Sort code 60-22-25

Account no. 32568622: Walton RC 100 Club

Make sure you include your name(s) in the reference.

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.