

# The 1927 Club

## Walton Rowing Club's rebuilding project newsletter

There has been a rather large gap since the last newsletter, so we start with ...

### Further Head successes

At Abingdon Head Kit Davies, Duncan Graham, Ed Balls and Chris Barrs won the Veteran B/C 4-, and at the Scullers' Head Paul Keane won Senior 2 Lightweight singles.

### First blood for J12s at the Ball Cup

The J12 quad of Oli Knight, Joel Keefe, Zeryab Meyer and Harry Gaywood, with Jacob Reilly coxing, won a silver medal at the Ball Cup races at Dorney Lake in May.



Ball Cup races at Dorney

### Walton Regatta (and others) washed out

During May and June it seemed that most of the middle Thames regattas (the ones we usually attend) were cancelled because of Environment Agency red boards. Among those cancelled was Walton & Weybridge Regatta (now in its second year); former secretary Denis Kates recalls that only two world wars caused the cancellation of Walton Amateur Regatta during its 146 years of

existence.

The regatta season got under way with **Marlow Spring**, where Kit, Duncan, Ed and Chris won Veteran C fours, coxed by Jasmine Swann. Phil Ellis and Glyn Groom won Veteran C doubles and Angus Groom the under 16 singles.

At **Thames Ditton**, Fiona Thiemann won womens' under 15 singles, and Sam Ball beat Lucy Ellis in the semi final of the J14 plate and then went on to win the final comfortably.

At **Ghent** Paul Keane won Open lightweight singles, and Angus Groom the mens' under 16. Angus then joined Matthew Wade, Sam Knight and Alex Jones to win the under 16 quads.

Even the **National Schools** was called off after a few races and several sinkings, however a head race was held for J16 quads, in which the same crew gained a bronze medal (sadly, we don't count that as a win!).

### Henley Royal

The Club entered two quads in the Fawley Cup; the first was officially a composite Walton/Molesey crew although all were long-standing Walton members. It comprised Sam Lee-Gill, Angus Groom, James Wedlake and Matt Tatlock; this crew was selected but suffered a crab and hit the booms in its first race.

The second, all-Walton crew comprised Alex Jones, Sam Knight, Oliver Tomalin and Nick Clarke—on average just over 16 years old on the day of the race. In horrible weather and racing conditions the Friday before the regatta, they were one of 8 crews out of 25 to qualify, but on the Thursday, despite a steady and mature performance, went out to Maidenhead RC.

WALTON

July 2008



Henley Royal Regatta: the start

### Women's Henley

Richard Thiemann reports: Walton girls entered a four for the Groton Schools Challenge Cup at Women's Henley. Despite a lack of race practice, they put up a good performance against the Australian schools' champions but were unable to match their pace. The whole crew will be eligible to compete in the event again next year and this year will have provided excellent experience of top level racing.

### Egham Regatta



Girls' and boys' winners at Egham

The younger girls raced hard at Egham the following weekend reaching three finals. For Hannah and Naomi it was their first regatta, so reaching the final bodes well for good things to come. Holly Jones and Lucy Ellis won the WJ14 2x. It was to be Lucy's last race for Walton as she is now off to Texas where we all wish her well. All the girls gave her a fine send-off dinner a week before her departure. Her Dad Phil will also be a sad loss to the Club, both as a competitor and committee member.

### Molesey Regatta

Walton girls raced both days of Molesey Regatta. On Saturday they moved up to race at senior in sculls and a four. On the Sunday we raced a quad, double and single. The quad was unlucky to come up against the eventual winners in the first round. The double won the first two rounds with the second by a two foot margin. With only a short turnaround between races their tired legs could not quite see them through to the final. In the single Sam Ball led from the start in both her races, winning the final by a comfortable margin.

Kit, Chris, Ed and Duncan also won their Veteran C coxless fours event.

### J12 and J14 boys come good—in style

Egham was also the start of a great series of wins for the J12 and J14 boys, who have been coached throughout the year by Gordon Sandifer and Mike Hendry.

At **Egham** Oli Knight, Zeryab Meyer, Harry Gaywood and Joel Keefe, coxed by Jacob Reilly, cruised to a very com-



Victori Ludorum at Kingston

fortable win. The J14 boys' quad (Joe Taylor, Sam Young, Dean Robson and Dan Patton, with Luke Robson coxing) waited until **Kingston** for their first win, where the combination of the J12 and J14 wins gained the Club the Victor Ludorum prize.

The J14 4x repeated its success at **Molesey**, where Callum Beddow and Christian McCafferty also won J14 2x and Callum J14 1x.

### Toppling the champions at Burway



J15 2x winners at Burway

Finally at Burway the Club had an excellent day: the J15 4x+ of Max Brookes, Alex Jones, Sam Knight and Matthew Wade, with Oli Knight coxing, beat Tideway Scullers, who had won the J15 National Championships the previous weekend, and Sam and Alex then beat the same crew in two rounds to win the J15 2x. Both finals were exceptionally good races between crews sculling well beyond their years.

Callum and Christian again won the J14 2x. Sadly, in almost the last race of the day, Oli Knight was winning his final when he hit a moored barge just before the finish in a spectacular full-speed collision in which he was lucky to escape injury. His opponent very graciously came to check that he was OK and agreed that he would otherwise have won, before she went to collect her pot.

### Matt Tarrant silver medal

Matt Tarrant was one of only nine British medal-winners at the Senior and Junior World Championships in Linz

(Austria) this year.

We were very lucky that training times meant the two finals we could easily view online at the Club were the JW4+ and the JM4+. In the first of these the GB four moved up into the bronze medal position, while in Matt's J4+ race his crew had to hold off last-minute challenges from Serbia and Ukraine to win the silver.

Nick de Cata also coached the JW2x in this championship.

### Match des Cadets

Matt Wade and Angus Groom were selected for the GB v France J16 match in 2X after a race off. They won their race at the match in France which GB lost 4 – 9.

### Events at the Club

Linda Lee organised another superb supper at the Club in April. With the cancellation of the Hyne Cup and Walton Regatta, we missed out on some of our traditional barbecue dates, but before Burway Regatta we held a barbecue for the juniors and their parents, which was attended by some 60 people. Many thanks to Carolyn Beddow, who organized the food with Linda Lee's help, to Gordon Sandifer and Peter Knight who ran the barbecue, Len Lee the bar, and all those who brought salads.

### Adult novices

During June and July Alex Cass has been organising a group of senior novices, who are now looking quite competent—and certainly more confident! If you know any adults who would be interested to try their hand—or just to understand what their son or daughter actually does in those hours on the water—do contact Alex at the Club or come down on a Sunday morning.

### Junior rowing course

Brain Martin is again running a course for novices and younger juniors in the mornings of the week after the bank holiday (26th—29th August). There are already over 35 boys and girls signed up, but a few places remain, so if you know any youngsters who have recently started rowing or would like to give it a try, contact Brian Martin. The cost is £65 for non-members or £50 for junior mem-

bers of Walton Rowing Club. Brian could also use more adult helpers and coaches.

### **100 Club**

There will be a bumper draw of the 100 Club at the Club on Sunday 3rd August, when former 100 Club organiser Lionel Everington will be celebrating his 80th birthday. Do attend for your chance to win a bottle of champagne as well as the cash prize.

### **Pound a Pot score**

July's 39 wins take the total up to 90 pots to date. So far 17 people have signed up for this form of sponsorship, so each pot wins us £17. Do please try to encourage your friends and relatives to sign up—they can share the £1 or set a limit if necessary.

### **Fund-raising status**

The aim of this newsletter is to help raise awareness and funds for the Club's project to rebuild the boathouse. Sometimes our success on the water obscures the fact that the Clubhouse is falling down and we urgently need better facilities, otherwise we will lose these successful and committed oarsmen and scullers.

The rebuilding fund currently stands at just over £30,000, with a number of pledges and likely donations that could take our internally raised funds up to around £40,000. We are adding to this reserve every month.

We are in discussion with the schools and University that use our facilities, and are also applying to various charita-

ble funds that have helped us in the past. We can see realistic prospects that would take us over the £300,000 mark by the spring of 2009.

However the current estimated cost of knocking down the current boathouse and building a new one, as shown on previous newsletters, is around £425,000. So we still have a gap of over £100,000. If you know of any way in which we could close this gap, please contact Robert Jordan, Nick de Cata, Steve Trapmore or Mike Hendry.

### **Please contribute**

We are always keen to receive copy or photographs for the newsletter or for the Club website—you can send these to [dropbox.yousendit.com/MikeHendry404571](https://dropbox.yousendit.com/MikeHendry404571).

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 Mike Hendry.

