

The 1927 Club

Walton Rowing Club's rebuilding project newsletter

Building progress

This newsletter was started four years ago, when the rebuilding project was still focused on fund-raising and securing partners. Today well over half the membership has joined since the old building was demolished, and we are close to calling the new one "complete".



If you can remember this you are now in a minority!

The changing-rooms now have benches and hooks (in Walton colours) so even if some people still cannot manage to shower without flooding the floor, at least kit-bags can stay dry! The bar is now almost completely fitted out, and we are applying for the necessary changes to the licence. The kitchen should be fitted out and operational within three or four weeks. Finally the contractors have agreed the modifications needed to the balcony to meet Building Regulations.

Fire policy

We have had to update the fire policy substantially and at the AGM in March members will be asked to agree changes to the club's bye-laws to allow us to enforce the policy. Among the changes, we have moved the fire assembly point to Miskins Wharf, on the towpath up-

stream of the club. And members should note the need to keep the fire exits clear and not to chock open fire-doors. There will be periodic fire-drills, and we ask for members' co-operation in making those efficient and avoid too much disruption to their outings or drinking-time.

Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be held on Thursday 29th March, at 8.30 pm. As well as the new bye-laws members will be asked to elect a new committee and officers (except for the Captain, who is elected at a meeting in July), and to approve the accounts for 2011. The formal notice of the meeting will be mailed out shortly.

All members (including juniors) are encouraged to attend and to have their say in how the Club is run. Nominations for officers and the committee should reach the Secretary before the start of the meeting.

Brooklands Museum



March 2012



Dinner Dance

The Dinner Dance will be held in the Clubroom at Brooklands Museum on 24th March; it is now too late to sign up, but this is a reminder to get out your party frock or try to get the soup-stains off your dinner-jacket! During the evening we will hold the draw for the raffle for a cruise through central London on Chas Newens' luxury launch Zephyr; tickets for this are still on sale at the bar or on the night.

Triathlons

The Santa's Revenge triathlon held on December 27th was won by Sam Lee-Gill, with Callum Gathercole and Mark Childs close behind in second and third places. There will a further event (run / bike / scull) on Easter Monday, so now's the time to start working on those transitions or to set up a team to share the load.

Eights heads

The Club has had a good start to the eights head season, with wins at **Hampton Head** in both junior boys and girls double sculls. There were also second places in Junior and J16 doubles, junior coxless fours and J16 quads.

The Hyne Cup race had a record entry; there were six



Novice eight at Hyne Cup

eights from Walton alone, and over 100 members racing. Walton won the Hyne Cup, Allwork Cup (for novice eights) and Stebbing Cup (for Womens' eights).

Walton was the top club at Kingston Head, with six wins from our seven crews, from Novice and MasE eights to Junior, WIM2 and MasD quads and WIM1 4-; the IM2 eight, a scratch crew stroked by J16 Oli Knight, came 3rd in its class. Both IM2 and Novice eights are looking forward to improving on these times in the Putney Head next weekend, while the juniors will be performing at the National Junior Sculling Head at Dorney the following Monday.

Junior selection

At the GB junior trials in Boston in February the Walton squad also demonstrated its strength in depth, with top ten placings in every class - sculling & sweep, boys and girls, J18 and J16.

For the girls, Katy Denham and Jo Unsworth got great results in the sculling, while Hannah Paremian and Natalie Dailey did the same in pairs. Sophie Thean and Katie Dent were second and fourth in J16 sculls.

Oli Knight, Elliot Tarrant, Sam Mottram, Callum Gathercole and Morgan Bolding continued to show impressive form in both disciplines, and Matt Georgiou got a tenth place in the J16s.

Most of these athletes, with coach Nick de Cata, will now be invited to Easter Assessment Camps and the GB small boats trials regatta on 29th April, and we wish them the best of luck.

Watching the Boat Race

Unless you are an Extremely Important Person and have a place on a launch the only way to see the whole of the Oxford & Cambridge Boat Race on Saturday 7th April is to watch it on television.

We now have a large-screen television (donated by Matthew Christie) in the function room and you can watch the whole race in comfort with a beer in your hand (or sit on an ergo and try to keep up??) The television coverage starts at 1 pm, Goldie vs Isis at 1.45 and the main race at 2.15.

Grants, new boats and coach training

The Club has been awarded a grant from Sport England to extend the fleet of stable boats, and we will also buy some floats and supportive seats to allow these boats to be adapted for disabled use.

Elmbridge Borough Council's Community Connect scheme has also paid for the commercial dishwasher in the new kitchen, while we have also applied to the council's Sports Legacy Fund for funds to support more coach training and safety equipment.

We need all these in order to support the growing demand: we mentioned at the start of this newsletter that



membership has doubled in the last three years, and we have waiting-lists for both junior and adult beginners. However, meeting this demand also needs coaches and administration support; if you would be interested in helping the club further, or in doing a coaching course, then please speak with Neil West. The Club supports all members who want coaching training, including First Aid and Child Welfare courses as well as British Rowing Level 2 courses.

There will be a Level 2 course at the Club from 20th to 25th August; if you are interested in attending speak to Ken Roberts.

Beginners' courses

The first junior beginners' course of the year will take place the week after Easter (10th—13th April) and if you are able to help with that course please contact Mike Hendry. The first adult beginners' course will start the following Sunday (15th April); Mike Everington will also be pleased to hear from anyone who can help on that one.

Kit orders

We will shortly be placing an order for racing kit. Please see www.godfrey.co.uk and select the Walton RC page for the items available, but contact Sarah or Peter Knight if you want to take advantage of the bulk order pricing.

We do still have some polo shirts with the Walton logo available, in dark or light blue and in most sizes: see Mike Hendry if you are interested.



Subscriptions Overdue

Subscriptions were due for renewal on 1st January. If you have not renewed or updated your standing order, please do so without delay.