

The 1927 Club



May 2009

Walton Rowing Club's rebuilding project newsletter

Eights Heads: good results after a slow start

Many apologies for the long gap since the last newsletter; the broken leg ceased to be a valid excuse some time ago, but a lack of news during the eights head season was also a factor.



Victorious J14 quad at Kingston Head

Burway Head was cancelled and although the Club had two eights at Kingston Head, neither result was newsworthy. However the J14 quad of Harry Gaywood, Oli Knight, Callum Gathercole and Robbie Sandifer, coxed by Fiona Thiemann, won its event convincingly.

However the spring has seen a rapid revival, with a very good result (133rd) from the girls at the Womens Head and from the J14 octuple at the National Sculling Head.

The Schools Head also produced a good result for the junior mens four, three of whom are J16: Alex Jones, Sam Knight, Matt Wade and Ollie Tomalin, with Holly Jones coxing, came 7th in their category.

At the Tideway Head the novice eight (made up of juniors) came 133rd, only 2 seconds behind the novice winners, Oxford Brookes. The Senior 2 eight came 175th. In the Oxford Brookes crew that came 6th were two Walton members: Lewis Knollman and Matt Tarrant.

Hyne Cup

Because of strong stream conditions, our local derby against Weybridge was run between the top few crews from each club only. The Walton junior eight won by a 15-second margin over the Club's veteran eight, which in turn led the fastest Weybridge crew by 15 seconds.

Junior trials

Lydia Jackson, Nick Clarke and Angus Groom have been taking part in the junior trials process and have all made it to the final cut, which takes place just before and after Henley for the girls and boys respectively.



Angus and Nick

Junior Inter-Regional Championships

At this event in Nottingham each region puts up one crew in each category. Walton crews were selected to represent Thames Downriver for six of the events. For most of them it was their first experience of a proper 6-lane regatta and they all performed brilliantly with every crew making the A final.

Sam Ball and Holly Jones showed their incredible potential by winning the bronze medal in the J16 pairs, even



Girls four snatches silver at JIRR

though they are only 14 and 15. They then teamed up with Julia Clarke and Joanna Fish to go one better and get the silver medal in the fours, Joanna raising the rate to 42 to come from a length down in 3rd place to snatch silver in a photo finish! Very mature racing from all four girls, and a credit to their coach Andrew Cook who won a club-record four JIRR medals as an athlete, and now two more as a coach.

Alex Jones, Sam Johnson (stepping in on the day for an injured James Burton), Matt Wade and Sam Knight rowed an excellent heat and final to get the silver medal in the boys four too. Matt and Sam were denied a second medal when very harshly disqualified for drifting out of their lane in a very fast J16 doubles final.

Sam Young, Dan Patton, Joe Taylor, Dean Robson and cox Kieran Reals did very well in their first major regatta to make the J15 quad A final and finish a creditable 5th overall against strong opposition.

Our youngest crew Harry Gaywood, Ali Douglass, Oli Knight, Callum Gathercole and cox Laurence Fain just missed out on the medals, with 4th place in the J14 quads, although three of them are still J13.

Wallingford

Sam Knight and Matt Wade overcame the disappointment of disqualification at the Junior Inter-regionals with a convincing win in J16 doubles at Wallingford Regatta.



Matt and Sam after the race at Wallingford

Marlow Spring Regatta

Walton had a great day at Marlow Spring, winning seven events. Brothers Oli and Sam Knight got the ball rolling in the morning, winning J16 2x, and Angus Groom won Junior 1x. Nick Clarke followed them by winning IM3 1x.

In the afternoon session Oli won his second event of the day, sculling very well to win a close race in J14 1x. Nick and Ollie Tomalin then beat some good crews to win Jun 2x and the girls quad won two very close races to take WJ16 4x. The veteran D eight with the Captain on board more than doubled the handicap start on the Weybridge Vet C eight and also beat Marlow in the process by a length to win its event.

There were also several near-misses, with three narrow verdicts in finals and a sculler who decided to go swimming when leading the final by two lengths ...



Thames Ditton: J13 quad winners ...



... and J16 singles

Thames Ditton

At Thames Ditton Adam Shire won Novice singles, Sam Knight J16 singles and Laurence Fain, Harry Gaywood, Byron Girling and Scott Atkinson, with Ross Jones coxing, won J13 quads. And Scott only started rowing two months earlier, on ...

Easter Junior Rowing Course

Hazel Thiemann ran a very successful beginners course for twelve junior scullers in the Easter holidays, helped at various times by Richard Thiemann and Mike Hendry. The coaches would like to thank Sarah Hunt, Amy Flavell, James Fish, James Thiemann, Holly Jones, Honor Lilley, Rebecca Traylen and Vicky Earl who all helped the beginners so that after only four days most were able to go out in an octuple and some were single-sculling. Eight of them have already joined as junior members.

These courses are now so popular that there is already a waiting-list of over 20 for the next course. The next junior rowing course will be organised by Brian Martin in late August.

Novice News

Alex Cass has now graduated her third group of adult novices, and several of the first two groups are now joining in other club crews and racing. Alex would appreciate help from other members (coaching experience not required) to help these crews get onto the ladder to forming crews and racing.

Walton Small Boats Head

Few who were there will forget the abominable conditions on December 13th. We were lucky to be able to run

a race: from 60 m³/s in the morning the stream had risen to 180 m³/s by midnight, crossing our 100 m³/s 'limit' at 4 pm, just after racing had finished.

However, the juniors had a good day, winning WJ1x (Lydia), WJ15 1x (Sam), J16 2x (Matt and Sam), J13 2x (Harry and Laurence), and J13 1x (Oli).

Pound a Pot final score

These helped us to a year-end score of 141 pots: a great result across a wide range of crews. Most pound-a-pot donors have already paid their dues; if you haven't, please leave a cheque behind the bar or send it to Mike Hendry at the Club.

AGM: Subs due

The AGM was held on 25th March; as so often we only just managed a quorum. All members are encouraged to attend these meetings and to make sure your club is being run in the way you would like.

Please make sure that if you pay your subscription by standing order, you have updated this to the new rates with effect from 1st January. Cheques are also welcome!

100 Club

Gordon Sandifer would also welcome your contributions to the 100 Club: there is a draw every month and the winner also gets a bottle of champagne if they are present when it is drawn. Please join, or if you are already a member consider taking out additional numbers for members of your family. You can make payment (£12 a number) directly to the account at 60-22-25, account 32568622 : Walton RC 100 Club.

Bill and David Parry Memorial Fund

This fund is now close to being set up, with Rhian Brown, Robert Moore, Grant Mackenzie and Mike Hendry acting as trustees. We aim initially to raise £10,000, which would allow us to make one worthwhile grant a



year to a promising young athlete. If you would like to contribute, please send or give a cheque, made out to 'Walton RC Parry Memorial Fund', to any of the trustees.

Charterhouse sponsored row

Oliver Choroba took his Charterhouse eight (who row from Walton) on a sponsored row from Oxford to Putney over the three days of the Easter weekend (with an extra coxless pair on the last day from Walton to Putney). Richard and Dave Hosking joined them on the two days from Oxford to Walton, Dave in his single and Richard put together a coxless quad. Dave managed to keep up with both the quad and the eight by not stopping for tea or lunch breaks!

The trip raised money for the rebuilding fund, and enabled Dave to put in some distance training for his transatlantic scull in January 2010 - his team hopes to break the current record for an East-West Atlantic crossing (33 days 7¼ hrs).

Dinner Dance

Sarah Clarke organised a very successful Dinner Dance at the Silvermere Golf Club for around 120 members and guests on the evening of the Fours Head. Even many of the junior boys and girls managed to scrub up and dress up for the occasion. In keeping with Walton traditions, the speeches were short and the dancing vigorous ...



Dinner Dance at Silvermere

Spanish evening

Linda Lee's Spanish evening at the Club was also well-

attended, with 25 people enjoying a delicious meal and raising a further £200 for the rebuilding fund.

Walton & Weybridge Regatta

We expect a large number of Walton crews to race at our local regatta on June 6th. Do please put it in your diary and come along to support your club. The bar will be open all day and there will be a barbecue in the evening.

The organisers would appreciate any offers of help, from marshalling to serving food and drink. Please see or call Mike Everington (07964 683046) if you are able to help.

Parents: please join in!

We have had **over 40 new members** in the last two months. Many of them are juniors, from 11 upwards. The Club is very fortunate to have a large number of qualified and experienced coaches, but these numbers do require a lot of help.

Parents of juniors are strongly encouraged to stay around during their sons' or daughters' outings—there are many ways you can help, from lifting boats and helping crews on the landing-stage, to rigging and mending boats, and other tasks round the Club. Sitting in the cox' seat, in a four or training-boat, is also very helpful to the coach, who can then coach several crews rather than just one.

We run entirely on voluntary labour, but many of the Club's coaches do a full 40-hour week at the Club—any help is greatly appreciated. Neil West has a list of tasks with which he would love some assistance.

You can also help by becoming an honorary member (for £30 a year) and by having a drink at the bar. We have an ambitious (but absolutely essential) plan to rebuild the Club completely over the coming winter, which will give us an attractive and spacious building, on a lovely stretch of river. This will allow the Club to thrive and our members to benefit to the full from the impressive amount of effort so many of them put into their sport.

Level 2 coaching course

Ken Roberts is running a UKCC Level 2 coaching course at



Helping scullers to boat and adjust

the Club from 24th to 30th August, with the assessment in October and January. This course is open to those from 16 upwards; it teaches you coaching principles as well as the rowing-specific content. Those who go on these courses find it helps their own rowing and sculling as well as allowing them the great satisfaction of coaching others. The course, which is under the auspices of the Thames Regional Rowing Council and the ARA, costs £385, but there may be some subsidised places available—speak to Ken if you are interested.

Please contribute

Mike Everington has been doing an excellent job of keeping the website up to date—do visit it regularly and see the news. We are always keen to receive copy or photographs for the newsletter or for the Club website—we like to have a report from any event the Club attends, and if possible a photograph or two.

You can send these to 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 rebuilding project, please contact Mike Hendry.



Coaching course material