

# The 1927 Club



Walton Rowing Club's rebuilding project newsletter

November 2008

## David Parry

Most members will have heard of the death of David Parry on 28th September. David joined in 1947 and was still sculling up to last year. He represented the Club in almost every capacity imaginable during his long and illustrious rowing career, as a very successful oarsman domestically and at the European Games, as Captain in 1954-57 and 1959-61, and following his father Bill as President in 1986-88. David's good sense and straight speaking sorted out many an issue in Committee meetings over the years. We send our deepest sympathies to Wendy, Siân, Rhian, Eira and their families.



David in his capacity as Chairman of the Rowing Foundation presents the gold medal to Zac Purchase at the National Champs in 2003

We are setting up a Bill and David Parry Memorial Fund to commemorate the exceptional contribution to the Club by both father and son; this will help young rowers to travel both in the UK and overseas, for training, coaching and racing. If you would like to contribute, please contact Mike Hendry.

## Junior Rowing Course

Brian Martin, with assistance from about 20 coaches and helpers, ran his traditional course in the last week of the school holidays in August.

In this year's course 53 participants from 9 to 13 years old tried their hands on rowing ergometers, single and

double training-boats, and best sculling-boats from singles to octuples. Although many had never sculled before, on Thursday the entire fleet of 22 boats plus safety launches sculled up to Weybridge for a picnic lunch. On Friday the week was rounded off with a mini regatta, including slalom races and a few involuntary swims!



Sam makes sure they are holding their sculls correctly

Nick De Cata commented: "The junior rowing course is where it all begins for many local schoolchildren. This is where Olympic gold medals will come from in 2020 and 2024."

## Pairs wins

At the Boston Marathon the father-and-son pair of Neil



Matt and Sam at the Pairs Head

and Stuart West won Senior 3, and at the Pairs Head Matt Wade and Sam Knight won J16 doubles.

## Silver Sculls

Then a good day at the Silver Sculls: Ollie Tomalin and Angus Groom were fastest crew overall and won Junior 2x, despite hitting the bridge (you'd think they would know where it was by now!). Matt and Sam again won J16 doubles, while Alex Jones and Nick Clarke won senior 4 doubles. In their singles, Sam won J16 and Nick senior 4. Laurence Fain and Harry Gaywood won J13 doubles and Oli Knight the J13 singles (and, we were told by the finish team, the prize for the most vocal support).

## Teddington Sculls

At Teddington Sculls, Lydia Jackson, Sarah Hunt, Joanna Fish and Sophie Clark won Womens Junior quads, while the Junior mens went to the Tomalin/Clarke/Groom/Knight combination and Alex Jones and Matt Wade won



J16 doubles. And the winners of the J14 octuples - by almost a minute - were Laurence Fain, Robbie Sandifer, Bashir Mitchell, Joshua Martin, Joel Keefe, Oli Knight, Harry Gaywood and Alistair Douglass, with Jacob Reilly coxing (pictured above). Seven of this crew are actually under 13, so this was a fantastic win for them.

## Veteran Fours Head

And finally, at the Veteran Fours Head Neil West, Paul



The winning Vets' Head crew

Keane, Richard Hosking and Paul Hone won Veteran B 4x and were overall winners.

### **Pound a Pot**

30 new pots in September and October bring the total up to 125 for the year to date. We still have several head races to go, including Walton Small Boats Head - can we beat last year's total of 171?

### **Junior squad trials**

Lydia Jackson, Joanna Fish, Angus Groom, Nick Clarke, Sam Knight and Matt Wade took part; Ollie Tomalin was unable to race because of illness.

Lydia finished in the middle of the field and is likely to be invited to the next trial in February. Joanna finished in front of many J18s but not high enough up the J16s to get a chance this year.

Angus and Nick finished 25th & 27th overall—lower than expected but still should be good enough to have them invited to Nantes for the Worlds' training camp. Sam finished 7th overall and will now move up to train with the J18s, which means that he has more chances to compete at the Coupe or Worlds. Matt finished in the middle of the pack so must try again in February.

Overall, says Nick de Cata, a very promising weekend and one which puts more of our youngsters in the frame than most other clubs or schools.

### **Intrrow**

We now have groups of around 12 youngsters training on both Saturday and Sunday mornings—mostly boys on Saturdays and mostly girls on Sundays. Both groups

seem very keen and are making good progress; if you are able to help out on either day, Gordon Sandifer would be very pleased to hear from you.

### **Adult beginners**

Alex Cass has just “graduated” her second class of adult beginners. We are looking forward to their joining up with other more established crews, and to start

### **Beer festival and Italian evening**

Len Lee and Alan Collins organised another extremely successful beer festival in October. Each of the twelve barrels was sponsored and this enabled them to raise over £1000 towards the rebuilding fund.

Linda Lee also organised an Italian supper at the Club which raised a further £250.



Jerry giving his considered verdict on the latest brew

### **Walton Small Boats Head**

Moving on now to future events, Walton Small Boats Head will be held on 13th December—provided the river behaves itself! We now have access to data from the flowmeter just upstream of the Club, which should help in planning.

New members may not know that Walton was the first Small Boats Head —when we started in 1974 there was a gap between the autumn sculling heads and the eights heads in the spring. The idea of encouraging doubling-up in several divisions was also novel.

The event needs a very large team to run, from boat marshals and timing teams to car-park organisers and catering. There can be up to 700 visiting crews and there is a real buzz about the day! If you would be able to help at

all on the day, please contact Mike Everington or Grant Mackenzie.

### **Turkey Triathlon**

The Club will be running the usual post-Christmas triathlon on 27th December. Get your bike oiled, your running-shoes sharpened and your sculling-boat set up to make best use of the extra kilos you may have gained in the previous days!

### **Dinner dance**

The Club will be holding a Dinner Dance at Silvermere Golf Club on Saturday 21st March. This is a lovely venue, and it is the evening after the Fours Head (which is in the morning). Please put the date in your diary now and start to put together your table.

### **Fund-raising status**

The rebuilding fund continues to grow slowly: we now have around £35,000 and the Pound a Pot appeal should have raised at least a further £3,000 by the end of the year. Negotiations with our various partners are also progressing positively, and a building start in 2009 still looks possible.

Sport England is in the process of changing the way it allocates money to grass-roots sport; we are told this will be beneficial for us but the new system will not be in place until the spring of 2009 and this creates some uncertainty for us.

So we still need to fund more ways to close our funding gap; if you have any ideas or are able to help in any way, 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](mailto: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.