

The 1927 Club

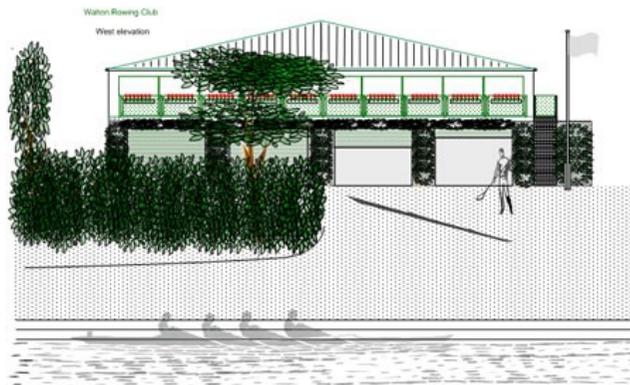


Walton Rowing Club's rebuilding project newsletter

November 2009

It's on!

After many years of discussion, and almost three years since we obtained Planning Permission, the committee agreed on 2nd November to proceed with the new boat-house project.



At the very last minute, Surrey University decided to withdraw from the project, however Cranmore Prep and Charterhouse are participating, and we have strong support and a substantial grant from British Rowing (from its block grant from Sport England).

The effect of Surrey's withdrawal is that the project will be phased; at this stage we are committing to building a two-storey building. If we do not secure further funds very quickly, we will not fit out the upper floor but will instead use one of the boat-bays and the gym as a temporary clubhouse. This gives us about the same amount of space as today. When we secure the additional funds we will proceed with the first-floor fit-out.

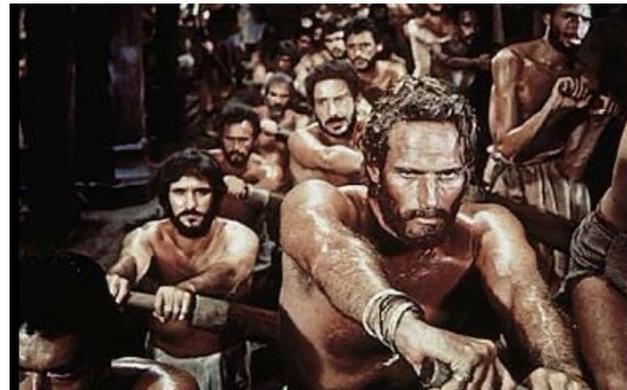
Several members have committed loans to ensure that the first phase can proceed immediately, and we are in

discussion with several potential participants and funders to try to ensure that we can proceed directly to the second phase.

If any member, parent or friend of the Club is able to help in any way: with a donation, loan or a contribution in kind, please contact Mike Hendry or Neil West.

Training will continue until morale improves !!

The rebuilding will start within the next three weeks and will last until at least March 2010. During this time there should be little disruption to normal training and racing: land training will take place at Halliford School on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Halliford has kindly agreed to store our eight ergos (we will still have two in the sculling-boat shed) and we will interleave ergo and gym sessions.



All boats and blades that are regularly used will be stored either in the sculling-boat shed or in the compound; there should be minimal disruption to normal boating.

We will have a Portakabin clubhouse and toilet (located behind St Georges boathouse) but there will be no showers during this first phase of the building works, so please

make sure you bring sufficient warm clothes, including where necessary waterproofs and a dry top to change into.

We are making arrangements with Thames Valley Skiff Club to use its bar at certain times—further details will be circulated when we have them.

Building site out of bounds

From the day the builder arrives on site until we take possession of the ground floor, the whole area of the existing clubhouse will be hoarded off and club members **must not enter.**

The builders will be using the whole main site (but not the compound) but will not be working at weekends.

Richard Thiemann is the sole point of contact with the builder on the Club's behalf; no-one else may give the builder instructions or tell them what they may or may not do. If you see something you think is wrong, then contact Richard immediately on 07931 551277.

Preparing for demolition: help needed

During the next two to three weeks we must remove all the boats, equipment and boat-racks. Neil West has a detailed plan for all the boats and rowing equipment, while Mike Everington is co-ordinating storage of all other club equipment and valuables.



If you are able to help with either of these activities, please contact one of these two or just come down on a Thursday during the day.

Walton Small Boats Head

Walton Small Boats Head will be held this year on 12th December. It is one of the largest events in the rowing calendar, attracting up to 700 crews from round the country, racing in four sections from 10 am to 2.30 pm. In a good year it earns several thousand pounds for the Club. Last year the weather was exceptionally bad and we only just had enough people to run the event in the circumstances, so we are keen to make sure that this year it runs like clockwork, although we won't have a clubhouse at the time!

For this we need up to 100 volunteers: as marshals on the bank, at the club and on the water; helping with timing and results production; issuing numbers and answering crew queries; catering and running the bar. We would be very grateful for any help with any of these activities; please put the date in your diary and contact Mike Everington if you can offer any assistance.

Weybridge Silver Sculls

It is appropriate that at the last major event before the demolition, the Club had one of its most successful days, winning a total of eleven pots.

The rising head wind made things tough for scullers in the last division and Angus Groom narrowly missed out on the overall fastest junior prize, but he had the compensation of winning J18 singles and the junior doubles with Sam Knight, their time being the fastest of the day overall. Oli Knight was also unlucky to come second when sculling in this last division.

Neil West and Adam Shire were the fastest senior double winning IM2 and Richard Hosking and Paul Hone won VB doubles.

Holly Jones and Sam Ball were the fastest junior womens double winning J16, Sophie Walker and Hannah Traylen

won J17 doubles and and Joanna Fish and Naomi Alberry won J18 doubles. The girls J13 4X (Becky Traylen, Alex Slabbert, Megan Slabbert, Honor Lilley, cox Vicky Earl) sculled strongly to win their event in their first race together.



J14 quad

Alastair Douglass and Callum Gathercole won J15 doubles and Laurence Fain and Harry Gaywood the J14 doubles. The boys J14 quad (Bashir Mitchell, George Young, Byron Girling and Scott Atkinson, with Lorenzo Raffaini coxing) matched the girls, winning their event against strong opposition.

Boston Marathon

We also had a very strong showing at the Boston Marathon, with a squad of 21 rowing or sculling the 50 km course.

The girls Junior four of Holly Jones, Sophie Walker, Hannah Traylen and Julia Clarke not only set a very impressive new record of 4hr 27mins, but they also beat the boys quad in the process, much to the embarrassment of Holly's elder brother! The mixed octuple of Adam Shire, Nick de Cata, Naomi Allberry, Charlotte Porter, Sam Ball, Brian Martin, Lydia Jackson, Nick Clarke and Alice Correia-Morton contained a complete cross-section of the club from junior girls to veteran men and relative novices to GB rowers. They pulled together brilliantly to smash the old mixed octuple sculls record with a time of 3:40.

The senior quad of Neil West, Stuart West, Ollie Tomalin and Sam Lee-Gill also took 14 minutes off the IM1 quad record, beating most of the eights in the process, in a

new best time of 3hrs 21mins.

Big thanks are due too to the support crew of Andrew Cook and Stewart Walker.

New UKCC L2 coaches

Congratulations to Mike Everington and Gordon Sandifer on completing their Level 2 coaching courses.

We are always looking for new coaches; the Thames Region subsidises half the cost of the course, and it may be possible for one person to get a full subsidy. Coaching is very rewarding, especially with the level of success we are able to achieve; if you are or may be interested then please contact Ken Roberts.

Say Good-Bye—drink us dry ...

On 4th October we held a party to say Good-Bye to the old clubhouse—see the photos on Dave Williams' website picsbydave.com.



But we do still have quite a lot of stock behind the bar—it would be really good to shift this before we close the bar for several months. We look forward to seeing as many members and friends as possible during the next two weeks to help us drink the place dry!