

# The 1927 Club

WALTON

## Walton Rowing Club's newsletter

### A successful season

Over the last year we estimate that over 150 people have represented the Club at junior, senior or Masters level, many of them racing for the first time. In addition to the Club's traditional strengths in junior and Masters rowing and sculling, there were several wins in Mixed Masters and Masters' Novice, which are relatively new activities for the Club.

Some of the highlights included:

- **Ali Jackson and Steve Heywood's** fourth consecutive win (in Mxd Mas C) at the Pairs Head
- **Ali's** third consecutive win at the Scullers' Head
- Two wins at the Vet Fours Head: **Glyn Groom, Richard Lewis, Mike Bishop and Neil West** in D quads and **Richard Thiemann, Graham Pointer, Roland Grant and Mike Everington** in D coxless fours.
- Three golds at the Masters Nat Champs (**Vince Gillespie, Michael Hamblin / Wendy Gathercole and Ali/ Steve**) and one at Henley Vets (**Glyn & Mike B**)

Ali in action



Walton representatives at JIRR



- **George Wedlake, Ed Wilkinson, Matthew Sargent, Oliver Lucas and Myles Anderson**, who won J14 quads at the Junior Inter-Regionals in 2014, followed it up with gold in J15 coxed fours this year
- **Thomas Philpott and Ardan Suphi** were dominant in J14 doubles throughout the year, winning Walton SBH, JIRR, Nat Schools and Junior Champs, as well as J15 events at Teddington SBH and Egham Regatta.

### Internationals

**Mat Tarrant** had a difficult year with several injuries but finished on a high by winning the gold in coxed pairs at the Worlds in Aiguebelette.

**Angus Groom** reached his first senior international final, coming fourth in the single at the European championships, and travelled to Aiguebelette as part of the GB team, after winning his second Henley medal in the Prince of Wales Cup for Leander.

The GB U23 team contained five former Walton juniors: Annie Withers, the first to reach the women's team in

September 2015

recent years, won bronze in the eight, as did Ali Douglass in the lightweight four. Morgan Bolding and Oli Knight were both in the men's eight, which took fifth place.

All of them, plus Katy Denham and Hannah Traylen, were in action again at the European Universities championships in Hannover, with golds for Katy, Hannah, Morgan and Oli and a silver for Annie.

In recognition of the achievements of our first group of alumnae, we plan to name three boats "Katy", "Annie" and "Hannah" later this year.

Annie Withers—Walton's first women's U23 representative



### Racing plans

There will be a **Club Regatta** on Sunday October 4th, with scratch eights for J15s and seniors, and coxed quads for the younger juniors. Please be down by 10 am and put your name on the list— racing will start at 10.30.

After this the autumn sculling head season starts with **Weybridge Silver Sculls** on Saturday 17th October; if you are not racing, please volunteer to help with catering or other tasks. Our annual Beer Festival starts on that

weekend, so we need plenty of help pulling pints as well as serving sandwiches and teas. Do invite your friends, parents and grandparents to come and sample the selection of beers on offer—everyone has a favourite!

Our own **Walton Small Boats Head** takes place on 12th December—this is a massive event with around 700 crews in four divisions and requires a lot of manpower. A list will shortly go up in the Club where you can sign up for various roles, but please let your squad coach or any committee member know if you are able to help, even for an hour or two.

### Courses

We have run three very successful junior beginners' courses and two adult courses in the past year. The junior courses in particular are always over-subscribed, so if you know any 11- or 12-year-olds who would be keen to take up the sport, it is best to get their name on the list now. The next course will be in the Easter holidays.

The senior women held a one-week training camp at the Club in July, and we also ran a one-day workshop on coxing and steering at Easter. A warning about steering: too many people are cutting corners, particularly in the Sunday time trials—this is dangerous for all river users and regular offenders will not be allowed to take part. **You must stay in your half of the river at all times**, particularly on the bends by the Black Swan and Cowey Sale.

### Winter training

With the days getting shorter, winter training will start in earnest on October 1st., with ergos and circuits organised by Steve Heywood for Seniors and Masters squad on Thursday evenings 7—8.30. Circuits for the juniors will start on 20th October: J15+ 7-8 on Tuesdays and 6-7 on Thursdays, younger juniors 6-7 on Tuesdays. We have

recently bought three nearly-new ergos to increase our capacity.

If you do take to the water in the evenings, you **MUST** show a white light fore and aft, even if it's still just about light as darkness can fall quickly—your eyes will get used to it but others on the river may struggle to see you.

### Social events

Ann Pickering ran a very successful Club Dinner at Silvermere Golf Club earlier this month; as well as the usual speeches and disco, there were special awards to Linda and Len Lee ; Ali Jackson and Steve Heywood; the J15 four and J14 double.

There will be a Christmas party at the Club on 19th December, and this will be followed by a scratch regatta on 20th December.

### Dick Thompson



Dick was Captain, President and Hon Sec of the Club for over 40 years; he was always there when a job needed to be done. His funeral in May was attended by hundreds of people from dozens of rowing and skiffing clubs. In his memory we have instituted an annual award for service to the club, which was given

this year to Linda and Len Lee.

### New website

The Club has a new-look website, which offers several advantages over the previous version. In particular the "Forum" facility allows communication within each squad

without emailing the whole club. Please visit the new site (still waltonrowingclub.co.uk) and sign up to the appropriate Forum so that you receive communications relevant to your squad. Many thanks to Vince Russell, who put the new site together, and to Steve Trapmore, who continues to host the site.

### Direct debits

At the Special General Meeting in May it was agreed to change the normal method for collection of subs to Direct Debit; this has been working well for new members since early this year, and from January existing members will be asked to sign up. Initial enrolment is via a website (Go Cardless) and is very simple; members still have the full protection of the Direct Debit scheme and will always receive advice of any charges before they are taken. Full details, and a link to the signup page, will be sent to all members in December.

If members have set up their direct debit for the full annual sub by the end of January 2016, they will be charged at the current 2015 rates. However, after the end of January, the rates will change to £360 for seniors, £276 for juniors and students, and £65 for holiday and social members.

A quick reminder of your contact points at the Club:

Masters:	Graham Pointer	grahampointer@me.com	07887 561251
Juniors J15+:	Neil West	neil_west@btinternet.com	07768 548125
J13/J14s	Mike Hendry	mike@mikehendry.com	01932 248628
Child welfare:	Carol Cornell	welfare@waltonrowingclub.co.uk	07767 475881
Everything else:	Mike Everington	team@waltonrowingclub.co.uk	01932 224557

