

Water under the Bridge

Walton Rowing Club's newsletter

Since the last newsletter in November the Club has enjoyed a successful season of Head races, and is well-positioned for the regattas ahead.

Scullers Head

Our sole entry for the Scullers Head, Ali Jackson, handled the notorious Tideway conditions well to win women's Masters B singles.



Walton Small Boats Head

Our own event, on 10th December, attracted just over 700 crews. Since this event started in 1974, the multi-division, small-boats-only format has become widely accepted. In 2002 we dropped coxed pairs, and this year we made what is only the second change since the event's inception by moving from four divisions to three, thus giving crews more time to boat and change crews between divisions.

Conditions on the day were pretty good, and the club won seven events: Katherine Stenning (WJ16 singles), Matt Heywood and Thomas Philpott (J16 doubles), Matt Heywood (J16 singles: not bad for someone who only started rowing a year earlier!), Peter Browning (Masters D singles), Matt Graywood and Andy Tomalin (Masters D pairs), Judy and Duncan Graham (Mixed Masters D dou-

bles) and Vince Russell and Tim Adams (Masters B Novice doubles).

Weybridge Winter Head

At this event, run now downstream over the Walton SBH course, the women's IM3 eight (Jo Wilkinson, Hilary Poole, Hazel Thiemann, Kate Osborn, Lesley Flowerdew, Lizzie Gill, Alex Cass, Melanie Pointer and cox Millie Fantham) won its division, as did Tim and Vince again in the Masters Novice double.

Hampton Head

In the days leading up to Hampton Head the river was flowing quite fast and there was some doubt up to the last minute whether the event would run. On the Thursday the organisers announced that J14 crews would not be allowed to compete, but the race went ahead for older age-groups, allowing the J16 quad (Tom Philpott, Olli Brew, Ardan Suphi and Matt Heywood) to get a very good win; Tom and Matt also won J16 pairs. The J15 coxed four (Aidan McLennan, Patrick Cleary, Oscar Roberts and Rowan O'Neill c Millie Fantham) came second in its event and also went on to come fourth in the quads event.



J16 quad at Hampton

Hyne Cup

The Hyne Cup races also had to be postponed for two

weeks because of red boards. On February 19th, however, Walton swept the board, winning all four trophies: the Hyne Cup for the first eight between Walton and Weybridge, Murtough Cup (fastest IM3 eight), Allwork Cup (fastest novice crew) and Henry Stebbing Cup (fastest women's crew). There were also some excellent performances by our Masters' and junior crews, some of whom were racing for the first time.



Some of the Hyne Cup winning crews

Head of the Erne

A Walton crew again took on the challenge of the Head of the Erne in Enniskillen. There is a blow-by-blow report on the Masters Forum, but it sounds as if the highlights were holding off a chasing Masters B crew and the boiled egg app! The end result was a fourth place in Masters eights, and second in Masters E, which was judged very satisfactory.

Kingston Head

At Kingston, Ali, Alex, Ellie and Maddy won women's IM3 4x (a first senior win for Alex and Maddy); Tom, Olli, Ardan and Matt won J16 4x; Rowan, Aidan, Hal, Patrick c Maddy won J15 4+; and Lola, Tallulah, India, Amelia c Millie Davis the WJ15 4x. The other three Walton crews also finished in the top three in their respective classes.



April 2017

J15 four—Schools Head winners



Schools Head and Junior Sculling Head

The Schools Head was raced over a shortened course in very windy and choppy conditions. All the Walton crews finished in the top three of their classes, but the star performance was from the J15 coxed four, which won its class comfortably. The Club was less successful at the **Junior Sculling Head** the following day at Dorney, with everyone just finishing outside the medals.

Tideway Heads

Two Walton crews took part in the **Women's Head**: the senior crew's performance was affected by illness, but they stuck to their task and managed to overtake two crews; the junior crew overtook several others to finish 102 places higher at 153.

The Head of the River Race (the day after the JSH) was cancelled owing to strong NE winds, but the **Vets Head** the following day was able to run, although again it was quite windy on some parts of the course. The first Masters E crew came fifth out of 40, while the second crew came 29th; six of this crew are novices and this time would have won the Novice category. The women's eight came 7th out of 18 in their class.

Junior Inter-Regional Selection

At the tightly-fought time-trials held at Hampton on 2nd April, no fewer than six Walton crews were selected to represent Thames London at the Junior Inter-Regional Regatta in Nottingham on 22nd April:

Congratulations to:

- Alex Poole, Katherine Stenning (WJ16 2x)
- Tom Philpott, Ardan Suphi (J16 2x)
- Matt Heywood (J16 1x)
- Amelia Grimshaw, Tallulah Thomas (WJ15 2x)
- Aidan McLennan, Oscar Roberts, Rowan O'Neill, Patrick Cleary c Millie Davis (J15 4+)
- Hal Flowerdew (J15 1x)

This is the third year running that Thomas and Ardan have done the double—can they win a third gold medal? We wish these crews, and the whole Thames London squad, success on 22nd.

Surrey SPOY

Following his win at the Elmbridge Sports Personality awards, Callum Gathercole went on to win the Surrey award, recognising his fund-raising as well as his record-breaking Atlantic row.

Triathlon

The now-traditional Turkey Triathlon (run, cycle and scull) was held on 27th December. The overall winner was Matt Heywood, who also set a new J16 record. Other winners included Ali Jackson (fastest woman); Katherine Stenning (fastest junior woman and another record); Mike Everington (Masters winner); Peter, Sam & Oli Knight (fastest relay team); Tom Philpott/James Pickering (fastest double).

The Easter triathlon will start promptly at 8 am on Easter Monday 17th April: start training now!

Elmbridge Ergo Challenge

The Club hosted the Elmbridge and Mole Valley heats of the Surrey School Games. Five schools took part, with teams from years 7 to 10; there was some very tight racing and in the end Hinchley Wood School won by the smallest of margins over Rydens. Several Walton members were in the teams and achieved excellent personal scores.

Comedy night

In January Lizzie Gill organised a well-attended comedy night at the Club, with comedians from Chertsey Comedy



Audience for Paul Bennett's talk

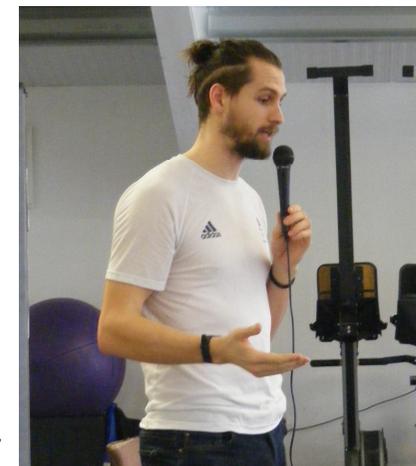
Club, in aid of the RAF Benevolent Fund, her planned Atlantic row, and the Club.

Paul Bennett

There was a series of events at the Club on 12th March. First over 100 members gathered to hear Paul Bennett, six man in the gold-medal-winning GB eight at Rio, talk about his rowing career, motivation and the big race. Paul's inspirational but self-deprecating talk vividly described the ups and down, doubts and excitement we all feel during a race. He then presented the prizes to the winning Hyne Cup crews.

Flying the flag

A year after Robyn Mercer's death, we have mounted a flagpole on the upstream end of the boathouse, and later that morning we flew the Club flag for the first time in



Paul answering questions

seven years. Rowan O'Neill played a fanfare as the flag was raised.

Boat-naming

Finally Rob and Grant McKenzie named a new Stämpfli double "Angela", after their respective mother and wife, who died last year.



Rob doesn't waste the champagne!

New boats

The Club has ordered a new lightweight (70 kg) eight from Janouseks, which will be delivered very shortly. The time is coming to replace the bow-coxed Jack Lock, which is over thirty years old!

We also have a new safety boat: an ultra-stable rigid plastic "Whaly" which can be launched and recovered by one person. This is likely to be a much safer safety boat than its predecessor. Thanks to Danes Hill School which provided the bulk of the funds. Anyone using it should note that the integral tank is very small; for extended use you should take a separate tank and move the lever under the engine to the external tank position.

New committee

At the AGM on Thursday 30th March the following were elected / re-elected to the Committee:

President: Brian Martin

Deputy President: Gordon Sandifer

Hon Treasurer: Ian Wilson

Membership Secretary: Ali Jackson

Hon Secretary: Richard Thiemann

Captain: Graham Pointer

Vice Captain: Mike Everington

Safety Officer: Stewart Walker

Child Welfare Officer: Carol Cornell

Committee: Mike Hendry, Len Lee, Kate Osborn, Ann Pickering, Hazel Thiemann, Robin Thomson, Neil West

One of the first tasks for the committee this year will be reviewing governance and strategy so if you have any points that you would like raised please talk to a committee member.

Hold the date!

The President, Brian Martin, will be holding a sherry party on Sunday 7th May, to which he will be inviting guests from other Clubs, Elmbridge Borough Council, British Rowing etc. This is a chance to get out your blazer and club tie!

Walton & Weybridge Regatta will be held on 20th May this year, with Weybridge Ladies' Regatta the following day.

Walton Rowing Club was founded on 18th September 1927. In September this year we will be holding a 90th birthday party—details to be announced shortly.

The club dinner will be on Friday 17th November at Burhill Golf Club.