

# Water under the Bridge

Walton Rowing Club's newsletter

September 2018



A busy and successful year to report on:



Tom and Matt at the Pairs Head

Starting with the autumn heads: the **Pairs Head** saw wins for Alex and Katherine in WJ18, while in the men's J18 events Walton took both first and second places (Matt and Tom P, Ben and Tom J). The Masters found the new PRI system pits them against much younger crews but still came close to winning.

At **Kingston SBH** all four Walton quads won their divisions, with the junior and IM2 quads coming second and third overall. The standard of entry for the **Fours Head** and **Vet Fours Head** was very high, but the MasE and MxMasE quads both won their events on the Saturday.

Walton won five of the 26 events at **Hampton SBH**, beating a very strong field from all the main schools, including many junior triallists. Gianluca, Archie, Christian and



J15 quad at Hampton SBH

Noah c Toby K won J15 quads; Rowan and Patrick won both J16 doubles and J16 pairs, while Katherine and Alex took the WJ17 doubles and Gemma the WNov singles.

On our home patch at **Walton SBH**, the Club won 17

medals, including twelve wins, four second places and one third. As usual, the Club mobilised a great team of almost 100 volunteers who kept the event running smoothly throughout.

Still on our home reach, we started the new year with wins at **Weybridge Winter Head** for the Women's MasD eight, Men's MasE quad, J14 quad and WJ14 double. And at the **Hyne Cup** races Walton took a clean sweep of the medals, with wins for the 1st VIII, women's 1st VIII, IM3 (Masters) and Novice (J15/16) eights. At **Hampton Head**, there were wins from the J16 coxless four (Patrick, Oscar, Tom B and Rowan), J16 pair (Patrick and Rowan) and from the WJ16 pair (Lola and Millie).



JW 8o at WEHRR

Then moving to the Tideway, the junior women achieved a great result at the **Women's Eights Head**, coming second in the novice division and 110th overall in what was for many of them their first race on the Tideway.

At the **Schools Head** a couple of days later Walton fours managed two second places, a third and a fifth place. And the following day at Dorney, for the **Junior Sculling Head**, the boys excelled themselves by winning bronze in the J17 quads, silver in J16 quads and finally gold in J15 octos, to take the Victor Ludorum. The J14 boys and girls and J17 girls also produced some good results (and contributed to the VL result) but were disappointed to stay outside the medals.



J15 8x: winners at JSH

Back on the Tideway, the **Vets Head** produced a win for the Mixed MasD eight and a third place for the Women's MasD crew.

The regatta season started with the **Junior Sculling Regatta** at Dorney, where Walton crews won three golds: WJ17 2x (Katherine and Alex), J16 4x (Tom B, Patrick, Aidan and Rowan), J14 4x (Edmond, Ciaran, Richard, Julius c Toby Kr); and one silver (Gianluca in J15 1x).

A large Walton squad raced the **National Schools Regatta** at Dorney on the Whitsun Bank Holiday weekend. First up on the Friday were the J15 coxed four (Noah, Toby R, Christian, Gianluca c Toby Kl). They worked their way through a very strong field of rowing schools to take the silver. On the Saturday, both the J16 and J18 boys fours made the A-finals, along with a very

strong A-final showing from Alex and Katherine in Championship Doubles; they are both J17 so will be back for medals at Championship level next year.



JSR winners

The Sunday was all about pairs: Millie and Lola set the 4th-fastest time in WJ16 pairs. The boys J16 A-final had two really quick Walton boats: Rowan & Patrick took the bronze medal, with Aidan & Ethan rowing a really mature, well-paced race to gain overlap on them at the finish. Finally Ben & Matt raced in the A-final of Championship pairs, coming through from 6th place to claim a brilliant bronze medal, almost catching the two crews ahead on the line.

Two days of great racing at **Walton & Weybridge** and **Weybridge Ladies' Regatta** included a good crop of wins, many of them first-time winners:

At W&W Open events, run under the new points system, were won by Crispin (Open 1x) and by Maddy and Alex (Open W 2x). In the junior events Elysia and Lola won WJ15 2x, Gianluca and Christian J15 2x, Matt and James J 2x. For the Masters we had wins in MxMasD 8+ (Hilary, Ali, Emily, Gill, Pete, Matt, Andy and Steve c Maddy), Mas E 2- (Mike E/Richard), Mas C 2x (Vince/Tim), and WMasB 4x+ (Sarah, Clair, Felicia, Rita c Hazel).

On Sunday at WLARC the J12 4x (Harry, Finley, Bastie and Marco c Seb) won their first-ever event, and there were also wins for the J15 4x+ (Alex, Casper, Patrick, Toby R c James), J15 2x (Cameron, Kaan), J14 1x (Richard) and W 4x+ (Keira, Clair, Kate, Sarah c Hazel).



Four crews faced the typically challenging conditions at Nottingham for the Masters Champs, and came away with three wins, in F1x (Richard Adey), WE4- (Carol, Jane, Lara and Fiona), and A-C non-championship 2x (Tim and Vince).

Back on the Thames, there was more success for the juniors at **Egham**, where wins in WJ16 doubles, J15 quads



and doubles (an all-Walton final), J13 quads and doubles made Walton the overall Victores Ludorum.

At **Henley Royal Regatta**, the junior Wyfold four of Ben, Matt, Tom J and James was the only Walton crew to qualify for the regatta, although two other crews were within four seconds of qualifying. The junior crew raced a blistering first race, beating Nottingham RC, but went out on the Thursday to a much heavier and more experienced Thames crew.

But three Walton members did win their events: Oli Knight won his first Henley medal racing for Molesey in Wyfolds, Angus Groom and his doubles partner Jack Beaumont (Leander) beat the O'Donovan brothers for the Double Sculls, and Morgan Bolding stroked the Brookes eight into the record books in the Ladies' Plate.

The **British Junior Championships** in Nottingham produced some excellent results: Alex & Katherine made the A-final in WJ18 doubles, and Rowan & Patrick took the bronze medal in J16 pairs. Aidan, Ethan, Hal and Tom B ensured that every J16 came home with a medal by rowing brilliantly to come from behind to take the silver in the fours, just 2 feet off gold. They also teamed up to get 4th place in J16 quads. The elusive National Championship gold was finally won in the J18 coxless fours by Tom J, Hal & Ethan, joined by Hamish from Tideway Scullers.

At **Molesey Junior** the same weekend there were wins in WJ18 2x (Maddy/India), J15 2x (Christian/Kaan), J13 2x (James/Daniel), J12 2x (Harry/Bastie) and Harry again in J12 1x.

At **Staines** a couple of weeks later, Gemma lifted the magnificent Women's Singles trophy (see above).

We finished the regatta season with a Sports Day for the juniors at Walton. As so often, the strongest crews were not necessarily the fastest round the triangular doubles relay course, nor could they all steer straight in the backing-down races! Racing was abandoned after a couple of hours as the wind was making conditions unscullable ...

### Junior selection

In a very tough year for junior selection, Matt Heywood did extremely well, representing GB in the eight and coxless four at Munich, and then in the gold-medal-winning eight in Cork for the Coupe de Jeunesse.

Ben Harris and James McMullan also travelled to Cork the previous weekend as the England junior pair for the Home Countries International, having seen off all comers, including the senior pair, in the selection races.

The J16 four and WJ16 pair both missed out on selection for the Anglo-French match by the smallest of margins.

### Senior GB representatives

Angus Groom, Mat Tarrant and Oli Stanhope have all been successful members of the GB squad this year.

Angus and his doubles partner Jack Beaumont took the gold in the doubles at World Cup 2 in Linz, while Mat was in the eight that won silver, behind Germany. At the World Championships in Plovdiv, Bulgaria the eight, with Mat in the seven seat, won bronze, while Angus and Jack were just pushed into fourth place by a late push from the NZ double. Oli won his second world gold medal in the PR3 mixed coxed four.

### Universities and U23s

At the European Universities Championships in Portugal Nina Giambone represented Nottingham in Lwt W2x, Ali Douglass Surrey in M2- and Rory Harris (Reading) in M2x. Rory then went on to represent GB in the double at the European U23 championships in Belarus.



## AGM and coming season

At the General Meeting held at the Club on 10th July, Sam Bishop was elected Captain; Sam first joined Walton at the age of 11 and was a member of several successful junior and then senior crews through the 2000s.



Meet the new Captain ...

Subscription rates for 2019 were held at the same rate as 2018, but with the warning that an increase in 2020 is likely.

There are already large squads of Masters, seniors and juniors in training for the coming season; the senior squad is larger than it has been for some years, with the Captain as one of its leading members! This year also sees a strong senior/masters intermediate squad, most of whom have started rowing in the last two or three years; this squad is co-ordinated by Hazel Thiemann and Fiona McAnena.

Key racing dates in the next few months include the Pairs Head on 6th October, Weybridge Silver Sculls (and Walton Beer Festival) on 20th October, Fours Head and Vet Fours Head on 3rd and 4th November, Kingston SBH on 10th, Hampton SBH on 24th, and of course **Walton SBH on 8th December**, for which we will be seeking a large team of helpers—**hold the date in your diary!**

## Boats and equipment

We have taken delivery of several **new boats** this year: in October Mat Tarrant christened the new lightweight

eight which carries his name.

Two new lightweight doubles were named after Daisy and Jasper, Gordon Sandifer's two collies. The "secret weapon" Stampfli-Janousek pair is so secret it has yet to be named!



Meanwhile an extensive programme of refurbishment, partly supported by the Rowing Foundation, has restored virtually all the singles and quads used by juniors to racing condition. One of those, the popular and successful WLT407, was named "Gordon Sandifer" by his sons Joe and Robbie.

## Awards Dinner

At the annual Awards Dinner, held at Burhill Golf Club in November, the Dick Thompson Memorial Trophy went to sisters Elena, Anya and Kez Foulkes from Weybridge RC, while Matt Heywood and Tom Philpott were the junior crew of the year and Millie Fantham, Gellert Kiss and Ollie Kaluza-Johnson received Outstanding Contribution awards.

This year's Awards Dinner will again be held at Burhill, on



16th November. There will also be a Christmas party on Friday 14th December and the Christmas Eights on Sunday 23rd December. The date for the post-Christmas triathlon will be announced shortly.

## Building improvements

Over the August Bank Holiday weekend, the ACS Cobham Eagle Scouts and a team of club volunteers not only cleared the area at the back of the club but also, under Roger Wotton, cleared and replaced the fence along the roadside with smart steel railing. Roger has also now fitted a new double gate, making it easier to turn trailers. Many thanks to all those who helped with this, but particularly to Roger and to Edmond Zeghibe, who organised the Eagle Scouts.



Work in progress ...



Job done!

Finally the usual call for volunteers, particularly for time-keeping and catering on Sunday mornings; and of course for a range of jobs at Walton SBH on 8th December.

**Have a great season!**