

# The 1927 Club

WALTON



October 2014

## Walton Rowing Club's newsletter

### Captain's meeting

At the Captain's meeting in July, Graham Pointer was elected Captain. Graham has been a member at Walton since 2011 and was Treasurer until his election as Captain. Having learnt to row at university, he has come back to the sport having spent most of his early sporting career chasing rugby and



cricket balls. He is very keen to make sure that Walton RC remains as competitive as possible whilst providing an environment which is welcoming and enjoyable for rowers of all abilities.

Graham's Vice-Captains are Neil West, Sam Skennerton and Sam Bishop.

### Winter 13/14

The less said about last winter the better! Between the middle of December and mid-February 1.5 billion tons of water flowed past the Club, almost twice as much as the previous record in 1947. We had red boards from New Year until 15th March, and then again for a week at the end of April. Although some crews were able to train on the Tideway and others at Eton Dorney, many others

simply found it better to wait out the winter and start up again when the weather improved ...

### Winter Heads

Despite these setbacks Club crews produced good wins at **Gloucester Head** (J4x, WJ4x and IM2 2-) and at **Kingston Head** (MasE 8o).

We fared less well on the Tideway: the **Schools Head** was raced in atrocious conditions with hail and rain; the girls and boys quads came 9th and 13th in their divisions respectively. At the **Tideway Head** the first eight raced three-quarters of the course before the race was abandoned due to crews sinking at the finish. At least they avoided a soaking!



J14 quad: winners at JRR



### 2014 regatta wins

At the **Junior Inter-regionals**, the J14 quad (George Wedlake, Ed Wilkinson, Matthew Sargent, Oliver Lucas and Myles Anderson) represented Thames London and won their event. At **Thames Ditton** Navid Mohamadzade and Michael Cleary won J15 doubles.

At **National Schools** the J14 boys continued their good run with a bronze medal, Bryn Hassan made the final of J16 singles, while Lee Mount and Alex Hively just missed out on a place in the final of Junior pairs.

A very successful day at **Walton & Weybridge** included wins for the J14 quad, J15 double, Mas D coxless quad, women's Novice eight and for Bryn Hassan and James Murrell in J16 doubles. The decibel meter went off the scale as the J14 octuple came down the course to win its final against St Georges!

At **Weybridge Ladies** the following day Bryn won J16 singles and Thomas Philpott J13 singles, receiving their medals from Sir Matthew Pinsent.

The Thames Cup eight won IM3 at the **Metropolitan Regatta**; at **Henley Royal** they led Derby to the Barrier but

The new squad co-ordinators and contact points are:

Seniors:	Sam Bishop
Masters:	Graham Pointer
Novices:	Sam Skennerton
Juniors J15+:	Neil West
J13/J14s	Mike Hendry

Please contact these co-ordinators if you have any questions about your squad arrangements.

lost by ½ length at the line.

At **Kingston Regatta** Navid and Michael won novice double sculls, and Matt Georgiou J18 single sculls .

At **Molesey** Katie Robins won novice singles, beating three opponents under half her age.

### **Nat Champs**

At the British Junior Championships held in Nottingham Katie Giambone and Tilly Catlin won gold in WJ16 pairs by an impressive margin, in a time over ten seconds faster than the WJ18 race. Alice Jefferies, rowing in a composite with LEH, finished fourth in the same race and also won silver in women's junior eights.



The J14 quad won bronze in their event, while Nina Giambone finished fifth in WJ16 as did James Murrell in men's J16.

We had good representation in all age-groups at the **British Masters** in Nottingham, and came away with two silver medals in the championship events and two silvers and a bronze in the novices. Matt Gaywood and Andy Tomalin struck gold in IM3 D doubles.

### **International**

Mat Tarrant achieved his first World gold medal in an already long and successful GB career by winning in the eight at Amsterdam, while Angus Groom won bronze in the Men's doubles at the World under 23s in Varese. Angus also won the Prince of Wales Cup at Henley, stroking the Leander quad, and then went on to represent

Scotland (and Glasgow Rowing Club) at the Commonwealth Rowing Championships, winning gold in singles and doubles over both 500 and 1500m.

Katy Denham represented Great Britain at the European Universities Championships in Rotterdam, winning a silver medal in women's lightweight doubles.

In the last newsletter we missed Martin McElroy's appointment as Program Performance Director for Rowing Canada. Martin took over from one of the most successful international coaches in recent years, Mike Spracklen, so has big boots to fill!

### **Club Regatta**

The Club Regatta on 5th October had to be squeezed in between a half-marathon on the towpath and a canoeing event. Nevertheless we had five eights and four junior coxed quads competing in a scratch event. Congratulations to all the winners.

### **Autumn heads**

At the Pairs Head Sam Bishop and Adam Constable came third in IM2 doubles and 25th overall; the winners of the IM2 event were Callum Gathercole and Ali Douglass, both Walton members but rowing for Bristol Univ and Molesey BC respectively. Steve Heywood and Ali Jackson won Masters Mixed C doubles for the fourth consecutive year. Neil West and Glyn Groom finished second in MasD by two seconds, just missing out on their four-in-a-row.

Walton was the most successful club at the Weybridge Silver Sculls. Sam and Adam were the quickest crew overall, winning IM2 doubles. There were six wins in masters categories, namely Mas D 2x (Glyn and Neil), Mas E 2x (Michele della Casa and Neil), Mxd Mas C/D/E 2x (Richard and Hazel Thiemann), Mas C 1x (Chris Leonard),



Mas D 1x (Glyn) and Mas E 1x (Mike Bishop).

The J13 quad won comfortably in what was for most of them their first race. Thomas Philpott won J14 singles and George Wedlake and Ed Wilkinson the J15 doubles.

### **Walton SBH**

Walton Small Boats Head will take place on Saturday December 13th. This is one of the largest events in the rowing calendar and we need a very large number of volunteers to run it, helping on the river, along the towpath and in the Clubhouse. We encourage all members or their parents to help for at least one division—even if you are racing you can help in another division. Please contact your squad co-ordinator or any committee member to offer your services.

### **Training times**

We are now moving into the winter training schedule. On Tuesday and Thursday evenings there will be circuit-training at the Club: for J13/14s from 6 to 7 on Tuesday, for J15+ from 7 to 8 on Tuesday and from 6 to 7 on Thursday, and for seniors and Masters from 7 to 8.30 on Thursdays.

### **Parents—please help when you can**

Ken Roberts and Brian Martin ran a well-attended course for parents who may want to help during junior coaching sessions. All parents are asked to help whenever they can—all of our coaches are volunteers and they do often need help with boating, timing and cycling along the bank, to make sure that we operate as efficiently as possible.

Ann Pickering (ann.pickeringdanetree@btinternet.com) is running the catering for events and on Sunday mornings; she needs more helpers. She had a good team for Weybridge Silver Sculls but will need an even larger team for the Small Boats Head in December. Please offer your help if you can.

### **Band night**

The Club is organising a band night, jointly with Thames Valley Skiff Club, on Saturday 15th November. Antidote

(pictured below) is a six-piece band which features dance music from the 1960s onwards; there will be a burger van on site (book your burger in advance). Tickets are £20 and can be bought over the bar at the Club.



### Presidents Winter Party 7th December

On Sunday 7th December the President will be holding his Winter Party, at which we will also be unveiling a Donors' board and christening two boats. This is one of the few occasions on which we ask members to wear some form of Club polo shirt, tie—or your new Club blazer!

### Club kit

We are ordering a supply of Crewroom / JL all-in-ones; these are said to be more wash-resistant than the Godfrey ones we have been buying. There is a list on the wall near the office if you want one of the new all-in-ones, however Peter Knight does still have a small stock of the current ones, as well as splashtops and gilets, particularly in smaller sizes; if you would like to buy one of these, contact Peter at [psoknight@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:psoknight@tiscali.co.uk).

Mike Hendry ([mike@mikehendry.com](mailto:mike@mikehendry.com)) also has a supply of Club polo shirts, caps and woolly hats, embroidered with the Club logo. The polo shirts cost £12 and the hats / caps £7—they make perfect Christmas presents!

### Boat-tags and boat wiping-down etc

The boat-tagging system is now working well (mostly!) - please make sure that you put the tag back on the boat after your outing. Most people are also being diligent about washing and wiping boats down after use—the boats look and work much better as a result. Please also make sure that any damage is listed in the book, and the

boat is given a red tag to make sure that it is not used. Rigging adjustments required are not damage—if your boat needs an adjustment, then ask your coach or an experienced member to help you.

### Sculling-shed roof

The sculling-boat shed is currently being re-roofed and should provide better protection for boats through the winter.

### Waterbabies

Callum Gathercole and his university friend Jay Olenicz are planning to row the Atlantic next winter, to raise money for brain tumour research, cancer care and Alzheimers charities. If all goes well they will be the youngest pair to do it. Callum has been running a series of events, many of them at the Club, to publicise his row and to help raise sponsorship. Please support his events and visit his website [thewaterbabies.co.uk](http://thewaterbabies.co.uk).



### Safety and security

In August the Club trailer was pushed into the river by vandals, costing the Club some £1500 in recovery and repair costs. Although the event was caught on CCTV, the police were unable to follow it up. This is a reminder that we are in a vulnerable location; again can we ask all members to:

- Make sure that all boats and blades you have used are put away after your outing
- Make sure the sculling-shed and compound are

locked—don't assume someone else will do it

- Close and spin all combination padlocks after opening them—don't leave the combination exposed.
- Check the front door closes behind you when you leave

There are also some important safety reminders:

- Do not obstruct fire escape routes (the yellow hatched areas on the boathouse floor); bicycles must be kept outside and trestles put under boats or on the trestle-racks
- Petrol and gas containers must be padlocked in the sculling-shed and not left in the boathouse
- Do not use the first-aid boxes every time you need a plaster for a blister; this is not an emergency and you will probably be better cleaning it carefully once you get home, and then covering it if necessary.

### Regatta fees

Finally the usual plea from Peter Knight: please check the board and pay any regatta fee arrears. If you race regularly, you should try to keep your account in credit so that he doesn't have to chase you the whole time. The Club can now take credit and debit card payments, so speak to Peter if that works better for you.

### Dates for your diary

There will be a **Christmas party** at the Club on Saturday December 13th, following the Small Boats Head. Members of all ages and their families are welcome. Further details will be posted at the Club nearer the time.

The Club will be holding its usual **Turkey Triathlon** on Saturday 27th December — time to be confirmed. Run, scull and cycle on your own or in teams. This event is suitable for J15s and above; start your training now and look out for the notice!

The annual **Club Dinner** will be held at Silvermere Golf Club on 7th March 2015 - again further details will be available nearer the time. Please put all these dates in your diary!