

THAMES JOURNAL



1994

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Thames Journal

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Contents

<i>Captain's report</i>	2
<i>Thames Charitable Trust</i>	5
<i>Women's Head</i>	7
<i>Women's sculling squad</i>	7
<i>Men's senior squad</i>	9
<i>Thames Cup B crew</i>	11
<i>Novice men</i>	13
<i>Junior rowing</i>	14
<i>FISA Masters Regatta, Groningen</i>	15
<i>Men's veteran squad</i>	17
<i>Membership</i>	19
<i>Ramsay Murray</i>	20
<i>Anniversaries</i>	21
<i>Thames in 1994</i>	22
<i>Results</i>	25



Captain's report

The 1993-94 season was yet another busy and hectic one for everyone involved. Many people will be mentioned in the following report, but I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who contributed to the running of the club over the past year.

It was obviously going to be a busy year when in the first two weeks of September around 40-50 novice women, some with obviously more potential than others, arrived at the club. Dick Malt was enlisted, for a couple of weeks, to help out with these masses. By the Women's Head he had managed to form an eight armed with a good knowledge of the Tideway, having raced over the course every weekend for about four months. They finished as the fastest club novice eight for which there is now a pennant.

An outstanding women's first eight won the Head in a record time—a sweet victory after the troubles from the previous year. A chance interrogation late one Saturday in September with one Anthony 'Antipodean' Patterson, provided a women's coach with a somewhat different approach than had been seen before. The 'Queensland' approach initially caused a few ripples but these were eventually smoothed out to produce another two eights in the top fifteen at the Head.

The men's squad was managed by John Clift from 'The Lake' with Blair Thorpe taking on another squad of senior 3s, and Alan Hawes imparting his wealth of knowledge on an unsuspecting group of novices. The Head of the River Race produced a creditable 24th for the first eight with the

second and third eights 75th and 110th, respectively.

Yet again the scullers performed outstandingly in the Scullers Head, providing six men in the top 22, with pennant wins for Bo Kaliszan (senior 3), C Bullas (Apprentice), I Pritchard (veteran B), and Kate Templeton (women's senior 1), and Kate Pollitt was the second placed woman.

During the winter drudgery on the Tideway it was decided that a training camp would be extremely beneficial for the club. The Olympic course at Banyoles in Spain was the agreed destination. With great effort and organisation from Maxine Bullock and John Clift, among others, Thames went *en masse* to warmer climes. Apart from a quite spectacular thunderstorm on the first day the conditions were very nearly perfect, the only problem being that it was too hot to train during the heat of the day. All the oarsmen and women and scullers knuckled down to ten days of rigorous training and it became apparent within the first few days that Thames would not only be successful over the summer but would probably be the healthiest rowing club back in Britain. We received a very warm welcome from the Banyoles Club Natacio and their rowing manager Terry O'Neil. On the last official night of the camp a dinner was organised at the club so that everyone could relax and socialise. I think some people did a little more socialising than was first envisaged.

Upon our return it was full bore into the regatta season. The Metropolitan Regatta was overall very successful for the club. There were wins for the open coxless four, senior 2 doubles, open singles, senior

1 singles (Sat and Sun), women's open eight, women's senior 1 eight, women's open coxed four, women's senior 2 coxed four, women's senior 2 double scull, and women's senior 2 single. This meant that Thames Rowing Club had, for the first time, won the Victor Ludorum at the Metropolitan Regatta, and it was with great pleasure that I accepted the trophy on behalf of the club from the President of London Rowing Club.

The preparation for Women's Henley saw Anthony Patterson and Noel Casey coaching the women's first eight to victory in the club eights event. The women's lightweight four set a precedent for the summer by steering off the course just in front of the enclosure.

At Henley Royal Regatta two eights were entered for the Thames Cup, with the first eight going out with a very gutsy row to a strong Goldie crew. It had become apparent in Banyoles that we had probably the best chance in recent years of a win at Henley in the Wyfold. The four had performed well in Paris by finishing closely behind a four containing the two Searle brothers, and expectations were high. Unfortunately, we had to alter the crew before the regatta due to an 'Eight year international rule'. Leon Fletcher had rowed in the World Senior Championships, although still a Junior, in 1986. Despite this change, the crew were still performing well and in the new Sims four lined up on the start against Imperial College in the first round. After four strokes the boat altered course violently and crashed into Temple Island. Bo Kaliszan, who was steering and stroking the 'Fanny', could not move the rudder. Despite all

our efforts, and IC's sportsmanship of offering to race again, we were unable to secure a rerow.

So on to the National Championships, where yet again we produced a number of good performances. Two of the Wyfold four, Tim Spires and Ralph Humphrey, teamed up with two IC oarsmen and won the heavyweight coxless fours beating London into the silver medal position. Blair Crawford, our man from Harvard, took the bronze in the singles in a very business like manner, while Phil Vondra took the bronze in the lightweight singles despite still being a novice. The women's eight took another bronze behind the Commonwealth Games eight, which also had two Thames girls on board. In the women's doubles Kate Templeton teamed up with Fiona Freckleton from Westminster School and won silver.

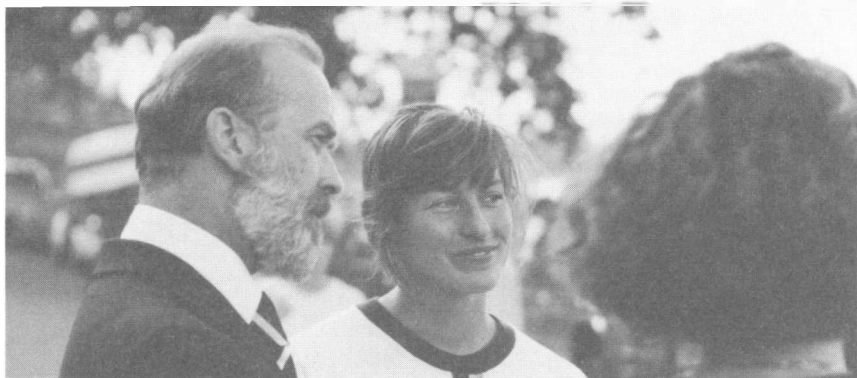
Again we were well represented at international level in women's lightweight, and two thirds of the British women's heavyweight squad came from Thames. Bo Kaliszan also went on to represent Denmark at the World's in the double sculls.

There are obviously people and wins that I have not mentioned here and I would like to thank everyone for their hard work in making it one of our most fruitful seasons. Thanks must also be extended, from all at the club, to those who make monetary donations throughout the year and especially to the Charitable Trust and John Fitzmaurice. Without their help it would not have been possible to purchase two new pairs and a four this past year.

Steve Austin



Steve Austin, captain of Thames, gets into character for his role in "Blues Brothers II".



Thames Charitable Trust

1994 has been an exceptional year in which your Trust has contributed more than £9000 towards the development and enjoyment of young people rowing at Thames, and also achieved an increase in funding both from tax rebated from the Inland Revenue and from many of you, the members.

Sadly, we have to report the death of Colonel Ramsay Murray, a founding member of the Trust, whose enthusiastic support for the aims of the charity and wise advice has been of much help over the past six years and will be missed. We welcome the appointment of George Elkington as a Trustee. As many members will know, George was captain of Thames in 1987 and is now an active (young) veteran oarsman.

Our policy remains that of active financial support for young men and women who row, in tune with

the aims of the Club, using tax-free income from funds donated for that purpose while allowing the capital to build up in a tax-efficient way.

Among the benefactions to the club this year were: an exceptional contribution towards new showers and improved changing arrangements for men; a major contribution to the Boat Fund to help buy two new pairs, 'Faith' and 'Hope', and also money towards the purchase of a new four for the crew competing in the Wyfold; and we have subscribed to ease the regatta costs of young oarsmen and oarswomen, and bought a video camera to help in training.

All this calls for more help from all members of Thames, young and old. Please ask the Treasurer to send you a covenant, gift aid, or donation form. He can be contacted at: Freepost, Fairways, Birdham, Chichester, West Sussex PO20 7HJ.

The Thames Rowing Club Charitable Trust registered charity number 2999940.

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Thames I, winners of the Women's Head: Alison Brownless (bow), Clare Davies, Dot Blackie, Kate Pollitt, Kirsten Barnes, Guin Batten, Annamarie Stapleton, Mirlam Batten (stroke), Suzie Ellis (cox).

Women's Head

In 1993, Thames was the fastest crew in the Women's Head of the River Race, but the crew was disqualified over a technicality. For 1994, much the same crew had something to prove.

Thames women's first eight came together ten days before the race under the control of Bill Mason, who at that stage was chief coach of Imperial College and coach of the World Championship winning women's lightweight four. The selected crew was, from bow, Alison 'Wilma' Brownless, Clare Davies, Dot Blackie, Kate Pollitt, Kirsten Barnes, Guin Batten, Annamarie Stapleton, Miriam Batten, and cox Suzie Ellis.

We were honoured to have Kirsten Barnes on board as a new Thames member. Kirsten had recently arrived in England from Canada, where she was a member of two 1992 Olympic gold medal winning crews—the eight and coxless four. One Thames member (who shall remain nameless) was overheard to comment “Who does that rower over there think she is wearing a Canadian squad top?”

In the race, we had to start in twelfth place, which was the finishing position of the second Thames crew in 1993. Bill had done a superb job preparing the crew in the short time available—it was feeling pretty chunky. However, we were worried about the possibility of being impeded from in front.

In the end, there was no problem. Wilma in the bow seat had been given responsibility to use what Bill called her special brand of 'Anglo Saxon', and with Wilma's screams and the coxbox system threatening disqualification to any boat that got in the way

we managed to overtake six crews. In doing so, we smashed the course record by 24 seconds (winning time 18 min 30.8 s), and beat Tideway Scullers into second by 30 seconds and Kingston RC into third by 1 minute. We had avenged our disqualification and were happy.

Suzie Ellis

Women's sculling squad

Fresh from our success of the year before, twelve old hands and some newcomers started the season's training at the beginning of September. It was the usual light-hearted frolic up until shortly after the Fours Head when it all began to go horribly wrong. Noel Casey made us all do a 2500m ergometer test after a hard outing in quads. Only four people got under 9 minutes: Philippa Cross, Kate Giles, Kate Pollitt, and Kate Templeton. We gathered the next day to be told that only these four would continue under Noel's coaching.

The four girls Noel picked continued training with him and did well, often beating or equalling GB squad weights and ergo scores. They were, however, hindered by two back injuries and one stress fracture of the ribs, which at one point left Noel with a squad of one.

Some of Noel's squad results are as follows: Miriam Batten, Kate Pollitt, Kate Giles and Kate Templeton competed in the European Spring Ergo Championships in Amsterdam, which they won easily—not to mention what they got up to afterwards. Also, Guin Batten and Kate Pollitt won the women's doubles at Ghent, and Kate Pollitt was the second fastest woman in the Scullers Head. Kate Templeton and Fiona Freckleton



Winners of open eights at Metropolitan, Docklands, and Henley Women's regattas, and a bronze medal at the National Championships, from left to right: backrow—N Casey (coach), E Laverick, L Baird, H Baird, C Hill, A Patterson (coach); front row—R Jurachich, K Giles, J Cook, R Wyness, A Hitch.

(Westminster School) won silver in heavyweight doubles at the National Championships and were selected to represent Scotland at the Commonwealth Games. Fiona opted for the single scull place so Kate was unable to compete, although earlier in the year she had won a silver medal in women's singles at the Scottish Championships.

On a separate note, Libby Henshilwood, who had rowed in the GB development squad for the season after joining Thames but had been dropped from Noel's squad, stroked the England women's eight to a bronze medal at the Commonwealth Games in Canada.

Meanwhile, the rest of us sorted ourselves out with some help from John Clift. A crew we put together a few weeks before the Eights Head came 11th (Bouma, Baguley, Wyness, Baird, Bird, Owen, Reid, Hawes). Our results in the Scullers Head were: Baguley 12th,

Templeton 13th, and Wyness 15th, with just over 4 seconds difference between the three of us. Following on a few weeks later, Banyoles proved to be a great training camp with 40-50km of sculling a day and some good coaching, bouts of tequila drinking and involuntary dips in the lake notwithstanding.

Finally, some of us went into an eight for the summer, joining up with four girls from Anthony Patterson's squad at his instigation. We won Metropolitan, Docklands, Women's Henley, and came third at the National Championships—coached by Noel Casey, who took over from Anthony. Baguley, Bouma, Reid, and Hawes came within half a length of winning quad sculls at Women's Henley. Lesley Baguley came fifth at the National Championships in heavyweight singles and Chris Hawes and Liz Reid won bronze at the Championships in lightweight doubles.

Rachel Wyness

Men's senior squad

Late September, the Tideway, Putney. The start of yet another year's training (was the Peterborough hangover really that long ago?). "Oh well, Henley's not that long really, and anyway winter training is going to be fun this year." Late November, the gym, Brentford Girls' School. "Ten minutes to go lads, keep the speed and range of movement on every exercise." "Ten minutes—I thought he said that ten minutes ago." What was it I thought about winter training being fun back in September? Roll on summer.

With John Clift appointed to take charge of men's coaching, many of the previous year's oarsmen returning, and a lot of new faces appearing for the first weekend of training (including an overweight Dane who finished the year in the final of the World Championships in a double scull), the omens looked good for a productive year as we began the endless round of circuits, weights, and ergos that would undoubtedly take us to glorious triumph come the summer. As usual, the reality was somewhat different, and the master plan did not work out quite as intended.

The land training programme looked somewhat different this year, with the 'highlight' being the weekly trip to the gym at Brentford Girls' School, where an evening of body weight circuits awaited. Before this, however, Thames oarsmen had the opportunity to display their natural athleticism and co-ordination, with a gentle game of basketball. Whoever said that basketball is not a contact sport has clearly never had the pleasure of sharing a court with Leon Fletcher or Guy Deslandes. From the outset, the participants more closely

resembled a poorly trained rugby XV than the 'Dream Team', but as the weeks went by the tendency for the ball to disappear into a scrum of bodies was reduced and the number of baskets scored increased.

On the water, the group was split between the scullers and the sweep oarsmen, and the sight of Brentford dock became a familiar one as long steady state outings formed the bulk of the training up to Christmas. In an attempt to provide a break from the monotony of this, it was decided that the squad would enter Burway small boats head. So one windy December morning we set off for Burway, ready to demonstrate that the hours of training had not been wasted. It soon became clear that this was not to be one of the better days in the history of TRC; clearly, whatever technical skills had been drummed into the group, steering coxless pairs was not one of them. Few who witnessed the carnage that resulted will ever forget it!

Following a much needed Christmas break, thoughts began to focus on the Head. For the second year running, selection was based around a day of seat racing on the artificial lake at Peterborough, which had been hired for our exclusive use—the Club's generosity knew no bounds. Once again, however, the best laid plans were thrown into confusion by the unpredictability of the British weather. On arrival at Peterborough, it became obvious that Torvill and Dean would have been more at home than Pinsent and Redgrave, because the whole lake was covered with a thick layer of ice. Resourceful as ever, we were soon on our way to the River Nene,

where we ruined the afternoon for the local fishermen by racing up and down in a series of time trials.

The selected crews had mixed fortunes, with the first eight finishing 24th and the second eight 75th. Two weeks later Thames scullers rounded off the winter with a series of good results in their head. All this was forgotten, however, by the time the group landed at Barcelona airport at the start of a training camp at the Spanish National Rowing Centre in Banyoles. Needless to say the eleven o'clock curfew announced by John Clift at dinner on the first night was strictly adhered to.

Prospects looked good for the summer season, with a potentially very fast four being formed, along with a senior 1 eight. Early regattas provided mixed results with a quad winning at Notts City, the four winning at Metropolitan, and the eight going very close a number of times but never quite fulfilling its potential. The four finally decided that their best chance of Henley success lay in the Wyfold, and preparations were proceeding smoothly when fate once again intervened, this time in the shape of the Henley Stewards, who declared Leon Fletcher ineligible for the event.

After much debate, the crews were rejigged, with Leon agreeing to take the seven seat in the eight, racing in the Thames Cup. In the event, the bad luck dogging the four continued, and ten strokes off the start of the first round against Imperial College, having hit a piece of driftwood, the boat veered off course and enjoyed a spot of nature study on the bank of Temple Island. Appeals to the Stewards were refused (no surprise there),

despite IC's willingness to rerow. The eight fared better, convincingly defeating Agecroft on the Wednesday before going down to a very strong Cambridge University crew.

In an attempt to rescue something from the year, a four was formed with two of the IC Wyfold crew, with the intention of going through to the National Champs. After an uncertain start, the crew pulled out the one big race at the right time and squeezed home by the smallest of margins to take the Gold in the final at Nottingham. Various combinations came together late in the season, with wins at Molesey and Henley Town, and the season finished as it began with memories of a Peterborough hangover and vows to train harder than ever next year.

Simon Hattan



Prince Michael christens the new coxless four watched by Vic Temple, Alan Burrough, and Steve Austin.

Thames Cup B crew

As the cold weather set in early in October 1993, those of us who had not been able to muster enough friends over the summer to excuse us from turning up, descended once more upon the club. The goal for the year was simple—"get to Henley"—nothing too ambitious like "win a Henley medal"—just "get to Henley."

So, Blair Thorpe, high on his success of the previous year, got to work. Unfortunately, Blair had not bargained on a bunch of "oarsmen" with as much rowing panache as an epileptic spider. By the end of the first outing he knew he was going to have his work cut out. But he persisted. Out we were all sent in pairs and fours, intent on steering into the bank at every available opportunity. Some of the crews found the training a little too easy and insisted on taking extra swimming lessons.

By December, however, things were beginning to take shape. Seat racing trials took place at Richmond, and Blair was able to select his fastest pairs from those who crashed least into the obstacles along the course. At the Burway Head the following weekend, Andy Powell and Hugh Falkner racing for the senior 3 pennant completed the course faster than most senior 1 pairs.

Then came the Christmas blues. The usual slog set in on the run up to the Head of the River. And then disaster! Blair was moved up from the senior 3s to the senior 1s. Uncertainty set in as the squad lost some of its direction and thoughts of Henley began to vanish. The squad found itself being introduced to a different coach almost weekly. We were grateful to those who gave us some of their

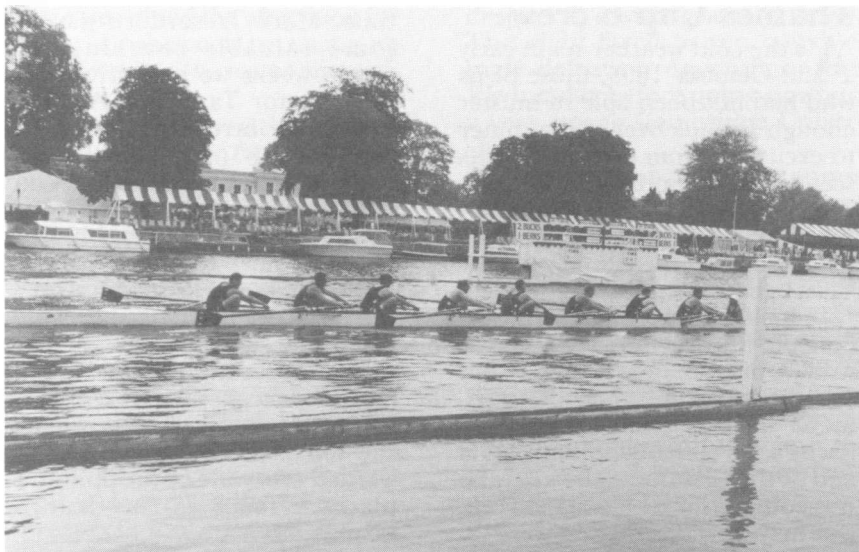
time. Mark Treserdern gave us some valuable coaching, but within weeks we had driven him to leave for Tanzania. Anthony Patterson introduced us to the "bright catch" (although we didn't quite master it), but he had commitments to the women's squad. Even Noel Casey worked hard to clean up our act.

In the last weeks leading up to the Head, we began to show some promising signs. Noel pointed out that in one outing we had strung five good strokes together. We began to think that we might make the top 100. On the day we rewarded everyone by dropping 111 places. . .back to the drawing board.

Blair came back. There was only one thing for it, "squeer bleeds". And so began the next long haul. "Forget the Head," said Blair. "That's not what we're here for. We're here to row at Henley." Out we all went again in pairs and fours, and this time we managed to pick up some senior 3 wins at Bedford Head.

By this time, half of the squad were looking forward to their holiday/training camp in Banyoles. In retrospect, we all did a great deal of training and had a thoroughly good time. However, some of the organisation left a lot to be desired. It was certainly an eventful training camp. Greg Reed insisted on meeting up with the Spanish on the first day—unfortunately head on. Greg's steering never really improved, as Rachel Wyness discovered in another head-on collision.

Once home, the squad was thrown into an eight ready for Nottingham. Nottingham was a complete disaster. In one heat, we were so far behind the field that the um-



Thames B in action in the Thames Cup: G Reed (bow), S Earl, D Tyler, Y Peled, P Allan, J Bloomfield, S Leigh, A Powell (stroke), S Phillips (cox).

pires washed us down. Blair's punishment was to make us train at the Docks for 2 weeks. It worked. The thought of having to return there every evening after work spurred us on to a close run senior 3 win at the Metropolitan Regatta on the Sunday. Many of our competition, who had seen us disgrace ourselves so badly 2 weeks beforehand were surprised at our improvement. But not half as surprised as when, in one of Blair's more experimental moods, we were sent out with four macons and four cleavers.

Then we went to Hereford, where we only narrowly lost both the senior 1 and senior 2 finals. So total doom and gloom had gone. But not for long. Docklands and Reading proved to be disastrous and we were forced to qualify for Henley the hard way.

The week running up to the qualifier was spent training at

Henley. It was a desperately uncertain week but when the race came around we were as ready as we ever would be. It was a beautiful, hot summer evening, perfect conditions for us. Half of the division had already completed the course as we approached the start. As we got closer, a slight breeze began to blow. We all hoped that it would not get stronger since we were not too good in a head wind, but as we crossed the start line the gentle breeze turned to a full scale storm. We careered along the course in the dark, with the sky lit up only by the occasional lightning bolt, thinking how unfair it would be to be judged in such conditions. In the background we could vaguely hear Blair shouting at us as he cycled along in the pouring rain. As we crossed the finish line, we were relieved to hear that the division had been cancelled and

we would have to row the next day.

The next day we produced one of our best ever rows and qualified for the Thames Cup. We had somehow achieved what we had set out to do. We went on to beat Aberdeen Boat Club and Bedford RC, and went out on the Friday to a strong Oxford Brookes crew who took the record to the barrier in our race. We lost to Brookes by a mere one and a quarter lengths in the end. Who cares that they were rating only 25 over the last half of the course.

Looking back, everyone would agree that it was a hard year, but we got what we wanted. In the end we got the icing on the cake—sadly we didn't pick up much of the cake on the way. Memories of Henley seem to revolve around sitting in the shade with our feet up, munching bananas and sultanas, and carrying a water bottle around.

Congratulations to all the squad for persisting but particularly to Blair, who aged visibly over the year and was forced to consume more carbs than the crew to calm his nerves.

Paul Allan

Novice men

“Don't bash your bollocks, tickle your tits.” “Draw it up.” “Fast, relaxed hands.”

Certainly familiar phrases to the rowing fraternity, especially to members of Thames Rowing Club, but to a group of anxious novice oarsmen, the phrases are not easily identifiable with boats, blades, or the river—more so with another well known past time!

Approximately 14 novice oarsmen gathered at the start of winter training in October 1993, all

to be coached and guided by the experienced hand of Alan Hawes. Training included two or three evenings during the week with outings at the weekend in an eight or a quad four, or both depending on how many of the elite athletes could drag themselves out of bed away from alternative temptations of a lie in. Men came and went, the training continued, and by the Plum Pudding Race in December the squad boated a “mean” crew of eight. After a very hard race, jostling for position with some top class crews, we crossed the line as winners, a just reward for the extensive training that we had put in before the event. The reality of the situation was, however, a little less glamorous! We were towed up to the start at Chiswick by a launch, so that we were not exhausted by the row up. This was due to the fact that not only did a member of the crew turn up late (surprise, surprise) but also a highly tuned rigger in the highly tuned clinker eight was in need of some attention. Also, the twelve that was entered straddled the width of the river after the start, thus preventing any other crews from passing, and although we passed the novice women at Barnes Bridge, no other crews were in contention and we won by over 20 lengths.

The Head of the River Race was the next big event. Although it was touch and go whether, firstly, we would have a crew and, secondly, a place, we did it, had a very comfortable race (although the photograph suggested that we were incapable of following our stroke), and were placed 325th. Not a bad effort considering! A thoroughly enjoyable day (Sunday was a haze for obvious reasons), great to take in the spectacle and atmosphere

of having the Boat Race and the Head of the River Race on the same day, especially when some of us had never even seen the Boat Race before; it was almost too much to absorb.

During the early part of the season, we competed in a variety of Tideway regatta's, initially as an eight, racing at Hammersmith and Putney Town with limited success. Due to the ever decreasing number of personnel, we continued the remaining part of the season in a four with a variety of crew combinations. Bruce Eadie, Thomas Barath, Mark Thompson, and Jamie McConnel went to the two day Docklands Regatta where we won our novice pots, or should I say gold medals. A bronze medal was also won on the Sunday at senior three level (of course nothing to do with the fact that two other boats in the race sank due to the adverse weather conditions). Flirtations were had with Molesey, Richmond, and Staines regattas, but it was not until the last Tideway regatta of the season at Hammersmith, that another four of Stuart Jeffries, John Scott, Stuart Thomas, and Chris Edmonson rose to the heady heights of senior three.

A thoroughly enjoyable season, a good time was had by all especially at the bar. Thanks to Alan Hawes for his efforts and to all the others concerned. I believe that six of the original novice squad will compete for places in the senior three squad for the 1994/95 season.

Jamie McConnel

Junior rowing

Junior rowing at Thames RC has grown quite considerably over the past three years. Pupils from Putney High School for Girls and Dulwich College make up the bulk of the juniors. Racing as Putney High School/Thames and Dulwich College/Thames, the juniors notched up several wins.

In the Schools Head, Dulwich College won the novice coxed four pennant and Putney High School won the junior coxless quad. At Putney Town Regatta, Putney High/Thames won the J15 coxed quad, and they came second in the J15 coxed quad at Metropolitan Regatta. At Women's Henley, the junior girls—basically a J 14 eight—raced against the 18 and 19 year olds from Groton School, USA. Although beaten by several lengths, our girls rowed skilfully and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. A J16 coxed four from Dulwich College won a silver medal at Docklands Regatta, and at Putney Amateur Simon Wooldridge won J16 sculls.

In the Fours Head, Putney High/Thames raced in coxed and coxless quads. Both crews did well, especially the coxed quad with two J13s on board. The coxless quad, with the rowing teacher in the bow seat, managed to beat Kingston Grammar by four seconds. At Tiffin Head, a J15 double and J15 quad won pots for Putney High/Thames.

Most of the Dulwich College rowing is done during school hours, whereas the girls from Putney High School usually row after school on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. All the boys and girls are paid up junior members of Thames. Putney High are coached by myself, as the teacher



The girls of Putney High School/Thames give their all at Women's Henley: A Nell-Hall (bow), A Bishop, E Stevenson, K Dover, H Lowes, H Scott, A Blrney, A Di Marco (stroke), N O'Brien (cox).

in charge of rowing, and Annamarie Stapleton, with the help of Debbie, and Jim Bichard. Dulwich College rowing is in the hands of Trevor Charlton. The 'Blade Runner' eight belongs to Putney High School and the school has bought eight sets of sculls. Additionally, the Friends of Putney High School have bought a Hi Tech coxed quad and a Carbocraft coxless four/quad which will be housed in Thames.

All the juniors are enthusiastic, and although they sometimes sound like a nest of excited fledglings they are becoming very useful rowers and scullers. They look forward to an exciting and successful 1995 season.

Pauline Rayner

FISA Masters Regatta, Groningen

350 medals were up for grabs at Groningen this year and there were well over 7000 bums on rowing seats. This represents a seven-fold increase in interest in this event over the twenty years in which it has been run. The downside of this interest is that racing is now on a 7am to 7pm schedule and that doubling up rules are being enforced rigidly. Nevertheless FISA Vets is a spectacular celebration of the adage "never say die" and long may it remain so. Thirty-one nations took part. The Brits play no small part in the jamboree. We occupied 20% of the 7000 seats and won 22% of

the medals. Only the Germans did better.

Thames were able to hold their heads up with the rest and claimed some notable victories. The vet A men, the bridesmaids for so long, in their coxed four pulled it out of the bag in the Netherlands and grabbed a magnificent victory over some difficult German crews. They gain a place in our role of honour in being the only recent British crew to be successful against Hansa Dortmund.

The older matrons of the women's section, coached ably by Anthony Patterson, did themselves and him full justice in the D quads, beating the Germans not only to the poolside but also over the course in one of the closest finishes of the regatta. They were Penny Haslam, Pauline Rayner, Jackie Darling, and guest star from Holland Margarethe Kaiser.

The two women's C doubles had a hairy time. The competition was hot but they managed to give a good account of themselves against opposition that posted a better winning time than the A doubles. Nevertheless both crews went well and fought to the bitter end. Penny Haslam in her D single was less fortunate, falling victim to the rather hurried start-calling of the Friday umpire.

Further women's representation for Thames came in C pairs, D doubles, and in a composite with Sons of the Thames in B fours, all of whom had rattling good races and gave as good as they got. Roll on Bled next year.

Sallie Malt and Penny Haslam



Winners of veteran D quadruple sculls at FISA Masters Regatta, from left to right: Penny Haslam, Pauline Rayner, Jackie Darling, Margarethe Kaiser.



Winners of veteran A coxed fours at FISA Masters Regatta, from left to right: William Powell, Chris Maby, Nicky Powell, Peter McConnell, George Elkington.

Men's veteran squad

The season for the men's veteran A squad began with its by now traditional pipe-opener, struggling valiantly, if ineffectively, to force a 12 to go as quickly as a tub-pair, and failing, in the Plum Puds. Another thrashing by the geriatrics from London had the relatively young Thames crew vowing never to repeat the experience, unless they drank two more bottles of port before the race next time!

After the ignominy of the Plum Puds our next big challenge was whether to row in the Head, the Vesta Veterans Head, or both. After much debate in the bar and some heavy training sessions in Putney's finer hosteleries, it was decided that we could face that course only once in two days. However, mistake number two of the season was choosing Vesta Veterans Head.

This event was without doubt one of the most farcical wastes of time it has ever been your correspondents' misfortune to row in, unless that is the Vesta organisers had chanced upon a new form of handicapping for crews emanating from Thames. We went off second and very quickly took the crew ahead; however, at Harrods we realised that the tide had not yet turned. We were to spend the rest of the four and a quarter miles rowing into an outgoing stream, hugging the bank as closely as possible, while those crews starting at the back of the pack had the full benefit of the stream travelling in the same direction they were. Needless to say our result is not worth recording here. As a word of advice to all our younger oarsmen, I would like to say, never row in a tidal head race the day after the clocks go forward.

After the rather abortive head season we experienced a high degree of fall-out, leaving a nucleus of William Powell, John Robson, Peter McConnell, and George Elkington. This crew appeared at a number of regattas, mostly coxless but occasionally with Pippa Mason as a coxed four. Although we came close on a number of occasions, our lack of serious winter training showed it is not possible to compete in open events unless properly fit.

With this in mind, John Robson embarked on an alternative career as an umpire. It was only discovered how difficult this decision was going to be for us when he found himself umpiring the race he was about to row in at the first Henley Veterans Regatta. Fortunately Crispin Maby, who had been plaguing us for a row all season, was able to step in, and we narrowly lost to the Upper Thames Britannia semi finalists.

Come the late summer numbers had increased again and we were able to take eight oarsmen plus cox to the 21st FISA Masters championship in Groningen, Holland.

This was one of the most enjoyable regattas I've rowed in, incredibly well organised but also relaxed and very friendly. The event attracted oarsmen and women from 31 nations and 7042 seats entered.

The Thames squad of William Powell, Richard Wedgebury, John Robson, Hugh Falkner, Mark Thomas, George Elkington, Peter McConnell, Crispin Maby and cox (and bus driver) Nicola Powell, competed in vet A eights, coxed and coxless fours, and coxless pairs, against the best that the combined might of Germany, France, Lithuania, Russia, the Ukraine, Italy, and Brazil could throw at us. Whilst remembering at all times that we were ambassadors for our club and country, we still managed to inject some much needed cash into the ailing breweries of northern Holland. Our attempts to persuade Robbo to inject more than cash into the far from ailing Red Light district were rebuffed.

Friday lunch-time saw our biggest success. Drawn against a lot of perfectly formed Germans, a crew from Gyori Vizugy Hungary, and,



Competing in veteran A eights in Groningen: W Powell (bow), R Wedgebury, H Falkner, J Robson, M Thomas, G Elkington, P McConnell, C Maby (stroke), N Powell (cox).

um, St Neots, the coxed four of Powell, Maby, McConnell, Elkington, and cox Mrs Powell, had a blinder of start. Unfortunately, the umpire (who surprisingly wasn't John Robson) noticed just how blinding and called us back. Our second start wasn't quite so good, but we were still in contention, together with two crews from Germany on our inside. We stayed a length down while Rgm Muhleimer RV and Rgm RV Rauxel/RC Hansa Dortmund had their own private battle. With 500m to go the German composite was beginning to tire, our push taking us through that crew but still half a length down on the other Germans. With our last reserves of fitness, summoned from training done over ten years previously in some cases, we pushed again, all the time hoping they'd had a bigger night on the beer than we had. Fortunately they had, and we came through in the last 100m to win by a length—Thames's first men's gold at any of these championships.

To celebrate, Robbo cracked open the bottle of Advocaat he'd been saving and Chris added Fosters to create a whole new way of getting a headache. Highly effective and available now in the bar. 1995's FISA Masters are in Bled, Slovenia. All active oarsmen and women are encouraged to join us there.

Peter McConnell

Membership

During the period November 1993 to November 1994, we have sadly lost a further eight members: F C Austin, J L Cooke, C I R Haynes, Lord Headley, Lt Col A M St L Ramsay Murray, J Schutter, R A Strong, and A L Sulley.

Fred Austin joined the club in 1974 as a House member. He showed so much enthusiasm in reorganising and updating the membership records that the committee appointed him to the new office of membership secretary in 1977, a position he held until his death. His son Steve was the 1994 captain.

Jack Cooke died following an accident in Dover. He joined in 1946 and rowed in the Thames Cup that year and in the Pontoise eight in 1947. Although he spent much of his life abroad he always found time to row in the Head and to attend Henley and club and Remenham dinners.

Cecil Haynes joined in 1962 as a House member. He had rowed before the war at the Ino club in Barnes. As the proprietor of Hammonds in Fulham Road he looked after the club electrics for many years. He was 80. His son Tim and grandson Oliver are club members.

Charles Allanson-Winn, 7th Baron Headley of Aghadoo, Co Kerry, 12th Baronet of Nostell, and 6th Baronet of Little Warley, joined Thames in 1928. He had rowed for Bedford School and Twickenham RC from 1921 until 1927. He won the Thames Cup in 1928 and the Wyfold in 1929, and continued rowing in the Grand and the Stewards until 1934. He was captain in 1937/38 and was elected a Vice President in 1976. He was 91.

Ramsay Murray rowed for Bedford School in the Ladies Plate in 1936. He then went up to Selwyn and joined Thames in 1939. He was commissioned in the Royal Artillery in 1939 and retired as Lieutenant Colonel in 1965. During this time he rowed at the Royal Singapore Yacht club. He rowed



Ramsay Murray, at two, pictured rowing in the 1978 Head of the River Race. Other Thames luminaries on the crew are Freddie Beardmore (three), David de Pinna (seven), John Cooper (stroke), and Penny Haslam (cox). Does anyone recognise the other crew members?

for Thames in the Head and in many sculling races from 1957 until the 1970s, before moving back to Cambridge. He was Captain in 1968/69 and was elected a Vice President in 1978. He was 77.

Jan Schutter joined as an Overseas member in 1933. He rowed in the 1934 Wyfold four. He was based in the Hague and last visited the club in 1965.

Rex Strong joined in 1949 after rowing for Merton in the Visitors. He was in the Grand eight in 1951, also winning the Boustead and at Reading, Metropolitan, Molesey, and Staines regattas. Although not recently seen at the club, he was at Henley every year. He was 65.

Arthur Sulley joined the club in 1927 whilst at Selwyn College. He coxed the winning blue boat in 1928 and the Thames eight that won the Grand and the silver in the Amsterdam Olympics. After the war he coached many Thames crews at Henley and the eight and four in the 1954 Empire Games in Vancouver. He was 87.

Tim Wilson

Ramsay Murray

In his will, Ramsay Murray generously left money for the purchase of a new men's eight and for

a drinks party for Thames members.

Among those attending Ramsay Murray's farewell at the club on Sunday, October 23rd, were: Steve Austin, I G Bailey, M Bailey, Freddy Beardmore, Jim Bichard, Gerry Blanchard, R C Bray, P D M Bray, George Bridge, Arnold Brown, Ronald Brown, Alan Burrough, James Bury, Sheila Bury, Dorothea Cocket, Mike Cowie, Claire Davies, Sarah Davies, Paul Davis, Gordon Dear, Hugh Denning, Martin Denny, Guy Deslandes, Geoff Dignum, M R W Dulieu, Stuart Earl, George Elkington, Suzie Ellis, Kit Ewbank, Hugh Falkner, Louise Fawcett, John Friend, Liz Friend, Rachel Frost, John Gerring, Judith Grace, Edward Grace, D W Gramolt, R P Gullett, T K Gullett, Robin Gussman, Peter Haining, C E Harrison, Simon Hattan, Catherine Hill, Vicki Hill, David Hill-Kelly, Andy Inglis, Teresa Inglis, Clive Killick, Peter Kirkpatrick, Jonathan Knight, Elise Laverick, Maurice Legg, Simon Leigh, John Levy, Hazel Levy, Martin Levy, Peter Lingham, Tim Lohman, Sarah Lohman, H W L Lohnberg, M J Long, Susan Long, Sue Key, Crispin Maby,

David Mahoney, P M O Massey, John McConnell, Peter McConnell, Gerhard Meier, Philippe Michelotti, Philip Morris, Timothy Morris, Jaap Oepkes, Geoffrey Page, Mrs Page, Dave Pike, Anthony Pollitt, N S Powell, W H A Powell, Mike Phelps, John Pritchard, Bryan Richards, Debbi Rourke, Hank Rushmere, Alan Shave, P J Sherwin, David Shove, Eric Sjoberg, Michael Smith, Annamarie Stapleton, John A Stephenson, Patrick Sullivan, Alison Sutton, Brian Tanner, Allie Taylor, Vic Temple, Mark Thompson, Blair Thorpe, Edgar Traylen, Mike Urry, Izzy Urry, Roger Weston, Mike Williams, Tim Wilson, and J E H Wise.

Anniversaries

In 1874 Thames RC won the Thames Challenge Cup for the third successive year, beating London in the final by one length. The cox of the Thames Cup crew that year, Ayton Safford, doubled up in the crew that lost in the final of the Grand, thus beginning an unrivalled series of 26 consecutive appearances in the Grand until 1899, with further appearances in 1901 and 1902. 1884 was the year that Steve Fairbairn made his debut for Thames, in the Grand eight that lost to London in a heat and in the Wyfold Cup four that beat Marlow and London in the final. One-hundred years ago in 1894 Thames won both the Stewards' Challenge Cup and Wyfold with final victories over, respectively, New College and Balliol College.

1924 was the year of the Olympic Games in Paris, and Great Britain's representatives in the single sculls, coxless pairs, and eights were all chosen from Thames. In the final of the sculls, Jack Beresford, who had earlier in the

year won the Diamond Sculls, took the gold medal by two and a half lengths from William Garrett Gilmore of the USA despite having lost to Gilmore in an earlier round. Racing took place on the Seine, and Gilmore later recalled the unusual conditions: "During the last 200 metres, when the sun seemed to get hotter with every stroke and I was making a supreme effort to grasp victory, a kindly breeze swept across the Seine, carrying a strong but pleasant scent from a perfumery which was not within sight. It was truly so strong that it first gagged me, but in a moment I was rowing on as if in a flowing river of the perfume itself". The pair of Killick and Southgate were forced to withdraw from the final because of injury. The eight qualified for the final, which they led early on, but were eventually pushed into fourth place by the USA, Canada, and Italy. The American crew from Yale contained one Benjamin Spock, who subsequently became famous as "Dr Spock, the baby expert".

1934 was the year of another Thames win in the Thames Cup, with a victory over London in the final by one-third of a length. At the 1954 British Empire and Commonwealth Games in Vancouver, Canada, only one member of the England rowing team was not also a member of Thames. In a frustrating regatta for England, the eight won a silver medal and the coxed four a bronze. Thames was also represented in the European Championships of 1954, so that during the year 20 Thames men competed for either England or Great Britain. Ten years ago in 1984, the growing strength of women's rowing at Thames was

reflected in three members (Tessa Millar, Sarah Hunter-Jones, and Sally Bloomfield) being chosen for the British Olympic team. At the

games, Britain won its first rowing gold medal for 36 years in the coxed fours.

John McConnell

Thames in 1994

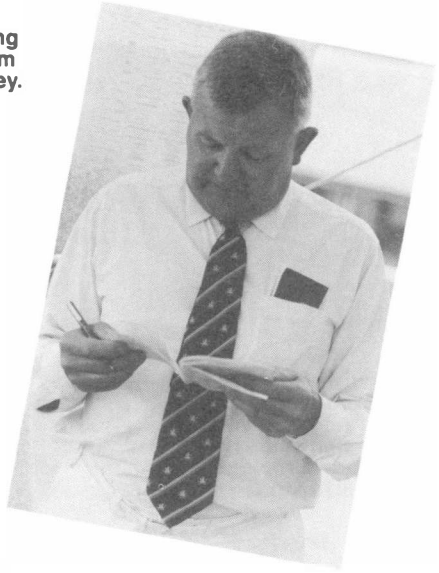


Tim Wilson (left), chairman of the hanging committee, getting in some practice.

Chris Bullas (right), winner of the Doggett's Coat and Badge.



**Studying
the form
at Henley.**



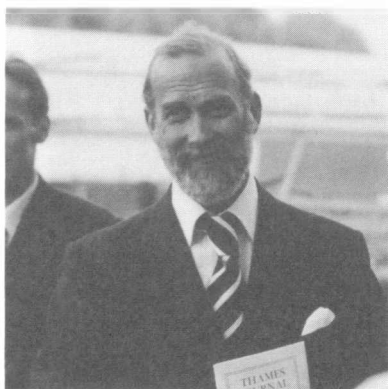
**John Russell (above)
congratulates world lightweight
single sculls champion Peter
Haining on his choice of taylor,
while club chairman John
Fitzmaurice (left) strains to
remember what became of his
report for the Journal.**



The veteran A coxed four (above) give it some chin in the final in Groningen.



Reliving the race in Remenham Club (above). Prince Michael displays good taste in reading matter (left).



Editor's note – All contributions to the Journal about Thames past and present are welcome, and should reach the club by the end of September. My thanks to Ben Nicholson, Jap Oepkes, and John Robson for supplying photographs.

Men's results

Eights	Senior 3	Metropolitan P Allan, J Bloomfield, S Earl, J Oepkes, A Powell, G Reed, D Tyler, Y Peled, S Phillips
Fours	Open coxless	National Championships T Spires, R Humphrey, M Cooper, J Purnell (gold) Metropolitan T Spires, R Humphrey, L Fletcher, B Kaliszan Henley Town and Visitors T Spires, R Humphrey, S Hatton, J Purnell
	Senior 2 coxless	Hammersmith Double Header G Reed, A Powell, P Allan, J Oepkes
	Senior 3 coxless	Bedford Small Boats Head G Reed, A Powell, P Allan, J Bloomfield
	Senior 1 coxed	Molesy D Pike, S Hatton, C Maby, R Oberst, N Powell
	Senior 3 coxed	Staines A Dunne, T Roberts, A Price, J Oepkes, B Hully (Thames/University of Westminster)
	Novice coxed	Docklands B Eadie, T Barath, M Thompson, J McConnel Peterborough Summer C Bullas, A Patterson, O Krogh, P Vondra, P Gough Hammersmith Summer S Jeffries, J Scott, S Thomas, C Edmonson
	Junior 16 coxed	Schools Head (Dulwich School/Thames)
	Veteran A coxed	FISA Masters W Powell, C Maby, P McConnell, G Elkington, N Powell (gold)
Pairs	Senior 2 coxless	Burway Small Boats Head
	Senior 3 coxless	Bedford Small Boats Head G Reed, J Bloomfield/P Allan, A Powell (joint pennant winners)
Quadruple Open sculls		Upper Thames Head R Humphrey, B Kaliszan, A Inglis, T Spires Nottingham City M Hausleitner, R Humphrey, L Fletcher, B Kaliszan

**Double
sculls**

Open

Senior 1

Senior 2

Senior 3

Single sculls

Pairs Head

P Vondra, P Bollingbroke

Cambridge Autumn Sprint

R Humphrey, C Bullas

Cambridge Autumn Sprint

R Colbourne, M Hawes (Wallingford/
Thames)

Metropolitan

A Inglis, N Copley

Peterborough Summer

H Hawes, R Waller

Cambridge Autumn Sprint

J Oepkes, A Price (Thames/University of
Westminster)

Peterborough Summer—J Bloomfield

National Championships (under 23,

gold), Doggett's Coat and Badge,

Nottingham City, Metropolitan (Sat/Sun),

Docklands (Sat/Sun), Greenwich Sprint

C Bullas

Peterborough Summer (Sat/Sun),

Hammersmith Summer—S Collins

National Championships (open, bronze),

Scottish Championships (gold)—

B Crawford

Metropolitan, Peterborough Summer

(Sat/Sun), Greenwich Sprint—

M Hausleitner

Bedford Small Boats Head—R Humphrey

Burway Small Boats Head—B Kaliszan

Hammersmith Summer—J Oepkes

Reading Amateur (Sat/Sun), Henley

Town and Visitors, Upper Thames

Sprint—M Urry

National Championships (lightweight,

bronze), Bedford Autumn Head, Bedford

Small Boats Head, Henley Scullers Head,

Tiffin Small Boats Head, Walton Small

Boats Head—P Vondra

Putney Amateur—S Wooldridge (Dulwich

College/Thames)

Mixed results

Eights

Open

Hammersmith Summer

C Hill, R Wyness, K Templeton, H Baird,

S Hatton, D Pike, R Humphrey, T Spires,

S Ellis

Double sculls **Open** **Peterborough Summer**
 E Reid, M Hausleitner
Greenwich Sprint
 P Vondra, R Wyness

Women's results

Eights	Open	Women's Head A Brownless, C Davies, D Blackie, K Pollitt, K Barnes, G Batten, A Stapleton, M Batten, S Ellis Metropolitan, Docklands, Women's Henley (club eights), National Champion- ships (bronze) C Hill, E Laverick, R Wyness, K Giles, H Baird, L Baird, R Juracich, A Hitch, J Cook
	Senior 1	Hammersmith Double Header M Neville-Smith, T Inglis, C Saix, R Savage, M Bullock, L Pavey, N Sweeney, L Mason, J Cook Docklands J Maddock, M Bullock, L Pavey, C Block, N Griffith, N Humphries, K Shields, K Hagstrom, L Orneborg
	Senior 2	Nottingham City C Edwards, L Warren, E Laverick, C Hill, R Savage, N Sweeney, R Juracich, A Hitch, J Cook Metropolitan J Maddock, M Bullock, L Pavey, C Block, C Hawes, N Humphries, K Shields, K Hagstrom, L Orneborg
	Senior 3	Hammersmith Double Header Nottingham City N Griffith, N Humphries, M Bullock, L Pavey, J Maddock, C Block, K Shields, K Hagstrom, L Orneborg Hammersmith Amateur Putney Amateur Barnes and Mortlake Staines
	Novice	Hammersmith Double Header Hammersmith Amateur
Fours	Open coxless Open coxed	Nottingham City (lightweight) Kingston Head Metropolitan P Gough, R Frost, C Neville-Smith, D Kempsey

	Senior 1 coxed	Kingston Head
	Senior 2 coxed	Bedford Small Boats Head Nottingham City Metropolitan
	Senior 3 coxed	Kingston Head Bedford Small Boats Head
Quadruple sculls	Open	Docklands (Sat/Sun) C Hawes, E Reid, L Baguley, A Bouma
	Senior 1	Hammersmith Double Header S Malt, P Haslam, M Kortaleinen, R Wyness
	Veteran D	FISA Masters P Haslam, P Rayner, J Darling, M Kaiser (gold)
	Junior 15 coxed	Putney Town (Putney High School/ Thames)
Double sculls	Open	Pairs Head (fastest women's crew) M Batten, G Batten
		Scullers Head (fastest women's crew) E Reid, N Owen
		Peterborough Summer R Wyness, K Templeton
	Senior 2	National Championships F Freckleton, K Templeton (silver, Westminster School/Thames)
		National Championships (lightweight) C Hawes, E Reid (bronze)
		Metropolitan A Bouma, L Baguley
		Kingston C Hill, E Laverick
Veteran open	Henley Veterans P Rayner, P Haslam	
Veteran B	Pairs Head P Haslam, S Malt	
Veteran C	National Veteran Championships P Rayner, J Darling Weybridge Ladies, Hammersmith Summer P Haslam, S Malt	
Single sculls	Open	Scottish Championships K Templeton (silver)
	Senior 2	Metropolitan K Templeton Burway Small Boats Head, Hammersmith Amateur, Metropolitan C Hawes

Novice**Peterborough Summer**

S Bolte

Hammersmith Summer

A Sutton

Veteran D**Veteran Sculling Head**

P Rayner

Head of the River – men

TRC I	Open	24th	17:48.22
TRC II	Senior 1	75th	18:31.09
TRC IV	Senior 1	110th	18:45.83
TRC III	Senior 3	202nd	19:16.83
TRC V	Senior 3	238th	19:32.01
TRC VI	Novice	325th	20:24.39

Head of the River – women

TRC I	Open	1st	18:30.8
TRC II	Open	11th	20:01.9
TRC III	Senior 2	14th	20:10.0
TRC IV	Senior 2	39th	20:58.7
TRC V	Senior 3	57th	21:16.5
TRC VIII	Novice	80th	21:41.0
TRC VI	Senior 3	98th	22:06.4
TRC VII	Senior 3	113th	22:21.0

Scullers Head

M Hausleitner	MO	10th	20:33.8
B Kaliszan	MS3 *	12th	20:34.6
I Pritchard	MVB *	16th	20:37.2
R Humphrey	MO	30th	20:53.3
P Vondra	–	33rd	20:53.9
C Bullas	Apprentice *	37th	20:57.1
L Fletcher	MO	38th	20:57.6
B Crawford	MO	39th	20:58.0
M Hawes	MS3 Lwt	99th	21:30.3
M Urry	MO	105th	21:36.0
K Pollitt	WO	119th	21:43.3
N Copley	–	139th	21:49.9
A Inglis	–	163rd	22:02.6
L Baguley	WO	220th	22:32.8
K Templeton	WS1 *	226th	22:36.4
R Wyness	WS2	228th	22:36.8
C Hawes	WS3	260th	22:54.9
P Haslam	WO	325th	24:23.4
M Kortaleinen	WN	326th	24:34.3

* pennant winner

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