

THAMES JOURNAL



1990

Thames Rowing Club

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Steve Jones
Simon Crump**

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Captain's Report

A year ago I sat at this keyboard writing the TRC Captain's report with many things the same as today. I still type slowly with frequent errors; I am as usual some months behind the deadline for this copy; and I am again thinking to myself that at least this is the last time I shall be doing this. In many ways this reflects the nature of Thames; whilst little appears to change, at the same time, one never really knows what to expect next.

I write this report as one of the three Captains who served the club during the 1989-90 season. Cris Maby started the year, but was unable to continue beyond Christmas. I stepped in from December to February when Simon Crump took up the role for the rest of the season. This lack of continuity could well have led to conflicts and confusion, but due to the dedication and professional attitude of all those who rowed and coached last year, we were still able to enjoy a very successful season.

In all we notched up some seventy wins across all categories last year seeing each squad record at least one victory at some stage in the season. We saw competitors in Thames colours from the age of fourteen to seventy (shan't say who that was) and in total something like eighty people represented the club at some level during the year.

As has been the case in previous years, we saw the women's section dominate club events throughout the season. It was a fitting tribute to the nucleus of this squad and their

coaches, Tessa Millar and Noel Casey, that we should win the Women's Head in a record time and indeed record successes in the premier divisions of both the Fours and Pairs heads.

Whilst losing some of our best people to the Women's National Squad meant that we were again unable to go beyond the top end of domestic rowing with club crews, it was very encouraging to see the development of strong groups at Senior II and Senior III level to backfill next season. Particularly pleasing was the progress of the 'Dorises' eight who won their event at Women's Henley and finished a creditable fourth at the National Championships.

Considering the small number of people in the group, the men's section had a reasonably successful year achieving wins in open events in eights and fours. The coxed four showed pace at the end of the season and were a selected crew at Henley following their convincing win in Open Fours at Reading. In all we boated two fours and two eights at Henley, but were unfortunate not to progress in any of these beyond Friday.

The 1989-90 season was one of the club's most successful with regard to international selection. Kate Brownlow and Sue Key were again selected for the lightweight squad, Miriam Batten was selected in the coxless four and 'Baker of Thames' became 'Baker of Britain' in the lightweight squad, to be the first Thames man to be selected for some time. I cannot stress strongly enough how much the commitment and achievement of these exceptional individuals is recognised and admired by the club.



Prince Michael joins the women's second eight, more commonly known as the Dorises, for a crew photo as club president Alan Burroughs looks on.

As we move into the 1990-91 season, I am pleased to see that the club has again committed itself to the resource of professional coaching. This is now the norm for premier clubs and Thames is well placed having secured the services of Noel Casey, who has engineered many successes at Thames over the years, to operate as a central co-ordinator for all the squads. Combined with the experience and organisational ability of Pauline Rayner, our Captain for 1990-91, I look forward to a very successful season.

Steve Jones

Men's squad

Following a year when the men's squad had not achieved what it set out to, the last thing the group needed was the chaos with which the 1989/90 rowing season began. A

lack of organised coaching meant the group drifted rather aimlessly for the first couple of months and yet again, Thames lost some of its oarsmen to other clubs.

But the core of the group battled on and once the captaincy issue was resolved things started to take shape. Richard Ayling, who had been appointed coach to the sculling squad and was spending a few hours a week at the club, was asked if he could handle both groups and increase his contribution.

Ayling agreed to this and the long slog towards the Head began as the group tried to make up for the less constructive water and gym work which had dominated the previous months. Although the club could not afford to employ Ayling in a full time capacity his organisation of the group and its training programme meant both the rowers and scullers knew exactly what they should be

doing and what was expected of them.

The rowers and scullers combined to create two eights for the Head. The first eight raced at Kingston and finished sixth, which gave the crew a much needed boost in confidence. As the Head approached the boat seemed to be running well and a place within the top 25 began to look possible.

On the actual day an accident on the way up to Chiswick meant the first eight missed its place at the start and ended up rowing in a vacuum which somewhat upset their race programme. A good row, however, meant the crew still finished 22nd while the second eight finished 34th.

After the Head, the scullers returned to their sculling boats, Gavin Reddin and Iain Pritchard trained in their singles while Bill Baker teamed up with Chris Long

in a lightweight double, to seek selection for the squad.

The rowing group divided into two fours with a view to competing in the Britannia and Wyfold Cups at Henley. It was decided however, that the group needed to acquire as much racing experience as possible which meant racing the fours in different combinations in both coxed and coxless events, as well as combining the two crews in an eight.

The group and the club needed some wins to boost the oarsmen's confidence and the reputation of Thames. Despite a slow start to the season, the group fulfilled its promise with wins at Putney Town, Putney Amateur, Notts City and the Docklands.

Steve Austin, who took over coaching the group during May and June when Ayling visited Malaysia for a six-week coaching job, had a very positive effect on technique

The men's first eight competing in the 1990 Head of the River. Bow S. Allpass, B. Baker, D. Gates, I. Pritchard, M. Urry, N. Copley, G. Reddin, stroke C. Slameck, cox I. Grindal.





The Britannia Cup four beating Royal Chester on the first day at Henley. Cox I. Grindal, bow C. Slembeck, S. Allpass, M. Urry, stroke N. Copley.

and the rowers continued to work hard and professionally.

Ayling returned just in time to see the Britannia Cup four win open coxed fours at Reading, a win which helped them win a seeding at Henley. On Sunday, the two fours combined to win the sprint eights.

The draw at Henley seemed to favour the Britannia Cup four while the Wyfold four faced the prospects of London, one of the favourites, on the second day. In the draw for the Britannia, Thames were seeded to meet Lea on the Saturday, Rob Roy and University of London being the other seeds. Having moved to Henley, the crew really began to come together, boosting everyone's confidence and for the first time that year the oarsmen really started to believe in themselves.

Both Thames crews disposed of their opposition comfortably on the

first day, the Britannia four beating Royal Chester and the Wyfold four overhauling Sons of the Thames. The coxless four then doubled up in an eight and beat Royal Chester.

The next day, however, the four lost to London in the Wyfold and then to Tradesmen in the Ladies Plate. The Britannia four, meanwhile, had drawn Galway and both the crew and Ayling underestimated the Irish crew. Galway surprised Thames off the start and had taken two lengths lead by Remenham. Thames clung on and rowed well but failed to haul back their opponents. Galway went on to win the event, as did London in the Wyfold.

Bouncing back quickly after their defeats, both crews resumed training during the Henley week making good use of the smooth water to prepare for the Nat Champs.

Ayling recommended that the coxed four compete at Lucerne International Regatta the weekend before the Champs to get a taste of top class racing. Having snatched the last place on the squad trailer and spent Henley Friday at Basingstoke trying to obtain a carnet, the crew packed their bags and headed for Switzerland.

None of the crew had competed at Lucerne before and arriving at the Rotsee for the first time was, as one of the crew described it, like waking up in heaven. Even compared with Henley's flat waters the lake's stillness takes your breath away. Used as a bird sanctuary for much of the year, the Rotsee is one of the most peaceful and beautiful places imaginable to row. Even more inspiring was the standard of racing.

The four raced on all three days improving their time with each race. Despite finishing 20 seconds behind the winning Soviet crew, the Thames four felt they had done well and knew the experience they had gained would prove invaluable for the future. Gavin Reddin and Bill Baker who were competing in the heavyweight and lightweight single events both raced on the first day and in the repercharge.

But the Rotsee's still waters proved not to be the best preparation for the conditions in Nottingham the following weekend. Neither the coxed nor coxless four coped well with the Holme Pierrepont wind and neither reached the finals.

While the season did not end on as high a note as had been hoped for, the group achieved what it set out to do and certainly more than seemed possible in November.

Izabel Grindal

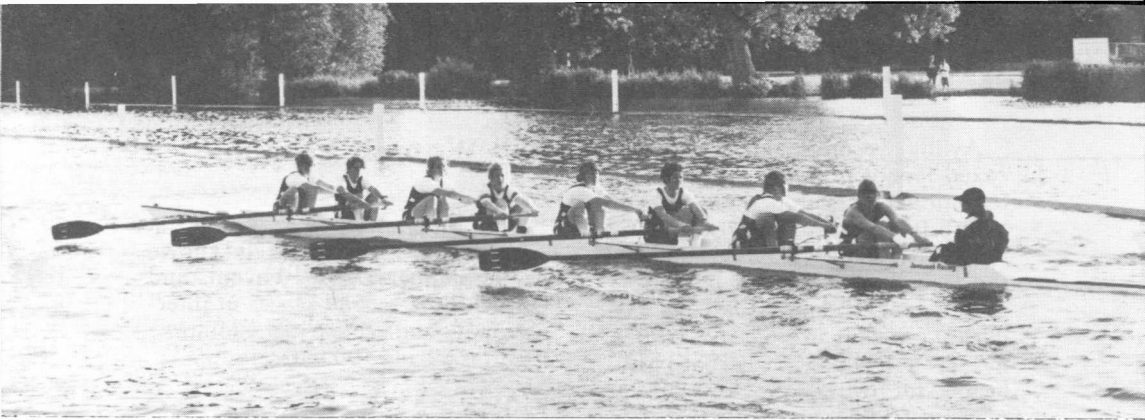
Women's Squad

The top women's group at Thames, affectionately known as the Slappers, won 10 events and gained three second places in international and top level domestic regattas during 1989/90 season.

Throughout the winter all oarswomen were subjected to squad trials, stroking, steering and the dubious pleasure of morning outings. We also joined Noel Casey for an enjoyable Easter training camp at Wimbleball. The range of boats available to us at Thames allowed us to train in various combinations of pairs, fours (coxed and coxless) and the eight.

Our first major success was retaining the senior 1 eights pennant at Reading Head. This was followed by our most outstanding achievement as four of our group joined up with four of our squad aspirants to win the Women's Head of the River in superb style. The importance of this win should not be underestimated. The crew was a pure Thames crew, most of the oarswomen being home-grown, and they triumphed over crews with several experienced internationals. The fancied lightweight eight included our world silver medallists and Tideway Scullers also fielded a strong international crew. But it was Thames' day.

The next notable win came at Ghent International where we won the gold medal in the eight on both days in a respectable time. For a short while the eight then split into fours and pairs, winning at Putney Amateur and Putney Town, and Wallingford. Gold medals were won in the eight at the Metropolitan and at the Docklands on Sunday.



The women's first eight competing at Women's Henley. Bow F. Wilson, L. Jenkins, L. Wright, S. Dancer, S. Thomas, M. Dennis, J. A. Baines, stroke P. Cross, cox N. Powell.

At Women's Henley the crew had too many points to race in the club event and were compelled to compete in the open eights. In this event we were well-beaten by a strong squad eight which by this time included three Thames members.

Our final event of the year was the National Championships at Nottingham. Here the eight came a disappointing fifth but the stern four went on to win the silver medal in the coxed four event. This was the club's only senior medal at the championships.

Tessa Millar

Men's sculling squad

The year started with much the same personnel sculling as the previous winter. Bill Baker announced his intention of seeking international selection early on winning the lightweight trials at Tiffin, whilst Gavin Reddin finished in the top five at both Reading and Henley sculling heads. Domenyk Honey who had won Junior 16 sculls at the National Championships won several junior pennants in the heads and was on course for a place in the junior sculling squad.

As summer approached, Bill con-

tinued to dominate the lightweight trials and with doubles partner Chris Long won at Ghent. Both seemed likely to win selection, but in the event Chris just missed out. Bill, however, stroked the GB quad at the worlds in Tasmania.

Domenyk Honey also gained his first international cap, and was steersman of the junior quad at the World Championships in France.

On the domestic front, Gavin Reddin won open sculls at both Docklands and Henley Town and Visitors, and Sam Allpass won senior 3 pots late in the season after his commitments to the coxed four had finished.

The scullers also gained valuable international experience by competing at Lucerne International Regatta, where Chris Long and Bill Baker entered lightweight sculls, and Gavin Reddin heavyweight.

In October 1990, Iain Pritchard and Gavin Reddin set sail for the USA to join Blair Crawford, Thames member and Harvard business school student, to compete in the 25th Head of the Charles. Former Thames member Nina Streeter, now resident in the States won lightweight sculls whilst Iain Pritchard finished a creditable 13th in the heavyweight men's event.

Gavin Reddin

Britain's lightweight quadruple sculls

The 1990 World Championships were held between October 28 and November 4 on Lake Barrington, Tasmania, and the British team of over fifty athletes entered a wide range of events.

The first stage of the trip was a ten-day training camp in Geelong near Melbourne which was to allow us to acclimatise to Australian time and recover from the 20-hour flight from London.

Our boats were housed at the Corio Bay Rowing Club on the Barwon River which is about the width of the Thames at Henley. Other teams using this stretch of water were the Americans and Swedish, while the Australians were based in Melbourne. Despite the very high water level, wind and rain for the first few days, our training went quite smoothly and was helped by a very good hotel and food. We had some time to tour some of the local beaches and Melbourne itself.

The training camp was just long enough and most people were pleased to fly to Tasmania.

The accommodation in Tasmania was rough and ready but we were used to it after a couple of days. The course was about $\frac{3}{4}$ hour drive from the hotel and most people hired cars. Our event, the lightweight quadruple sculls was a competitive event with over twelve entries, despite it being only the second time the event has been held at the World Championships.

The stronger crews were the world champions West Germany, Italy, Holland and France while other entries included Sweden,

Switzerland, Denmark, USA, Australia, Austria, China, Mexico and Hong Kong.

We raced our first heat on the Tuesday and finished fourth behind West Germany France and Italy beating Austria and Hong Kong. The recharge was the next day and with the first race under our belts we performed better, beating Switzerland by half a length to win the race. This gave us a place in the semi-final to be raced the following day, from which three crews were to go to the final and three crews would go to the small final to decide places 7-12.

Our performance proved to be disappointing perhaps because of the toll of the previous day's racing, and we finished fourth behind Italy, Australia and Switzerland, ahead of China and Austria.

We now had Friday and Saturday to prepare for the small final on Sunday morning. The line-up was West Germany, Sweden, USA, ourselves, Australia and China. Due to the headwind we eased our gearing but this proved the wrong decision as the wind dropped shortly before the start with no time to readjust. We finished fourth behind West Germany, Sweden and USA giving us 10th position overall. We were disappointed not to beat USA who finished two seconds ahead of us.

Overall we were fairly pleased with the result. We also learnt some lessons about crew sculling and laid some foundations for 1991.

Bill Baker



The Dorises. Thames' second women's eight, winners of the club eights event at Henley. Left to right (back) S. Livvy, G. MacWhirter, Y. Heggett, C. Peters, (front) S. Tynan, H. Jefferson, L. Mason, M. Rogers, L. Cartledge.

Novice Women

In dribs and drabs throughout the hot, hot summer of 1989, in all shapes and sizes, and at varying stages of fitness, we appeared. We had decided this was the place to be, Thames RC was the centre of the universe.

George Askew introduced us to the hardships of rowing with vivid encouraging words such as "Not like that you silly cow". Yes, Thames Rowing Club was a place of real culture.

Within a few months George's heart could no longer take the strain of these still anonymous females, nor would his shorts withstand the strains of getting in and out of the clinker eight. With much relish, the club might recall the first launching of what became last year's novice eight. Several extra hands were

recruited to transport to the water the archaic craft which was to take us to the limits of civilisation. What a feat it was to get to the Black Buoy.

Yet, we grew from strength to strength. In November we won the support of John Russell as our coach and it was then that we learnt about the true meaning of frustration. We were eight, then four, then eleven. Would we ever get fit?

Our first racing experience and our first success came with the annual Plum Puds race which, much to everybody's surprise we won. Our performance at the Women's Head was disappointing but we were lucky to finish the race having completed a 180 degree turn under Hammersmith Bridge after a collision. However, we returned in force to the competitive scene and won our novice pot at our fifth regatta, Putney Town.

In rowing circles we had finally made it and we were novices no more. Our name had to change as did the crew, it was decided, in order to mount a serious challenge for the club eights event at Women's Henley. The plane-spotters were regrouped, new talent was recruited and after a few weeks without an identity we gained the dubious honour of being dubbed the Dorises. Noel Casey accepted the enormous task of creating a winning crew and we learnt what part terror plays in training.

Both the Dorises and the second eight went from strength to strength adding new pots to their modest collection. The Dorises achieved what they set out to do, winning the club eights event at Henley in a dramatic final against Kingston. The verdict half a canvas to Thames.

Gill MacWhirter.

Men's Second Squad

Early in 1990, the men's senior III/novice squad comprised about 12 members, ranging in experience and ability from a former semi-finalist in the Visitors to near beginners. Plans for the year were simple: enjoy the rowing, and get the squad up to senior II standard by the end of the regatta season.

The squad's performances in eights heads were modest and gave little hint of future success. A crew raced at Reading Head, and, despite starting only one place behind the Cambridge University Boat Race crew, finished well down the field. Two elite oarsmen were brought out of retirement and joined the boat for the Head of the River race. An enthusiastic effort failed to yield a high finish position.

The period following the Head saw several changes of personnel. A hardcore of, probably, the five most able oarsmen eventually emerged, and from these a crew was chosen to enter novice coxed fours at Hammersmith Regatta. The crew, consisting of Edward Fawssett, Patrick Deane, Steven Harris, Steven Fox, and cox Liz Conway, trained well and raced equally well, winning their heat and final easily. The same crew raced two weeks later in senior III coxed fours at Putney Amateur Regatta. They again won, this time by a canvas in the final.

Sadly, the glory days were not to last. Holidays, work, and exams took their toll on the winning crew, and further success was to be a long time coming. Four junior oarsmen from Barn Elms Boat Club joined the squad in May, and they helped form crews that entered senior III coxed fours at the Metropolitan and Reading regattas, and senior III eights at Marlow. However, the squad's efforts went unrewarded; the first-round defeat at Marlow being in no small part due to the coach having to row at bow.

The squad returned to full strength post-Henley. The juniors, Chris Capon, Graham Cahill, David Harte, Matthew Barnes, and cox Clare Humphries, won novice coxed fours at Bedford Regatta without difficulty, and also won a round of senior III fours on the same day. The following weekend was to be the squad's most successful. Harte and Barnes entered the junior pairs events at the National Championships in Nottingham. Their steering let them down in the coxless event, but, with Humphries on board, they took the

gold medal in junior coxed pairs. Meanwhile, in tropical Molesey, Fawssett, Harris, Busvine, Fox and cox Conway won senior III coxed fours.

Two weeks later, on the hottest Saturday for many years, we had two crews entered for senior III coxed fours at Henley Town and Visitors Regatta: the juniors who won at Bedford and the victors at Molesey. An all-Thames final seemed in prospect; however, this was not to be. Graham Cahill capped his season-long performance as "the man who will be late for his own funeral", by delaying for so long his meeting with crew-mates at Paddington Station that they had not reached Henley by the time their race started. No matter; the remaining crew seized their chance of reaching senior II. During the remainder of August, Harte and Barnes rounded off the season by winning senior II double sculls at Peterborough Regatta.

For most members of the squad, this was their first full season of competitive rowing and their first experience of frequent tough racing. Fortunately, all last year's winners are still around to go on to greater things in 1991. It was also my first full season of coaching. I learnt three things that stick in my mind: (1) there is a positive linear relationship between sunshine and enthusiasm; (2) lycra one-pieces may be trendy but they don't make you go any faster; and (3) when Kipling wrote the lines, "If you can meet with triumph and disaster and treat these two impostors just the same" he must have had rowing in mind.

John McConnell

World junior championships

The weather at Aiguebelette in France was great for the tourists but everyone at the world junior championships agreed it was just a little too hot for racing. With the temperature up in the nineties, racing had to stop between 3.00 and 5.00 pm.

A training camp the week before had prepared us for the weather but the setting at Aiguebelette was rather more impressive than Chester where we had trained. The championships were held on a huge lake of almost still water. The professional organisation of the event meant all we had to worry about was the racing.

With 18 crews in the quad sculls, the racing was hard. The British quad of Stephen Hughes, Christopher Elmitt, Domenyk Honey and Robin Clothier, under the direction of John Spencer, won a place in the small final having had the tougher of the two semi finals.

They duly won the small final in a time of 6.04, six places behind the eventual winners, the East Germans, who won the event in a time of 5.54. The time margin reflected the high standard of sculling some foreign junior crews have achieved and which the British must aim for.

But the crew agreed the whole event had proved to be a superb experience. We learnt much about technique, racing and rigging and were still able to go out and compete alongside the best junior crews in the world.

Domenyk Honey

Le Parcours des Canotiers

A weekend in Paris racing the annual Parcours des Canotiers sounded idyllic, even though the race was to be 25 kms long and it was September when most of the crew formed for the event had not lifted an oar for at least two months.

Encouraged by John Robson and Gavin Reddin who organised the trip after an invitation from Urs Burkhard, we loaded our cameras and started to plan sightseeing trips and shopping lists.

The weekend, however, started badly when one of the crew, Mike Urry, ricked his back on the morning of departure. At 6.00 am on a Saturday morning finding a substitute was out of the question. We crossed our fingers and Urry was told to grin and bear the pain.

The second disaster struck when one of the two cars missed the ferry and bad weather delayed its depart-

ture for a further two hours. Reunited in Calais, the crew sped to Paris arriving just in time to take our borrowed boat out for a short paddle before it got dark.

The race started at 1.00 pm the next day so sightseeing was confined to the local district — we could just make out the Eiffel Tower in the distance. Any hopes we had of taking in some of the famous Parisien sights during the race were disappointed when we discovered that the race headed away from the centre of the city by studying the six-page course map. With few landmarks visible on the map we decided to judge our progress by the number of bridges we had to go under—we had 19 in all to pass.

With only six eights competing over the 25 km course — a couple of hundred skiff fours were spending the day tackling the longer 50 km race — the organisers started the crews side by side. But within minutes of the start it was clear there were only two crews in it — Thames and a local crew which we

A scratch eight, put together for the annual 25 km Parcours des Canotiers race in Paris, grin and bear the pain of one and a half hours' racing. Bow D. Honey, A. Dodd, S. Allpass, J. Robson, M. Urry, G. Elkington, L. Fletcher, stroke J. Copley, cox I. Grindal.





Urs Burkhard, former Thames oarsman, host to the visiting Thames crew and an organiser of the Paris race.

later discovered had won the race for the past three years.

By the time we had reached the second bridge the French crew had established a lead of several lengths and a passing barge had ensured we would be sitting in several inches of water for the rest of the race by filling our boat with its wash.

Little changed in the next hour and a half. The French stretched their lead out to about a minute but the riverside scenery looked the same as did all those bridges. By the time we had reached the 18th heads were beginning to loll, but the 19th and final bridge was an agonising 10 minutes away. When we did reach it and cross the finishing line everyone was too tired to even breathe a sigh of relief.

An hour later the crew were returning to life, but by then it was time to load the cars and head home. After less than 30 hours in France most of them spent in the car, boat or sleeping, the crew decided racing abroad is not what it's made out to be. Now the blisters have gone however, we're talking about doing the race again this year.

Izabel Grindal

Junior squad

Since last penning this column the club's junior squad has had considerable success. The last journal had not gone to press before the J15s had entered a quad scull of Sessions, Smolski, Nichols and Hawes coxed by Messenger, in the Fours Head.

They managed a time of 21-45, going up 42 places and beating the club's senior II four and the top ladies four in spite of carrying a cox to keep their over-lightweight boat's bows out of the water.

At the beginning of the season, whilst training for international selection, Domenyk Honey won the J16 pennant at long distance sculling races at Marlow, Henley, Pangbourne, Tiffin and Thames Valley.

During term time the club expects junior members to row for their schools, but it would not go amiss to mention that five members of the squad—Hawes, Langbridge, Nichols, Smolski and Waller—were rowing in school crews which won

silver in J16 quad sculls at the National Schools Regatta and also gold medals in the J16 eights and quad sculls at the National Championships. These five were selected for the English Eight in the Anglo-French Match.

Also at the National Schools, Robin Clothier and Domenyk Honey won the junior double sculls and at the National Championships David Harte and Matthew Barnes, coxed by Clare Humphreys, won the junior coxed pairs.

The club's junior squad comes into its own during the school holidays, but this year it was difficult to find a sequence of junior events in the regatta calendar as several of the regattas that usually hold junior events clashed in dates.

Last year, a Thames junior crew won J15 coxed fours at Molesey but those oarsmen had moved on to J16 colts. Nevertheless, a new J15 squad started rowing at the club and two coxed fours entered J15 coxed fours at Molesey. After disposing of two Tiffin School crews, the event was won by Thames B consisting of Hudgins, Wheaton, AlGhabban and Young, coxed by Levy.

At Peterborough Regatta the juniors joined a major safari from the club which entered 24 events over the two days, and in which the juniors participated in nine, six of which were senior III events, and appeared in five finals. David Harte and Matthew Barnes won senior III double sculls and the crew of AlGhabban, Hawes, Langbridge and Nichols coxed by Levy won J16 coxed fours.

At Oxford City. Harte and Barnes were unable to repeat their winning performance and at their next regatta Gloucester, no opposition entered.

The last event before the new school year was Worcester Veterans and Juniors regatta which meant a dawn start for the team of nine not to mention the Land Rover driver and team coach, to get to the course in time for the first J15 race. The J15 four of Hudgins, Bluminoew, AlGhabban and Young won their heat comfortably and won the final against Monmouth School by one and a half lengths.

The J16 four of Hawes, Waller, Nichols and Langbridge had a bye into the final where they disposed of Abingdon School with a comfortable margin of two lengths.

Both fours then combined in an eight to compete at Junior A level and although they beat the home club Worcester, they found that the two-year age gap makes a big difference. They lost to a Royal Chester crew by a length after a very hard race. All three crews were coxed by Levy.

It should be recognised that the intensive summer programme is only possible with the willing support of parents and of senior members of the club making sure the squad gets there and is properly equipped and supervised.

In conclusion it is with pleasure that I can report the efforts of Robin Clothier and Domenyk Honey in being selected to represent the country in the quad sculls at the Junior World Championships at Aiguebelette last August and congratulate them in their win in the Petit Final.

Alan Hawes

Women's veterans

During the year, Thames RC was very active in the veterans field, particularly in women's events.

The first success of the year came at Women's Head when the veteran A eight rating a steady 27 over the course, won the veteran A pennant. A few weeks later, wishing she hadn't, Pauline Rayner battled her way through the gales with frozen fingers and toes, to win the veteran D pennant in the Scullers Head.

At the Docklands Regatta, Rayner and her partner Jackie Darling from Civil Service, competing in a veteran C double, raced against veteran men in a mixed handicap race. They were awarded a gold medal for beating a London Rowing Club double.

In her veteran handicap sculls event, Rayner managed to win the race but in a dead heat with a veteran man of the same category.

With the National Vets and World Vets approaching, crews were formed for the events. Penny Haslam and Jean Rankine were persuaded to make up a quad with Rayner and Darling. Sadly, the crew had to race against a much younger quad in Nottingham and lost the title Thames held from last year. Darling and Rayner also lost in the double.

The quad continued training and started to go very well, putting the whole crew in good spirits for the World Vets in Pisa. Combining with a Civil Service coxed four, the quad made up a veteran C eight which beat the Americans convincingly in appalling weather conditions on Lake Varreggio.

Rayner managed to stay afloat to win the veteran D single sculls but Haslam's veteran C sculls race was abandoned as conditions grew worse. This was only after Haslam had been sitting out on the water for at least one and a half hours, madly bailing out her boat.

As the quad event was scheduled for the end of the regatta, the crew did not race. The championships were abandoned with at least half a day's racing still to compete. The double lost to a very fast and skilful international composite — but Rayner and Darling do not intend to let that happen again.

Pauline Rayner

Membership

In the 1989 Journal I listed ninety-three "older" members who were elected on or before 27 October 1948 whose names were listed in the 1948 Journal and who are still members. This number has now been reduced to ninety.

There are also a further twelve current members who were originally elected before October 1948 but whose names were not in the 1948 Journal for various reasons. They are:

Badcock JFC
Cazes JD
Clayton CC
Denning HGV
Fox Sir Murray
Garton JL
George RD
Gerring FJ
Hindmarsh JH
Lohnberg HHL
Richards BL
Wise JEH

Some members who were elected at later dates have commented on their omission. I have therefore referred to the minutes of meetings from November 1948 to December 1959, and from January 1960 to December 1969, and compiled two further lists of current members elected during these periods. There are 102 from the Fifties but only 63 from the Sixties.

The first list is:

Abel Smith L	Long MJ
Alwin GJ	MacRae IA
Bailey IG	Marsh FO
Barker BM	Marx ALR
Binnian JA	Matthiae RA
Blanchard GI	Mays GD
Boyd NRH	McKee JB
Bray Prof RC	McKinley PJ
Bridge GWJ	McLellan DH
Brown JB	Meier G
Buckley AC	Miskin SFA
Caplowe DM	Morris P
Cooke AJ	Moss JR
Cox JD	Mount DR
Crooks TJ	Neale R
Cross KS	Neville DG
Davison IFH	Palmer J
Delarue AM	Parker JRM
de Pinna LD	Pederson CI
Dowden-Parker PJE	Penny RL
Dulieu MRW	Phelps MR
Dunton DA	Provan ACM
Elliot DSS	Raeymaeckers J Ph
Elliott IL	Raikes TD
Ellis DES	Ramm BT
Fawcett DB	Reddin AR
Fortuin J	Riemer AC
Francke JVG	Rooksby PB
Garner GH	Rumney FPR
Gauld BJ	Rushmere PWH
Gladstone JN	Seaman RG
Goodes DS	Shaw JT
Green WS	Simcox PWJ
Griffith WJ	Southern JE
Harrison CE	Stephenson JA
Hawes A	Stevens PJB
Hennessy JKM	Stokes LAF
Hobbs S	Strike WJB
Hopkins CWM	Sulley JS
Hunt DLC	Temple VBA
King D	Thayer RJM
Kirkpatrick TR	Thomson JPM
Lambert FJ	Varian JW
Legg M	Vernon JJ
Levy MJS	Walker MJ
Levy TJS	Wallis JM

Webb JTH
Weston RT
Whitaker DH
White JR
Widdowson DB

Williams JT
Woolley WSL
Woolner MR
Workman RJ
Wright RC

The second list is:

Allen DR	Jack DA
Amies JH	lacey PE
Badcock DJ	Lester JR
Badcock TF	Lloyd DR
Bailey PG	Lohnberg MJ
Baker JK	Long CBL
Bakiewicz TA	Millis A
Barker CR	Morgan DJP
Bingham AG	Muir JH
Boddington SR	Northam PGC
Brandwood MG	O'Farrell RV
Braun KJ	Pallant Rev Cn. R
Bush PS	Pedraza DJ
Cameron PJA	Peck TA
Campbell MDC	Pollard DC
Clayton P	Pollitt AJH
Cruttenden DL	Reddin GPR
Dear AS	Roberts TAM
Denny MHP	Ross WL
Drouet R	Rowlatt MH
Friend JA	Sheppard DC
Gardner CEC	Sherwin PJ
Garrett-Cox MH	Shove DG
Gramolt DW	Skinner DD
Gurney DJF	Snell NJC
Hackford R	Snow MH
Hamilton A	Stephenson JD
Haynes CIR	Stephenson JS
Haynes TRI	Taylor JE
Hill-Kelly D	Whitefield JM
Hodgins AJ	Willett RH
	Wise SJ

This means that we have 267 (90 + 12 + 102 + 63) members who were elected between 1922 and 1969 inclusive, some 40% of total membership, although only about 15 of them regularly use club boats. If any of them wish to buy a new club tie, please let me know.

We regret to report the loss of the following during the past year: Cyril Bishop, Bill Brinson, Cliff Carver, Oscar Deane, Donald Duffus, Rex Farnham, James MacNabb and Eric Miskin.

Tim Wilson



Thames in 1990

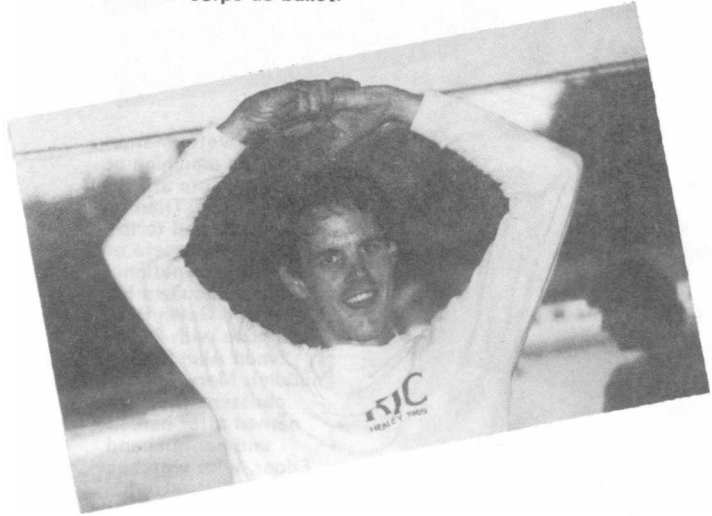


The scratch Thames eight which finished second in the 25 km Parcour des Canotiers race (top), pose with former Thames oarsman Urs Burkhard. The Wimbledon half-marathon team (middle). Men's coach Richard Ayling (right) on his best behaviour for the visit of Prince Michael.





The Thames Wyfold four (above), sponsored by the Nooze, the infamous club gossip sheet, pose for a crew photo. Left to right, D. Gates, S. Jones, R. Moon and A. Dodd. Serious pot-hunting by the Bradford Squad (right) resulted in everyone coming home with at least one pot. Chris Slembeck (below) auditions for the Thames corps de ballet.





Thames veteran men enjoy the sunshine at the World Vets at Pisa (top). In 1990, Thames men returned to the Rotsee to compete at Lucerne International regatta. Scullers Bill Baker and Gavin Reddin pose with Chairman Alan Reddin (middle). Mary Traylen christens the boat named after herself and her husband Edgar, who watches (left).



The undefeated Thames mixed four (top), well ahead of the field at Peterborough Regatta. Stoke N. Copley, D. Gates, L. Wright, L. Baguley, cox N. Powell. Steve Austin and Mike Urry (middle) model the latest in Thames formal attire before the active members' dinner. Members of the Peterborough pot-hunting squad (bottom) relax at a barbecue after a hard day's racing.



1990 Wins

Men

Open eights	Reading Amateur (sprint)
Senior I eights	Docklands (sat)
Veteran A eights	City of Oxford
Open coxed fours	Reading Amateur
Senior I coxed fours	Bradford Autumn
	Nottingham City
	Putney Amateur
	Putney Town
Senior III coxed fours	Putney Amateur
	Henley Town & Visitors
	Molesey
Novice coxed fours	Hammersmith
	Bedford
Veteran A coxed four	Bradford
Open coxed pairs	Bradford Autumn
Junior coxed pairs	National Championships (gold)
Lightweight double sculls	Ghent bronze (sat)
	Ghent silver (sun)
Senior III double sculls	Peterborough
Lightweight sculls	Tiffin Scullers Head (Baker)
Open sculls	Docklands (sat) (Reddin)
	Henley Town & Visitors (Reddin)
Senior I sculls	Henley Scullers Head (Baker)
Senior III sculls	Bedford Sprint (Maby)
	Henley Town & Visitors (Allpass)
	Peterborough (Allpass)
Novice sculls	Bedford (Inglis)

Women

Open eights	Womens Head
	Ghent (sat & sun)
	Metropolitan
	Women's Henley (squad composite)
	Women's Henley (Club Eights)
	Docklands (sun)
Senior I eights	Reading HOR
	Richmond
Senior II eights	Richmond

1990 Wins

Senior III eights	Reading Amateur Twickenham Molesey Staines
Novice eights	Putney Town
Veteran A eights	Womens Head
Veteran C eights	FISA World Veterans
Open coxed fours	Serpentine Fours Head Wallingford
Senior I coxed fours	Putney Town Hammersmith
Senior II coxed fours	Hammersmith
Senior III coxed fours	Vesta Winter Horseferry
Novice coxed fours	Hammersmith Putney Town
Open coxless fours	Metropolitan (TRC/TSS) National Championships (silver)
Open coxed pairs	Bradford Autumn
Open coxless pairs	Pairs Head Serpentine Putney Town Metropolitan (sat)
Senior II double sculls	Walton Small Boats Head
Senior III double sculls	Walton Small Boats Head
Veteran C double sculls	Reading Amateur
Open sculls	Serpentine (Batten)
Senior II sculls	Scullers Head (Key) Chester Scullers Head (Batten) Walton Small Boats Head (Batten) Reading Small Boats Head (Batten) Henley Scullers Head (Batten)
Novice sculls	Hammersmith
Veteran D sculls	Scullers Head (Rayner)

Juniors

J15 coxed fours	Molesey
J16 coxed fours	Worcester
	Peterborough
Junior coxed pairs	National Championships
J16 double sculls	National Schools
J16 sculls	Marlow LD Sculls (Honey)
	Henley Silver Sculls (Honey)
	Pangbourne LD Sculls (Honey)
	Tiffin Sculls (Honey)
	Thames Valley Sculls (Honey)

Mixed events

Open coxed fours	Peterborough
	Bradford Autumn
	Reading Small Boats Head

Thames RC Charitable Trust lends its support

We welcome this the third issue of the Thames Journal (new series), and extend particular congratulations to Izabel Grindal in reviving the spirit of the original Thames Journal, which was produced and edited by R. R. (Swat) Swatton between 1948-72.

We also recognise that a well presented Journal extends its influence far beyond the boundaries of the immediate membership, and can do much to promote the aims and ideals of the club to all those who have an interest in rowing. Initially the Journal costs money to produce and distribute but the

Charitable Trust feels it is of sufficient importance to merit a contribution towards the expenses, and suitable disbursement has been made.

During the past year the Charitable Trust has also contributed to expenditure on equipment and assisted members to attend and compete in international events. It is hoped to continue our support on an increasing scale in as many practical ways as possible. To this end, every reader is invited to make a contribution, however modest, and to make use of the Freepost facility.

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