

# THAMES JOURNAL



1988

**Club officers**

*captain*

**Steve Jones**

*women's captain*

**Helen Layng**

*committee*

**Sarah Bolton**

**Freddie Beardmore**

**Mike Cowie**

**Blair Crawford**

**John Levy**

**John McConnell**

**John Robson**

**John Russell**

**John Stephenson**

**Vic Temple**

**Paul Williams**

**Guy Thomas**

## Captain's Report

Having been associated with the club for many years, I looked upon my year as captain as a formidable task, but never really anticipated quite so many situations in which I would need to face the unexpected. It has become apparent to me over the past year that the club is a collection of empires and the task of steering each emperor towards a common goal is not an easy one.

The most difficult period was from October through to Christmas. There was approximately one week between the captains meeting and the start of training which did not prove long enough to produce sufficient coaches for the numbers involved.

Stephanie Price, Jim Banks and George Askew had agreed to take new starters and feed them into the system as and when appropriate. The senior squads, however, did not enjoy such full coverage.

Lee Brown took on the women's section and Willy Ross the men. Because both coaches were stretched far too thinly, I do not feel that in either case we really saw the best from them. This led to some frustration and during this period we saw some people at the top end of the men's section depart to row elsewhere.

Over the Christmas break we were able to attract further support on the coaching front. Sean Bowden and Simon Crump for the men, Alan Reddin for the sculling squad and the women's second eight, and Tim Lohman coxing and coaching the women. At this point things began to take a more meaningful shape.

Between January and the Head, the women developed into a very

strong squad, but the men consistently underperformed whenever raced. The Tideway head races produced a good performance from the women's first crew, being the fastest club in the event, and a mixed bag from the men with a disappointing 30th for the first eight, but three eights in the top forty.

Towards Easter the crews for the summer began to take shape and with offers of coaching support from Noel Casey for the women, Mike Cowie, Gordon Dear, Tim and Martin Levy for the men, it became possible to map out a programme for the season.

Into the regatta season there were significant improvements on all fronts. The highlights were I feel, the women's performances winning the DAF springs (and the Ergo Competition), and the races against the GB Eight at Henley and the National Championships finishing inside a length of them on each occasion. For the men wins at NIR and Reading in double sculls, Open eights wins at Reading and Marlow as well as a Bronze medal in coxed pairs from the Ladies Plate squad were very pleasing and Sean Bowden's Thames Cup crew becoming the first Thames Henley finalists for a number of years warmed many a heart at a very wet and cold regatta this year.

We are now poised to achieve very significant successes next season. To achieve our highest aims we must address the problem of retaining our better people and indeed attracting those of similar standard from other clubs. In short Thames must become the club to go all the way with and not, as it has been in recent events, a vehicle to develop the ability to be taken elsewhere to win top events.



The Thames Cup A crew: Henley finalists in 1988. Bow T. Hockley, 2 J. Ferraro, 3 N. Roullier, 4 N. B. Copley, 5 A. Johnson, 6 A. Inglis, 7 J. Woodis-Field, Stroke S. P. Austin, Cox T. Lohman.

## Thames Cup A crew

My association with this crew lasted some ten weeks from the middle of April through to Henley, although all but one of the crew had rowed together since February when Sean Bowden took over the coaching of the eight. It was a time of ups and downs but, for me, the best thing about the crew was a thoroughly professional attitude to training, both on and off the water.

The training at that time was mainly long, hard outings in pairs in the week and outings in the eight at the weekend. The pairs outings were followed by devilish supplementary sessions of either bench hops or squats and I feel that this dedication to fitness was the major factor in our relative success.

After a few putative outings in the Dick Southwood, a few of us set forth into the wilds of Surrey to collect a new craft. This, very kindly donated by Alan Burrough, is a superb boat. As light an eight as Aylings have built and exceptionally

fine, its finesse giving us some initial problems with balance.

The way the Thames Cup rules stand is that in effect a crew must be Senior 2 status on May 1st in order to qualify, so there had been virtually no SII eights racing before May. At the end of May, however, we went to the Docklands Regatta and found some pace. On Saturday we reached the final of SII eights and finished second to Scullers. On Sunday we decided to race both SI and SII and the final of SI eights saw us and Scullers finish in the same order as before well ahead of the field. In the SII final we faced UCL, Marlow, Barclays, Lea and Tradesmen, with the GB Womens Eight racing in lane 0. Sean told us to make no mistakes and dominate from the blocks. We did and won by some hundred yards.

The next weekend saw us racing in SA/II eights at Nottinghamshire International Regatta. The first day we had to race the Irish Neptune eight who beat us by a bare length. On Sunday the opposition came

mainly from Rob Roy and Nottingham and Union. Rob Roy took two lengths from the field in 250m but as the race progressed we started to haul them back and were only half a length down with 500m to go. As the rates started to climb both crews flew for the line where Robs beat us by some two feet in one of the best races of the day. It was at this stage that we realised we would have to do something about our starts.

Reading and Marlow saw us coming second out of three in the first heat. Both occasions were miserable rows with none of the flow we had felt at NIR and spirits were not at their highest. The following week, however, was spent at Kingston, training on some superb water in the final run up to Henley.

Come regatta week and we were doing short pieces against anyone who was interested. Working with the Ladies Plate crew, Harvard and Neptune we found that we had improved in our time to the Barrier to the extent that we felt a 1.50 time to that marker was within our capabilities.

As Wednesday began we were all feeling nervous and keen to get the first race out of the way. A lunch-time paddle was tense and edgy and as we came out of the tent we heard the Bedford coach telling his crew that we would be little trouble. We were little trouble, we led from the first stroke. A lead of a length at the quarter mile turned into two and a half at the Barrier and a long way at Fawley. We crossed the line rating 19 and rowing badly. It was nice to have got the nerves out of the system.

Thursday and we were to race Lea, an unknown quantity as the

crew had been recently formed. Although the Lea led to the quarter mile we had our noses in front at the Barrier and had two lengths at Fawley. The verdict was two and three quarter lengths in a time 7:27.

On Friday we faced Trinity College Dublin who had won comfortably the day before in a time of 7:05. We went off very well and had a slight lead at the quarter mile but Trinity found a better rhythm as they strode and moved out to about three quarters of a length. Our push near the Barrier took us back to about one third of a length but they accelerated out of the Barrier to half a length. At three minutes we drew back to a canvas and Trinity led by this margin to Remenham. Spurred out by support at Remenham we came through the Mile a canvas up and rating 39. We held this lead to the Stewards when they started to move back at us but we still crossed the line three quarters of a length up in a time of 6:59.

Next at 3.30 on Saturday we met London RC. the wind had been gusting all day and the LRC crew had eased their work slightly, we kept ours the same. London moved ahead off the start, their lighter gearing really being used well. They had a lead of one length at the Barrier but by three minutes we had moved up to half a length. As I called a push I felt an immediate response: the rating went up to 41 and it felt really strong and rhythmic. At Fawley we had a slight lead and at Remenham it was a length. We pulled away over the last part of the course to win by one and three quarters of a length in the fastest Thames Cup time of the day.

This left us with certainly the harder of the two semi-finals as we had the experienced Galway crew.

From the very first stroke they tried to move over into our water, and as we came to the quarter mile one third a length down I expected to hear them being warned by the umpire, Chris Davidge. Not a word crossed his lips. As we came up to the mile we raised our rate of striking and moved to within a length but the Galway cox continued to steer into our water. Eventually just before the progress board we clashed and our two man crabbed, still the umpire was silent. We raced in but crossed the line about a length down on Galway. I complained to the umpire but he would not reach a decision on the water. Once we had put the boat away we heard that he had decided on a re-row, handing the Thames to Scullers. After much arguing however, the judges announced that Galway had been disqualified.

We were all exhausted by both the race and the unnecessary wrangling over the result and as we travelled down to the course for the final the air of fatigue about the crew was unmistakable. We met Tideway Scullers School on the start, still in the pouring rain, for the final at 5.40. At more than a stone a man heavier than us and still fresh after disposing of Connel in the morning they were looking well. They led by three quarters of a length along the enclosures and by two at Fawley. A superb finishing effort along the enclosures saw us finishing a length and a quarter down on a very good crew.

Thanks must be given to Alan Burrough who supplied us with a boat, John Russell and John Suenson-Taylor for maintaining it and of course Sean Bowden who formed, trained and coached a marvellous crew.

Tim Lohman

Bow	T. G. Hockley
2	J. Ferraro
3	N. Roullier
4	N. B. Copley
5	A. S. E. Johnson
6	A. J. R. Inglis
7	J. Woodis-Field
Stroke	S. P. Austin
Cox	T. Lohman

## Ladies Plate A crew

The Men's First Squad had a rather unsettled year with a number of coach and crew changes preventing the club from producing as fast an eight as it should have done. A few good oarsmen were lost to the Lea early on in the year and selection of the first eight was left until February. Even then several changes in crew and order were made before the Head of the River and the first eight only managed a disappointing 30th.

After the Head a reshuffling of the squad resulted in the selection of a Thames Cup eight and a Wyfold or Britannia Cup four. But with a couple of scullers showing interest in rowing in an eight and after a scratch crew narrowly lost to Reading University in the Open Eights finals at Wallingford Regatta an eight was formed to compete in the Ladies Plate.

Mike Cowie and Gordon Dear took over the coaching and given the shortage of preparation time it was decided to do all water work in the eight. The crew's first test followed three weeks later at Docklands. Competing in Senior I Eights on the Saturday we drew Kingston, Lea, Thames Tradesmen and Dutch crew, Nereus. Within the first 500 metres we had drawn

ahead of the field with Kingston and Lea. Our stride was a good one, we settled into a good strong rhythm and pulled away from the other crews. Having established a lead of nearly two lengths we dropped our rating and crossed the line a length ahead of Kingston.

Celebrating our victory that night, stroke Chris Slemeck cut his hand open on some glass and it looked as if our season had ended almost as soon as it had begun. We decided to continue training with a number of different substitutes in the hope Chris' hand would have healed by Henley week.

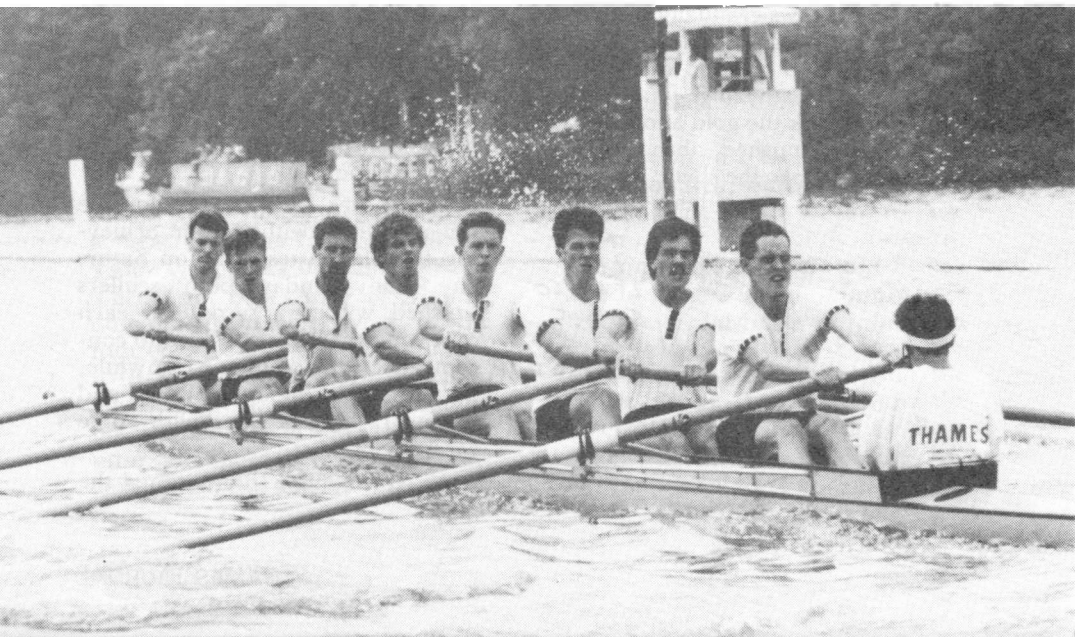
With one of our many substitutes on board we competed at Reading Amateur in Open eights. After a poor race and some dubious umpiring on the Saturday when we finished second to Reading, we won Sunday's final against Reading University and Oxford Poly.

Chris returned to the crew a couple of days before Marlow. Entered for the Grand, we avoided all the US crews who had decided to

compete in Senior I Eights. We drew the middle lane in a straight final between Cambridge 99 and the Elizabethans. Within 500m the Elizabethans had blown but Cambridge 99 with the advantage of the first bend and a quicker start had three quarters of a length on us. We gradually worked back at them, holding our water so they could not cut the final corner. Having rowed through them we held onto a half a length's lead to the line.

We moved to Henley the following Saturday where Tim Levy took over the coaching. The draw gave us an easy first race against the Elizabethans again but the second day promised University of London. The Wednesday race went according to plan. Having always been a rather slow starting crew we surprised even ourselves by pulling away from the Elizabethans down the island. By the Barrier we were three quarters of a length ahead. Having established a lead of two lengths we started to drop our rate. By the enclosures we had hit 25 and

the Ladies Plate crew. Bow P. Williams, 2 B. Baker, 3 C. Maby, 4 S. Todd, 5 H. Worden, 6 B. Crawford, R. Court, Stroke C. Slemeck, Cox I. Grindal.



crossed the line one and a quarter lengths ahead in a time of 7:18.

Thursday's race was one of the last of the day. UL pulled away as we expected and by the Barrier had established a two lengths lead. We stayed with them, however, and kept pushing to close the gap. They held onto their lead and crossed the line in a time of 7:07.

After Henley the crew disbanded. Chris Slemeck paired up with his brother Luke to compete in the coxed pairs at the National Championships while Bill Baker entered the lightweight Sculls. Bill just missed out on a place in the final losing third place in the repercharge in the final 100m. Chris and Luke won their semi-final convincingly and drew lane 1 in the final against Thames Tradesmen, Kingston, Notts & Union, Marlow and a Scottish crew. By the 1750 marker the Slemecks were at the back of the field and three quarters of a length down on the leaders. By 1000m they had pushed back and taken the lead. Unable to extend their lead to more than three quarters of a length they continued to push down the course. The other crews gradually started to move back and the Slemecks had nothing left to respond to the final call. In an amazing final sprint Kingston took the gold and Notts & Union just pushed ahead of the Slemecks to take the silver.

Izabel Grindal

		NOU
Bow	P. Williams	LRC
2	B. Baker	LT wt SC.
3	C. Maby	Ex Capt.
4	S. Todd	—
5	H. Worden	Leander Brit.
6	B. Crawford	Harvard
7	R. Court	IC Harker R.
Stroke	C. Slemeck	TRC.
Cox	I. Grindal	..

## Scullers Squad

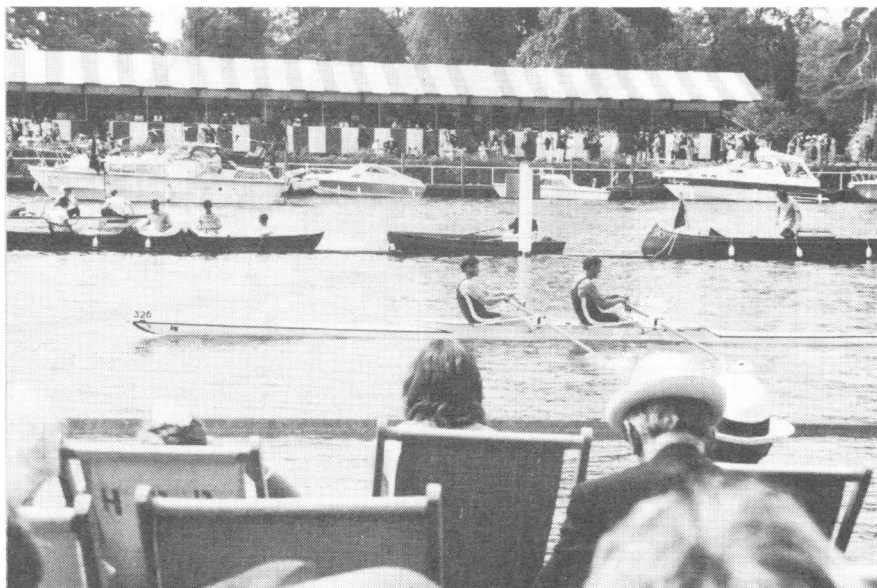
A small sculling squad started training in October made up of a nucleus of four, supplemented by the odd veteran and visitor. Training undertaken both in and out of the boat was very much endurance-based in the early months, and Ian Pritchard, Gavin Reddin, Bill Baker and Dominic McDonald all showed significant improvement in speed over the previous year. Ian Pritchard was the star performer, rarely finishing outside the top three in the autumn heads, winning at Walton and ending the season with 10 pennants and regatta wins. He was hotly pursued by Gavin Reddin, whose head finishes were around 10th place. The gap between these two scullers narrowed from 20 seconds at the start of the winter to the point at which they finished joint second in the Watney Sculls, sharing the Senior A pennant and losing the overall title by one second.

In the Scullers Head, Gavin Reddin finished 19th out of the 500 entrants while Ian Pritchard came in the top 60 despite missing a month's training while working in the USA. Bill Baker also made it into the top 60, a highly creditable performance in his first season of sculling seriously.

Ghent was the first test for the senior scullers with Reddin achieving the fifth fastest time on Saturday. On Sunday both scullers finished within a second of each other and thereafter decided to concentrate on the double. Meanwhile, Baker was picking up Senior III and Senior II regatta wins with some ease.

At Nottingham International the





G. Reddin and J. Pritchard competing in the Double Sculls at Henley.

double was second in SAIL on Saturday and won the event by over two lengths on Sunday, whilst Baker sculled well to earn a place in the final of the lightweight sculls racing against world champions Verocca of Italy and Britain's Carl Smith. The double also won the open event at Reading before competing at Henley and reaching the final at the National Championships. Bill reached the semi-finals at the Champs. Joined by visiting Australian Lou McLaughlin, the three scullers put up a good performance in the quads event, losing in a heat to silver medal winners, Tideway Scullers by half a length. This result bodes well for Thames doing well in this event in the future.

In the latter part of the season Chris Maby won his first sculling pot at Maidenhead and showed promise for the future winning the club's handicap sculls.

After such a successful season many old and new faces have expressed an interest in being part of an enlarged sculling group, and entries for the autumn heads from Thames members should be higher than for some years.

Gavin Reddin

## Women's First Squad

The women's first squad started the season well, with a good result at the Womens' Head when the First Eight won the club pennant finishing third after the British Squad eight and Cambridge University. The eight then split into fours to train for the DAF Sprints.

Two fours were entered for the event, one as Thames RC and the other as United Universities. Both reached the final, U UWBC finishing seventh overall and TRC



The Women's first eight: runners-up to the GB Squad at the National Championships. Bow J. A. Baines, 2 P. Harkness, 3 C. Christie, 4 H. Layng, 5 L. Baguley, 6 S. Bolton, 7 M. Batten, Stroke L. Banks, Cox T. Lohman.

winning the event and picking up a new coxed four for the club as their prize. In the DAF Sprint Ergo competition, Miriam Batten (TRC) finished fourth, and Gwin Batten (UWBC) finished first winning an ergometer for the club.

Fortunately the organisers of Henley Women's regatta did not permit doubling up. We entered the eight, drew the National Squad in the second round and to our surprise (and their's) came within two lengths of the potential Olympic Eight. At this point, thoughts of doubling up at the National Championships disappeared, we concentrated on the eight.

There was a good entry for the event, eleven crews being reduced to six finalists; the Senior and Junior National Squads, two Cambridge University crews, Tideway Scullers School and TRC. The times for Saturday indicated that the Senior Squad and our crew were

significantly faster than the rest of the field.

On Sunday with a Nottingham head wind blowing, we drew lane 1, the Senior Squad lane 2 and the Junior Squad lane 6. We rowed hard and well, pushing constantly at the Senior Squad but finished three seconds down. It was a good silver; Noel Casey, who had coached us since the DAF Sprints and without whom we would not have done as well, was pleased with our performance. But (I think I speak for the whole crew) a disappointment remains. I would like to have raced the Squad over a course where we did not have to worry whether it was true that lane 1 was slower than lane 6 by fifteen seconds on the day. I would like to have beaten the squad even if they had been rowing in the slower lane. But it was a good season and an excellent starting point for TRC in 1988-89.

Sarah Bolton

### WHORR

Bow	H. Layng
2	C. Grant
3	C. Christie
4	S. South
5	M. Batten
6	S. Bolton
7	L. Baguley
Stroke	P. Harkness
Cox	T. Lohman

### DAF Sprints

Bow	M. Batten
2	C. Grant
3	L. Baguley
Stroke	P. Harkness
Cox	R. Roullier

Bow	H. Layng
2	S. Bolton
3	C. Christie
Stroke	L. Banks
Cox	C. Stuart

## Heineken Rovierkaimp

What does a women's eight do between the WHORR and the start of the season? Heineken Rovierkaimp sounded plausible and Thames women packed their bags for Amsterdam at the invitation of the student racing club, Nereus.

The event was to consist of four races. The winner being the overall best performer over the four different distances, 2500 and 250 on the Saturday and 750 and 5000 metres on the Sunday. Thames was

entered in the highest category of the competition for eights with several composite crews comprising a few Dutch Olympic hopefuls.

Saturday dawned with grey clouds, rain and bitterly cold wind blowing straight across the Austel river. The starting area was a complicated mess of boats going in all directions. In Holland there are no rules to say where crews should pass up and down the river. After a long wait (a feature of this regatta) the 2500 metres processional race started with the slowest crews going off first and fastest last. It proved to be an interesting finish. The Thames eight made an excellent time which the well organised time-keepers could announce immediately the race finished.

Straight after all crews turned around and face 250 metres two by two off a running start. At the end of the day Thames had a comfortable but no easy margin of 13 seconds over the next crew.

Conditions had eased by Sunday and the crews boated early for the 750 metres sprint. By this stage of the tournament the girls had attracted a large number of Dutch supporters who provided a welcome cheer as Thames crossed the line in a record time beating the home favourites easily.

However, by the afternoon the travelling and hard racing took their toll and the women lost by three seconds to the Orca-Nereus composite over 5000. But overall Thames clinched a substantial victory of 22 seconds over the opposition to win the tournament. Thames has been invited back next year for the anniversary event, but the Dutch would rather we didn't win everything.

Miriam Batten



The winning Stewards Four from the 1948 Henley Regatta celebrate Dick Phelps' birthday.

## 40 Years on: Henley 1988

Thames Rowing Club activity in 1988 included a party at Remenham Club on the Sunday before the Regatta to mark the fortieth anniversary of the club's 1948 victories in the Grand Challenge Cup and the Stewards Fours, not merely as a nostalgic gathering for survivors but as an opportunity for old and young members of the club and those in between to get together. It was a pleasure for the older generation to meet a large number of the five eights competing at Henley this year.

Among those old friends that Alan Burrough, the president, and Steve Jones, the captain, were particularly happy to welcome was Dick Phelps, whose ninetieth birthday had been celebrated at the club

in Putney in November with a large gathering of Thames, friends, relations and fellow Tideway watermen.

The winning Stewards Four of 1948, subsequently selected to represent Great Britain in the Olympic Regatta of that year, consisting of Peter Kirkpatrick, Hank Rushmere, Tom Christie and Tony Butcher were all present at the party. These were half the Grand Challenge Cup winning eight. The other members of the crew surviving were Johnny Johnston, Jerry Sangster and Urs Burkard, all present the last named having come especially from Switzerland for the occasion.

Seen as usual at Henley this year was Arthur Sulley who coxed the Thames Eight in the Amsterdam Olympics of 1928 and Oscar Deane the reserve cox for the British team



Prince Michael names the new Aylings Eight donated to the club by president Alan Burrough.

in the 1924 Paris Olympics and Rowland George, bow of the Thames four which won the coxless event at the 1932 Los Angeles games. Another welcome Thames visitor who sadly died in December, was R. R. "Swat" Swatton, a former captain and the initiator of the Thames Journal in 1946 and its editor for many years.

Thames members will have seen with pleasure the TRC flag which the club had recently presented to Alan Burrough, the president, flying proudly during the Regatta from the flagstaff in his garden opposite the finish.

All old Thames hands were delighted to see a club crew in the final of the Thames Cup. As some sage observed, Thames is alive and well and flourishing at Henley.

Ramsay Murray

## Events at Thames

The social year at Thames started and finished with birthdays. In November the friends and relatives of Dick Phelps packed the clubhouse to celebrate Dick's ninetieth birthday. In December it was the turn of Ham Ward whose eightieth birthday was celebrated after the annual Plum Pudds race.

Once again Thames was honoured by a visit by Prince Michael of Kent for the launch of the boat named after him and donated to the club by president Alan Burrough. Both the men's and women's top squads took to the water after a brief naming ceremony with the new boat manned by the Thames Cup eight. A donation from John "Fitz" Morris also helped the club buy a much needed coxless pair later in the year.

The Boustead Cup saw an easy victory for the lightweight squad training at London but Thames got its own back at Henley when the Thames Cup crew knocked their London rivals out of the event.

Active members marked the end of the season with a lively dinner at the clubhouse where well-deserved awards were handed out to all those who gave up so much of their time to help crews, including Sean Bowden and John Russell, while comic awards were given to the less-deserving. Willy Ross won a rubber ring for bathing in recognition of his impressive water skiing performance, face down, during the launch of Beaujolais one morning.

The annual dinner in November at Simpsons in the Strand, although less riotous, was still enjoyed by all 94 members and guests, old and young attending the event.

## 1988 Wins

### Men

Open eights	Reading Marlow Richmond
Senior I eights	London Docklands Loughborough
Senior II eights	Reading London Docklands
Open coxless fours	Hammersmith
Senior I coxless fours	Staines Vesta Dashes Henley Town and Visitors
Senior I coxless pairs	Evesham
Coxed pairs	National Championships Bronze
Open double sculls	Nottingham International Reading
Open single sculls	Reading Chester Walton Small Boats
Senior I single sculls	Walton Small Boats Watney Sculls
Senior III single sculls	Wallingford London Docklands
Veteran B single sculls	Walton Small Boats

## Women

Open eights	HORR (club pennant) Serpentine (Sat and Sun) Peterborough (Sat and Sun) National Championships Silver Amsterdam (Victor Ludorum)
Senior I eights	Bedford London Docklands Silver
Veteran eights	National Veterans
Open quad sculls	London Docklands
Open coxed fours	DAF Sprints Peterborough
Senior II coxed fours	Twickenham Henley Town & Visitors Upper Thames Sprint
Senior III coxed fours	London Docklands Silver
Novice coxed fours	Barnes & Mortlake
Veteran coxed fours	Women's Summer
Open coxless pair	Peterborough (Sat and Sun)
Senior I coxless pair	Bourne
Veteran D coxless pair	FISA Veterans
Open double sculls	London Docklands
Veteran D double sculls	FISA Veterans
Senior III double sculls	Bourne
Veteran D single sculls	FISA Veterans Scullers HOR Bourne
Women's Ergo Champion	DAF Sprints

