

# THAMES JOURNAL



1993

# Thames Rowing Club

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# Thames Journal

## 1993

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At Christmas the annual Plum Pudding race saw the Thames Armada take to the Tideway.

## Captains Report

It is a great pleasure to report that the rowing season at TRC in 1992-93 has been one of the most successful in the club's history.

At domestic level, at the national championships, the home countries, the world championships and at the world masters, club members won over 110 medals and trophies.

The foundation of these successes lay in the training programmes set for the men by Bill Mason and for the women by Noel Casey. They were very ably supported by Blair Thorpe, John Stephenson, Mark Treserdern, David Wise, Darren Gee, Iain and Nancy, with some input by Alan Hawes and Alan Reddin.

The emergence of John Clift after the men's head as the chief coach of the men, accelerated TRC wins and the domestic season culminated in an exceptional performance at Strathclyde where 10 Thames crews won medals.

All our coaches must be praised and thanked for all their hard work and dedication for achieving such remarkable results.

At Christmas the annual Plum Pudding race saw a great armada of boats battle for the prizes. Included in the grand charge was a men's twelve oar and a women's sculling eight. Only at the last gasp did Imperial's Ladies Plate eight catch up the men's veteran eight and the female scullers, sneaking past to win—but only once they had passed the Black Buoy.

Although Thames' top eight could not overcome the London lightweights to lift the Boustead Cup, all the other eights beat their London rivals and our novices became the first crew to win the Ray Penney cup.

The main eights heads arrived. The women's first eight, combining Thames internationals with the top club rowers and coached by Noel, achieved the fastest time over

the course. Sadly, because of a clerical error concerning an ARA registration number, Thames were disqualified and Tideway Scullers accepted the pennant instead.

I am sure I will write about this affair in the future but needless to say, I disagreed entirely with the decision.

In the men's head, the first eight achieved a very creditable 14th place despite a last minute substitution due to illness. But the eight which caught the eye was the developing senior III eight coached by Blair Thorpe.

Looking full of fire and potential they progressed quickly and had a truly successful season, reaching the Friday at Henley when they lost to Bill Mason's top eight.

There was a moment of doubt over where the top group of men was heading after the Head because Bill was unable to fulfil his obligations to the club in terms of coaching, but I was able to recruit John Clift and his brother Adam to take on coaching of the top group. The pair of them took the club through all the domestic regattas, Henley as well as the national championships.

Some regattas I must mention.

The Docklands Regatta produced 12 outright wins for the club, 12 silver medals and five bronzes. On the same weekend both the novice men and women won at Peterborough.

At Women's Henley, Noel's quads battled valiantly against Tideway Scullers' crew of internationals who eventually won the event. Thames were also represented in the winning pair and coxless four.

Henley Royal Regatta saw five crews still racing on the Friday and the lightweight double of Mark Otto and Meini Hausleitner made it to the Saturday.

At the national championships a total of 10 medals were won—all of them in sculling events. Leon took gold in the single sculls and went on to represent England in the Home Countries where he won convincingly.

Meanwhile the women's sculling group achieved a unique triple taking gold, silver and bronze in the quads as well as a bronze in the doubles.

After the intensity of racing in Strathclyde, it seems nearly all of the club's active members decided the best way to unwind would be a wild weekend of winning at Peterborough Regatta where we won 17 events and the Victor Ludorum.

Thames members also won at international level as Britain's immaculate women's lightweight coxless four containing Thames' Alison 'Wilma' Brownless and Annemarie Dryden took gold at the world championships. Congratulations to both of them and coach Bill Mason.

And while the younger members of the club were winding down, John Clift to his amazement, found himself coaching veterans in preparation for the world masters, where Thames women won six titles between them.

I have enjoyed being the captain of Thames although at times it felt as if the sky was falling in on us. We've faced many problems and a few disasters but now the club has found its feet and should continue to grow in size and reputation.

I am delighted that the younger members of the club having taken up the challenge of running Thames. With new captain Steve Austin at the helm and last year's coaching team intact, I am sure Thames can look forward to an even greater year.

**Pauline Rayner**



## Thames Charitable Trust

**I** 993 has not been a good year for donations to the TRCCT, but the good work of the Charitable Trust continues.

In further pursuance of the aims of the Trust to encourage and support the rowing activities of the active members of Thames Rowing Club, particularly the younger element, we have this year, as an experiment, made a contribution towards the regatta charges paid to the Club by some of the regular crews and scullers.

It is not the policy of the Trustees to allocate much of the Trust's income to the ever present needs of the premises and fabric of the Club. However, we strongly believe that if rowing at Thames is to prosper, the working facilities must be smart

and in good running order. Exceptionally, therefore, we have made a contribution towards the decoration and repair of the men's changing quarters.

Happily this seems to have triggered off a spate of activity by the keen and zealous Building Committee which should result in active members being welcomed by hot showers and a cheerful ambience on return from their efforts on the river.

The Trustees are very grateful to those who have contributed this year. A number of initial covenant payments are now coming to an end and need rejuvenating. New gifts and covenants are welcome to help prime the capital pump and keep the income flowing.

The Thames Rowing Club Charitable Trust registered charity number 29940.

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## Lightweight four take British women's first rowing gold

Britain's lightweight coxless four with Thames' Alison 'Wilma' Brownless at bow won the country's first gold in a women's sweep-oared event at the world championships in Roudnice.

Three of the four—Wilma, Annamarie Dryden and Tonia Williams—took silver in Montreal in 1992 having been rowed through in the last few metres by Australia.

This year, however, with newcomer Jane Hall on board, they made no mistake. Having taken the lead at 1,000 metres, the four kept moving away from the field, beating Canada by nearly three seconds. Last year's gold medallists Australia finished fourth behind the United States.

In the single Thames' Sue Key produced a solid performance in the repechage to qualify for the semi-final but could not repeat it in

the next race. Despite the fastest last 500 metres she finished fourth with only three moving to the final.

Sue finished third in the petite final.

In women's coxless pairs however, there was disappointment for the club's Miriam Batten and Jo Turvey who despite lying in second for most the race, only finished fourth.

Miriam and Jo, knowing the French pair would be their main opposition, stuck with them over the first 1,000 metres but then could not lift their pace for the final 500 metres and were rowed through by Australia and the United States.

In the fours, Britain stroked by Thames' Philippa Cross missed out on a place in the final after finishing third behind gold medallists China and the United States in their repechage and looked just slightly off the pace.

Former Thames member Bill Baker also had a disappointing championships as he and Marcus Williams failed to make the final of the lightweight coxless pairs. The British pair finished third in the petite final.

Garry Herbert, another former Thames member, added a World gold to his Olympic gold when Britain's coxed pair carved through the field to win the final.

Despite a season interrupted by injuries and exams, the Searles produced a devastating push in the middle of the race moving from sixth to first in 20 strokes. Garry disappointed all his fans however, by holding back the tears this year.

In all 11 British crews reached the finals.

Peter Haining's remarkable recovery after hitting a buoy 200 metres from the line, made the lightweight single sculls the most exciting race of the championships while Redgrave and Pinsent took gold with another professional, polished performance.

The men's lightweight squad, coached by former Thames coach Sean Bowden, looked on course for at least two medals in the four and eight earlier in the week but failed to live up to expectations.

Derek Porter, stroke of the Canadian eight last year, continued his winning streak with an unexpected gold in the singles just when it looked like local favourite Vaclav Chalupa would finally win that elusive major sculling title.

A strong team performance from Canada, led by the country's lightweighters, took them to the top of the medals table. France marked its return to the top of international rowing with three golds as their investment in former East German coach Mund Ebherdt paid off.

Germany won the most medals with 12 but only three golds, fueling speculation that the west and east German teams are still struggling to integrate. China's heavyweight women took two golds while the United States also had a good championships with a total of eight medals.

Garry Herbert gets another dunking at the hands of Greg and Johny Searle after Britain's coxed pair took the world title.



## Results

### Men

<b>Eights</b>	Germany 5:37.98, Romania 5:39.33, United States 5:41.47, Australia, Netherlands, Great Britain
<b>Coxless fours</b>	France 6:04.54, Poland 6:06.63, United States 6:08.50, Canada, Great Britain, Germany
<b>Coxed fours</b>	Romania 6:14.64, Czech Republic 6:17.50, Germany 6:17.78, China, Australia, Poland, Great Britain (9th)
<b>Coxless pairs</b>	Great Britain 6:37.11, Germany 6:38.65, Slovenia 6:39.78, Belgium, New Zealand, Croatia
<b>Coxed pairs</b>	Great Britain 7:01.50, Italy 7:03.59, Germany 7:04.91, France, Croatia, Lithuania
<b>Quads</b>	Germany 5:43.99, Ukraine 5:46.25, Italy 5:47.07, Poland, France, Russia, Great Britain (14th)
<b>Doubles</b>	France 6:24.69, Norway 6:28.42, Germany 6:29.03, Spain, United States, Hungary
<b>Single</b>	Canada 6:59.03, Czech Republic 7:00.56, Germany 7:04.35, Romania, Italy, Argentina

### Lightweight men

<b>Eights</b>	Canada 5:39.17, Denmark 5:41.25, Italy 5:41.53, Germany, Great Britain, Netherlands
<b>Coxless fours</b>	United States 6:03.27, Switzerland 6:03.99, Italy 6:04.59, Australia, Great Britain, Austria
<b>Coxless pairs</b>	Spain 6:39.34, Russia 6:40.77, Germany 6:40.79, Australia, Italy, Denmark, Great Britain (9th)
<b>Quads</b>	Austria 5:49.30, Italy 5:51.00, Germany 5:51.00, France, Great Britain, Sweden
<b>Doubles</b>	Australia 6:20.64, Switzerland 6:20.73, Italy 6:21.94, Spain, New Zealand, Poland
<b>Single</b>	Great Britain 7:05.34, Australia 7:06.60, Netherlands 7:07.70, Denmark, Ireland, United States

### Women

<b>Eights</b>	Romania 6:18.88, United States 6:20.42, Germany 6:21.52, China, Belarus, Czech Republic
<b>Coxless fours</b>	China 6:42.06, United States 6:42.72, Canada 6:43.32, Germany, Romania, Australia, Great Britain (8th)
<b>Coxless pairs</b>	France 7:24.74, Australia 7:27.21, United States 7:27.69, Great Britain, Germany, Netherlands
<b>Quads</b>	China 6:21.07, Germany 6:24.31, United States 6:33.98, France, Russia, Netherlands
<b>Doubles</b>	New Zealand 7:03.42, Germany 7:05.61, Bulgaria 7:07.26, Netherlands, China, Romania
<b>Single</b>	Germany 7:26.00, Canada 7:27.42, Denmark 7:28.14, Sweden, Belgium, United States

## Lightweight women

**Coxless fours** Great Britain 6:45.30, Canada 6:48.87,  
United States 6:49.47, Australia, Germany, Denmark  
**Doubles** Canada 6:59.74, China 7:01.33, Netherlands 7:01.66,  
United States, Denmark, Great Britain  
**Single** Canada 7:47.14, Netherlands 7:51.37, Denmark 7:52.52,  
United States, Australia, Austria. Great Britain (9th)

## Our gold medal performance



**O**ur first stop on the way to the Czech Republic was Sarnen, Switzerland for a two week warm weather training camp. Conditions there were perfect—a huge, azure blue lake, mirror flat, reflecting mountains and hillside chalets and endless blue sky. Breathing in pure mountain air was a novelty after training on the Tideway in London all year—what a change!

For twelve days we had unrelenting sunshine, (a great help for keeping down to our strict target weights for the weigh-in), broken occasionally and briefly by freak thunder and lightening which sent us scuttling for the shores if we were out

on the lake but which would disappear as quickly as it came. Flat water and good weather allowed us to relax, unwind and train well.

Our host was the Swiss International coach, Harry Mahon—a 007, James Bond lookalike—who had coached the Cambridge crew to victory earlier this year. We trained alongside the Swiss national team, the Danish lightweights, the New Zealand team as well our own pace boat—Dan and Ed (gluttons for punishment) from Imperial College Boat Club. We also caught a glimpse of our arch rivals the Australians—who had pipped us at the post last year—they were training down the road in Lucerne.

On the thirteenth day a black rain cloud descended into the valley and stayed. It was time to move on.

My lasting impression of Switzerland will be sunshine, mountains, good training sessions, pretty chalets with perfectly arranged flower boxes and the enormous St. Bernard dog—'his bark is worse than his bite'—who chased us up the hill from the lake every day without fail.

My first impression of the Czech Republic was the level crossings — without barriers or signals as we are used to—both trains and cars alike are trusted to slow down and look both ways before crossing amazingly it works.

My second impression, an unavoidable one, was the smell! The rowing course must have been in the smelliest part of the Republic. At one end of the course was a pig farm, at the other a paper factory burning sulphur emitting coal—so no matter which way the wind blew.

But what the area lacked in scenic charm was made up for by the enthusiasm and generosity of the local people. They really made us feel welcome and looked after us as if we were Royalty. Contrary to reports, food was plentiful and very tasty and the beer, so I am told, was very good and cheap.

But back to the serious business of Rowing. We had a straight final because only six countries had entered crews into our event, which meant we had a long nerve-wracking wait until Finals weekend. The pressure was immense, we had won the silver medal twice before but this year the Gold HAD to be ours, and if we won it we would be the first British women ever to win a world rowing gold. But during that week our coach Bill kept us on our toes, making us train hard, preparing us meticulously for every eventuality—hitting buoys in the race, or coming last off the start, or having to throw the kitchen sink in at the end of the race—in short, by the end of the week we were as well prepared to race as we would ever be.

Race day arrived and it was raining and miserably cold. I was a bit nervous but also felt curiously detached and calm—I knew, as Bill had told us, that we could only race our best and if that was good enough we would win. We had a hectic warm-up arriving late at the start—not ideal—where our opponents—USA, Canada, Germany, Denmark, Australia—were sitting waiting for us. I think arriving late was an ad-

vantage as it did not give us time to get really nervous.

Then we were off, the States led off the start as expected, the Canadians were strong too, and unexpectedly the Aussies were trailing, but we were there in the pack. With 500 metres gone of the 2000m race we took the lead and would not let go. The other crews constantly attacked and seemed dangerously close to us but at last after 6 minutes and 45 seconds we crossed the line in gold medal position.

What relief, then what joy!

**The Crew:**

Tonia Williams (NRCA),  
Annamarie Dryden  
(TRC & Queens Tower),  
Jane Hall (KRC),  
Alison 'Wilma' Brownless  
(Thames RC).

**The Coach:**

Bill Mason (Imperial College)

**Postscript:** I would like to emphasise how much we owe our gold medal to those who have supported us and shown us such generosity along the way. As lightweights and women we are always at the bottom of the money heap, so here is a Big Thank you to:

\* Thames Rowing Club Piggy Club Members for buying the TRC Piggy Club Janousek lightweight pair for us to train in over the winter.

\* Bill Mason for coaching us and Imperial College for putting up with us in their changing rooms and boat house.

\* Bob Janousek for giving us the permanent loan of our Janousek racing boat.

\* Moore Stephens, Chartered Accountants, for sponsoring all our travelling and championship costs.

\* The Sports Aid Foundation for helping with our training costs.

Wilma Brownless

## Men's sculling squad

After a promising start to the season under chief coach Bill Mason from Imperial College, the senior squad began to lose its direction after the men's head as Bill was forced to concentrate on his Imperial crews.

The appearance of brothers John and Adam Clift, both former Olympic squad rowers and scullers, helped to lift spirits after the Head. John and Adam spent the first few weeks assessing all the rowers and scullers and trying to establish a style and technique common to all.

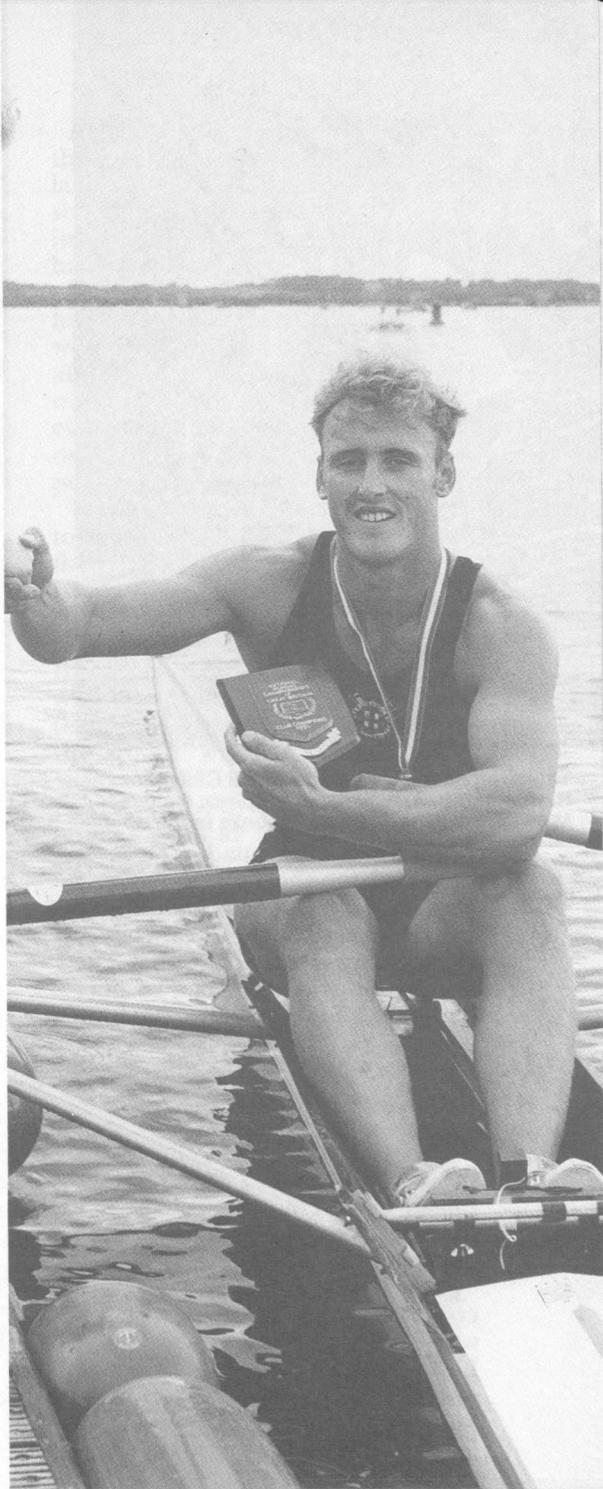
A variety of quads were raced in the early part of the regatta season with Leon Fletcher, Ian Pritchard, Steve Jones, Andy Inglis, Nick Copley and Blair Crawford amongst those competing.

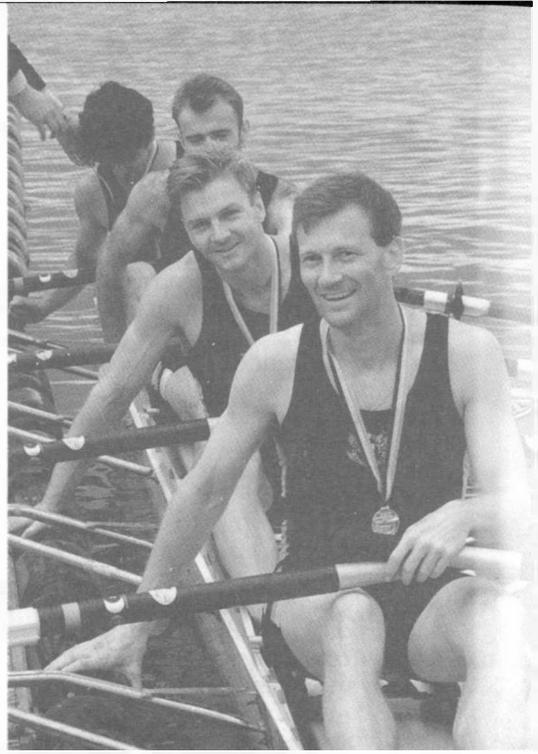
As Leon was to concentrate on his single scull and Blair Crawford had work commitments, a new heavyweight quad was organised including two new arrivals to Thames from Tideway Scullers, Tim Spiers and Ralph Humphrey. The other scullers were Telwyn Beddoe from Imperial College and Andy Inglis from Thames.

Of the other scullers Blair paired up with Gavin Reddin to form a heavyweight double, Mark Otto and Meini Hausleitner continued to train together in their lightweight double and Sam Allpass joined three scullers from Tideway Scullers to form a composite students quad, seeking selection for the world student games in Buffalo.

The first test for the new Thames heavyweight quad came on the Sunday of the Docklands Regatta where TRC was beaten by some eight seconds by the TRC/TSS quad.

Shortly after the Docklands was Marlow Regatta which ended suc-





**Thames medallists at the National Championships: Silver medallists in heavyweight quads T. Beddoe, R. Humphrey, A. Ingils and T. Spires. Gold medallists in the lightweight event R. Williams, D. Martinelli, M. Otto and M. Hausleitner. Bronze in the doubles B. Crawford and G. Reddin (opposite).**

cessfully for the quad. The crew qualified for the final by beating Dan Topolski's Upper Thames quad in a close race and then beat Henley RC by over a length in the final. The additional prize of a box of beer had only a marginal effect. . . honest!

For the run-up to Henley Royal Regatta and the National Championships the club hired a set of new 'hatchet' sculls which undoubtedly helped in the quad's preparation for the Queen Mother Cup. Under the coaching of John Clift the quad became faster and fitter each day.

John was juggling five Thames crews at Henley; the quad, the lightweight double, Gavin and Blair, Leon and London's Andy Booth in another double and a coxed four. Mike Urry was the club's only sculler in the Diamonds, the event being

dominated this year by the inclusion of World Cup scullers, while Sam was forced to compete under Scullers' colours.

The news that the Thames quad had drawn the national heavyweight quad in the first round was disappointing. However, our goal to upset the squad quad training held firm.

On the day both crews attacked from the start, the squad crew trying to crush Thames and our quad trying to rattle the squadies. To the squad's surprise TRC trailed by only one length at the Barrier and then two lengths by the halfway marker, Fawley. In difficult water conditions the stronger squad crew pushed onto a victory of four and a half lengths in six minutes 40 seconds.

Although disappointed by the poor draw and subsequent result

we took comfort from having produced the fastest time by a club crew as well as having avoided an 'easily' verdict.

The following day Blair and Gavin were knocked out the doubles by Collins and Lees while Leon and Andy lost to Hopkins and Pollecutt. Mike lost to the Romanian sculler Nicolae Taga but Mark and Meini beat Rudkin and Kittermaster by a length.

In the semi-finals they faced a London/Tyrian composite—the lightweights—Kittoe and Redpath. Mark and Meini put up a good fight but eventually lost by several lengths. Kittoe and Redpath went on to win Sunday's final.

The final event for the quad and most of the sculling squad was to be the National Championships, held this year in Strathclyde. In the intervening days the crews moved to the Docks in order to benefit from some straight lane race practice.

Excellent weather conditions at Strathclyde helped the racing through the weekend. Sunday saw the first race for 12 heavyweight quads entered for our event in the form of two early morning qualifiers.

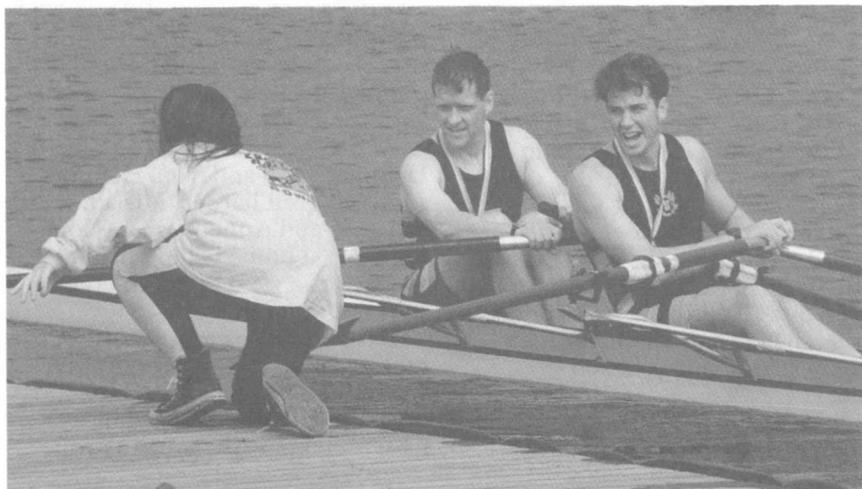
As usual the races were hard to the half-way point and more relaxed from there to the finish. The six qualifiers had all shown ability in achieving their final place and a hard final was likely.

From the start all crews pushed hard to the 500 metres mark. TRC were third at this point but gradually eased through Kingston RC to move into second place where we eventually finished some nine seconds behind the TRC/TSS composite student quad.

We were one of 10 Thames crews to approach the presentation raft that day. Among the men, Leon had a comfortable victory in the singles while Sam added the bronze to his gold in the quads. Gavin and Blair took bronze in the doubles while Mark and Meini took silver in the lightweight doubles and gold in the quads with Martinelli and Williams of UL.

Hopefully with many of the same scullers around for the 1993/94 season together with John Cliff still coaching, the new season could prove even more productive and successful.

**Andy Inglis**



## Women's Head of the River

The eight's Head of the River is one of the most anticipated races of the rowing season. It is one of the only yard sticks that can be used to give a true reflection of a crew or club's standard.

1993 was no exception. Thames had not won the Women's Head since 1990 and over many pints of Youngs in the Vesta bar, Noel Casey devised a plan to take on the best and beat them.

Noel put out a call for all true Thames RC members to return to base from wherever necessity had taken them to train. Kate Brownlow, Alison 'Wilma' Brownless and Annemarie Dryden returned from Imperial where they had been training in a lightweight four. Miriam Batten and Philippa Cross returned from training with the heavyweight squad and Guin Batten was spotted in a single on a pond in Loughborough and recaptured.

Meanwhile the very solid base that has been created in women's rowing at Thames enabled Noel to select three strong eights.

Each eight had its own master plan.

The third eight had a novel scheme. In fact, for the sake of novelty it was decided that the first time they should be spotted on the water was on the way up to the start.

The second eight had a highly confidential and top secret plan, It was so secret that even the crew never found out what it was.

For the first eight Noel devised a careful selection policy. It started with 10 pints of beer in Vesta followed by a 10 mile run, two lengths of the Thames and a high rep, heavy weight circuit and a 2,500 metre ergo.

Annemarie broke the world lightweight ergo record again but over-

all superhuman club oarswoman and pin-up Kate Pollitt came in a stunning first. Noel rewarded her with a seat on bowside (her first time ever). And after the race Kate did admit it had been "one of the most enlightening" experiences of her life.

We nearly had difficulties combining international heavyweights, lightweights and club oarswomen but Noel had an original Noel-type plan - ....a piss-up on the Thursday before the race. On the day we were so hung over we were totally relaxed.

We started second behind - some way behind - Tideway Scullers and some observers suggested we were trying to leave Scullers in a vacuum...would we? We actually had to wait about 30 seconds for Kate and Wilma's mascara to dry.

Past the start Miriam settled at a rate of 36 which she thought was a little high. However, the cox could not understand Miriam's attempt at communication which sounded something like, "Waa-hor-haa-woo." Anyway the rest of the crew were only rating 34 so 36 in the stern was just fine.

At the Bandstand we did a quick push to the end of the island, gained five seconds on Scullers and so popped around the back of the Eyot for a cup of tea.

We had planned to go all out to Hammersmith and from Hammersmith go even harder. Miriam was still at 36 and Annemarie was looking quite at home behind her - that was because we'd fitted an ergo in the boat at seven.

The two solid power houses (they'll kill me for calling them that) Philippa Cross and Clare Harwood at six and five were staying well-hard while Guin, the world's strong-

est woman, thought it was all one big V02 max test.

Kate was still sorting out her left hand from her right - and doing a mighty fine job - while the hard technicians in the bows, Wilma and Katie, were being hard and technical. Even the cox was pulling hard - verbally.

Noel clocked us at 38 at the Mile Post and from there we basically just had push after push to the line.

Scullers were most upset to learn that we had beaten them by five seconds and our time of 18 minutes 58 seconds (including the tea break) was only the third ever sub 19 minutes time ever clocked in the race.

However, Thames weren't satisfied with their victory, what challenge was left for next year? The crew wanted more pain, more agony, more variety. This could only be achieved by starting at the back in 1994.

But how could this be achieved? Luckily Katie Brownlow had a cunning plan. What if her registration number was found to be out of date? Surely they would understand in the case of a hard-pressed international? But no, the ARA were flabbergasted at such a heinous crime and promptly disqualified the crew. They banished the eight to the back of the field and put out a warrant for Katie's arrest - she very wisely fled the country thus avoiding certain death in front of the ARA firing squad.

Meanwhile, the second and third eights were desperate not to miss out on the fun and promptly got themselves disqualified for similar crimes, while Tideway Scullers sportingly accepted the pennant.

However, Scullers better ready themselves for the sequel Women's Head 94: The Revenge. After the chaos of 93 we plan to be fitter,

stronger and looking for blood.

If you would like to join the Thames Armada at the back of the field, it will cost you a current ARA registration number plus a blank cheque made out to Suzie Ellis. You'll find me in the Thames bar.

Suzie Ellis

## Women's Sculling Squad

At the beginning of October we started with 20 or so girls all looking forward to the notoriously slack Casey training.

There was a Manuela's raid every Saturday and the real competition was to see who could eat the greatest number of fruit buns in a sitting. Several people dropped out - it had nothing to do with the light regime of 8km runs and 12km ergs of course.

We gradually got used to the idea of having two blades rather than one and the end of October saw some of us go up to Nottingham to investigate a secret weapon - the octuple. We got back with sore knuckles, realising there was yet more humiliation to come when Noel ordered a set of oct. riggers. We caused a few raised eyebrows (probably for all the wrong reasons) and prompted acute observations such as "that's a good eight Noel's got out today". The drunken spider was in fact a very useful part of our training. It forced a disparate group of relatively novice scullers into something approaching cohesion. We later managed to produce a good performance in the Plum Puds.

We broke up into quads for the IVs Head and achieved some reasonable results. Various crew members had to stop to put mascara on, check out a particularly good school-boy crew and refill the teapot so we didn't quite manage to win. The

switch. to doubles bore fruit soon after, giving, us our very first Dolphins (captured on film by Auriel Kensington video production The crack team available at cost price). Someone then realised they didn't know what to do with their Friday nights so someone else (whose identity shall, for reasons of personal safety, remain nameless) said "why not train?". The outings got longer and colder and earlier (and Friday evenings even more exciting) until after Christmas when Noel hit upon the bright idea of introducing us to the joys of single sculling, by which stage people had forgotten we even existed. The gentlemen in Vesta bar rubbed their hands in glee at the prospect of further humiliation .. Carefully nurtured knuckles got scraped to pieces again but at least only one person went in. Sculling Tip No1: you have to do your gates up before you push off.

Soon after, the girls organised and staffed an excellent Valentine's Day party which allowed us to raise much needed funds towards our secret Caribbean holiday. Various people went busily to work on maintaining their crew's good name - money please, or I'll name names in the next edition of the squad newsletter.

For the VIIIs Head results were good. Thames A was the fastest crew and all three Casey crews came in the top 25. We had however a cunning plan to liven up next year's racing by starting way down the race order. This we satisfactorily achieved by innocently entering some incorrect ARA numbers. We look forward to the HERR 94 and yes, all ARA membership is now fully paid up.

The Scullers Head saw a good number of entries. It was an easy day - only gale force 8 and white

horses to keep you company on the way down the course. We had a win in novice sculls and some good places in the other divisions.

We then went on to Worcester (alas not quite the Caribbean) for our Easter training camp. Far warmer and more glamorous than Paris or Banyoles after all. On the water at 6am, breakfast, sleep, on the water at 12pm, lunch, sleep, on the water at 4pm, dinner, sleep was the stunningly original regime. Several people desperately tried to overdose on Easter eggs and failed miserably. Others attempted to have poison smuggled in disguised as Belgian chocolates but these were sadly intercepted by the Guardian of the Gates.

Things gradually began to hot up on the Tideway. Many a crew starting their warm-up was washed down by a Tsunami as an increasingly irate coach cruised past in his launch yelling, "pull f\*\*\*ing harder, you're all a bunch of lazy cows" at regular intervals.

Training continued to escalate until Noel had another brainwave "why not do a race?". Conditions were just right at Nottingham. A howling cross wind and waves breaking everywhere allowed us to win open quads over 1000m. We returned happy but unsatisfied. We were duly entered for Docklands regatta where various crews won medals with a healthy number of golds. We were not happy with our performance so we spent a week's training in the Docks where a couple of 500m pieces did much to sharpen us up.

Women's Henley saw mixed results - all three crews lost the knitting competition to a good TSS crew with two Olympians on board (the closest margin being half a jumper in the first round). We then



Thames' unique triple at Strathclyde. Gold medallists (top) R. Peagram, R. Wyness, K. Pollitt and E. Wallace. Silver medallists (middle) L. Baguley, H. Baird, L. Baird and A. Bouma. Bronze medallists (bottom) C. Dennis, J. Sanders, K. Giles and K. Templeton.

geared ourselves up for some good Scottish breakfasts at Strathclyde. Crew training included practice Eskimo rolls (yup, four more very proud Dolphin club members). Sculling Tip No.2: frontstops paddling is dangerous to your health. In the doubles, three crews made the finals, one of them winning a bronze. In the quads, we wiped the floor with the opposition, with Thames A, B, & C battling it out to the line. It was only a monster push, at 500m to go which allowed one crew to go through in the end. Thames Women were National Champions again and the squad had achieved a Nat Champs first with all three medals going to a single club. We sadly drank too much beer to make the journey back at all comfortable despite the boredom being alleviated by an instructive New Woman pull out.

Eleven sessions a week dropped to three or four after the Nat Champs but we had yet to face the fiercest challenge of the year: Peterborough. This was particularly notable for the debut of the double from hell - you know who you are... For others, winning to the sound of "down two again" was rather pleasant and greatly improved our camping skills. We sampled some delicious home cooking on Saturday night as well as occasional draughts of local tippie. None of this of course stop us from contributing our fair share of wins to the total that eventually netted TRC the Victor Ludorum.

It was altogether a tough year but immensely enjoyable and successful enough to leave you thinking how badly you want to win next year and the year after and the year after. Respect is due to all involved: Lesley Baguley, Helen Baird, Lucy Baird, Aafke Bouma, Catherine

Dennis, Mary Dennis, Suzie Ellis, Kate Giles, Clare Harwood, Anna Hitchcock, Bec Peagram, Kate Pollitt, Kate Templeton, Jude Sanders, Emma Wallace, Julia Webb, Rachel Wyness and of course Jenny.

Many thanks to all the people who helped out and thanks (?) to Noel for putting us through it and for dreaming up the idea in the first place. Roll on Phase 2 of ze Meister Plan.

Rachael Wyness

## Thames Cup Eight

**Y**ou could just make them out through the sheeting rain.

Tiny boats bouncing on frightening waves.

The weather was too foul for any speed.

But as the boats fought closer, it was clear from the 10 or so agonised faces that this was a race.

Behind all in a tin can of a launch, came their taskmaster, shouting and screaming orders that were destined only to be whipped away by the freezing wind. Numb handed, and struck dumb by the madness of it all, they slogged slowly by.

The few who witnessed from the bank were puzzled. What purpose could there be to such insanity?

Now at last the story can be told.

It all started when a short, scruffy man from New Zealand walked into the crewroom seemed cuddly in a tubby sort of way. But he had no mercy.

Blair Thorpe condemned his squad to winter training in pairs. These oarsmen were always easy to recognise. Shivering and exhausted. Or completely demoralised, after yet another furious attack on their technique. The coach had a favourite call. It was "Square Blades."

For weeks on end the squad would thrash by, rowing square blades in



**The Thames Cup eight. G. Furby (bow), A. Brunskill, J. Cleeve, B. Nicholson, W. Bird. L. DeNicola, S. French, R. Oberst (stroke), K. Watson (cox).**

rough water from Mortlake to Putney. There was blood on the blade handles and fury in their eyes. But it made no difference. No weather was too cold. No waves too high. And anyone who complained was dropped.

Then the man from Down Under dreamt up his master plan.

Six pairs were sent to Peterborough. And for one day the course became a torture chamber. For hours without end they raced and turned, and then raced again. The weakest were finished. But for the survivors there was a place in a winning crew.

The start of the Boustead Cup, and from their creaking balcony the old men of London Rowing Club must have wondered what on earth their crew was taking on. The new Thames Senior Three Eight, so carefully selected, was vanishing into a self-generated cloud of spray. Their blades whipped up the Tideway into a mousse of washout.

And by the flagpole of Thames Rowing Club, the London crew had taken a length. It looked bad. Supporters became critics and retired

to the bar to talk of better days. But on the river a Battle Royale had begun.

By the mile post London had a length and a quarter. But they could take no more. The Thames Eight had found its rhythm.

By Harrods there was an overlap. And under Hammersmith Bridge the Thames Eight pushed for the lead, taking full advantage of the inside of the bend.

London were bigger, and more experienced. But Thames went through to win easily on little more than sheer guts. Blair Thorpe's merciless coaching was paying dividends.

An improvement of almost a hundred places in the Head of the River race set the standard for a remarkable season.

At the multi-lane Metropolitan Regatta the crew took the Senior Three title, shrugging off rough conditions.

Hereford Regatta there was a storming win for the Senior Two trophy, and in the Senior One event, the narrowest of defeats by a fast Westminster/Belmont outfit.

Some Thames members felt this was when the Eight really locked together.

At the multi-lane Docklands Regatta, Thames took the Senior Two title, as well as a bronze medal in the Senior One event. But after such a high, a trough had to follow. And it came on the Saturday of Reading Regatta. The crew disposed of Kingston Grammar, the winners of the Schools Head, and then went on to a bad row in the final, losing to Radley College. But on the Sunday there was a dramatic improvement, and the crew took home Senior One medals.

Blair Thorpe's Eight now became the official Thames Cup entry. In just a few months his uniquely loud approach to coaching had attracted its fair share of critics in the club. But now even they had to respect the results.

The first round at Henley was against Cherwell, the Oxford University development squad. To the spectators both crews were unknown quantities. Not one member of Thames had raced at Henley before.

But the Eight left its stake boat like Henley veterans, and by the Barrier Cherwell were finished. Thames won by four lengths, but were quickly warned to prepare themselves for the next round against Bedford A, a far more formidable opponent. Thames had been trained to follow a race plan written by Peter Haining, the world champion lightweight sculler. Exactly twenty minutes before the start time the crew had to drink an extra pint of cold water. But as all eight soon discovered, an equal amount of fluid had to come out! Fortunately, the overhanging trees on Temple Island provided the necessary shelter.

Blair Thorpe had a place in the umpire's launch for the battle with Bedford. But he didn't see much of the race. As Thames slowly took a lead of half a length, the Kiwi's nerves were starting to crack. At the Remenham Club Bedford pushed, but Thames answered back. Their coach was now cowering in the bottom of the launch, covering his eyes, and occasionally plucking up the courage to ask what the rate was.

Bedford pushed again at the enclosures but Thames were too strong. They were through to the third round by half a length. It was arguably the best race of the day.

On Friday they faced Imperial College. At the bottom of the Island both crews were level. But Imperial was packed with six Henley medalists, and from the Barrier they pulled away.

There was another Senior One win at Molesey. And at Cannes International Regatta Thames gave a giant a scare, holding level with Hansa Dormund Under 23s, the world silver medalists, for half the course.

Locals who dined by the beach after the finals will find it hard to forget those Thames members who went on to display every inch of their Tideway honed physiques. Some blamed the French wine!

At the beginning of the season, just to row at Henley was a dream. But to win through to the Friday seemed an impossibility.

What the crew lacked in skill and size, it made up for with fitness, strength, and sheer will to win.

The coach had been cursed for his obsession with square blades and hard winter outings in small boats.

But when it mattered it all paid off.

**Gareth Furby**

## Mens Rowing

Winter training started with high hopes and Bill Mason at the helm, taking charge of training for all the men. As every year, we had the usual cross section of athletic misfits and competent but psychologically deranged individuals. Egalitarian as ever, I thought it would be a good idea not to split people into Groups but to, as far as possible, get everyone to follow the same programme within the same organisational structure. This led to the forming of "Pools", which was a rather transparent attempt to have groups but not call them groups. The idea being to maintain not only a sense of club unity but to also make it easier to move individuals around as things developed through the year.

Everyone could see through this straight away and on a number of occasions throughout the year I had private, and some not so private, chats with people who expressed dissatisfaction with the "Pool" they were in at present. Now I know how Beatrice Beatrice Girlie feels.

Anyway, the burden of responsibility fell on mine and Blair Thorpe's shoulders and through December and January we tweaked, adjusted and bludgeoned the "Pools" to form a club second and third eight. Could we do it? We had more chance of stopping a one legged Duck swimming around in a circle.

Every time we picked two crews, one top dog the other under dog, the under dog crew would hang on to their supposed superiors like a rabid, crazed sabre-toothed Tiger. No significant difference was seen between the crews, calling into question another combination of stars against mongrel hounds.

The final sorting out was a strange affair. I decided to train the senior III guys in coxless pairs and take them to Peterborough for seat racing to find out who moved what.

Bill Mason took all the established super stars and formed a Frankenstein I and II eight, leaving me and Blair to sort out the rest.

Peterborough was hell. But at the end of it we had some results that laid the group (Damnation, I used that word) out in some sort of hierarchy. Not that it satisfied anyone.

All the participants whinged about my maths and of course from any set of statistics an infinite variety of conclusions can be drawn by applying successively hybrid theories of analyses. "I was definitely the fastest person" (Rowing on bowside, in the afternoon session, wearing a yellow and green long-sleeved top).

The crews got sorted out for The Head, Frankenstein I was in Bill Mason's charge while Frankenstein II was whipped into a frenzy by Nigel Reynolds. Blair smothered Thames III with love and attention while I went into deep cover as the strokeman of Thames "SBS" IV. The crews made some progress toward The Head but only attained results ranging between encouraging and mediocre.

My crew, Thames IV, never had the same crew twice and nearly killed the bowman, Bryan Taylor, while on night manoeuvres just before the race. Thankfully, on the day, things went well and all was now clear for the racing season.

Frankensteins I and II fell apart after The Head. Bill Mason left us in order to concentrate on Imperial College crews and it took some time to find someone to stitch the remnants back together. In the mean time, Blair took charge of the senior III's producing a crew which

won at senior III, II and I, then raced at Henley. Although losing on Friday, they producing a ball busting race of a life time on Thursday against Bedford.

The rest of the season was all gray after that. Trips to the post Henley regattas combined success and failure in equal proportions.

At Henley T+V the club entered everything and won nothing. At Peterborough we entered everything and won everything!

By now I had taken under my wing two new groups. One novice and the other Senior III men. After a number of weeks, during which I some how managed to knock a few rough edges off them, they were ready to race. These guy were typical mature novices. Stacks of enthusiasm, buckets of guts, an absolutely massive EEC charisma mountain but no ability to row.

Still, this is what coaching is all about. I was going to get these guys to win and I told them too, "You are going to win."

So they did, at Staines. Anyone who witnessed the event will remember it till their dying day. Straight final and one length up on the start then Four catches a crab and its five lengths down. By the finish they win by two lengths. All over in 500m! What value for money. These guys were so happy they took me back to the active members dinner and beat me to death. Three nights in Charring Cross Hospital and not one of them came to see me. Just think what they would have done to me if they had lost!

In total during the year I believe the club got three novice men and one women's eights through to senior level.

The final flourish of the season was the triumphant trip to Peter-

borough which was crowned by the best barbecue/piss-up since the Romans left. Additionally, not only did my deflowered novices and senior IIIs finish first and second on both Saturday and Sunday in their events but almost everyone else in the club won something. Even with a communal hangover on the Sunday morning the size of Azim Nadir's overdraft (Who did bake those bloody cakes anyway?), the club managed to win the Victor Ludorum.

The season's account closed with a balance sheet that reads; In credit, lots of happy oarspersons, an impressive tally of wins and the foundations of a successful season next year.

**Mark Treserdern**

## World masters regatta

**A**t the world masters there are no silver or bronze medals. Only the first across the line gain a medal. It is a tough pill to swallow, even if, as in some cases, you are in the average age 70-years eights race.

The first meeting 20 years ago in Bern, where it was a friendly, let's-get-together with a race in friendship philosophy.

Much has changed since.

The intensity of racing has to be seen to be believed. The fitness level of the former champions who race at the event is unbelievable. To win at the regatta a year's hard training is essential and veterans have to learn to follow a programme aimed at 1000 metre racing. All plan their year around the big event.

When women first competed at the regatta they were always grouped together so that Penny Haslam, Jean Rankine and myself had to race women much younger than ourselves. However, we still



Sallie Malt and Penny Haslam, (above) winners in the WVC double at the World Masters in Vienna. Penny (below right) also won the in the WVD single.

managed a few titles between us over the years.

In the first regatta in Bern, 12 nations took part with 1,000 competitors. In Vienna, 31 nations competed with a total of 6,989

rowers and scullers taking to the water.

For two days, starting at 7.30am and finishing at 7.30pm, a race took place every four minutes, some races being contested by as many as eight crews. Sunday morning was reserved for mixed crews and the events were just as keenly contested.

There was not a space left to park a trailer or boat as crews arrived days early to train. The atmosphere was exhilarating.

But there was a gale force wind running straight down the course—luckily it was a following one—but it did feel as though we were surfing. I blessed the fact that we practised at Notts City this year.

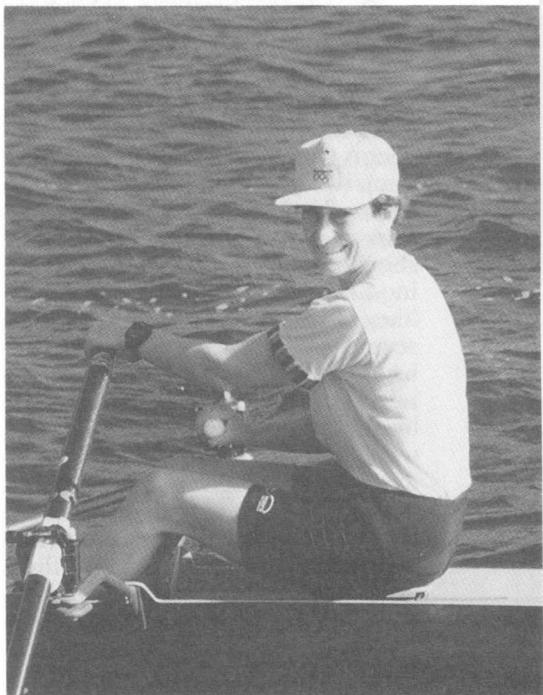
It was pleasing to hear the commentators talk about the 'British

Finish' as time after time British crews overhauled their opponents to win in the last few strokes. Penny Haslam and Sallie Malt stormed through to win by a hair's breath in the WVC double.

Penny, myself, Jackie Darling and Margarethe Keiser from the Netherlands had a beautiful scull in the WVD quad where we finished two lengths ahead of the field, beating very good Dutch, Hungarian and German crews. Then Penny continued her winning way taking the WVD singles title.

Jackie and I teamed with Hilary Cooke and Philicity Pike of Sons of the Thames to take the WVB coxed fours title while Jackie and I finished Saturday's racing by winning the WVC coxless pairs.

A great Saturday evening was spent wineing and dining at a Viennese night club. We returned at about 2.30am to our hotel but I was in



action again on Sunday morning with Tim Lincoln of Marlow in a mixed veteran D double.

We had a disastrous first half, missing strokes and knitting blades at the start, leaving ourselves two lengths behind. We then hit a buoy and nearly tipped ourselves in. By the 500 metres mark we were four to five lengths down.

When at last we had straightened the boat and settled down, we established a good cruising speed and finished well ahead of the field. I think we will have to practice our starts before next year though.

The event is tremendous fun and very demanding. So perhaps as other members of Thames enter their twilight years, they might consider joining us.

Pauline Rayner

## Senior I/II Women

“It is not a race” was the familiar cry during those gruelling months of winter training as the two women’s eights battled it down from the Pink Lodge each one desperate to get to the boat house first and accompanied by growls of revenge from within the boat, particularly from the boat Dee was in!

John Stephenson and Dave Wise took us in hand for the season and shocked our system when introducing a strict training programme the likes of which we had not seen for several seasons. This all came to a head around February when boat selection took place accompanied by the usual angst but two eights were launched for the Head of the River Race doing very respectfully but perhaps not as well as we had hoped although subsequent in depth analysis of the facts and figures could make things look otherwise!

A plague of bad backs then unfor-

tunately hit the crews with several people being unable to row with Helen in particularly suffering badly, resulting in the two eights being whittled down to an eight and a four ready for the summer regattas.

Nottingham regatta saw the unfortunate incident of the Alan Burrough being wrapped around some traffic-lights on its way there. However, this proved to be no deterrent and despite the fact that racing started closer to mid-night rather than mid-day the racing was very exciting and this seemed to be an excellent start to the season. The Metropolitan and Docklands regattas were not quite so successful although at the Docklands the eight in principal won the gold medal in the open category had there not been a minor blip on the steering front and the four also had a good row that day winning the silver medal.

The build-up to Henley followed, again with a great deal of angst suffered by all. The final crew that was chosen had a couple of excellent rows winning the first round by around five lengths and getting an ‘easily’ verdict which pleased us all (although it is not hard to see why looking at the photographs of our opposition afterwards!) and in the second round we unfortunately met are age-old rivals Weybridge who beat us by a length and continued through to the finals where they lost to Cambridge so we left Henley in high spirits.

This optimism stood us in good stead for Richmond where we won after a close fight with Auriol-Kensington who did not do themselves any favours by shouting ‘eat wash and die!’ just before the race started thus sparking off that bit of aggression we all needed.

Post-Richmond the four had an enjoyable trip up to Yorkshire with London Rowing Club and the eight had a scintillating row at Kingston. Again this was another race we really won had there not been an unfortunate bend and staggered finish but the main achievement was beating another arch-rival Imperial College while being hot on Kingston's heels.

After Kingston we phuffed around down at the club until Peterborough where we went out with a bang; the eight winning both days by miles, Coralie and Christine doing very well in their double and myself and Teresa having a great laugh and a view of all four lanes on the course but not doing quite so well in our pair! Finally a very big thank you to John for all his hard work and for the enormous amount of time he put into our rowing which I think and hope has stood us in good form for this season.

**Rachel Frost**

## Selection tales – the World Student Games

Having been given the task of writing a feature in the Journal on the subject of 'squad selection', it is inevitably a personal account of the trials and tribulations of the author. I started the rowing year in October having made the decision to scull and had two objectives: the first to win a gold medal at the National Championships, and the second to win a place in the Great Britain team for the World Student Games, which were to be held in Buffalo, USA. I had decided some months earlier to go back to University to study for a Masters course, and it luckily coincided with the WSG, which is only held every four years (for rowing events).

The season commenced and I followed Bill Mason's training programme, which is designed specifically for students, taking into account the longer rest periods available (mainly through sleeping during lectures). This programme was a step up from what I had followed in the previous years at Thames. The first dealings with the A.R.A., and more specifically with the B.I.R.O. (British Olympic Rowing Office), was when I rang in October to be registered, and to receive details about the dates of trials. November came and went and as I had heard nothing I rang B.I.R.O. again, to check. My name was not on the database, so I gave it to them again. I then waited for the details of the first trial, thinking that they *must* have put me on the list. Mid-December, Thursday evening - Bill Mason waltzes into the club room, and asks me why my name isn't on the list for the trial on Saturday. After much knashing of teeth I decide that I won't be prepared in time, so I opt to give it a miss.

I competed in the January and February assessments, which were both at Henley, over a 3000m course downstream. I finished inside the top 10 both times, which is okay but could be better. We then hear that the B.I.R.O. will be contacting us about details for the WSG trials at Nottingham on 1st May. True to form - no communication. Training continues, a bad bout of flu puts me out of the first eight for the Head three days before the competition. Two weeks later I finish 14th in the scullers Head over the same course. The day after the race, I go to Amsterdam on a training camp with the Imperial College boys and Lightweight coxless four girls.

On returning to England, still no word from B.I.R.O. I then hear that



**Sam Allpass (bow) missed out on a place in the British team for the World Student Games but won gold at Strathclyde in a Thames/Tideway Scullers composite quad.**

all lightweights, heavyweights, men and women will be allowed to trial in Nottingham, except the heavy-weight men's scullers. Another case of the ARA's discrimination against scullers, so blood boiling, I went to see Bill. I decided to write to the team manager, Brian Armstrong, to get this decision reversed, pointing out why I should be given a chance to trial fortunately, he agreed. As the trials were to be held in singles and doubles, I decided it was about time I found a partner. I knew that there were about five guys from Tideway Scullers going for it, so Bill Mason used his contact with Bill Barry, their coach. I went down to the club for a trial, Bill pulling apart my technique (quite rightly), and telling me of his objectives.

At the trial, I was second in the single, which I was disappointed not to win, as it would mean that I would not get the 'single' slot. Out of the adversity, I teamed up with three other TSS guys, and we raced off the heavyweight eight, and lightweight 4-. We were going well when

disaster struck at 1750 metres, stroke lost his blade, and we lost eight seconds, crossing the line in front of the lightweight four, who were fancied for a gold medal in the Games. Our percentage time was better than the eight, and equal to the coxed four, which meant that they could not select these boats instead of our crew. A further problem was that the team was to be limited to 25 athletes because of shortage of funds. After a lot of cajoling of chief coach, Jurgen Grobler, and Brian Armstrong, it was decided that we should race off in Paris, and the two crews with the best percentage times would go to Buffalo. On the day, with wet and windy conditions, we set the qualifying time - but so did the 4+. In our minds our fate had been sealed, the ARA demonstrating their abhorration for scullers in favour of Oxbridge rowers.

The burden having been lifted, we then moved on to preparation for the National Championships. We elected to double up, with the bow pair doing singles, and the

stern pair concentrating on the double for the Under 23's the following week. The composite TRC/TSS quad won by some 10 seconds, and Tony Larkman and I both got medals in the heavyweight sculls.

Looking back now, there were a number of points which I learnt, which were firstly, never leave anything to chance with the ARA. Follow everything up, they are supposed to be working for us, but in reality are woefully lacking in accountability. The second thing is that it is good to be flexible in your ambitions. I had my heart set on the single, but in the end a good quad came out of it, which I had not anticipated at the beginning of the year. The third, and most important, is to remember that the athletes at the top of the sport are human, and they have weaknesses like anyone else. Self-belief is perhaps the most vital ingredient.

**Sam Allpass**

## Membership

During the period September 1992 to October 1993 we have sadly lost a further nine members—JC Buckley, WA Bunge, JS Collins, HC Debenham, DK MacLachlan, Miss JM Phelps, AR Reddin, JL Sangster and EW Wilmott.

John Buckley joined the club in 1930 and rowed that year and 1931. He went up to Peterhouse and rowed in their Thames Cup eight in 1931. He rarely visited the club but was often seen at Henley and Remenham wearing his original club tie.

Walter Bunge rowed Juniors in the early thirties. We then lost touch with him until 1990 when he donated the medals won by his brother Fedor to the club. They are now displayed in the big room.

James Collins was killed in a car accident, aged 18. He was a Junior member, and rowed in the Eton eight at Henley in 1992 and 1993.

Horace Debenham joined the club in 1992 and rowed in the Grand eight from 1924 to 1926. He was in the Thames eight which represented Great Britain in the 1924 Paris Olympics. He was a loyal supporter of the club for over 70 years.

Donald MacLachlan joined in 1949. He rowed for Oriol in the Thames Cup and Wyfolds in 1949 and 1951. He was a renowned raconteur and leader of male voice choirs at regattas and after dinners. He spent most of his time abroad, dying in Kenya.

Julia Phelps joined in 1986 and enjoyed sculling. She was a well known landscape artist. She was the daughter of Bill Phelps and neice of Dick.

Alan Reddin joined from Furnival in 1951 and rowed in the Thames Cup eights of 1953, 1954 and 1955. He was Captain in 1970 and Chairman from 1978 to 1981 and from 1985 to 1992. He organised Christmas draws and the Piggy club, raising substantial funds for the club.

Jerry Sangster came from Emmanuel College, Cambridge where he had rowed in the Thames Cup and Visitors. He was in the winning 1948 Grand eight, also rowing in the 1949 and 1950 Grand and the 1949 Stewards. He was deputy captain in 1950. He went into foreign banking and became an assistant director at the Bank of England. He regularly came to the dinner in recent years.

Willi Wilmott joined in 1929 and after a few years went to work in Hong Kong. He retired to the west country and we last saw him at the dinner for Dick Phelps 80th birthday which he enjoyed so much that

he sent a long letter and a donation afterwards.

We were also saddened by the death of Rosemary Burrough, wife of our President.

## Alan Reddin

Alan Reddin died on August 30th in Majorca from a heart attack.

He was elected a member of Thames on 10 October 1951, having already won the John Lang Sculls at the club regatta on 29 September. He had previously rowed at Furnival.

In 1952 he was in the 1st Junior VIII. Rowing as the 6th VIII they finished 80th in the Head. They went on to win Maiden VIIIs at Hammersmith, Junior Clinker VIIIs at Putney and Junior VIIIs at Chiswick. They then were unsuccessful in Junior-Senior VIIIs at Walton Reading, Kingston Borough, Kingston, Molesey, the Met, Staines, Maidenhead & Henley Town.

Alan Reddin (centre) on the banks at Lucerne to give some coaching tips to Gavin Reddin (right) and Bill Baker (left).

In 1953 Alan was in the 2nd VIII in the Head, rising from 9th to 5th. As the Thames Cup VIII they had no wins, but lost at Henley to the RAF, the eventual winners. He also rowed in a Wyfold IV on the Serpentine. In 1954 he was in the 4th VIII in the Head, finishing 33rd. He was in the Junior-Senior VIII, losing at Hammersmith and Chiswick but winning the Vesta Dashes. In the Thames Cup VIII they lost Walton, Reading & Marlow, and in the semi-final at Henley to MIT, the winners. They won at Molesey, but lost at Bedford, Maidenhead and Henley Town. He was in the Grand VIII on the Serpentine and finished 4th in the Plum Pudding VIIIs. Alan was in the 2nd VIII in 1955, finishing 7th in the Reading Head and 6th in the head. In the Thames Cup VIII, he won at Chiswick, Walton, Reading, Kingston, Molesey and losing to the RAF at Henley.

In 1956 he was in the 8th VIII in the Head, finishing 40th. He rowed



in the 'B' Thames Cup VIII at Chiswick, Twickenham and Walton.

From 1957 to 1965 he continued to row in the Head. The 5th VIII in 1961 finished 43rd, the 12th VIII in 1962 moved up from 298 to 92, and the 12th VIII in 1963 from 233 to 88. He was in the 10th VIII in 1965.

Alan was on the committee in 1955 & 1956 and became Captain in 1970. He became a life member in 1980. He was Chairman of the Club from 1978 to 1981 and from 1985 to 1992. As a coach he gained medals at the National Championships with both men's and women's crews.

In 1978, 1979 & 1980 he organised Christmas Draws, raising over £1000 each year. In 1980 he took over running the Piggy Club from Gordon Sandifer, and has run it ever since. It has contributed well over £10,000 to club funds. He has 3 sons, Greg, Ian and Gavin. Greg and Gavin are still members of the club.

**Tim Wilson**

## **The Piggy Club and Alan Reddin.**

As long as I have been a member of Thames Alan Reddin was there lending a hand when needed. He would step in and coach crews when there was a lack of keen coaches around and his work with the Piggy Club has been to the benefit not only of its winners but to fund projects and support members of the club representing Great Britain.

As the bills rolled in during the summer racing season it can become very expensive to compete internationally and the Piggy Club would support those members of

Thames representing their country. I would like to thank the Piggy Club and remember Alan for all his enthusiasm and support on behalf of all those he quietly helped.

**Miriam Batten**

## **The journal—how it all began**

The first Thames journal was printed 45 years ago in 1948, edited by Reg Swatton, with the aim of 'producing a record which shall be neither tedious nor profound'. It was produced annually for over 20 years until rising costs caused it to be discontinued until 1988.

And Swatton had plenty to write about in that first journal since the club won both the Grand and the Stewards in 1948; it was the club's first Grand win since 1928 and the last time that Thames won Henley's top event.

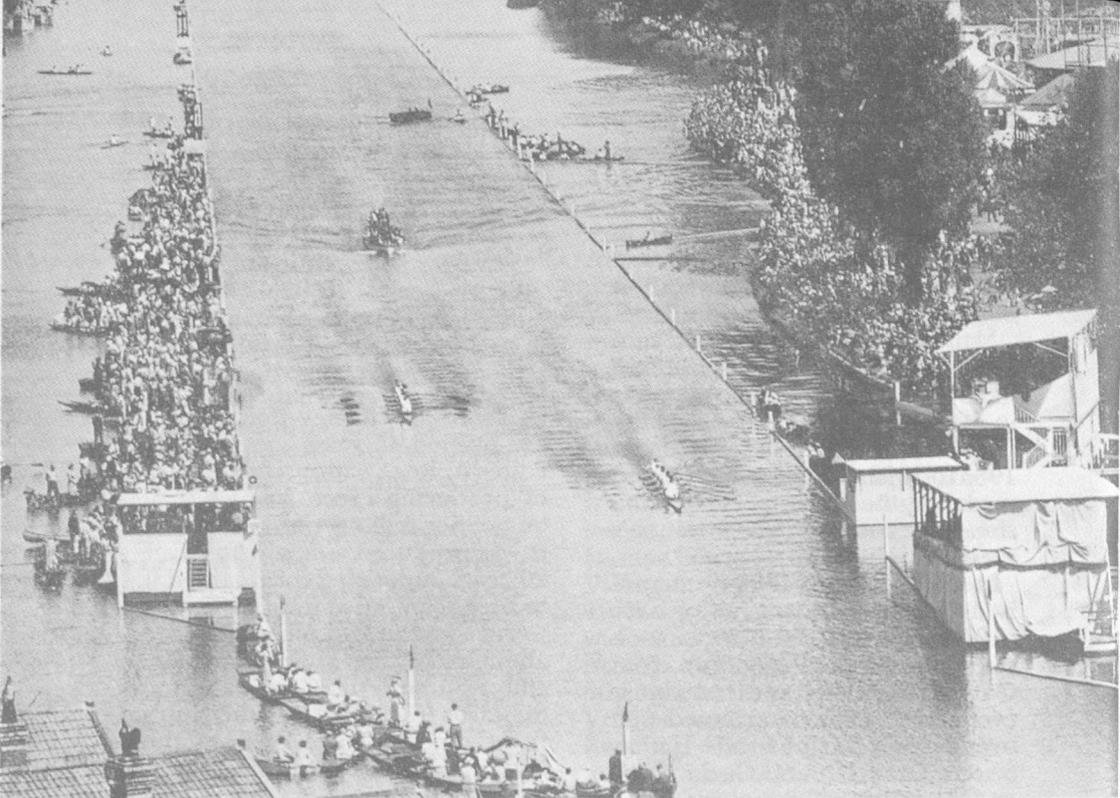
The eight arrived at Henley having won both the Head and the Boustead Cup. Stroked by Peter Kirkpatrick, the crew had a hard race against Leander, having disposed of London in their first race.

After the battle with Leander, the final against Cambridge colleges, Jesus and Pembroke, was something of an anticlimax, with Thames leading by a length and a half by Fawley but, as the journal explained, "Thames rowed a wonderful race, and with every stroke gradually forged further ahead. Jesus and Pembroke could make no impression even when spurting."

The final verdict was two and a half lengths in a time of 7:02.

The crew was described in the journal as follows:

"R. C. Morris, at bow, showed what a great asset an experienced and clever oar can be in that diffi-



The final of the Grand, Henley Royal Regatta 1948.

cult position, and J. R. Johnson, at two did well to hold him and round off a neat bow pair.

J. L. Sangster and Urs Burkhard made a powerful three and four, and there was never any question about either of them going the whole way and rowing the last half minute as solidly as the first.

H. W. Rushmere, perhaps the most experienced oar in the boat, was a tower of strength at five, and in the races he was at his very best, and a good best it is, throughout.

T. H. Christie was, without doubt, the most improved oar in the crew. From last year's raw-boned colt he had developed into a fine oar and, in the final, rowed like a classic six.

A. S. F. Butcher, at seven, must be considered with the very best oars rowing at the regatta. His beauti-

fully easy movements belie the weight of water he gets on to his blade. Rowing between two exceptionally tall men his task of linking-up both sides of the boat was not an easy one, and he accomplished it magnificently.

P. C. Kirkpatrick deserves a chapter to himself. No one rowing in the crew will challenge the statement that he was its life and inspiration. Both as captain in the boat and as stroke he was superb.

J. G. Dearlove (cox) in, at last, winning the Grand reaps a reward no less popular than deserved. Few coxes, indeed, have his insight into a crew; and a fine pair of hands, good voice, intelligent anticipation and exceptional experience combine to make him a cox in a thousand."

The stern four of the eight—Tony Butcher, Tom Christie, Hank Rushmere and Peter Kirkpatrick again at stroke, were doubling up in the Stewards. As in the eight they were tested in the earlier rounds but won the final against Isis and Granta easily.

The four were selected for the Olympics, staged at Henley that year five weeks after the Royal Regatta, as were two of the second eight Mark Scott and Bakie James to row in the coxed pair.

Unfortunately neither crew made the medals, the four never regaining their superb form.

## Anniversaries

One hundred years ago in 1893, the club won the Thames Challenge Cup beating Eton Excelsior with an easily verdict in a time of 7:49, but lost the final of the Stewards to Magdalen College, Oxford.

French crews competed at the regatta for the first time and entries hit a record 53 prompting a proposal—which was turned down—to extend the regatta to four days.

Forty years later in 1933, “proved to be a disappointing season for the top end of the club but a highly successful one for the middle section”, according to Geoffrey Page in his book ‘Hear the Boat sing’.

The Grand eight stroked by Felix Badcock with Ham Ward at three, “should have been fast, but somehow never really got going”, losing to eventual winners London.

Earlier in the same year Dick Southwood won the Wingfields by a length in a record time of 21:11.

More recently, 20 years ago in 1973, Thames accepted its first women members with Jean Rankine becoming the first women’s deputy captain.

The men still faced major problems according to Page, “...so short was the senior material that for the first time since 1871 no Thames eight competed at Henley.”

Rankine however, set Thames on course for its many successes in women’s rowing by winning gold in the double and quad sculls at the national championships, as well as taking the silver in the singles.

**The 1948 Stewards Four who joined Dick Phelps for his 90th birthday celebration at the club in 1988.**



## “Chairman’s report” à la Martin Levy

Well, not a bad year, I suppose. Not helped, though, by the inexplicably large number of people in this club, who just cannot accept that the Chairman’s decision is final - on *all* issues, and irrespective of any input, valid, or otherwise that these whimpering, whinging troublemakers feel should be considered. If only people would be *reasonable*, it would make the lives of those who know enough to make important decisions so much easier.

There were two key factors having a significant influence on the progress of the club in 1992-3. These, of course, were the adoption of correct procedures when dining at the club, and the parking of bicycles in front of the clubhouse.

As for dining at the club, I was dismayed at the beginning of the year to find that very few members at club meals were choosing to sit, properly attired, at a table, with the correct cutlery when taking their meals. In general, many were taking their meals sitting on the floor, eating with only a fork and looking all together too relaxed, happy and comfortable.

Due to some swift action on my part, I am glad to report that the main offenders were dealt with appropriately - either shot, or mandated to attend one of Leon Fletcher’s poetry recitals.

New guidelines on appropriate behaviour, dress and etiquette when

taking club meals have been published and will be rigorously enforced throughout 1993-4.

I invested a great deal of time this season ensuring that the front of the clubhouse was kept clear of bicycles and other forms of non-mechanically powered transport. We must strive to maintain the standards at a club such as Thames which serves as a role model for the rest of the rowing world. What on earth would people think if it appeared that our members had to *cycle* to the club? Surely we can do without these images of cheery oarspeople merrily cycling up to the club in their cloth cap and mufflers like some clip of clocking on time in a ‘between the wars’ newsreel - people might think we encourage the working classes to row here.

I am pleased to say that following representations by myself and John Selwyn Gummer, the London Borough of Wandsworth now recognise Thames as a Bicycle Free Zone.

Plans for 1993-4 on this front include extending the bicycle ban to certain makes and age of motor car. We are at an early stage with this, but already I can confirm that Japanese cars will NOT be permitted.

Other than the above, the highlights of 1992/3 were the Committee’s three week conference in St. Lucia to discuss the 1992 finance surplus, and the repair of the leaking ballcock and wastepipe in the gents, which put an end to the cockpit of my single being filled daily with a mixture of some particularly nasty fluids.

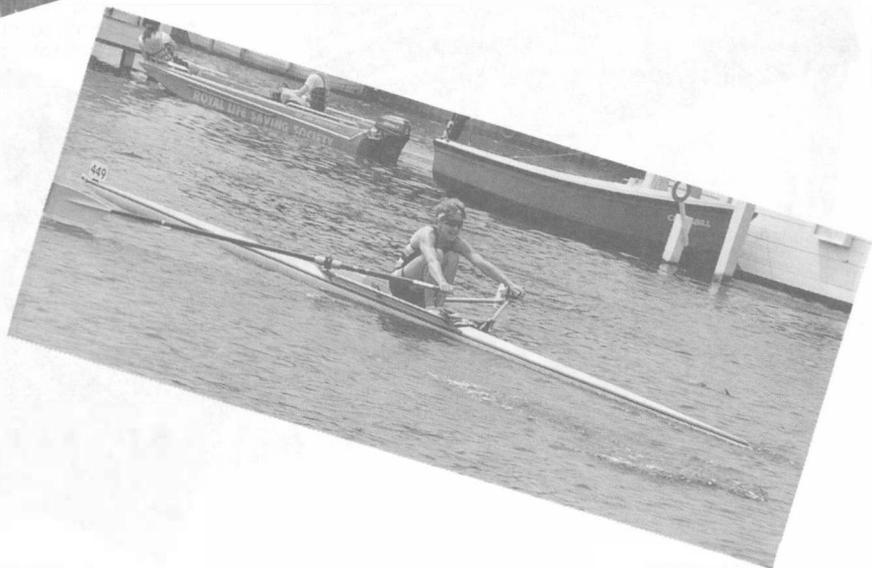
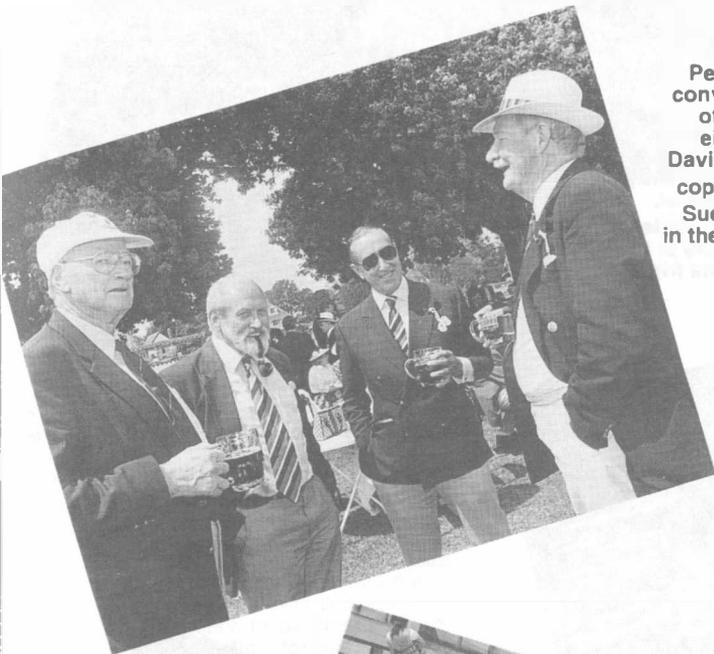
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**Editor’s Note** – All contributions to the Journal about Thames present and Thames past are welcome and should be sent to the club. All copy should reach the club by the end of September. Be warned, those who forget might find someone else writing their contribution – as above.

# Thames in 1993

Peter Kirkpatrick caught in conversation with a member of the 1952 Sydney Grand eight as Gordon Dear and David de Pinna look on (left).  
copyright: Henley Standard.

Sue Key (below) competing in the Women's single sculls.





**Another Thames Trio at Henley. Tony Fingland, David McLellan and Bob Bray in the Stewards (above).**

**Pauline Rayner and Jackie Darling celebrate victory at the World Masters in Vienna (right).**



**Miriam Batten and Jo Turvey in winning form at Women's Henley (left).**

**Cris Maby demonstrates the Thames disc technique at the active members' dinner (below).**

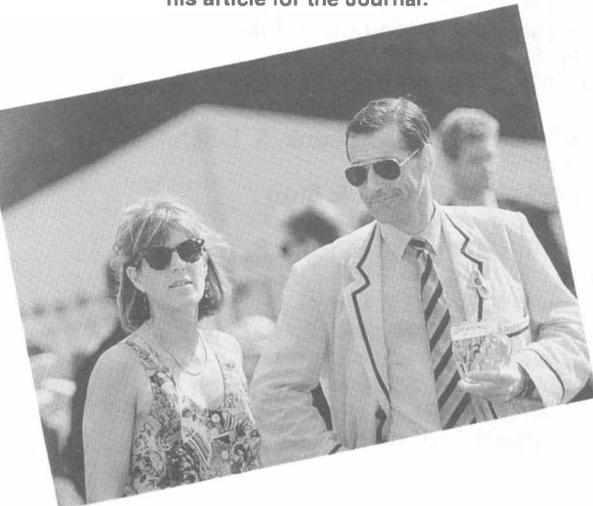




The Thames Cup eight celebrate another famous victory (above). Philippa Cross and Dot Blackie lead the squad four to victory at Women's Henley (left)



Pauline celebrates yet another win in Vienna in WVB coxed fours (below) while the chairman gets distracted at Henley, forgetting all about his article for the Journal.



## Men's Results

- Eights**
- senior I Reading Amateur**  
R. Oberst, S. French, W. Bird, L. DiNicola,  
B. Nicholson, S. Leigh, A. Brunskill, G. Furby,  
K. Watson  
Molesey
  - senior II Docklands (Sat & Sun)**  
R. Oberst, S. French, W. Bird, L. DiNicola,  
B. Nicholson, J. Cleeve, A. Brunskill, G. Furby,  
K. Watson  
**Hereford**  
R. Oberst, S. French, W. Bird, L. DiNicola,  
B. Nicholson, S. Leigh, A. Brunskill, G. Furby,  
K. Watson
  - senior III Metropolitan**  
R. Oberst, S. French, W. Bird, L. DiNicola,  
B. Nicholson, S. Leigh, A. Brunskill, G. Furby,  
K. Watson  
**Barnes & Mortlake (Thames/Barclays)**  
S. Church, G. Reed, H. Davidson, P. Allen,  
H. Falkner, J. McConnel, K. Lawler, G. Tickett,  
G. Nash  
**Peterborough Sprint**  
S. Church, G. Reed, K. Ewbank, P. Allen,  
H. Falkner, K. Lawler, R. Wedgebury, G. Tickett,  
N. Powell
  - novice Staines**  
M. Darron, J. Kinsby, A. Powell, D. Tyler, L. Myall,  
M. Dixon, D. Macintyre, N. Mooney, S. Phillips  
Peterborough Spring
- Fours**
- senior I Molesey**
  - senior II coxless Docklands (Sun)**  
J. Bury, M. Johnson, S. Hattan, D. Pike
  - senior II coxed Docklands (Sat)**  
J. Bury, M. Johnson, S. Hattan, D. Pike, N. Powell  
**Hereford**  
A. Brunskill, A. Akoris, K. Eubank, S. Leigh,  
K. Watson
  - senior III coxed Peterborough Summer (Sat & Sun)**  
Metropolitan  
A. Brunskill, J. Cleeve, L. DiNicola, S. French,  
K. Watson  
**Hammersmith Double Header**  
D. Boyle, S. French, B. Nicholson, S. Leigh  
**Bedford Head**  
R. Oberst, W. Bird, B. Nicholson, S. Leigh
- Pairs**
- senior II Peterborough Summer**  
Williams, Waller

	<b>senior III</b>	<b>Hammersmith Summer</b> A. Rennie, B. Jones <b>Barnes &amp; Mortlake</b> P. Dudley, B. Taylor
<b>Quads</b>	<b>open</b>	<b>National Championships (gold) TRC/TSS</b> S. Allpass, A. Larkman, M. Webb, C. Pierce <b>Docklands (Sat &amp; Sun) TRC/TSS</b> S. Allpass, A. Larkman, M. Webb, C. Pierce <b>Metropolitan TRC/TSS</b> S. Allpass, A. Larkman, M. Webb, C. Pierce <b>National Championships (silver)</b> T. Beddoe, A. Inglis, R. Humphries, T. Spires <b>Marlow</b> T. Beddoe, A. Inglis, R. Humphries, T. Spires
	<b>Lightweight open</b>	<b>National Championships</b> M. Otto, M. Hausleitner, D. Martinelli, R. Williams
	<b>Junior 14 coxed</b>	H. Lowes, K. Dover, R. Robinson, A. Wilson, A. Bishop
<b>Doubles</b>	<b>open</b>	<b>National Championships (bronze)</b> B. Crawford, G. Reddin Peterborough Summer (Sat) M. Otto, M. Hausleitner <b>Boston Marathon TRC/Auriol Kensington</b> L. Fletcher, P. Haining
	<b>open lightweight</b>	<b>National Championships (bronze)</b> M. Otto, M. Hausleitner
	<b>senior III</b>	<b>Peterborough Summer (Sat)</b> M. Hawes, J. Waller <b>Barnes &amp; Mortlake TRC/Tiffin</b>
<b>Singles</b>	<b>open</b>	<b>National Championships (gold)</b> L. Fletcher <b>National Championships (bronze)</b> S. Allpass <b>Home Countries - L. Fletcher (England)</b> <b>Metropolitan (Sat) - L. Fletcher</b> <b>Docklands (Sat) - L. Fletcher</b> <b>Marlow - L. Fletcher</b> <b>Peterborough Summer (Sat) - L. Fletcher</b> <b>Bedford Head - L. Fletcher</b> <b>Tiffin Spring Head - L. Fletcher</b> <b>Janousek Sculls - I. Pritchard</b> <b>Thames Ditton - C. Maby</b>
	<b>senior I</b>	<b>Scullers Head - S. Allpass</b> <b>Docklands - B. Crawford</b> <b>Peterborough Summer (Sat) - T. Spires</b> <b>Wallingford - C. Maby</b>
	<b>senior II</b>	<b>Janousek Sculls - M. Urry</b>
	<b>senior III</b>	<b>Hammersmith Autumn - M. Hawes</b>
	<b>novice</b>	<b>Peterborough Summer (Sat) - G. Deslandes</b> <b>Putney Town - S. Austin</b> <b>Beford Head - P. Vondra</b>

veteran B **Scullers Head - I. Pritchard**  
**Veterans Scullers Head - I. Pritchard**  
**Peterborough Summer (Sat) - I. Pritchard**

## Women's Results

Eights	open	<b>Head of the River (fastest crew)</b> M. Batten, G. Batten, P. Cross, K. Pollitt, K. Brownlow, A. M. Dryden, C. Harwood, A. Brownless, S. Ellis	
	senior I	<b>Richmond</b> T. Inglis, C. N. Smith, J. Atkinson, N. Humphries, D. Kempley, L. Warren, S. A. Symis, S. Ellis	
	senior II	<b>Peterborough Summer (Sat)</b> C. Hawes, M. Neville-Smith, T. Inglis, N. Humphries, J. Atkinson, K. Hamilton, D. Kempley, R. Frost, T. Reilly	
		<b>Peterborough Summer (Sun)</b> C. Hawes, M. Neville-Smith, C. Hill, N. Humphries, J. Atkinson, K. Hamilton, S. A. Symis, R. Frost, T. Reilly	
		<b>Reading Head</b> T. Inglis, C. Neville-Smith, S. A. Symis, L. Warren, J. Atkinson, S. Birchall, D. Kempley, R. Frost, I. Featherstone	
	Fours	novice	<b>Peterborough Spring</b>
		open coxless	<b>Women's Henley GB squad composite</b> P. Cross, D. Blackie, F. Freckleton, A. Hall <b>Notts City TRC/TSS/Weybridge</b>
		senior I coxed	<b>Peterborough Summer</b>
		senior coxed	<b>Bedford Sprint</b> C. Saix, S. Sommes, N. Sweeney, R. Frost
	Pairs	senior III coxed	<b>Peterborough Summer</b>
open		<b>Women's Henley TRC/Putney Town</b> M. Batten, J. Turvey	
Quads	open	<b>National Championships (gold)</b> K. Pollit, R. Wyness, E. Wallace, R. Peagram	
		<b>National Championships (silver)</b> A. Bouma, L. Baird, H. Baird, L. Baguley	
		<b>National Championships (bronze)</b> J. Sanders, K. Templeton, K. Giles, C. Dennis	
		<b>Docklands (Sun)</b> E. Wallace, K. Pollit, R. Wyness, R. Peagram	
	senior II	<b>Notts City (Sat)</b> K. Pollit, R. Wyness, E. Wallace, R. Peagram	
	<b>Docklands (Sat)</b> E. Wallace, K. Giles, K. Templeton, C. Dennis		

<b>Doubles open</b>		<b>Docklands (Sun)</b> J. Sanders, K. Giles, K. Templeton, C. Dennis
		<b>National Championships (bronze)</b> K. Pollit, K. Giles
		<b>Docklands (Sat)</b> A. Bouma, L. Baguley
		<b>Docklands (Sun)</b> A. Bouma, L. Baird
	<b>senior I</b>	<b>Staines</b>
	<b>veteran C</b>	<b>Worcester Junior &amp; Vets</b> S. Malt, P. Haslam
<b>Sculls</b>	<b>senior II</b>	<b>Richmond - N. Owen</b>
	<b>senior III</b>	<b>Staines - C. Hawes</b>
		<b>Docklands (Sun) - R. Peagram</b>
	<b>novice</b>	<b>Scullers Head - K. Pollit</b>
	<b>veteran B</b>	<b>Broxbourne - S. Malt</b>
	<b>veteran D</b>	<b>Veteran Scullers Head - P. Rayner</b>
	<b>veteran C</b>	<b>Worcester Junior &amp; Vets - P. Haslam</b>

### World Masters

WVD1x	—	P. Haslam
WVC2x	—	S. Malt, P. Haslam
WVD4x	—	TRC/Civil Service
WVD2-	—	TRC/Civil Service
WVB4+	—	TRC/Sons
MxVD2x	—	TRC/Marlow

### Head of the River - men

TRC I	open	16th	17:56.38
TRC II	senior I	51st	18:27.90
TRC III	senior III	93rd	18:47.85
TRC IV	senior II	175th	19:20.50
TRC V	-	120th	19:02.67
TRC VI	-	377th	21:45.82
TRC VII	novice	316th	20:36.50
TRC VIII	novice	387th	22:08.79

### Head of the River - women

TRC I	open	1st	18:58.0
TRC II	senior I	16th	20:00.4
TRC III	senior I	25th	20:35.9
TRC IV	senior II	39th	20:54.5
TRC V	senior II	72nd	21:35.0
TRC VI	senior III	141st	22:50.4
TRC VII	novice	135th	22:33.9

## Scullers Head

Name	Finish posit	Time	Pennant
I. Pritchard	13th	23:58.4	MVB *
S. Allpass	14th	23:59.3	MSI *
B. Crawford	30th	24:19.6	MSI
G. Reddin	38th	24:29.9	MVA
M. Urry	51st	24:44.3	MO
M. Hausleitner	98th	25:12.2	MO
M. Otto	102nd	25:14.1	MO
M. Levy	107th	25:19.8	MO
S. Key	136th	25:44.1	WO
K. Pollitt	137th	25:45.4	WN *
M. Hawes	139th	25:46.8	MS3L
P. Davis	185th	26:22.7	MS2
R. Peagram	239th	27:01.8	WN
G. Deslandes	263rd	27:24.4	NOV
C. Dennis	269th	27:30.4	WO
N. Owen	274th	27:39.8	WS3
M. Dennis	300th	28:06.4	WO
C. Hawes	303rd	28:11.3	WS3
K. Giles	-	28:22.4	WN
A. Bouma	336th	28:58.2	WO

*\*pennant winner*



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