QuintinBoatClub Newsletter

Volume 1 Issue 2 Christmas 2009

A Year of Change at QBC

2009 has, by Quintin standards, been a year of innovation, what with a formal recruitment drive of open days and learn to row courses, and of course the conversion of the defunct rowing tank into a superb gymnasium. We still wait, however, to see their benefits on the river and at regattas. It was another quiet year for the senior squad (that's the young 'uns!) but the veterans meanwhile went from strength to strength, picking up medals at the National Veteran Championships and at the FISA World Masters Regatta in Vienna.



Brian Shaw opens the new gymnasium

The autumn heads are also proving a happy hunting ground for the veterans and we hope to see a novice squad take shape and race in the near future.

In This Issue...

Gymnasium Official Opening.....1
Vets Victorious in Vienna.....2
Rund um Wannsee.....3
Veteran Fours Head.....3
The Autumn Heads.....4
The Potwinners' Chart.....4
AGM and New Committee.....4
Announcements.....4
Dates for your Diary.....4

Gymnasium Official Opening

On Sunday, July 12th, the club celebrated the official opening of the gymnasium and the christening of two new boats by holding a well-attended lunchtime barbeque, on which, for a change, the sun shone. Captain Mark Chatwin kicked off the proceedings by introducing Bob Slade, whose task was to christen our new double scull / coxless pair the "Norman Webster".

Bob recounted how he and Norman joined the club in the early 1960s and found themselves rowing together in a pair - indeed representing the club in the Silver Goblets and Nickalls' Challenge Cup at Henley in 1961. Norman was a regular on the "Bridges Run" throughout the 1970s and will be remembered by some of our slightly younger veterans for that. When Norman died he left a generous donation to the club, and it is with this in mind that the new boat was



Bob Slade christens the "Norman Webster"

dedicated to him, complementing another of our Empacher doubles, the "Bob Slade", already in the boathouse. Bob anointed the new boat with a suitably meagre dose of "bubbly", the rest being kept back for drinking.

Mark then introduced ex-captain Ricky White to initiate the christening of our new Empacher eight. Following the club tradition, this was named for the club's captain by giving it the monicker "The Lady Lindsay". This was slightly unusual as Mark had yet to marry the aforementioned lady (but the wedding was imminent). The boat was again anointed with "bubbly" (this time by Lindsay) and then proceedings moved to the doorway of the new gymnasium, where former captain Brian Shaw cut the blue ribbon and declared the gym formally open. All present then feasted themselves on "bubbly" and burgers.



Lindsay christens “The Lady Lindsay”

Vets Victorious in Vienna

Twelve of Quintin's finest veteran oarsmen plus coxswain Hilary Cook took to the eight-lane course of the New Danube canal on 3rd September with mixed feelings, somewhat like the weather, which blew hot, then wet, then very windy on the three main days of the 36th FISA World Masters Regatta in Vienna, Austria. For the first time the main racing of the regatta was spread over three days, the fourth day being reserved for mixed races. Pete Meaney and John Ferrario had skillfully worked out the events and combinations of crews so that there were no clashes and everyone had, on average, two races a day.

Day One (Thursday) was a real scorcher, with temperatures that must have been in the upper eighties even in the late afternoon. First off for Quintin was an 'E' coxed four, which, for a near-scratch crew, finished a creditable fourth with the Croatian/International composite Mladost/Occoquan taking the medals. However, our main focus was on what was believed to be our main chance – the 'D' eight. Quintin got off to a good start, but the Dutch RV Breda/Z.R.Z.V. Te Zwolle combination squeezed away in the middle 500 to consolidate their lead. Quintin rallied strongly over the last 250 and came in a close second in a field of seven.


The Veteran D Quad with their medals

On Day Two it rained persistently throughout the day. The sun may not have been shining on Quintin but the gods were. We competed in nine events and came away with some encouraging results, second in 'E' singles and 'F' coxless pairs and first in 'D' quad sculls and 'E' eights. In the quads race, It was very pleasing to watch the blue and white vests of Nick Ryan, Charles Harrison, Jonathan Ferris and Pete Meaney powering the "Vin Batten" across the line ahead of the field, even though Pete's was only visible through his very wet white T-shirt which he had forgotten to remove. We were all expecting a disqualification, but it did not happen and the victors sculled up to the winners' raft to collect their medals.

In the ‘E’ eights, Quintin were drawn in lane 3 with main rivals Mladost/Occoquan International in lane 4. This eight contained the four oarsmen who had beaten our 'E' coxed four to take the medals on Day One, so we were out for revenge. Strokeman Richard Lonergan took the crew out of the blocks at 48 strokes a minute, which immediately gave us a half length lead over the field. The rating never dropped below 39 for the rest of the race, with Quintin crossing the line 1.57 seconds ahead of Mladost/Occoquan and nearly 9 seconds ahead of the third-placed crew. Our time of 3 min. 8.02 sec. was the fastest for the whole event, the other heats being won in times 4 to 5 seconds slower, so we really felt we were "World Masters."


Fred and Richard get their “D” doubles medals

Day Three produced a raging head wind and the course roughing up like the Tideway, but the nine events entered yielded our best clutch of finishing positions with second place in 'D' coxed fours, 'D' singles and 'F' singles, and first place in 'D' doubles (Fred Jefferies and Richard Lonergan coming home nearly 5 seconds ahead of their nearest rivals).

So it's commiserations to Ken Almand, Richard Ratcliffe and John Ferrario, who missed out on the medals and double congratulations to Pete Meaney, Jonathan Ferris, Charles Harrison, Fred Jefferies and Richard Lonergan, who each won two. Nick Ryan, Graham Lloyd, Tom Bishop and Roger Hine were content with their one medal apiece.

Thanks go to John and Pete for organising the crews and making it all happen, and special thanks to Graham Lloyd who drove 1300 miles there and 1300 miles back to allow us to row in our own boats. Overall this was the best performance Quintin has had for some time at a World Masters regatta.

Rund um Wannsee



The Berlin squad on the Ruder-Club Wannsee pontoon

October 2nd saw the annual departure of the Quintin contingent to take part in the Rund um Wannsee Race in Berlin, held this year on Saturday, October 3rd. This race is held to celebrate German reunification in a circular route around the Wannsee lake. It includes a massed start followed by approximately one hour's row for the 15km to complete the course. The Berliner Ruder-Club kindly acted as our hosts again. Dave King takes up the story:—

The Saturday of the race dawned bright and early for QBC as we rigged the boat at 6.30 am before breakfast. By the time we left the pontoon of Ruderclub Wannsee the wind had got up and conditions for the mass start out on the Wannsee were somewhat chaotic, as fifty boats tried to get lined up in an ever freshening breeze.

Finally, 15 minutes late, we pounded off the start trying to maintain safe water and repel boarders from some of the other boats around us. Combined with the wash from the fleet and the spectator boats, conditions worsened rapidly and we were soon taking on water from some hefty washes. However, it was only when we were 15 minutes into the race, and well up with the pack, that the words "Achtung — I think we have a serious problem" from our German cox alerted us to the fact that he was sitting waist deep in water.

Deciding early October was not a good time for a swim in the lake we pulled over and hailed the efficient German rescue launch. They were able to lend us a bailer and, after a bit of elbow grease, we were on our way again — but last in the race! Settling into a good rhythm we got around the 15k course in 1 hour 12 minutes and narrowly avoided coming last by catching one boat on the way.

The rest of Saturday passed by in a blur of German Kindle beer at the post race bash at Berliner Ruder-Club and on the evening “kulture tour” in central Berlin. After a late start on Sunday morning we had an outing upstream from BDR in the 110 year old coxed six “Oder”, with a stop for coffee halfway – very civilised! After a late lunch, and the compulsory route march around Potsdam, the exhausted crew collapsed into the clutches of British Airways for a good slumber back to London.



The “Oder” Crew

Veteran Fours Head

Due to extremely inclement weather, the Fours Head was cancelled this year, so we can safely say we held our position from last year. The very next day, however, conditions had returned to near normal. Sunday 15th November turned out to be still somewhat breezy but fine and sunny. The Vets Head got off to a late start, but this did not hamper the Quintin crews, which were both seen to be overtaking other crews even before "The Ship". The club had two crews entered; a Vet D quad of Pete Meaney, Fred Jefferies, Jonathan Ferris and Richard Lonergan going off at number 36 and a Vet E quad of Nick Ryan, Tom Bishop, Charles Harrison, and Dick Findlay at number 43.



The victorious Veteran E quad scull

The D quad finished a creditable 7th in a time of 19 min. 49.39 sec, just missing out on the pennant to Upper Thames by 1.11 seconds. The E quad excelled themselves, finishing 4th overall in a time of 19 min. 37.50 sec. to retain the category E pennant they won last year. The only crews to beat them were two Vet B coxless fours and a Vet B quad.

The Autumn Heads

The club's keen scullers have once again performed exceptionally in the autumn heads, as the following pennants haul shows:

3rd Oct. Wallingford LDS	Vet E 1x	Geoff Potts
11th Oct Reading SBH	Vet F 1x	Tom Bishop
17th Oct. The Pairs Head	Vet F 2x	Tom Bishop, Geoff Potts
24th Oct. Weybridge Silver Sculls	Vet F 2x	Tom Bishop, Geoff Potts
	Vet D 1x	Nick Ryan
	Vet F 1x	Tom Bishop
	Vet G/H/I 1x	Frank Webb
31st Oct. Marlow LDS	Vet E/F 1x	Tom Bishop
	Vet G/H 1x	Frank Webb
7th Nov. Henley Sculls Head	W Elite 1x	Deborah Mallinson
	Vet B 1x	Ken Almand
	Vet E 1x	Geoff Potts
	Vet F 1x	Tom Bishop
	Vet H 1x	Frank Webb
	Senior Men's team prize	
21st Nov. Kingston SBH	W Sen 1x	Deborah Mallinson
	Vet F 1x	Geoff Potts
28th Nov. The Scullers Head	Vet A 1x	Mark Chatwin
	Vet E 1x	Pete Meaney
	Vet H 1x	Frank Webb

Mark Chatwin was also 21st overall in the Scullers Head, the Club's highest position for over 25 years.

The Potwinners' Chart

A regular feature of our website for some years now has been the "Potwinners' Chart". This appears each year on the web page detailing all the Club's wins during the season. Only regatta wins count.

This season's chart-topper is Richard Lonergan, with seven wins. Richard won Veteran C coxless fours at Hammersmith Regatta, Veteran C coxless fours and Veteran D quads at Chiswick, Veteran D eights at Twickenham and also at the National Veteran Championships in Nottingham, and finally Veteran E eights and Veteran D double sculls at the World Masters Regatta in Vienna. All but one of these were won in the stroke seat.

Nick Ryan and Fred Jefferies were close behind with six wins each.

AGM and New Committee

The Annual General Meeting of the Club was held on Sunday, 13th September after some exciting racing in Closing Eights.

The newly-elected committee is as follows:

Captain: Mark Chatwin
Vice-Captain: Graham Lloyd
Hon. Secretary: Malcolm Cook
Hon. Treasurer: Bill Burbage
Other Committee Members: Paul Gunn, Roger Hine, Duncan Hughes, Dave King, Ewen McLeod.

Since the A.G.M Roger Hine has been assigned to the new post of Membership Secretary and Ewen McLeod has taken over from Martin Carr as the Club's safety adviser.

Announcements

Engagements

We are pleased to announce the engagement of Miss Catt Campbell and Mr. Ewen McLeod. Ewen is a second generation Quintin oarsman and stalwart of the current senior squad. When in a boat, Catt takes the driver's seat, coxing Quintin crews whenever an opportunity arises. We cannot say who takes the driver's seat in domestic matters.

Marriages

On Friday, 24th July at Villa Balbianello, Lake Como, Italy, Mr. Mark Chatwin to Miss Lindsay Buck, citizen of the U.S.A. Congratulations to our captain and his wife.

We have heard through the grapevine (Facebook actually) that whilst domiciled in the U.S.A. Martin Carr has done the honourable thing and married his American sweetheart, the former Ms. Trisha Patterson. More congratulations, but may we have some details please Martin?

Are there any more transatlantic pairings in the offing?

Dates for your Diary

20th December 2009 – Plum Pudding Eights at 10:30 am, followed by Christmas Party (12 – 12:30 start)

5th February 2010 – Annual Dinner at the Royal Automobile Club, Pall Mall

If you would like more details of these events, please make use of the contact details at the foot of this newsletter, addressing your enquiries to the Captain or the Newsletter Editor.

QuintinBoatClub Newsletter

Published by: Quintin Boat Club, The University Boathouse, Ibis Lane, Chiswick, London W4 3UJ
Telephone: (020) 8994 3715
E-mail: web@quintinboatclub.org, captain@quintinboatclub.org
Website: http://quintinboatclub.org

© 2009 Quintin Boat Club