

NEWS REPORT

December 2000

Editorial

A Merry Christmas to all Upton oarspeople, and let's hope for a somewhat drier New Year. There will be no need for a hosepipe ban or the appointment of a Minister for Drought for some time to come, I fancy. But if we haven't been able to do much real rowing there have been some star performances in the British Indoor Rowing Championships, which was held at the end of November and was the world's biggest ever rowing ergometer event, with nearly 2,000 competitors taking part.

Pride of place goes to Carol Barkley, who won the silver medal in her class in a time for the 2000 metres of 8 minutes 17.3 seconds. And Pete Barker came a fighting eighth in his category, clocking 7 minutes 15.6 seconds. Hearty congratulations to them both.

Correction

I am afraid I gave the wrong phone number for the Captain in the last issue, which is probably a keel-hauling offence. Graham's real number is 01684 574437.

Christmas Puzzle

See if you can explain this (true) incident, that occurred at a regatta some time ago.

Two scullers are lining up to start a race, eyeing each other suspiciously. The starter, on the bank, loudly shouts 'Go!' in the normal way, and drops his flag. However, to his bewilderment and that of all the onlookers, neither sculler moves a muscle.

Several seconds later, the nearer sculler turns and looks at the starter. Immediately, the farther sculler starts to race. Then the nearer sculler looks back round and sets off after him, but fails to catch him before the finish.

What is the explanation?

(Answer on last page.)

Outcome of last issue's write-a-caption competition



This is a composite of various entries, so there is no outright winner. But if you recognise a bit of your contribution, feel free to award yourself a prize!

Captain's Log Stardate 2

I have very little to report due to the fact that since our last Newsletter we have only managed a row on the meadow next to the boat house, due to the severe floods.

I am sure that everybody is highly sympathetic towards Freya, Kate, Hamish, Carol and Kirsty particularly as they have now experienced flooding for the second time in quick succession. If they need help in any way I am certainly available as I am sure many other members are.

On a brighter note a WN4+ rowed at Wycliffe Small Boats Head on 2 December and came fourth in a time of 12.41. Had they entered the Senior Four class they would have walked away with the gold medals. The crew consisted of Freya, Pat, Deirdre, and Annie and coxed by Debbie.

Hopefully by the next Newsletter, I will have a lot more to report.

Graham

Forthcoming events

February 9th **Race Night** at the Upton Sports & Social Club. Information and tickets available from Jeff Radnor on 01684 594276 – first come first served.

March 31st **Italian Dinner** at the Upton Memorial Hall. An excuse to drag out those Gucci numbers, Italian dress essential in order to enjoy this evening of Italian flavours and wines. Numbers limited so early booking via Maria on 01684 594813.

July 14th **Upton Rowing Club Ball** at Hanley Castle High School. The 2001 Club ball is a masked ball, hide your identity and let your hair down.

Date to be confirmed **Auction of Promises**, date to be arranged but contact Karen Lanni 01684 592714 and Alex Duthie 01684 592479 as soon as possible with your promises. Exciting promises already offered include a castration (sadly animals only) by Peter Creber, a thorough service from Boz (that's for your car folks!) and for those who can't get enough of circuit training....a personal session with Andy Budnik.

Watch out for the fund raising committee's whacky ideas at the Folk, Jazz and Water Festivals.....we'll be there!

The 100 Club

Why not give your loved one, or anyone for that matter, a number in the 100 Club. **The 100 Club** is the brainchild of the Fund Raising Committee and is a simple way to raise money for the Club with cash prizes of £50 for a lucky draw winner each month.

To enter the draw and become a member of the 100 Club all you need to do is buy a number at a cost of £1 per month. Every month a draw of the 100 numbers will be made by the Fund Raising Committee and the winning number will receive a £50 prize, the other £50 raised will go straight to the Boat Club funds so that by the end of the year we will have collected £600.

You can buy as many numbers as you want, each number you buy is yours for the year and payment can be made by a single £12 cheque in advance or by two instalments of £6. Do you have a lucky number? If so join early and pay £12 in advance for the privilege to choose your own number, but be quick before they all go! **The first draw will take place in January.**

For further information and a copy of the 100 Club rules please contact Sarah Higgins: Phone: 07980 263416 Email: Sahiggins@btinternet.com To buy a number complete the tear-off slip below.

I enclose a cheque made payable to Upton Rowing Club for £12 / £6 subscription for the Upton Rowing 100 Club. Please reserve the number/s for me.

Name.....Phone no.

Return this slip to: Sarah Higgins, 81 Old Street, Upton on Severn, Worcs, WR8 0JQ.

Answer to Christmas Puzzle

This race took place at a regatta in Glasgow between John Ferguson of Clyde and 'Gudge' Campbell of Clydesdale, two neighbouring clubs that were sworn enemies. John (the farther sculler) knew that Gudge was extremely deaf and couldn't hear the starter, as a result of which he simply had to watch his opponent at the start and go whenever his opponent started. He also knew that Gudge was faster than him. Consequently John decided that he wasn't going to start, regardless of what the starter said or did, until Gudge stopped looking at him.

Sportsmanship? Not between Clyde and Clydesdale!

And finally ...

Great Moments in Coaching, No. 94

Umpty years ago, I was coxing a Tideway Scullers crew that was being coached by the legendary Lou Barry. Lou was the patriarch of one of the famous rowing families of the Thames, and was by then in his seventies. He had a soft heart but an extremely crusty exterior, and his coaching style was very much at the grumpy end of the spectrum. He would glower at us over the side of his launch as we rowed along, not saying much except (occasionally) how useless we were.

On the day in question he concluded we were being unusually useless, so he decided to take us into the side to berate us at close quarters for our lack of concentration. We therefore stopped at the ARA landing stage at Hammersmith, and he got out and tied his boat up before coming round to tell us what he thought of us.

He was well into his tirade when we noticed, over his shoulder, that he had failed to tie up his launch properly and it was now in midstream, heading briskly for Putney on the ebb tide. But we didn't want to interrupt him in full flow. 'For God's sake!' he was ranting, 'You're all going about in a bloody dream! Pay attention to what you're doing whenever you go out on the river!'

This gave us an irresistible opening, and one of us asked politely, 'Did you remember to tie your boat up, Lou?' He looked round and had the grace to laugh at himself, and the outing went a lot better from then on. (But only after we had spent 15 minutes chasing after his launch and towing it back for him.)

It could never happen at Upton – could it?

Ron Paterson