



NEWS REPORT

August 2001

Editorial

As you can see, this Newsletter is at the brief end of the spectrum, but is being sent out now to accompany a wodge of other information. In particular there is the notice of the Annual General Meeting, which is being held in the Sports Pavilion this year, on Monday 17 September. We hope to have as full an attendance as possible, so please do come along if you can. Also, there is a pack of material on safety, which may look daunting but which we all need to be familiar with, so please give it your attention as well.

Apart from that, much activity on the river continues. We have had lots of crews racing over the last few weeks, admittedly with more enthusiasm than success, but hopefully the river will be kinder to us in the coming months than it has been over the last year and we can get some continuity back into our training.

Last month, an intrepid party of dedicated drinkers set off downstream to spend a weekend doing battle with the Severn Bore. (I had actually always thought that the Severn Bore must refer to a certain member of the Club, whose name it would be tactless to reveal, but it appears that I was mistaken.) By all accounts, the Severn Bore ran out an easy winner, but our gallant crews came back only slightly bedraggled and with most of their belongings intact, so perhaps we can claim a moral draw.

On the equipment front, most of you will have seen that we have recently acquired a new double sculling boat with blades for juniors, funded almost entirely by a grant from the Foundation for Sport and the Arts, to whom we are extremely grateful. In addition, the heroic efforts of our Fund Raising Committee over the past year have put us in the unusual position of having money in the bank at this time of the year, even after paying for all that snazzy new sliding racking. As a result, we will be able to make further additions to our equipment for seniors as well in the near future.

Cracknell & Pinsent to row in Upton colours?

With James Cracknell and Matthew Pinsent now bankrolled by Camelot to the tune of £1.4m between now and Athens, they have presumably committed themselves to various requirements about what to wear in support of their new sponsor. So it was interesting to spot this item in the national press recently:

Who says money can't buy class? The National Lottery operator, Camelot, now has its own tartan. 'It's green, purple and gold,' says a spokesman. 'Very nice.'

Guidance for coxes

One of the issues we have been looking at is how to give instruction to coxes, who are often pressed into service without much of an introduction to the requirements of the role. As one way of addressing this, your Secretary has produced a set of notes on the subject, running to about 15 pages, and covering several topics – steering, commands, manoeuvring, handling the boat off the water, coaching the crew and racing. (Thirty years ago, and before he had added about three stone of pies and pints to his girth, your Secretary was a particularly aggressive member of this small but vicious fraternity, which I am sure you will find impossible to believe – except perhaps for the ‘small but vicious’ part.)

A copy of this is available for anyone who wants one. The easiest way of getting it would be to ask for it by email (to ronpaterson@lineone.net) and you will get an electronic copy by return. Otherwise ask when you next see me. If there is sufficient interest, we might follow this up with a seminar to talk through it and try to answer whatever questions may arise.

Dates for your diary

Squad meeting

On Monday, 24 September, (i.e. a week after the AGM) we plan to hold a meeting of all those who want to row regularly through the winter and in the next season, with a view to sorting out plans and priorities. So come along to that too if you can. It will be held in the Sports Pavilion as well.

End of season dinner

This has been set for Saturday, 13 October and will be held upstairs in the Memorial Hall. Cost will be £15 per head.

Ron Paterson