

# BEDFORD ROWING CLUB

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## SPRING NEWSLETTER 2003

### PRESIDENT'S PIECE

Spring is with us already; and we have been very busy with the recent Heads, no doubt Dick will have a few words on that point later in this publication.

I must again thank everyone for all their help; both on and off the water, in front and behind the scenes, with all the necessary organising of various events, heads, parties, regattas etc. There is so much work involved and so many pairs of hands needed, that it is almost impossible to thank everyone personally. So please accept this as my sincere appreciation of all your hard work and everything that you all do.

The Committee are busy as ever trying to arrange for all the necessary refurbishments, repairs, replacements of boats; and of course refurbishment and servicing of all equipment within the Club; to comply with the ever growing Health & Safety legislations. We do have quite a comprehensive "Wish List". Naturally to achieve all

these requirements your Social Committee will be holding lots of fund raising parties, suppers etc. Please come along and support as many as possible. Without your help and support it would be impossible to keep our rowing squad in "tip top" condition.

"Her indoors" forces me to help with every event going, including 'spud bashing' and such for quite a few! At least that way, all the profits made are kept within the Club.

As ever both the Captain, Ladies Captain and their Vice captains will be appealing for help with coaching, we can never have too many coaches. If you can spare (even 1 hour per week) any time please contact Dick.

Many Thanks.

**Tony Goodman.**

### CAPTAIN SLOG

*STARDATE 13/02/03*

Training for the Eight's Head is now upon us; and the Club is hoping to boat 2 Eights at the Tideway Eights Head of the River Race on March 29<sup>th</sup>. The first Eight will be made up from the Men's Squad and the second Eight should be made up from Veterans and members who are currently rowing outside of the squad. The Eight is hoping to race at least once before the Tideway, with another weekend spent training in either London or Peterborough. The aim is to have the first Eight finishing at least in the top 100, ideally within the top 80.

This should be possible given the improvements seen over the last few outings; and our thanks go out to:- Dave Pendall, Gavin Dods and John Layng. Who have all helped coach over the last few weeks and will be

continuing this coaching at least until the 8's Head.

Unfortunately, due to people's availability and lack of entries at S1, we were unable to boat an Eight at Bedford Fours and Eights.

### Novices

There are now approximately 6 men who are training regularly within the novice squad, this number is due to be boosted further with the addition of several new members. Our thanks go to Jeremy, who has been putting in a lot of time with them; however with the increase in number, additional assistance is required. So if anyone has any time free on Saturday or Sunday mornings at 9a.m. and would like to get involved, please contact myself.

### Results

Three boats were entered at Peterborough, with the highest finish going to the Men's Elite 4; who finished second in their category and 7<sup>th</sup> overall, beating several quads including one from Star. The veteran composite four of Bedford/Broxbourne was the fastest veteran four of the day. This four was due to double up into an Eight in the last division; but unfortunately the wrong riggers were put on the trailer (No names mentioned) and the crew had to make do with an outing back in Bedford.

## Coming up

**29<sup>th</sup> March** Men's Tideway  
**6<sup>th</sup> April** The Boat Race  
**13<sup>th</sup> April** Small Boats Head  
**10<sup>th</sup> May** Bedford Amateur  
Regatta

*Dick Garrett Captain.*

## LADIES REPORT

Since the last report, the Women's squad have raced at two different events. The first being Peterborough Head, where the coxed Four of:- Leslie Clinton, Vicky Rigby, Jo Lemon, Nicky Cooper, and Angie Cronje (Cox), were third at Senior 2. Although this was felt to be a less than great row, it was a step up from the Fours Head. Unfortunately Chee was unable to race her single scull due to the large number of entries in the first division.

The four then raced last weekend (09/02/03) at Bedford, in the Senior 2 and Senior 1. They finished second to Leicester in both categories. These were much better rows and are certainly encouraging for the future.

Due to lack of numbers, it appears unlikely that an Eight will be entered for the Women's Tideway Head. If anyone knows of any Ladies who would like to join our squad, please let me know.

**Monday** Weights in the  
Gym at 6 or 7pm

**Tuesday** Ergos

**Wednesday** Rowing

**Thursday** Circuits at  
DAHS at 7pm

**Friday** Club Draw

**Saturday &  
Sunday** Rowing

On a lighter note, we are trying to get a "Club Night" off the ground on a Thursday evening, after circuits. Food will be available from 8.30pm for a small charge of £3.00, so, if you are at a loose end, please come along.

*Nicola Cooper*

## JUNIOR SECTION

We have continued to develop the squad over the winter and thanks to lots of commitment by the oarsmen and coaches, we now boat 4 quad/fours every week.

We recently competed at Bedford 4's & 8's Head with our old juniors, whilst they didn't win they had a very good row and are within striking distance of the fastest crew.

In April we will be racing at Bedford Small Boats Head. We hope to boat 2 coxed quads, 1 coxless quad and 1 coxed four. Also we hope to boat 5 double and a single scull.

As always if anyone can spare some coaching time (water or land training) we would love to hear from you. Finally, some figures, we currently have 24 active

members ranging from 13 to 17 years old.

*Brendan Booth*  
Junior co-ordinator  
[juniors@bedfordrowing.co.uk](mailto:juniors@bedfordrowing.co.uk)

## **SOCIAL SCENE**

Since the Winter Newsletter we have had an active time on the Social Scene. The Fish & Chip supper with the Race Night, Christmas Party, Christmas Draw, Boxing Day Scratch Eights, New Years Eve Party and Burns Night have all been very enjoyable and well supported. I would like to thank all who were involved with providing food and helping Dot behind the bar. The fireworks at New Year were a first class display and thanks again go to those who made a donation towards the cost and those who let them off.

By the time that this letter reaches you, we will have held the Chinese New Year Evening, which was fully subscribed and the Valentine's Night on 15<sup>th</sup> February with the saucy 'Back to School' theme. On Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> March there is a St. Patrick's Day supper, details, cost and tickets will be available behind the bar. A vegetarian option will be available by prior order.

The successes of the above events has thankfully had a positive effect on the bar takings, these together with outside bookings mean, that

hopefully, we will achieve a turnover similar to last year.

I would like to thank everyone for their support and would welcome any suggestions or requests that anyone may have for future social events.

Any volunteers to serve on the Social Committee, to help with these events would be most welcome.

On a trial basis, as from the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday in March, we will be reinstating the Meat raffle £1 a ticket.

We also have a limited number (8 I think) of wooden Bedford Rowing Club Blades. As we have had several requests for these, we will be organising an Auction with sealed bids for them. Watch this space, or the website [www.bedfordrowing.co.uk](http://www.bedfordrowing.co.uk) for details.

### **Dates for your Diary**

**15<sup>th</sup> March..** St Patrick's Supper  
**18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> April** Easter  
Weekend: check notice boards & website;  
[www.bedfordrowing.co.uk](http://www.bedfordrowing.co.uk)  
**21<sup>st</sup> April** .....  
.....St George's Day Lunch  
**3<sup>rd</sup> May** ..... Quiz Night  
**5<sup>th</sup> May** ..... Bank Holiday  
.....Monday Lunch Buffet  
**26<sup>th</sup> May** ..... Spring Bank BBQ  
**June 2003** ..... Any suggestions?

*Malcolm Reidford*  
Social Chairman

Social Club renewals are not due until April, though there

are some social members that have not yet renewed their April 2002 subscription. Have you forgotten yours? Please do drop in and renew.

## **Events Helpers**

### **FEBRUARY FOURS & EIGHTS HEAD**

It started on a cold and wet Sunday morning but fortified by super hot bacon rolls from Dot & Sheena we got underway. There were 206 entries, with more eights than last year, being split into 7 divisions. A number of usual helpers were not able to be present due to sore heads from a celebration at Leander the night before but we were well supported by some younger members and many regulars.

The first division went off a few minutes late and the second was held up to accommodate the Anglia TV crew filming at the start but we eventually caught up and finished the day on time, as usual. I understand a number of visiting crews again congratulated us on a very good event, which did seem to run smoothly.

The old and the new computer timing systems were run in parallel and Will's new system performed very well.

Once again thank you to all those marshals, monitors and helpers who turned out on the day and I hope you will not

mind me contacting you for assistance at the Fours & Small Boats head to be held on Sunday 13th April. This tends to be the biggest entry of the year and so we will need every available hand to ensure the event is run to our usual high standard.

*Mike Perry*

### Safety

A risk assessment has been carried out on the Club and its activities to prioritise the importance of current hazards. To lower the risk of these hazards, responsibilities have been drawn up for actions to be taken. Consideration has been given in this process to ARA guidelines and Safety Audit content. Nine significant hazards were highlighted and are as follows:

- Crushed by free weights whilst alone.
- Unsafe equipment not quarantined.
- Unknown medical condition of members doing heavy exercise.
- Drown after capsizing.
- Unsafe use of river.
- No suitable first aid consumables.
- Mechanical failure of gym equipment steel rope.
- Blocked/hindered walkways.
- Potentially unqualified Coaches practising who are unaware of their responsibilities.

When all actions have been satisfactorily completed the Club can submit a safety Audit Sheet to the ARA. Please contact me for further information.

*John Impey*

### Computer For Schools

The Club is making a collection of Tesco's vouchers for Daubeney Middle School, Kempston. All donations will be very gratefully received.

### New vehicle

Most of you will know by now, that we have managed to replace our towing vehicle. After much deliberation, it was decided to return to our old favourite the Frontera L.W.B. which we hope will give members long and reliable service.

Many thanks for your patience whilst the transition was taking place.

### Secretary

#### Events Helpers

To repeat Mike Perry's thanks I would like to add, the recent Bedford Eights and Fours Head was a great success, with an increase in the number of eights racing this year providing a few logistic worries ("How do we fit them all in?" being one of

them) and a healthy income to please the treasurer.

A big thank you to all those who helped with marshalling and the various other jobs that helped the event run smoothly. Especial thanks to those who stepped in at short notice to help staff the extra division that we tacked on to the end of the day, fortunately our tried and trusted 'firm but fair' treatment of crews ensured that the last division went off on time and night-sights were not required after all.

Our next event is the **Spring Fours & Small Boats Head on Sunday 13 April**. This is the **BIG ONE** of our events calendar in terms of the number of entries that we receive, and will need all hands to the pumps. If you would like to be part of the team then please see Mike Perry, or any of the events committee, at the Club, drop us a line or email [events@bedfordrowing.co.uk](mailto:events@bedfordrowing.co.uk). You will find that there is a good social team spirit amongst the helpers and you will definitely be helping the Club's rowing activities.

#### Budget

At the February committee meeting, a budget for the next twelve months' rowing activity was tabled and the proposed expenditure for the next three months agreed. One of the main features of the budget is a rolling programme of boat refurbishment and replacement. To help raise the finance required, we are

looking to sell a number of our older boats; if anyone hears of any potential buyers out there then please let the Captain know.

In the meantime, please try to keep the boats that we are looking to sell (Muppets Corner, Sir William Harpur, Tony, Griffin and Ron Martin at this stage) clean and in good condition so that they look attractive purchases to visiting clubs! Forthcoming comprehensive refurbishments are planned for Kingsbrook and Bombardier which should give both boats a new lease of life; intended purchases in the year ahead are an eight and two quads/coxless fours.

### **National Rowing**

**League** [www.nrl.org.uk](http://www.nrl.org.uk)

The National Rowing League appears to have fallen into decline, with no further updates since our last newsletter in November.

### **Subscriptions**

Social Club subscription renewals will be due on 1 April. As a special offer for new members, anyone joining for a mere £10 between now and April will not need to pay again until April 2004.

*Gavin Dods*

*Hon. Sec.*

## **IN** **REMEMBRANCE**

It is with great sadness that we have to report the passing of three strong supporters of

the club during the first six weeks of 2003.

### **Garry Luddington.**

Garry was the proprietor of F D C Luddington, located on the High Street. For many years Garry has supplied the club with trophies. In particular he will be remembered for the Quarts Sprint Regatta, the trophies for which are now treasured by winning rowers from all over the country. Each year Garry used to drive personally to Sheffield to collect the trophies and ensure that we had an adequate stock for our annual prestige event.

### **Dr David Darby**

January also marked the passing of Dr David Darby. Although only moving to Bedford relatively recently after a long and distinguished career as a consultant at The London Hospital, Moorfield's Eye Hospital and Harley Street, he will be very sadly missed as a gentleman and generous supporter of the social club.

### **Jack Pope**

Finally we must celebrate the life of Jack Pope. In tribute we can do no more than to repeat the excellent (by Mike Green and reproduced with his kind permission) obituary that appeared in The Bedfordshire on Sunday on 9<sup>th</sup> February.

## **‘Death of a Legend**

Sometimes I used to think it was Jack Pope's ambition to buy everybody on the planet a drink. If there has been a more generous man, I have yet to meet him. And nothing was too much trouble for him.

Jack, who died on 05/02/03 was a lifelong supporter of the Blues and a tireless worker for the club. He served on the club committee before the professional days, was made a Life Member and became Chairman of the Followers. He helped write the official history of the Blues, published in the Centenary Year and was also keeper of the club records.

But Rugby wasn't his only passion. As he used to joke: "There will be an awful lot of flags at half mast when I go." And so there are.

He bowled at the Bedford Borough Club, was a keen supporter of Bedfordshire Cricket Club and in recent years Bedford Rowing Club had become his second home. As at the rugby club, he was the first to volunteer for any job that wanted doing there. He loved to tell the story of how when acting as the gateman at the enclosure at one regatta he was approached by the Bishop of Bedford. The Bishop had lost his ticket and took some time to convince Jack that he was who he said he was. When Jack finally relented, the Bishop laughed: "I think it

would be easier to get into the kingdom of heaven than here.” “Aye” said Jack, “I’d outrank you there as well. I’m Pope”.

During the war Jack was a bomber pilot. He trained in Canada – “I’ve never been warm since- and flew many missions to Germany. I once remember him getting very upset when he read that airline pilots were going on strike for £75,000 a year. “£75,000?” he said incredulously. “I got thirty bob a week and we got shot at most of the way”.

Every Sunday, including last Sunday we used to meet at the rowing club. When I asked how he was, he would always reply “There’s nothing in the Beds on Sunday about my death, so I must still be here”.

Sadly this Sunday (09/02/03) there is, he’s not – and there will be many people missing him.

They will all be sadly missed and our condolences go to their families.

*David Easterbrook*

### **Bedford Rowing Club** **Club Merchandise**

We are currently reviewing our merchandise; and are attempting to increase the range of items available and the “in house” stock levels of same. To this end we are trying to produce a colour

pamphlet showing the various items in stock (in all their glory) Any help or ideas are always welcome. Watch this space.

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| <b>Scarf</b>  | £15.50 |
| <b>Ties – Silk</b>  | £10.00 |
| <b>Ties – Polyester</b>   | £5.00  |
| <b>Bow Ties – Already made up</b>   | £15.00 |
| <b>Cufflinks – pair</b>   | £15.00 |
| Racing Kit – All in ones – Old Style (existing stock)   | £20.00 |
| Racing Kit – All in ones – New Style  | £48.50 |
| Leggings (navy with red stripe) – Supplex   | £34.00 |
| Cotton Lycra  | £23.00 |
| Splashtops  | £58.00 |
| Long/Short sleeved supplex tops (blue or white with crest)  | £22.00 |
| Long sleeved cotton shirt with crest  | £15.00 |
| Polo Shirt with crest   | £22.00 |
| New Style Turtle Tops (sleeveless with splashtop back and fleece lining and front) see Jo Lemon for details |        |

All above items subject to availability. Items in **bold** print, there are a limited number of these items available behind the Bar (ideal presents!) All other items please see Jo Lemon, or leave an order addressed to her complete with payment at the Bar.

*Jo Lemon*  
*“Kit Wallah”*

### **Bertie’s final bit**

Once again, many thanks to everyone who contributed to this edition. I apologise if I have browbeaten anyone into contributing, but without your help these newsletters cannot be compiled.

On Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February I joined a small select group of people, who like me, had a very expensive night in. I managed to miss out on the Club draw! Just my luck, it stood at £500! That must be the most expensive sausage rolls I have ever made! Remember you have to be in the Club to win.

As ever if you have anything to contribute to the newsletter or the monthly update please, please leave a note behind the bar or email me via the club website addressed to Tony Goodman, this will reach me. This is your information sheet, if you don’t give me the information, I can’t print it!

“And finally” to quote a famous line.

The Club would like to wish “Rocky” a speedy recovery, after his current stay in hospital. We all look forward to seeing him up and about again very soon.

*Bertie Bloodshot Roving*  
*(sometimes) Newshound*  
[www.bedfordrowing.co.uk](http://www.bedfordrowing.co.uk)  
A.K.A. J. Goodman