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pondlife

the newsletter of Peterborough City Rowing Club

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issue one Spring 2007

Welcome to the new-look Pondlife

the club's newsletter revived!

My thanks go to Tim Lloyd who has agreed to put together and arrange printing of Pondlife, which has been sadly missed as an important means of communication amongst the membership.

The plan is to produce Pondlife every 6 weeks and there is plenty going on to fill it.

The Spring heads have started and the regatta season will soon be here so there will be plenty of racing to report on but there are some exciting new initiatives to improve the club and to raise extra funds.

The club has a lot of members but people come down at different times, some don't have time to stop and chat and others aren't able to get to the club very often due to commitments. Pondlife will be your way of keeping up to date with what is going on. I believe very strongly in the need for better communication within the club and the production of a regular newsletter is a very important step towards achieving this.



run Forrest!

When I was elected Chairman I said that I was keen to encourage initiatives from the membership and exciting ideas are coming forward from the Social Committee to redecorate and revamp the clubroom to make it more attractive and upto date. The idea of recycling our waste to save us money is being looked into by Amanda

Robertson; Richard Noyes is talking to Perkins Engines about a possible sponsorship deal.

I also said at the AGM that I wanted to ensure that all members understand that this is our club collectively. It doesn't belong to the council or some mysterious organisation - it's our club so everyone can make a contribution to it's success and to maintaining it in good order. Having a drink at the bar and going to parties is an easy way to help fundraising; taking care of boats and equipment can save money on repairs; keeping the building clean and tidy makes the club a nicer place to be..... everyone can do their bit.

REMEMBER,
IT'S YOUR CLUB!

John Canton, Chairman

Latest News: Adam Carter resigns as captain

Due to pressures of work Adam has resigned and expressed regret that he has not been able to achieve his ambitions in the role.

He said that he realises that it is important that the Captain is able to be at the club much more frequently than he

has been able to be.

Vice Captains Jo Canton and Richard Noyes will fulfil the role for the time being and report to Chairman John Canton when appropriate. The senior officers will now look at the options to fill this vacancy.

April Visitors

Nick Hubble has taken a lot of bookings for training camps on the lake this April so it will be a busy period but he does make it clear that club members will be using the lake too. Whilst there may be occasions when it can get a bit too busy these training camps bring in some useful revenue - visitors do pay.

Early Season Racing

British Summer Time is now here and light evenings means the approach of the racing season. Put these dates in your diary:-

15th April - Bedford Small Boats Head - a great one to do a couple of times as only about 1900 metres.

21st Junior Inter-Regional - we expect to be represented in this

22nd April - Leicester Regatta - always the first regatta of the season

28/29th April - Nottingham City - 2000 metre racing for those with ambition.

New Website Design

Some of you may be aware that Bob Smith started the process of updating the club's website which is looking a bit dated even though it serves its purpose pretty well. This is getting close to completion so watch out for a new look. It will also have new features so that squad news and messages from coaches can be posted.

Spring Clean/repair Weekend

The clubhouse, boats and the lake don't clean and repair themselves - you only have to look at the mens changing room!! To spruce up the place, John Canton, has proposed a spring clean and repair weekend on 28 & 29th April with a reward of a free lunch to helpers - if you think you can spare a bit of time on that weekend please tell John.



the two PCRC regattas attract hundreds of people from all over the country to the lake, and provide great exposure for the club and the city

Sponsorship Support for PCRC

There is now a Sponsorship Group who have volunteered to seek more corporate sponsorship for the club and to try to link such sponsorship to grants wherever possible.

They will also ensure that our efforts to raise money are coordinated so that we do

not suffer the embarrassment that would be caused if 2 members approached the same company independently asking for money! Richard Noyes, Chris Gill and Bob Bridges are our sponsorship coordinators so if anyone has ideas of potential sponsors they should talk to one of these three.

N.B. The June Regatta sponsorship will continue to be arranged by our regular fundraisers headed by Veronica Winterton and Rolls Pollard.

from your helpful **Safety Advisor.....**

While we all have a moan about the politically correct and ultra safety conscious age in which we live, it is incumbent on us all to be vigilant for our own and others' safety while we are using our Club's facilities. Rowing is in the main a safe sport, but the last two years have seen high-profile fatalities in the UK and abroad which could probably have been avoided if those involved had reacted differently.

'Pondlife' affords an opportunity to raise Members' awareness of safety matters on a regular basis and on this occasion, your attention is drawn to

New boat tagging system

and it's operation

Under the ARA Water Safety Code we are duty bound to have a system for knowing where all of our boats are at any one time and whilst we do operate the 'boat booking' scheme this does not give a record of where boats are, merely a record of who has booked what boat.

The new system operates as follows:

Every boat shall have a tag with its name on one side of it which is available from the Captain (in the case of private sculling boats which are un-named the owners name shall be displayed on this tag along with their name being displayed on their allocated rack). On the other side shall be a 'white wipe clean surface' which is designed for the boat user(s) to write their

name along with R (for river use) or L (for lake use) along with the approximate time of boating on it by using the wipe board marker which hangs from the filling rack adjacent to the boathouse doors.

The tag shall be displayed on the boat whilst it is in the boathouse by attaching it to the visible gate nearest the bows with the wipe clean surface having been cleaned by the previous user.

When the boat is being taken out either on the water or on the trailer it is the crew's responsibility to remove the tag from the boat, fill in the details on the reverse side & place it in the filling rack adjacent to the main boathouse door.

The rack by the main door is split up into sections so that it is easier to locate a particular tag.

Upon returning the boat to the boathouse it is the crew's responsibility to then remove the tag from the rack, clean



the chase is on - juniors close in on their prey in the Peterborough Head

junior section

There have been lots of changes to the structure of the juniors since the start of February. Since losing James Robson, our community coach, in November Bob has been looking hard to find us a replacement. Luckily he didn't have to look far and we've allocated the job to two coaches who will share the responsibilities.

Kerry Stapleton has stepped up to take over the coaching of the established junior squad for their training on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday. This is a difficult job and we are pleased he has taken the challenge. Steve Fox has taken up the other side of

the community coach job as he concentrates on bringing in new talent from the schools over the Peterborough area. This involves the schools indoor rowing league which runs throughout the winter, and then the wet start programmes which develop from the talented kids discovered through the ergo league. He'll also work on the younger juniors who train on a Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

It's also fantastic to have Jan Taylor back after her two month round the world trip.

Due to the lack of coaching over the last few months and the cancellation of lots of events we've not had many wins this season. However we did have two winning

junior crews on New Years Day with the J14 crew winning the event overall and the J18 crew gaining the (joint) fastest time (whatever the vets say!) We hope to get to lots more events now everything's back to usual, so watch this space for the huge amount of junior wins that is the norm!

Tom Kisby

the reverse side & place it back on the gate of the boat, the theory being that at the end of any session the filing rack can be checked by whoever is locking up & this should be empty albeit with the exception of any tags from boats that are on the trailer (denoted on the back of the tag with a 'T'), away for repair (denoted by 'away for repair') or away at events (either denoted by 'T' if the boat has gone on the trailer or 'event' if the boat has been transported by other means).

All quite simple....but what happens if, at locking-up time, one or more tags remain in the tray? What should the locker-up do? The following procedure has been developed and **MUST** be followed.

Copies are posted by the tag tray and by the telephone in the Club foyer.

Check names AND TIME OUT on tag Consider whether boat (a) is overdue (>2 hours after leaving boathouse) and (b) may include a keyholder in its crew. **If not overdue** and crew does not obviously

include a keyholder, if possible delay departure until boat returns. If delay not feasible, look for missing boat OR call another keyholder to take over locking-up responsibility. **If overdue:**

Check that boat is not on the rack IF TAG INDICATES BOAT IS ON THE LAKE:

If light, look up the lake for the missing boat(s). If dark, walk/cycle far enough up the lake to check

If no sign, or IF TAG INDICATES BOAT IS ON THE RIVER, telephone 1st official on list below (if no reply, telephone 2nd and so on until contact is made). He/she will ring the phone number(s) that he/she has listed for

the missing member(s) and advise if whereabouts are known

The official will advise the locker-up of the outcome of this exercise, by ringing back to the boathouse

If the missing member(s) cannot be located, the official will telephone the emergency services. The locker-up must remain at the boathouse to direct and assist the emergency services on arrival. THIS FINAL STEP MUST ONLY BE EMBARKED UPON ONCE ALL OTHER ENQUIRIES ABOVE HAVE BEEN EXHAUSTED

Safety Advisor **Chris Gill**

Vice-Captain 1	Jo Canton	07908 535849 / 01733 310346
Vice-Captain 2	Richard Noyes	07739 693049 / 01733 237079
Vice-Captain 3	-	
Chairman	John Canton	01733 310346 (home) 01733 563966 (work)
Secretary	Steve Casey	01733 390091 (home) 01480 442502 (work)

The above officers are expected to have contact numbers to hand for all Club Members.



007

Serious training...



Our men's second eight for the Tideway Head undertook a serious training weekend in London recently in preparation for the big event. If they cannot beat the National Squad on the water John Long will beat them at arm wrestling!



Poetry corner

"In Lane A and Coxless or Remember Lakes have Ends"
by Ian Bardrick

In lane A,
Wind blowing down and across the lake,
The brave athletes, for balance and drive great efforts did make,
The trees passed,
The wind dropped,
The waves stopped,
At last,
Hands, body, slide,
A powerful drive,
The boat in balance moved on with grace,
The athletes ready for any race,
Unfortunately they ran out of space.

Based on extensive research which suggests that athletes can crash into things or fall out when life is suddenly going well and they relax (stop paying attention) after particularly strenuous effort.



The Casino Royale night saw the PCRC high rollers out in force - and dressed to kill



100

After another successful year the 100 club bought new sculling boats shown here being named

The 100 club was established in the late 70's as an alternative method of raising much needed funds for the club.

The 100 members each pay an annual subscription of £12 to enter the monthly draws. The prizes are £25 for 8 months of the year and 4 quarterly prizes of £100.

Our social events are well supported and enjoyable and we aim to provide good quality home cooked food at a reasonable

price, with a quiz or some form of entertainment.

Popular events include the Burns Night (this year filled to capacity), an Italian Night, sausage'n mash night, the curry night and coming up on 21st April a pie n peas night

Over the years we have bought several boats which bear 100 club stickers and are generally named with a 100 club theme.

If you would like to join the 100 club or come to one of our evenings, please contact me at v.winterton@virgin.net or on 07813 304787 or talk to any of the committee members.

100 Club Committee:

Veronica Winterton (Chairman), Rolls Pollard (Secretary), Mike Jaggard (Treasurer), Peter Cooper, Rosemary Cooper, Kate Davies, Jannet McLachlan