

How has the **2009 season** been for the club?

Are you entering a **composite crew** in an event?

Then a small word of caution – make sure you are confident of the rowing credentials for those crew members from other clubs.

An incident at the PCRC Summer Regatta resulted in the disqualification of a visiting athlete from all 3 events he had entered that weekend. Regrettably, that meant 2 PCRC juniors were also disqualified because they were in a composite crew with him.

The incident hinged on misrepresentation (ARA Rules of Racing 2.7.3a) which brings in the double whammy of unsportsmanlike behaviour (ARA Rules of Racing 2.7.4 Point 6). Moreover, the same individual had committed the same offence in 2008 at a national regatta and been disqualified for it; quite why he felt it was a good idea to repeat it this year is baffling.

The misrepresentation involved another well known rowing personality (without his knowledge) and the impact of this is that the athlete has been permanently excluded from a highly prestigious club, to which many young athletes aspire and where he had been a member.

Misrepresentation gets reported to the ARA National Competition Committee, and they are likely to fine the individual £300. If he does not accept the fine, he will never be able to race again.

The athlete's rowing career is now blighted, his reputation ruined.

Does all this matter? Wasn't it all just "a larf", and we shouldn't take it so seriously? Claiming to be someone else, winning races where points cannot be awarded to reflect ability and achievement - if you look at it from any other competitor's viewpoint, then it becomes unfair. The purpose of ARA Rules of Racing is to "provide a basis for safe, fair and equal racing" so, yes it does matter. Or should we let racing be determined by whoever thinks up the best scam? Except this one wasn't even clever!

We don't want to see PCRC athletes with their rowing career or reputation damaged unintentionally or by association. Hence the caution – just a thought!



Pretty good, I would say! Club members aged from 12 to 70+ have been racing around the country and abroad achieving a considerable amount of success. With success comes satisfaction and enjoyment which is what it is all about.

What has been particularly good about this season is that a large number of our members have tasted success. This number has included many who are quite new to the sport.

At the highest level it is a long time (if ever) since the club has had two athletes selected to race for G.B. at the Coupe de la Jeunesse, which is effectively the European junior championships. James Fox achieved the distinction of winning both days in the quad and Tom Chung finished second on the first day and third on the second. Not to be outdone Sam Tuck won in the G.B. quad at the GB v France Match for the second year running.

At National level, Tom Chung won silver at the National Schools Regatta in the J16 singles, Ian Palmer won gold in Vet B singles at the National Veterans Regatta together with Jo Canton and Hayley Marsters who won Wvet B 8's. At the National Championships Ed Rippon won gold in J16 singles and Megan Lawless won a very creditable silver in the WJ14 singles.

The star of Henley Royal was Tom Chung who stroked his composite quad to a narrow defeat in the semi-finals of the Fawley Cup, which James Fox and Adam Neill had won the year before. However having 4 juniors in 4 different composites quads was a most unusual situation and gave us supporters plenty to shout at!

Whilst the star performers have been doing their stuff many others have been picking up wins around the local circuit. Keith Blackman has had his best ever season and Neil Elder has finally achieved the success he so thoroughly deserved from the training effort he has put in. The last edition of Pondlife included photos of the mens and womens novices just starting out on their racing careers. They are now seasoned racers and 8 men and 4 women have gained their first "pot".

So much racing has happened through the season – well over 100 wins – that there is not space to mention them all but some youngsters such as James Marshall are starting to make names for themselves, the juniors won the Ball Cup, the club won the Victor Ludorum at our June Regatta and we won 13 events at St. Neots Regatta.

Well done everyone. Bring on next year!

John Canton
Chairman

One regatta season down and hopefully many more to go!

It's a distinctly average summer's day in July and I'm standing waist deep in a murky river and jumping around with seven other men with a manic grin on my face! As I do this two thoughts float to the forefront of my consciousness 1) what strange customs rowing has, and 2) what a roller coaster ride my first regatta season has been.

I still recall sitting in a 4 at the start line of Bedford regatta in May anxious with my stomach churning and casting suspicious glances at our opposition- they don't look that fast. 250m into the 1200m race I'm proved very, very wrong! Suitably humbled I returned to Peterborough wondering how on earth I'd ever loose my novice status.

Peterborough Spring Regatta provides me with an opportunity to put the disappointment of Bedford behind me in a 4 and an 8, surely with home advantage victory would be mine. Sadly it isn't, although this time I managed to add my first serious crash to my rowing CV. Full of excitement on the Sunday and rowing up to the start we managed to crash the John Canton straight into a marshal's boat and break the bow. Quite how we managed this I'll never know and I'm sure we'll never let the cox (who shall remain nameless here) forget it! Fortunately Steve 'The Boatman' Taylor managed to live up to expectations and gaffer tape the bow and get us back up to the start in time for the start and the boat carried us through to the rep- where our regatta ended.

After rather more encouraging displays at Ironbridge and Bedford Quarts, loosing narrowly at both events, we found ourselves preparing for St Neots full of confidence. Saturday started brightly with an easy win but things soon got tougher and cumulated with us narrowly losing to the day's eventual winners St Neots (it was some solace that they went on to win the Sunday too!). Sunday offered another chance in the 4 and the excitement of a straight final in an 8. Once again the day

started brightly with two of the four (yes four!) Peterborough Novice 4s advancing well, infuriatingly we were knocked out by Broxbourne (or 'old enemy' since they knocked us out at Bedford Quarts too) in the Semi. There was some chance for revenge as the other Novice 4 met Broxbourne in the final but alas it wasn't to be as they too were just pipped at the post.

Still we had the 8's final to console ourselves with and as we rowed up to the start I felt a knot form in my stomach similar to my very first regatta race. Strange as it sounds it was only at this point it dawned on me that this was my first ever final. My nerves grew and as we sat on the start waiting for the marshal all I could think was "please don't catch a crab!". Suddenly we're off and I'm pushing for all my worth, it feels like the longest 500meters I've ever rowed and even as we begin to pull away I can't quite believe that this will be the day I lose my novice status. I'm convinced something will happen to ruin it, maybe someone will catch a boat stopper, maybe we'll be disqualified for some random reason, maybe they've got the world's best finish? Finally we cross the line and the boat erupts with pure joy- we've done it at last. Only then do I notice the horde of Peterborough rowers waiting by the landing stage, menace in their eyes- I know I'm going to get wet but I don't care.

The last race of the season (for us anyway) arrives in the form of Peterborough Summer. We're IM3 now and it feels strangely like being a brand new Novice again. We find out that the gulf between novice and IM3 is immense and we're elated just to make the rep on a couple of occasions.

The regatta season is over now and the days shorten and the long winter is closing in. We'll soon be tortured by circuit training and freezing cold trips up the river and as I think back over my first regatta season only one thought crosses my mind- I wouldn't change a thing. **Oli Shelley**

all the facilities we enjoy now so that we still can in years to come. More than that, there are changes in the rowing world around us. Partly because of the economic climate (let's view that as an opportunity) but also because of changes to sport funding related to the Olympics (only 3 years and that will all be over!), we also need to plan for how we get our share of the pie. We're talking about a business plan here, the Club's strategic approach for the future. High fallutin' stuff? Not really.

The Club has to make its way in the world and, as has been proved many times in the business world, failing to plan is planning to fail – not something any of us

pond life

gallery send in your photographs and captions



Following a serious complaint about picture captions in the last issue the Pondlife editor has agreed there will be NO further smart-alec comments about rowing pictures - which brings us neatly to our first photo...

Picture left..... no, it's no good my mind has gone blank...



Above: Tom Chung strokes his Henley Quad to the semis winning the battle of the Peterborough composites



Left: the "old hands" race at Ironbridge

Below: St Neots the winners of novice eights after the traditional dunking in the river.JPG

Bottom: he's an eating machine



Cox eye view: and oh what an eyeful it is!

Well as the summer season draws to a close and the winter season of freezing to death and getting soaked from the rain rather than shoddy rowing begins I thought I would take a look back at a season of coxing the mens squad and my sculling debut.....

It all began at Leicester regatta where Mr Matthew Barrows finally lost his novice status – however he didn't appear to care whatsoever and still needs to receive his soaking.

Next stop was Bedford – where the novice boys got their regatta debuts – I officially lost my voice (tragedy I know) during this one due to coxing in the Soke – the crews comment afterwards of going there fastest to date in order to get me out of the boat quicker! There was also an interesting trip to A&E after a front loaded 4 crashed into us on the landing stages and coxy got a smack in the arm with a blade! The coxes comment of "I didn't see them" was met with the response from their bow man of "oh my god what are you actually doing then".

Disaster averted with only a chipped wrist bone my official sculling career began with myself and Ericha deciding to enter a double at Doncaster. Always a good decision after just one outing together – a week of intensive training and learning how to steer (some would say easy for a cox but I beg to differ) led to a somewhat amusing 650m – however nothing could compare to Matthew and Mark crashing into the bank due to Marks inability to look behind once in a while. Doncaster was Peterborough doubles regatta as Colin and Jo Smith also took an interesting trip down the river with multiple deviations from course. Myself and Ericha managed to catch a whooper of a crab. The only success story from doubles land was Keith and Steve Ackerman winning the Vet novice double category. Other successes from Doncaster were The Vet C 4+ and Jo Canton in her single.

Peterborough Spring then happened and disappeared in a blur of racing, coxing, baking, umpiring, launch driving and litter picking.

The annual club camping expedition to Ironbridge regatta then happened (it was a 10 year anniversary for Pete, Hugo and Angus who lost their novice status there in 1999). It was my first time and I managed to get various official warnings for lots of things which I still claim to this day were not my fault! Notable success was the ladies novice 4 claiming victory- we all of course gave them a very good soaking. The Saturday night BBQ was wonderfully cooked by Hugo and Pete with no one getting food poisoning – also created that weekend was Ella and Sally's special chocolate fondue – in the morning we also

learnt that we should patent this mixture as a new version of cement! Lack of sleep was also a theme of the weekend due to a trio of snorers and Pete Harris insisting that I said good night to him despite being asleep already – I will not be forgetting that one!

Star Sprint then came and went in a blur and it was onto St Neots. A weekend of manic coxing ensured – I began to get a reputation for myself at the landing stages with many people commentating on just how loud Peterborough City coxes could be! It was the weekend of gripping finals in the IM3 4+ we managed to lose by the narrowest of margins both days which did not give justice to how hard we trained however it spurred us on. The success of the weekend came in the form of the Novice mens 8+ convincingly winning in the final. Once again a good soaking was given to all. I managed to cox the Vet C 4+ to success on the Sunday over 500m bagging myself a coveted St Neots pot.

Peterborough Summer- the last highlight of my summer season came with success in the mens IM3 8+ over 500m, this was the hardest race I have ever coxed and was neck and neck all the way with us only pulling clear by 1 foot due to me emptying all my bags of tricks- if the last call of sit up hadn't worked it would have been curtains! This is my first ever Peterborough pot and now has pride of place on the shelf! I also managed by some stroke of luck to end up in the women's novice 500m doubles final with Ericha – we promptly came last but we were the only 'adults' left by this stage as we took on the might of juniors! Again the mens IM3 4+ got into the finals on both days but final fever took over and we fell to pieces-onwards and upwards boys!

The Sunday regatta was overshadowed slightly by the weed boat incident but the whole club pulled together and rallied round to race over the top 500m. Well done to everybody on the day!

In fact well done to everybody over the whole season!

The mens VetC 4+ (various combinations but always involving Keith and Neil) win the award for getting me the most wins this season with 4 and the mens IM3 4+ getting 1 and the IM3 8+ getting 1.

Bring on head season and multiple layers of clothing – this year I have got feet warmers for my wellies so no frost bite for me!

Ella Lamming



Have your say

in where your Club is going
Hey, that sounds serious! Well maybe just a bit – but there could be beer involved.....

The Club's management committee will soon be seeking your views on where the Club is heading, and how. We have a great rowing facility, amongst the best in the country.

Those who took the courageous decision to move from the old riverside clubhouse to our specially designed course set us up extremely well. However, there is an increasing need to plan for maintaining

wish to contemplate.

There will be a short presentation at the AGM in November to give you more information and gather some of your views but one thing's for sure - any business plan will be so much shelf decoration without your input and agreement. What we want is to have the plan fully developed by next April so the Club can take early and proper advantage of it. Julian will be arranging to meet with everyone in the Club, normally in representative groups, to discuss the plot with you. However, if you have any thoughts, questions or concerns now or later, why not tell him as they occur?

Julian Popple

Have paintbrush, will daub paint!

As we head into the Autumn, there are various maintenance jobs to do around the course. This Autumn, one of the themes is to do some preventive/protective work on the 2 caravans we use for the regattas. Check the roofs for weather proofing and rain clearance, paint the exteriors and possibly do some interior tidy up. Maybe another coat of paint on the stakeboats while the paintbrushes are out.

It will be a great help to have some extra hands (yes, attached to the owners!) involved to help with this job. And there are some other jobs going on if you'd prefer. Would you like to make a worthwhile contribution to the Club's maintenance effort? Remember, many hands make light work – especially in the Autumn when it's darker, earlier.

Unfortunately, weak puns are standard. But if you can handle those, have a word with Nick Hubble or Julian and get yourself in there.

What is Peterborough City Rowing Club Limited?

The Limited Company exists because it is allowed to donate money tax free to a charity. Peterborough City Rowing Club is a registered charity. All profit made by the Limited Company is donated to the Charity.

This is an arrangement recognised by HM Revenue and Customs. The Limited Company currently runs the Head and the Regattas and the beginners' courses. The Regatta Committee are the 'officers' of the Limited Company. They and almost everybody else in the club are at times volunteers working for the Limited Company.

Its directors are currently the Club's Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer and the Course Committee Chairman. The Limited Company has no paid employees. The scope of the Limited Company is restricted at this time by the benefits of keeping its turnover below the VAT threshold.

Ian Bardrick

(Regatta Treasurer on behalf of Peterborough City Rowing Club Ltd)

Right: £1,000 a day worth of crane is needed to raise the weedcutting boat

Below: Spectators at St Neots are enthralled by the action!

Right: Ironbridge 2009 - Hugo (I hate cooking) Spiegl asks whether they want charcoal or raw burgers!

Far right: Bedford Regatta - novices pace thyself between races.

Above: pic Spectating at St Neots did liven up

Right above: Ella and Sally concoct a delicious (!) desert at Ironbridge

Right: pic a trio of vets look please with themselves at Bedford Quarts Sprint

Below: St Neots the junior winners with their prizes

Below: Happy campers at Ironbridge