



## Tyne Rowing Club Newsletter Winter 2004

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### **It's Black and White!**

Welcome to the Tyne Rowing Club Newsletter – the first that has been produced for quite a while, and hopefully the first of many to come

### **On the water**

The Club continues to go from strength to strength and is at its strongest for many a year. We have men's and women's squads which have raced throughout the sculling series and are shaping up well for the Rutherford Head and beyond. The juniors' squad continues to grow and also had several boats that raced throughout the sculling series. Congratulations to everyone who competed and won!

Brendon Schley (new Club Captain for those of you who haven't been persuaded to join his squads yet!) has set the race programme for the coming year and David "Robo" Robinson continues to issue the training programmes to make sure that we have a great season ahead.

The Club is going to be busy over the next few months as our partners at Tyne, Durham University, Northumbria University, Hild Bede College and Ponteland High School all have squads in training. If you haven't visited the river for a while then Saturday mornings are a good time to catch the sight of all the crews out on the water. We like to make good links with our partners, so if you haven't introduced yourself to anyone at another Club yet now is a good time to do so!

The Club has spent a lot of money recently on buying boats and renovating and repairing the existing ones. Most of that is down to Branskey (the man with no first name). We need help to make sure that the boats stay in good condition so please report any damage or breakages to him.

A number of Club members generously chipped in to enable the Club to buy some state of the art sweepoar and sculling blades – if we don't win now then we can't blame the equipment any more.

We have been very successful in recruiting new members and continue to look for more. Thanks to all those who helped out at the MetroCentre the other weekend when we had a stand in Exhibition Square (jointly with World Class Start and Durham ARC). We always need help with coaching adults and junior beginners – all volunteers welcome.

### **Off the water**

Firstly, some unfortunate news: Jim Nisbet died on the 12<sup>th</sup> of November 2004. He was Captain of the Club for 6 years from 1954 to 1959. He was President of the Club and played many other roles in the organisation of rowing in the region. He was a huge supporter of the Club and will be much missed.

The new annual subscriptions were approved at the Club AGM in September. To remind you they are set out at the end of this newsletter. Please pay Gendie Lash, or make sure that your monthly standing order is adjusted. The Club depends upon subscriptions to survive.

We also have a new committee. See names at the end of this newsletter. If you have any comments or issues that you want the Committee to consider then please speak to anyone on that list.

The Club just got awarded the Clubmark certificate, which is **the** most important confirmation that we are well run and meet the ARA's quality requirements. Thanks to Barbara Millns for organising that.

We also got a new Club Constitution in the autumn – the last one had lasted for 150 years! As a result of this we have now become a Community Amateur Sports Club, which qualifies us for rates relief, but also means that we can get Gift Aid on any donations which are made to the Club - so if you are thinking of generously giving any money to the Club, and are a tax payer please ask Gendie Lash (Hon Treasurer) for a GiftAid form.

An order of new kit from Oarsport just arrived. All members should be wearing the approved club strip when racing. If you haven't got yours then speak to Alex Shiel. A new order for splashtops will be going in soon.

Or, even better, why not go on-line to our website and fill in an order form there.

Have you visited the Club website yet? It's full of useful information, training schedules, photos etc and there will be more and more on it soon. If you want to give Tracey Pitt (aka The (web) Master) a hand, then she will be more than pleased. If you use the buy.at affiliate scheme to buy such things as books from Amazon, booze from Oddbins or boring white goods from Comet then the Club earns commission as well.

Web address is [www.tynerowingclub.org.uk](http://www.tynerowingclub.org.uk)



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We are continuing to renew and replace equipment. The next priority, in case you haven't noticed the need, is new ergometers (so that's why my ergo score looked so good. Ed). This will help us run the regular 2K ergos tests – a must for anyone wanting to get into one of the squads.

Lots of members have been working hard to improve our overall facilities, building new racks, moving doors, knocking down walls etc. A big thanks to them, and in particular to the junior squad members who hacked through the undergrowth and cleared the trees from the bank next to the car park

### In the Bar

The Club social scene is active, and a number of events have happened over the last few months and are planned for the future. Next one is on the 27<sup>th</sup> November – a Ceildh. Opportunities to see members of the committee trying to dance are limited so book your tickets now – speak to Branskey (yes him again).

Lindsay Miller has asked us to point out that rumours of mice in the bar are unfounded (mice – no, mouse – possibly) and that traps have been set to prevent any possible re-occurrence.

### Dates for the Diary

26 November – Northern Rowing Council AGM – at our Club. Come along and find out how rowing is run at a regional level, and have your say.

27<sup>th</sup> November- Club clear up day and Club Ceildh – Hard graft followed by beer, funny dances and more beer

4<sup>th</sup> December – Rutherford Head – the premier 8s and 4s Head Race in the North East, and a very important day for the Club - 150 boats and 1000 people will be visiting us. We need as many people as possible to help, especially on the steps when crews are boating and coming off the water, but also marshalling and sitting in safety boats. Most importantly we need sandwiches, cakes, and more sandwiches!

21<sup>st</sup> January 2005 – Annual Dinner Dance. At the Old Assembly Rooms. Tickets £27. Ask Sarah Buist or sign up on the Board in the Club. More opportunities to watch committee members dancing strangely.

### Personal Adverts

Boat trailer, aged 30, recently undergone partial facelift, wltm understanding companion. Must be young, strong, have a big tow bar (!) and be interested in travel, especially at weekends. Gsoh an advantage. Prepared to pay own way and provide ties.

Do you like the open air? An exciting opportunity has just come up for an enthusiastic gardener to look after a wild and romantic estate, conveniently located to the west of Newcastle near to Hadrian's Wall. Skills required include ability to hack through overgrown undergrowth, a liking for mowing weeds and an interest in removing graffiti. No previous experience required. Training will be given.

### Useful Information

#### **Annual Subscriptions**

Rowing full member	£180
Rowing life member	£180
Non rowing full member	£90
Full member aged 18-23 in FTE	£80
Junior member aged 15-17	£60
Junior member aged 14 and under	£36
Temporary member (4 months)	£60
Associate member	£42
Boat racking fee (per seat)	£80

#### **Club Committee**

Alex Shiel – Chairman  
Brendon Schley – Captain  
Barbara Millns – Club secretary  
Gendie Lash –Treasurer  
Paul Branskey – Vice Captain (boats)  
Jim Pitt – Junior squad co-ordinator  
Ian Boyd – Safety  
Rose Fletcher – Child welfare officer  
Sarah Buist – Women's squad rep  
Paul Armstrong  
David Higgins  
Lindsay Miller

So. We hope you have enjoyed this newsletter. Any contributions to the next one would be welcome – letters, articles, reports, old rowing kit. We'll take anything!