



TODAY

FISA Congress at Radisson Hotel, Heathrow (8am)
Conducted in fisaspeak
– translators available on request

Dorney Lake Blues

Woke up this mornin',
And I went down to Dorney Lake
It was full of pretty women
And lechers on the make.

Woke up this mornin',
And went up the Tower of Pisa.
But the tower had fallen down,
Being administered by FISA.

I hear the commentators —
They tell the people what befalls.
They want me to believe them,
But it's all a load of rubbish.

I'll wake up ev'ry mornin',
And go down to the lake again.
Don't give a damn what happens,
But Lawdie, Lawdie, Lawdie
— don't let it rain.

Big Bob Bailey

Eurovision National Anthem Contest

Here is the shortlist from yesterday's round:

- USA: too spangled
- Germany: too uber alles
- China: too sweet and sour
- Denmark: too tuneful
- Russia: too bad for GB
- Poland: too eastern

The Media Desk jury awarded the top score to *The Soldier's Song* (Ireland). Who says a tune has to be played to win?

CONTACT DETAILS

Hammer Smith is indisposed (see left), Alf has gone skiffing and the editorial assistant is on strike. No details available.

Dropped in the Doggett's

Hammer Smith reports from the Tower of London

I am writing this in the Tower owing to a ghastly mix-up in which I have been accused of having the incorrect accreditation for the royal apartments at Windsor Castle (see yesterday's *Mess*). I was unable to complete my conversation with Her Majesty concerning the treatment of VIPs at Dorney because I was summarily chained to a regatta golf cart and thrown into a dungeon here. I was therefore unable to witness the glorious final day of the championships. Indeed, I am unable to see anything from here save through a small slit which may allow a glimpse of the start of Doggett's Coat and Badge next July, if I am still here then.

I am unable, therefore, to tell you about the visit to the site of Cherie Blair, whom I am now engaging as my lawyer to get me out of here. I was also hoping to attend the important business of the FISA congress in the salubrious surroundings of a Heathrow hotel today, if only to help you with the torrent of fisaspeak which will no

doubt pour forth to confuse those of many tongues. However, I will not be too sorry to miss a lengthy debate on the case of the Dead Heat, the missing Lane 7 (see *crime report*) and Rule 75, whatever that is.

The *important* FISA meeting took place last night. The European rowing federations voted to include Gibraltar and Israel among their number, rejected a Spanish proposal to hold the new European rowing championships over 1000 metres instead of 2000, and voted to hold the 2007 championships in Poznan, Poland, on the weekend of 22-23 September. Now Mike Sweeney (Chairman of Henley Royal Regatta and somewhat unwillingly elected chair of the European champs steering group) has something to do for the other 360 non-HRR days of the year.

Next time you hear from me, I hope to be in a more conducive venue. By the way, anyone know how much Cherie charges? Send your pledges to hammer@rowingservice.com.

Hammer Smith

"Who's that talking to Mike Haggerty?"

QUOTE OF THE DAY

press office helper pointing to Lord Sebastian Coe (Big Cheese of London 2012) in discussion with BARJ's Secretary

The Eton Mess

Read this issue online at www.rowingservice.com/mess and print off as many copies as you want



Today's caption winners

"I love the smell of Di Ellis in the morning, smells like...Victory"

-- Stan Livy

"C'mon, Di - I hear you like a bit of rough"

-- Robert Treharne Jones

"Are you wearing knickers?"

-- Daniel Topolski

Happy daze at Dorney

Hello there'

Well, there you go then... its all over.

I think some people were getting a little tired since, at 2:10pm, Andy Hodge's dad, a volunteer, wished me "Good Morning". He assured me that he hadn't been out celebrating with his son the night before.

It really was a happy World Championships and I think everyone involved deserves a pat on the back. In my wanderings I heard nothing but praise from both domestic and overseas visitors. The only terrible thing for me came late when our lovely women's quad was pipped for the gold. They were very, very, upset, and, having known most of them for many, many, years, I found myself holding back the tears. David Tanner made a good comment. "Think how happy we were at Athens when they won silver and you realise how much we have come on."

Oh, and talking of Mr Tanner, I can now reveal all. Have you ever seen him without his rucksack on his back or without his big bum bag? Probably not. Have you ever wondered what he carries? Well, here we go. Complete rain gear: water bottle: sun hat: FISA rule book:

team manager's handbook: phone book: big file of admin. I can vouch that it weighs a ton. And the bum bag? Money: another phone book: mobile phone: car keys.

Clearly he is prepared for everything and this tends to mean that his teams are as well.

Cheers anyway. May not see you at the next one in twenty years. Oh, by the way, the 1986 Championships finished with the band playing the Dambusters March. As I walked away yesterday the sounds of the Dambusters wafted across the water.

AL7

POSTBAG

Thunderbirds are Go

Dear Hammer

Greetings from Tracy Island, where Thunderbird 1 and FAB 1 have been keeping you informed and entertained from lakeside over the last week. Virgil and Scott in Thunderbird 1 have been providing regular updates and plenty of commentary balls, with times provided from Alan Tracy in the control tower.

Meanwhile Lady Penelope and Brains, piloted by Parker in FAB 1 have provided the expert knowledge and fascinating insights gained from their many years of inter-galactic experience. It has been an absolute pleasure, and we hope you have enjoyed it as much as we have.

CRIME DESK

BBC nicked - Xclusive

From "Jimmy" Haggerty, Crime Correspondent

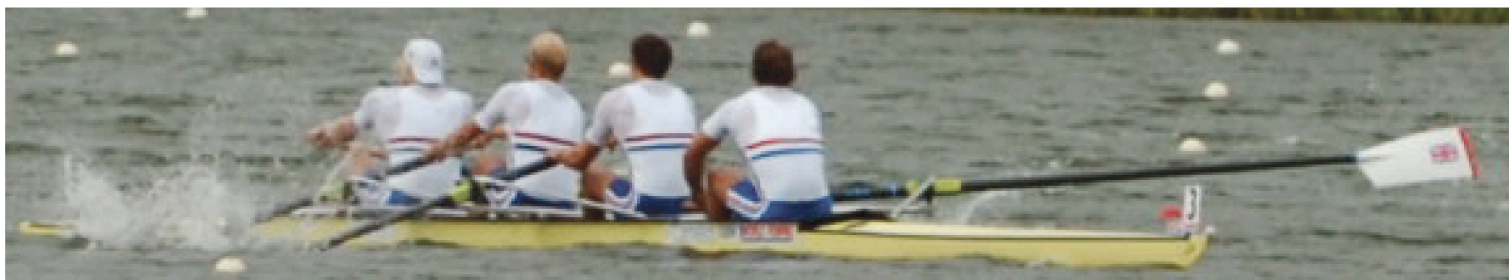
So there we were, the nation willing the women's quad on through BBC's broadcast facilities (hard lines, girls, we'll see you next year) when, with 500 metres to go... fuff, splash! - no pictures. Still, the 2.35 race from Goodwood that they used to fill in the gap was very interesting.

The BBC's John Inverdale was forced to observe that getting pictures back from the other side of the planet is clearly a breeze. But 15 miles from White City? They are half-inched while you are actually watching them.

And the learning point? Tune into Eurosport, of course, even if it means you do have to endure David and Hugh whittering on in a combination of English and Latin.

- Another dastardly crime was committed when an arsonist set fire to the finish line bubbles yesterday. When the mess inquired as to the bubbles' whereabouts, a Disorganisation Committee spokesman said "they vanished in a cloud of smoke".

- There is still no word of the missing Lane 7, although there is an unsubstantiated report of a siting near the location of the proposed Cambridge rowing lake.



Great Britain's men's coxless four waves goodbye to the championships and the Eton Mess.