



"The Bull"

Taurus Newsletter

Issue 3, March 2005

Website www.taurusboatclub.co.uk/

Email info@taurusboatclub.co.uk

Got any gossip?

News, views, photos and other evidence? Can go online or in the next newsletter. Long stories and photos which don't fit here can go on the website.

We're keen to be in touch with Taurus members from all generations, so don't hold back, send us whatever you've got.

On active service

Alumni in the military are getting more numerous – nearly enough to have a Combined Services Taurus entry at a regatta one day. From recent Brookes graduates alone we know of Emma Woodhams and Al Heathcote in the Army, Ed Gray and Aidan Riley in the Navy, while Rob Edmondson is joining up as an Army physio. Any more?

See also page 5 for news of what the more visible ex-Brookes and ex-Poly boys and girls are up to.

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TAURUS COMMITTEE

Chairman and Big Cheese	Pete Lowe
Vice-Chairman	Alex Gandon
Secretary	Vicky Brierley
Treasurer	Simon Speirs
Social Team	Nick Dagg, John Gelling, Ash Glover, Ben Lewis
Publicity	Rachel Quarrell, Ben Lewis
Rowing Secy	Phil Baker
Kitmeister	Danny Marett
OBUBC rep (M)	Henry Bailhache-Webb
OBUBC rep (W)	Caroline O'Connor
Committee members	Dave Peill, Jane Macmillan, Phil Campbell

Friends Reunited

There's now a Taurus section on the famous website.

To find it, go to www.friendsreunited.com and look at 'sports teams' on the left-hand side of the screen.

Pick 'Watersports', enter 'Taurus' and click on the Taurus Boat Club link to get the list of members.

CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

What a couple of years Taurus have enjoyed since the last newsletter. I apologise for the time it has taken to get this out but can only thank the team who have put this together. Specifically, Rachel Quarrell (Telegraph rowing correspondent) supported by Ben "the scribe" Lewis, and the other contributors who have spent a great deal of time helping. Thank you all and I hope you enjoy this issue.

The Veterans Head is upon us again. Taurus is looking to notch up the hat trick this year. In 2004 the 1st eight followed up their record breaking 2003 win with a slightly tighter 1 second victory pushing London RC in to second for the second year in a row. Three in a row would be the first time that has ever been achieved. In the 2004 race Taurus also boated two further crews made up of "all stars" of past Poly and Brookes history. The competition between the two was pushed to the limit – as was the lycra – with Taurus 2 sneaking a 10 second victory over their elders in Taurus 3. Watch out T2 in 2005!

Rather belatedly I would like to mention another "first" for Taurus. This was achieved in the coaching capacity by Alex Henshilwood who took the Pangbourne College 1st eight to victory in The Princess Elizabeth Cup at Henley in 2003. Alex has now moved to teach at Eton and has already made his mark this season with his crew – the Eton 1st eight – winning the Schools Head.

Henley 2003 did not produce the sort of results we have come to expect from Brookes but 2004 saw the Visitors return to Brookes – although I felt the crew should incorporate Taurus in the name with three of the crew paid up members. In addition to the Visitors, Taurus members featured in many of the events with winners in the Ladies, Stewards, and Wyfolds.

Of course in the International arena Taurus members continue to feature prominently. To have been on the finish line in Athens watching on as Steve "The Terminator" Williams won gold with the coxless four was an amazing moment. When Rowley Douglas (Taurus and Olympic gold 2000, also watching from the stands) shouted to tell me he had Steve on the mobile phone the

moment he got out of the boat, I tried to shout back. However, all the other Brit supporters waving Union Jacks and calling Steve a hero drowned me out. Amazing to think that he is just one of the lads who has gone through the Spratley training machine. Just shows how far a few 20-minute ergos can take you.

Congratulations Steve and keep going.

On behalf of Taurus I also extend our best wishes to our other Internationals including Jonno Devlin (Olympic eight) and of course to Alex Partridge who had his Olympic hopes dashed by a cruel injury just weeks before Athens. We are looking forward to seeing you guys at the next Olympics. Brookes and Taurus have many other individuals knocking on the door of International duty and we look forward to supporting you whenever we can.

One man who has however slightly lowered his standards I am ashamed to report is Joe Von Maltzahn who has defected down the hill to that "other" university and will be doing battle with the light blues in this year's boat race. Sorry Joe, in all seriousness good luck for March 27th.

Lads – how about a Taurus Grand crew in 2009 after the next Olympics?!? (*One last coxing duty Rowley?*)

Changing the subject entirely I am aiming to stand down at the end of this year after the dinner which we will be holding in the autumn. I will be proposing to the committee that the Chairman stands for a maximum of 2 years with a view that new blood is regularly introduced in order that the position does not become stale.

I don't even know how long I've been going for! I believe that with a regular change of leadership we will be able to encourage more new members with new ideas and there will be regularly renewed enthusiasm to organise events and "publish newsletters".

Please keep coming to the events, supporting the Taurus cause and catching up with old mates.

Pete Lowe

Doing it blind

Paul Askham-Spencer was in the successful adaptive coxed fours who won gold at the last two World Champs (2003 men's 1000m and 2004 mixed 1000m). We asked him to describe his experiences in Milan 2003. The adaptive fours race with visually impaired athletes – all the rowers have relatively high levels of impairment and to even the field all (except the cox) wear masks to reduce sight to zero.

“During the heat we had won by around 25 seconds, which gave us a fairly good idea we would win the event. With this in mind we decided that during the final we didn't want any info on where our rivals were, because, if all went to plan, it would be irrelevant.

Sat on the start with our masks on (hideous blacked out ski masks), I could hear the sound of the other crews to left and right. There were two either side, and I could hear them taking strokes, their coxes giving commands, and the umpire instructing the coxes. Usually you feel nervous at the start, but all I had to worry about was Loretta's voice (the masks helped concentrate the mind). With blades squared and buried we heard the go and off we went. As well as a visual impairment our stroke man Alan Crowther has a slight hearing impairment, so the rest of us pulled, and he followed us for the first stroke, squeezing when he felt our pressure. Despite our unorthodox starting arrangement we had a clean start, and after 12 strokes I could no longer hear the other crews' blades. I took this as a good sign and relaxed into our race plan.

Richard Spratley would have hated us. With the exception of Matthew Harrison who is the youngest rower to represent GB at a senior championship, we were all under 6 feet tall, all 80 kilos or less, and only rated 32 for most of the race. We had not had the best build up to the race, so a low rate helped us keep everything thing together. The day before we

flew out we learned we had lost our original stroke Mark Pollock (LM2- Commonwealth silver medallist) due to illness. Hugh Huddy stepped in at the last minute, and without having rowed together in Britain we rearranged the seating, swapped the rigging around, and had a good five-day stint before we raced. During this time our coach Simon Goodey and cox Loretta Williams worked a miracle with us, blending our different styles together.

Despite our weaknesses we had a fantastic row, all hooked up and following together, it felt easy. About 300 to go however alarm bells started ringing, because I heard movement off to my right. As our cox wasn't giving us feedback from other crews I had no idea who or what it was, later it turned out to be an umpire launch heading up the lake in the far lane, but at the time I felt under pressure. We had been going well, but put a lot in, and if someone had come back at this point we could not have done much. Luckily that wasn't the case and we wound the rate up and crossed the line first. When Loretta screamed “GOLD GB!” I was more concerned with where the next crew was, thinking we had been chased almost level. Later it emerged we had won by 24 seconds, so after all Richard may have forgiven our less than outstanding erg scores and dismal rate.

We met loads people going up for the medals, Sir Steve and Tim Foster were there, as well as the coxless four coming down after winning their silver. It was unreal. When we had the medals on and the National Anthem playing it was the best feeling in the world, one we all hpe to repeat in the future.”

Paul Askham-Spencer

And they did – gold again with a different bow pair in 2004, this time by nearly 3 L.

NUTTERS ON THE KIEL

In late September 2004 Jonno and Ben Lewis were called upon to row in a GB VIII of some description over the ludicrous distance of 12.7km on the Kiel Canal in Germany. A bit unkind so soon after the Olympics. Fortunately for Ben (barely recovered from a summer of celebrations) and Jonno (just stepped off the plane from a few tough weeks de-training in SA) this was reduced to just under 12km, following a clash between the Dutch and GB VIIIs after an over-zealous attempt by the German TV launch to get as close as possible to the home side. Everyone restarted, the Brits briefly took the lead, but then reality set in. The opposition cleared off (more or less), though GB remained in touch with the Dutch and finished less than a length behind. No mean feat after 36 minutes of racing.

To measure it against a Taurus perspective, the distance was 2.7km further than racing from the bottom lock to the top lock at Wallingford. It would have you finishing somewhere near the Shillingford Bridge Hotel if you went straight up through the top lock. Perhaps Richard should put in an entry, as it is a good kick-start into fitness for the early season, and makes the Fours' Head seems ludicrously short!

BL

On Active Service

Rumours of Taurus and ex-Brookes members unsportingly pulling on Lycra abound this season. Tommy Burton has defected to Leander, and with Ben Lewis (and by the way other old OBU members Steve Williams, Alex Partridge and Brookes-for-7-weeks Matt Langridge) will be defending Leander's Head of the River title on 19th March. A short while ago they went down to Joe von Maltzahn, rowing at 4 in the Oxford Blue Boat: he's doing a diploma at Kellogg College with plots to row for Christ Church in the summer bumps, if not racing at the Dorney World Cup. But that's not all. Dave Gillard has been seen in a boat several times this year, Nick Mead is at Henley, Paul Askham-Spencer is training on the south coast while trying for international selection again, and Jack Drea did the Scullers' Head with Sideways Pullers. Mike Reynaud never stops at Molesey (is Ollie Keech still rowing too?), Bart Hudson and co (including Danny Harte?) are still at London: there are rumours that Chris Leonard is getting fit again - which could be dangerous. Vicky Brierley is doing the odd bit at Upper Thames, Carla Ashford is in the top Thames RC eight and Woody's at IC and apparently doing the Ironman in Lanzarote later this year. Unlike Burton, Dan Marett still can't seem to work out how to cut the umbilical and leave Brookes - or perhaps he's just babysitting Boycey, Henry and other Taurus members, while Jonno's doing the Head with them for what seems like the nth time. Oh, and Alex Henshilwood is busy taking Eton by storm - in his second year of coaching there they have finally let him get his paws on the top crews and he promptly went and won the Schools Head by a stonking 8 seconds. That can't be all - more will surely come out of the woodwork by Henley. If we've left you out it's because you aren't shouting loud enough - get emailing.

Mike Green

Many will remember Mike Green ('86-'89 and Taurus member), who sadly died just after Christmas 2003. Mike was a very active member of the boat club though most of his career came after leaving the Poly, when he took up sculling.

Mike will also be remembered for his highly successful Security and Event Management business, including the infamous Taurus Bar at Henley Royal Regatta.

An oak tree was planted at the Brookes Sports Centre in April 2004 in memory of Mike, at a quiet memorial service.

STAGS DO IT AGAIN

After the epic that was Rowley Douglas' stag do in 2003 (our man on the spot described "Fred on top form and Steve legendary getting naked"), it was time for a reprise with slightly different personnel for another stalwart of the club. A gathering of Taurus members occurred in mid-July 2004 for the stag do of ex-Brookes oarsman Eddie Russell.

'Eddies Regatta' took place in Eton, under the watchful eyes of Windsor Castle's noble occupants. Racing was conducted in ancient tub coxed wherries, chief umpire was Alex Partridge, launch driver Lt. A. Riley, RN.

The winning crew was the stag, Mr. E. Russell and best man, Lt. Seddon, rowing as *Taurus and Guards Rowing Club*, who beat *Taurus Boat Club* in the semi-final. Taurus was represented by Messrs J. Strenner and B. Lewis, coxed by A. Clegg. The author forgets who *Taurus and Guards RC* beat in the final due to alcohol consumption and sun-bathing duties.

WARGRAVE OR BUST

Our esteemed Chairman Pete Lowe was spotted in kit for the second time in 2003 at Wargrave Regatta. The following acid and barely legible comments were later found scribbled on beermats.

...."Men's Skiff Final, between Jo von M and Henry Adams, versus Piers Ashley-Carter, yours truly and cox Vix Brierley. Jo and his mate sneaked it (canvas) on the good station, stream-assisted."

...."Taurus dongola punt crew (me, Danny M, Phil B, Vix B, Krista and Jeremy Spratley) were narrowly defeated in the semi."

.... "Bit of a controversial race against Dave Bushnell in the mixed semifinal. Krista and I convincingly won the race during which there was a slight clash of blades. However whilst rowing to the landing-stage we saw Bushnell appealing with his stroke-side scull floating in the water.

Somehow he managed to entirely "lose" his blade during our "clash". He successfully had his appeal upheld, we re-rowed, he won, and went on to win the final. I'm not bitter at all!"

Sounds like the usual polite competition, then – ed.

TAURUS DO A JOB IN SWITZERLAND

In early autumn 2003 the gang of 5 (Marett, Brownny, Tommy Burton, Chris Leonard and Ed Currie) took on one of the most excruciating races in existence: the 160km Geneva Tour Du Lac. Danny Marett takes up the story....

"After 6 hours steady state – 2 hours on, 30 minutes off – big Tommy broke the wheel on his seat and we had to stop (somewhere near Evian, at the far end of the lake). We were in 2nd at the time, behind a German crew with Bobby Davro at stroke (seriously, that was his name. They had Jim Davidson at 2 as well). Ed was in bits: sore a%\$e he said! Well, the Germans won eventually. My highlight was seeing Ed in the stroke seat, dribbling. He was however the best drinker."

Vets' Head 2004

After the roaring success of the 2003 race, three Taurus crews boated for the Veteran's Head in March 2004.

It was a complete balls-up by the organisers.



The Champion First Eight 2004 in all their glory!

Don't be fooled by the pictures – it may have been sunny but there was quite a hooley blowing. With wind-against-stream as strong as the gales which had cancelled the HORR the day before, we were nevertheless told to boat, and hung around in increasingly wild water for an hour and a half before the starters decided to go ahead. They shortened the course to end at Hammersmith, but still had several boats sinking, including a town club crew from Cambridge, who unwisely decided to bail out by going through the moored boats at Putney, and duly crashed.



The heroic Second Eight (hmm....)

Despite all this mayhem, Taurus just got on with the job (after all, it's not rocket science, is it?) There were good finishes for the C crew (32nd overall, 9th in class), and the second Vet A crew (22nd overall, also 9th in class), but the best performance came from the defending champion Vet A crew, which beat a feisty LRC eight by a second and a half over the 7-minute course. Other Taureans raced too under various false colours.



Taurus Three – before racing....

The Vets' Head got their own back in 2005 - the 2nd eight has to go off 5th this time, due to so many 'A' crews dropping out.

All three eights are boating from Barn Elms on Sunday 20th March for an 11am start - if you're around do wander up the towpath and give them some support.

RQ

On scribble patrol

Ben Lewis gets to grips with what's been going on with the Brookes students and Taurus internationals recently.

There was no fantastically quick response when the President of Taurus asked for a volunteer to write an update on recent goings on. A few cursory glances into pint glasses and at passing chavs. Given that my fellow Taurus members gathered round for this pivotal meeting in the safe confines of Wetherspoons in Henley were already contributing to the club; The President, chief kit designer and the other the proud owner of the Pimms watering can, I felt I should offer my as yet untested journalistic skills and broke the silence with my acceptance.

It has been a busy two years since the last newsletter as Brookes and Taurus rowers have spread their fame ever further, reaching Olympic Gold in Athens and impressing the inhabitants of Boston, USA with their, in no particular order; charm, good looks and rowing. On top of that the Visitors Cup is now back in Brookes hands after a year's absence, as is the BUSA title. Add to that a silver won by the GB U-23 4+, all first and second year Brookes boys, a 7th in U-23 2-, and a strong eights performance at the University Games for the second time in a row shows that all is going well.

Henley Royal Regatta 2004

In a year when neither Cambridge nor Harvard went home with a win, Brookes pulled one off, bringing the **Visitors Cup** home again after 5 wins in 6 years. Tommy Burton, Henry Bailhache and Danny Marett pulled off a fairly leisurely win aided by the considerable horsepower and Geordie tones of Andrew Stubbs from the Oxford Blue

Boat. Following the drama of the 2002 goose incident/re-row/dropped shopping by certain parties etc, the 2004 final was a big day for both crews. The Brookes boys showed the light blues some rating and took a commanding lead by Fawley. Just as both crews were starting to think about winding for home, Cambridge investigated the booms and ended the contest. A subsequent appeal by CUBC was ignored.

Some of the old hands of Taurus have been keeping their oars in – there was a surprise win for Mike Reynaud whose Molesey **quad** rowed through the Irish holders to win the best race of the day. Not bad after two crew changes during Regatta week. This brings Mike's medal count to six wins, equalled by Danny Marett.

Joe von Maltzahn picked up his 5th medal in the **Ladies Plate** over Harvard, with Ben Lewis finally breaking his duck behind him at 5 (particularly fitting that Ben got to beat the Crimson Bastards).

Mark Watkin, an old Bowbridge oar now rowing for London, beat Army boy Al Heathcote in the final of the **Wyfold Cup**, with ex-Poly boy Colin O'Malley stroking the London crew. Al claims that this was only their 9th outing! Andrew's Seddon and McDermott were stern pair for the Combined Services VIII that reached the Friday of the **Thames Cup**, again a remarkable achievement after only a handful of outings.

Ian Desmond, probably the most mature student in the Temple Cup final to date, coached Henley RC to a **Thames Cup** semi final, as did Mr. Tim Levy with yet another good Lady Lizzy crew. Unfortunately the Levy-Desmond show down didn't materialise but there is always next year.

Steve Williams won the **Stewards** on his way to Olympic Gold. It was also during regatta week that Alex Partridge, vocal Brookes and Taurus member, discovered that he would not be rowing in the GB 4- in Athens due to a rib and lung injury that prevent any travel or training for six weeks. Bad luck beyond belief but Alex is already making his comeback.

The **Temple** once again proved a tough nut to crack with the Dutch being the dominating force this year, rather than the Americans, though this was aided by the strong wind killing off a fast but light Navy crew and the Harvard bowman jumping ship before the end of the Island. Clearly Harvard have been adopting Spratley's bail-out tactics: unfortunately the opposition were not Shiplake J-16's but eventual winners Nereus. The Brookes A boat gave Nereus their hardest race, coming from a length deficit at the Barrier to 3/4L at the finish, while Brookes B made their mark by reaching Friday, losing to the A crew.

The Union Jack and the Taurus Bull

Once again the Taurus Bull has been making waves around the International rowing circuit. From Brive in France to the shores of Lake SkinnyAss in Greece where Steve Williams crossed the line first (this is actually incorrect as it was Alex that crossed

first, his name being on the bows) beating World Champions Canada, to retain GB's Olympic title in the coxless fours.



Showing a good stiff upper lip amidst all the tears and emotion, it was Steve that managed to talk to the cameras about the race, adding that the final margin (0.08 seconds) 'was probably pretty close' before he went to receive his well deserved Olympic Gold Medal. To have had two Monktonians and Brookes/Taurus boys in the boat would have been too much to ask: Alex Partridge will have to wait just a bit longer before he can try to claim his. Both are continuing on into the next Olympic cycle.

Johnno Devlin rowed in the bow seat of the Olympic GB VIII which despite a well deserved bronze in 2003 struggled all year with illness, injury and selection problems, to finish last of the 9 entries. Clearly the fire is still burning and he wants more and also is carrying on.

BL



TABS ON TOP

March 2004 saw the 150th clash between the Oix and the Tabs, also known as *that bloody Boat Race* to some. Taurus stalwart and former Light Blue **Dave Gillard** got himself embroiled in one of the dafter plans to celebrate the anniversary: a re-row of the famous and controversial first race, in 1829. Of course, that one took place at Henley, but the organisers stretched a point to get their re-row in front of the cameras on the Tideway, for Boat Race Day (also the 175th year since the first race).



Our man on the spot tells us that training was short and sweet, the replica gig boats having been finished and delivered just 10 weeks before race day. All the rowers were ex-Blues, with an average age of 30, and dressed in suitably old-fashioned sweaters and shorts. Cambridge sported dashing pink neckties (the crew didn't adopt light blue until the second race), and alluring boater-headgear which got a lot of giggles from the excitable female spectators.



They described their fixed-seat style as "do what you do in a normal rowing boat but with a bit more body swing", and used lubricated parcel tape on foam rubber pads to get a bit of slip on the wooden seats, but that did "wear skin off quite sensitive areas". Yeuch.

Race day had Cambridge winning the toss and choosing Surrey because they expected to be fitter than Oxford. Gillard had got the crew together, but didn't stay captain because by tradition this used to be the strokeman's role.

Cambridge's physiological suspicions proved right, and they made the crucial move past the Dark Blues just before Hammersmith Bridge, going on to win by five lengths. Egg-whisk ratings combined with plenty of "bell-note action" had the boats surging along, and the final winning time of 23:22 was faster than the first Tideway race in 1845. All down to their Taurus secret weapon, obviously.

A Hazy Recollection of Henley

Ash Glover gives a newcomer's view of the main event

“Henley Royal is an event steeped in history and tradition. A new tradition that has flourished in these surroundings is the Taurus Henley Barbecue. It was the first time for me at this event and though my recollection is hazy, I shall attempt to tell the tale.

Saturday of regatta week and I was joined by fellow Taurus member Alex Baer. We arrived at the river dressed to the nines and strolled down to the towpath towards the start to get an initial soaking of the Henley atmosphere, watching racing and shouting encouragement as the Brookes went past.

We then soaked up a liberal helping of Henley Spirit in Stewards'..... After several Pimms, it was with perfect poise and timing that we staggered sauntered across to the Taurus Barbecue afterwards. The most striking first impression was made by Nick Dagg, watering-can in each hand, pouring out more Pimms. Marvellous!

Several pints of Henley spirit, one drunken phone call and a very successful recruitment drive later we felt the need to stretch our legs and wander down the towpath. Of course we stopped briefly to top up the tankards. A serious sportsman should never allow himself to dehydrate, especially at Henley, the pinnacle of many a rowing career...

We made it down to Remenham Farm, where we fell in with many of the Brookes oarsmen, also well-hydrated. At the close of the Barn Bar it was decided to call it a night. Unlike our annual Henley plan of booking a few rooms well in advance, we had yet again found ourselves pissed with nowhere to go. A spot of camping was obviously in order, and so we made our way down to the start. After a bit of a shove we found that some idiot had left a corporate hospitality tent open. What a shame.

The next morning, woken early by ravenous hunger, we walked into town. Passing the occasional reveller

from the night before, folded under a tree, it became clear the tent was a stroke of genius. In town we made for Waitrose, and were shocked to find it closed at 6 am. Not to worry, the papers were on hand outside and it was easy to get hold of the previous day's results. Tankard still in one piece, the morning papers, feeling a little frayed around the edges and off to the baker's for breakfast. Perfect.”

Ash Glover

Henley Royal action 2004

The usual suspects turned up to drink the bar dry this year, and had more to cheer about than in 2003, following wins for Taureans and Brookes rowers in the *Visitors'*, *Stewards'*, *Wyfolds*, *Men's Quads* and *Ladies' Plate*.

The Saturday night Lion Meadow barbecue was a rollicking affair again – it seems to grow bigger every year.

We're after website pictures so if you have photographic evidence of the night's goings-on, send them in.

In the mean time, put Saturday 2nd July 2005 in your diaries right now: no excuses!

WHERE THE MONEY GOES – The Treasurer’s Report

“As treasurer I have responsibility for overseeing the money received from members and spent by the committee. Our aim for all events is to be self-financing, if not profit-making, with the view to promote TBC to new members and, ultimately, to provide additional resources to the Brookes Boat Club. Taurus has been running in surplus throughout its history (with some years a little closer to the wire than others) but has made significant contributions to the Uni Boat club over the 20 year history of the club. Of the estimated £15,000+ spent to date, boats (Taurus Too plus others), blades and other equipment have been the mainstay of the purchases. This year we have given £2,800 for the purchase of 5 ergos (sorry to any of those who have to go through the pain of using them!)

To explain how it all works.....

We currently have 3 accounts of which only 2 are operational. The Treasurer's account receives all standing orders and finances all events (Taurus Ball, Henley BBQ, entry fees, Taurus regatta, mailing and this newsletter) throughout the year. Taurus membership is £20 per year and we have approx 140 paying members. We also have a large number of ex-Brookes and ex-Poly BC members included in a mailing list who have not either completed the original standing order or amended their existing £10 standing order. We rely on you to do this as we can't revise the Standing Order value. Please advise your bank or change the Standing order value on your internet banking if you have not done already - many thanks!

Treasurers Account (membership)

Account Name:	Taurus Boat Club
Sort Code:	40-38-18
Account No:	81050869

The Sponsorship (MoneyMaster) account receives all cash from a number of TBC sponsorship members who donate cash over and above their annual membership subscription.

We thank all who have already set up a standing order and have regularly given this much appreciated cash. We would also encourage other members to set up a donation, of a value of your own choice, to this account.

Sponsorship Account

Account Name:	Taurus Boat Club
Sort Code:	40-38-18
Account No:	31076477

At the end of 2004, but after the recent purchase of the ergos for Brookes, we had a total of £7,682 in the 2 accounts. So, if you do have any specific ideas for the use of this cash or how to help us raise more we would ask you to get in touch with one of the committee members. We really would encourage you to give more through sponsorship and the revision to your membership amount to £20.

Again - a very big thank you to all those who regularly contribute.”

Simon Speirs, Treasurer

TAURUS FAMILY NEWS

Very dependent on the gossip vine, we probably don't know all your Taurus news. Apologies to anyone we have omitted or misspelt, and please stay in touch!

Births

daughter Imogen to **John Cooper** and wife in August 2003

second daughter for **Karen van Dessel (née Braithwaite)** in January 2004

daughter to **Julia Riddlesdale (née Scott)** in February 2003

son Louis to **Sam Britt** in January 2003
baby to **Ludo**

second child to **Alex Hoodless**

daughter Amy to **Ali Smee** in 2003

and a baby to **Heath Harvey**

Engaged - **Dave Bushnell**

Marriages

Rowley Douglas to Tanya in November 2003

Fred Scarlett to Hannah

Will Tinkler in 2003

Simon Wood in September 2004

Simon Speirs in 2003

Paul Jencks and **Sam Oxford** at Henley Registry Office in August 2003 with a reception at the Oxford Brookes boathouse

Chris Marett to **Lucy Dawson (ex-Poly)** in February

Women at Henley

Not to be outdone by the men, Brookes' women defended their elite coxless fours title at **Henley Women's Regatta** two weeks before the Royal, winning a gripping final race against Dutch birds Skoll by a canvas.

Brookes, ex-Brookes and Taurus girls competing at **HRR** included Alex Beever in the Princess Royal singles, and the HWR four composited with Bristol University in the Remenham Challenge eights

Kit Locker

There are plenty of 100 "*just do it - still doing it*" t-shirts left, plus a couple of Taurus ties, but the rest of the stock has been run down. Things which can be re-ordered if enough people ask include polo shirts, all-in-ones, blazers, and the kit rep suggests we could do socks with the Raging Bull embroidered on. Contact Danny Marett, but make sure you say M or F when ordering all-in-ones or you may have to have an emergency sex change.

Question - does anyone know where our blazer material came from? Answers on a postcard please because a re-order may depend on it.

Taurus Dinner - 22nd May 2004

Sixty-odd Taureans took over the Gallery at Thames Rowing Club on 22nd May 2004 to hold a sneaky summer Dinner, with great success. An e-Vite internet invitation went out, which helped pin people's plans down. Alex Partridge showed up for a quick hello before returning to either training or bed (or both) and the evening dissolved into the usual drunken sozzledance. Photographic evidence has, regrettably, been mislaid.

Roll on 2005!

Useful rowing dates for 2005

March-May

19th March HRR 10am
20th March Vets Head 11am
27th March Boat Race
3:05pm
26th-28th May Dorney World Cup

June-July

17th-19th June Henley Women's
29th June-3rd July Henley Royal
2nd July Taurus Barbecue (HRR)
NOTE BIG PISSUP!
15th-17th July Nat Champs
22nd-24th July Under-23 Champs (Amsterdam)
23rd July Home International (Cardiff)

August-September

28th Aug-4th Sept World Champs (Japan)
8th-11th Sept World Masters (Strathclyde)

Keep an eye on the website – Taurus socials/racing will be announced there if we have warning.

Lord Mayors' Regatta 2003

The wiles, strength and racing brains of the Poly did it again. The winning crew (sponsored by Taylor Woodrow) was - Dave Gillard (Taurus), Dan Innes (rowed Atlantic with PL), Peter Halford (LRC), John Cooper (Taurus), Pete Lowe (Taurus), James Lindsay-Fynn (LRC).

SPARE CHANGE

Ben Webb pulled the shortest straw at the Athens Olympics - after competing in the LM2- at the 2004 Worlds (3rd in the B final), he was shipped out to Greece to be the lightweight men's spare.

Normally a place for the disgruntled, Ben became an indispensable spare, cheerfully ferrying water bottles, ice jackets and other useful things around between the boat tents and the post-race podiums. As he pointed out, he got to enjoy being at the Olympics without having to worry about racing!

Cheers, all –

Thanks very much to everyone who's contributed to this – Pete, Ben, Simon, Ash, Paul, Jane, Dave, Danny and all the other hard-working people I've forgotten.

Appreciative thanks also to Pete Spurrier, Joris Trooster and Sybrand Treffers who allowed me to have pictures of our international stars.

Rachel Quarrell.



That British M4- win in Schinias....



Brookes' silver medal Under-23 coxed four – Hugo Lee, Rob Hollis, Tom Parker, Will Robinson and cox Nick Ford

Schinias 2004 – did you go? Can you see yourself here? Full-resolution versions online.

