

Degrees on the gold line

'For a sport blessed with such intelligent athletes, why are they dumbing them down?'
Richard Phelps,
Cambridge div rep



James, West, Schulte and Engelmann - four Cambridge international medallists.

Twenty of the twenty-two men who have won Olympic gold medals for Britain since 1984 have at least one degree – and one of the remaining two has an honorary D. Litt. As well as a knighthood.

Analysis Christopher Dodd and Rachel Quarrell. **Photograph** Peter Spurrier

Half of the national squad are now required to row full-time with GB Rowing for two years of a four-year Olympiad. Such demands threaten to impinge more on careers, academic and otherwise, and UK Sport's requirements for funding support and GB Rowing's interpretation of them is of concern to rowing clubs throughout the land, particularly those which are centres of excellence themselves.

Voice asked UK Sport and GB Rowing to explain their views of how top-class funding works, and what they expect from the athletes attempting to jigsaw together academic and Olympic goals.

Liz Nicholl is director of performance for UK Sport, making her one of the most important people that Olympic sports such as rowing have

to deal with. More than a year ago she and UK Sport made a significant change to the way they dealt with funding, and the national federations and athletes. This change was to bring in the 'No Compromise' principle, a *modus operandi* which is not defined anywhere in writing, but which is constantly alluded to in official paperwork.

'The 'No Compromise' strategy is about providing the right resources to the right athlete', said Nicholl last November. 'It's 'no compromise' in terms of support from us and in terms of their commitment. It's not about whether the athlete can be a student or not. It's about what training they are undertaking to achieve the results, on the programme: what training programme they are following. We can't prove they are absolutely negating their chances of Olympic success if they don't follow the national squad training programme, but they are compromising it.'

Strong language, and one which some very successful athletes across the world might disagree with. The best results are not always obtained by those within a rigorous national framework. But with the money being thrown at sport as we approach the 2012 Olympic Games, the resources of Britain's national federations are improving dramatically. And history – »

MANIFESTO

Welcome to **Rowing Voice**, an occasional magazine on rowing. The **RowingVoice** is concerned with performance, politics, and personalities, with the issues, history and culture which surround rowing. **RowingVoice** aims to give readers quality, insight, interpretation and wit from the best writers, photographers and thinkers in the rowing community.

The editors believe that the time is ripe for something new. Are we right? Let us hear your response, so please tell us your opinions, concerns and desires. Email voice@rowingservice.com

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« particularly in the former communist states, in Australia and most recently in China – suggests that centralisation of a strong sport programme does bring gold medals. It's also worth remembering that rowing is not the only sport affected. UK Sport's tactics are partly designed to help bring improvement in sports currently much less well organised than ours. Some don't even have a national training programme for the athletes to follow, even if they want to.

So why did this hit the national papers during the autumn? That, in part, comes down to what 'no compromise' means to those who have already competed for Great Britain. Liz Nicholl again: 'Rowing's specific agreement [made with athletes] reflects their reduced commitment to the World Class training if they are not with the national team, which in turn reflects a risk they are taking. There is no situation where UK Sport is saying you cannot be a student, though. We'd advise a system where athletes are continuing to develop their education alongside their training. In each sport the performance director of that sport has responsibility for determining what's needed.'

Time to talk to David Tanner, GB Rowing's own high performance director, and the person who deals with the athletes and coaches to negotiate funding, training programmes and schedules for the international team, as well as justifying to UK Sport how we spend their (now very generous) grants. 'As far as being in the squad is concerned, we will continue to have guys in clubs who are on the way up. If someone is trying to be at university and get into the team, that's fine. The only issue is, when you've made the team, what do you do next. And that has always been an issue. In the Athens Olympic year, we were making big decisions about selection in February, and it could have been earlier: we need people to be there. That's always been the case.'

While the problem affects several rowers in principle, in practice it has had the biggest effect

on two Cambridge students and international medalists: Tom James, and Kieran West. Both had their GB Rowing funding (see page 6) cut in September, when they chose to return to CUBC rather than join the GB squad's trip to Beijing. Tanner explains his view of the situation. 'In the starkest terms, it's about whether if you choose to be part of a different programme for the winter, you should receive the money to train full-time. My answer is no, you should just receive a portion of it. It's reasonable for such athletes to get their sporting costs but not their living costs. For instance a "Band B" athlete would get £8,200, not £17,000.'

This seems to give some student rowers, especially those at universities a long way geographically from the national training base at Caversham, something of a Hobson's choice. At the same time that James and West returned to Cambridge, two potential Oxford University squad members, former Blue Tom Parker and new applicant Hugo Lee, chose to put their GB ambitions first. Lee gave up the place he had already been offered at Oxford, and Parker is still studying, but fitting it around his training with the national group. Should current students give up their degrees?

Not at all, says Tanner. 'In our selection system, athletes continue to have the right to do their own thing. We don't make them go full-time, that's not what we're saying. It's a slightly wider issue. If you're at university, you may need to finish your degree and we have had athletes in that situation. In term time, there is no issue, they need to be at university, though we try to get people to participate [in the national squad training] as much as we can. An example is the pre-Olympic camp, from which the athletes returned on 1st October 2006. There was no reason at all why the Oxford and Cambridge athletes could not go to it, as their terms hadn't started. Camps are the key to this: selection tests are not negotiable.'

Nicholl also recognises the problem, though she refuses any suggestion that UK Sport can do much to solve it. 'We are now working with the university sector to develop flexible programmes. TASS (the »

Hammer Smith's

VOICES
OFF

Oxford blues 20 years on

Yes, folks, it's 20 years since **Oxford** were revolting. The crew that beat Cambridge in 1987 was Pelham, Gish, Gleeson, Ward, Hull, Macdonald, Cadoux-Hudson, Stewart, cox Lobbenberg. But it might have contained internationals Clark, Huntington, Lyons, Penny and cox Fish, with Cadoux, Hull and Ward. What do they say now?

'It was a very strange atmosphere. Everyone wanted to succeed, but the idea of 'all one team' didn't apply. This crew was dysfunctional; there was no leadership, and this played to Dan's mystique as a coach. He changed the order and we started to move.' — *Andy Lobbenberg, 2007*

'OUBC came out strong. The constitution was rewritten, and the mutiny caused a lot of reflection on how coaching and selection happened. It was a healthy thing. But the fallout was lasting damage to many of the participants from a very unpleasant experience. We grew up very rapidly. There was still negative flavour a few years afterwards, and this was made worse by the book [True Blue] and the film.' — *Richard Hull, 2007*

**And it gets better.
More revolting Blues
revelations page 16»**

Reed wobbler

I hear that the national team's world champion naval officer decided »

Do you know what?

£23930 is the maximum Band A personal award for athletes (APA) (Olympic or world medallists).

£17948 is the maximum Band B APA (8th championship place or under).

£11965 is the maximum Band C APA (promise as major performer).

£56220 is the maximum income threshold (including APA).

£32000 is the maximum earnings from sponsors, earnings and prize money before APA means test kicks in.

£1 is the sum of APA knocked off for each £1 over income threshold.

« Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme) has raised awareness of the issue. I can't say where Oxford and Cambridge lie on that curve, but I can say where I'd like them to be. If necessary, it may mean giving athletes sabbatical time, maybe more than a year. We can't assume what's worked in the past [ie one year out for Olympic Games] will work in the future. Where there are clusters of athletes with an absolute commitment to the World Class programme, sports will look towards universities which can be recommended, which work within the system.' A clear hint that, if the two ancient universities wish to keep attracting top athletes with brains, they may need to revise their priorities.

The issue has quietened somewhat since the New Year, with GB Rowing and the two Cambridge oarsmen appearing to have come to an agreement. What this will mean for future student rowers is unclear. Tanner discusses the options. 'The basis for looking at the grant [alteration] is the programme, not the university terms. The Oxbridge programmes are both very good, so it's about working out how we can co-operate. I like to say we can be flexible, but there's a line beyond which we don't compromise. For this year we have already gone far enough down the path.

There could be more than one training centre [for the national squad] but the core of our programme is the camps, the opportunity to have people together. If you choose not to do one, or can't do one, we will find a level of funding to support you, but it may not be full funding. I've had to agree with UK Sport where we are going. It's very clear this situation falls outside their guidelines. I'm not talking about extremes, just being clear about the issues. They don't just apply to people at university.'

Nicholl makes her position on the rowing ruckus equally clear.



'It's a bit of a no-brainer really. For team sports, you have to be with the team, and progressing, and committing to that. If you're following a different coaching regime, choosing a different route which is less certain than the full-on national programme, you are taking a risk. In the final four years before an Olympics athletes need to be putting in a considerable level of commitment. We can postpone education, but we can't postpone medals.'

What the coaches say....

Jürgen Grobler, chief GB heavyweight men's coach -

Sport is getting more and more professional and there is big pressure. UK sport says that athletes must stick 100 per cent on the programme. There is also pressure on Cambridge to win the Boat Race [where two 'podium level' British athletes reside]. We want these

guys in the team, but because they are on another programme I have no access to them. We also have to justify our action to others in the team — performance is the key for selection. But I also love the challenge and tradition of the Boat Race, and you can't change that. I want every good athlete, and I am sure we will find a way to integrate them.

— *Rowing & Regatta, December-January 2007*

Duncan Holland, Cambridge University BC chief coach -

The first thing to say is that the dispute between GB Rowing and Kieran West and Tom James is closed as far as CUBC is concerned. On the general situation, we have had a long and fruitful discussion with GB Rowing. We have a good relationship with them and we cooperate over such events as under-23s and European championships. I would like to emphasise that this is a family discussion. We are not trying to tell GB »

« to join the club of his pairs partner, **Andy Triggs-Hodge**. But when **Pete Reed**'s intention of joining Molesey became known at the Pink Palace, the heavies dissuaded him. We still await press releases from the clubs explaining how what didn't happen didn't happen.

Olympias for London?

The **Trireme Trust** is toying with the idea of bringing Olympias to London for the 2012 Olympics. The ship, having been restored and used to carry the Olympic flame in Athens in 2004, is now in its permanent home at the Hellenic Navy Museum, looking good. But, says chairman of the trust **Boris Rankov**, she is unlikely ever to go to sea again except on ceremonial occasions because her hull is weakened. The trust still hopes to build a second ship to John Coates's revised design if the funding can be found. Coates, the naval architect, has revised his drawings in accordance with lessons learned from Olympias's sea trials. The segment on display at the River & Rowing Museum at Henley is to the new design.

Putney Debates revived

In 1647 BLT [the year of our Lord before London/Leander/Thames] the rank and file of the Roundhead army, led by Leveller agitators, filled St Mary the Virgin at Putney to argue their case for a transparent democratic state based on male suffrage, religious toleration and the rule of law. 'Crusher' Cromwell rejected their call for equality, but today a quote from Thomas Rainsborough adorns the church entrance: 'For really I think that the poorest he that is in England hath a life to live as the greatest he.' *Guardian* readers recently voted the great Putney Debates the most noteworthy of neglected slices of history, and as a result reproductions of the original transcripts at Worcester College, Oxford, will be displayed in the church with a grant from the newspaper. 'Time and tide waits for no man', says the sundial »

« Rowing how to run their show. We support the national team — but we currently have four national teams to support!

My personal view is that the present GB rowing system is too centralised. There is tension in this argument, and there always will be. The drive to win medals centralises. The pressure to produce is perfectly understandable. I understand the pressures on the GB coaches — I've been a national coach myself.

The tension is over the standard of clubs, and hanging over clubs is the gold medal pressure. Many countries are moving towards a professional core and a very amateur fringe, and what we have now is a pipeline rather than a pyramid. GB Rowing is more pillar than pyramid. International rowing and clubs have become separated. Big clubs are no longer pyramids themselves.

Privateers and rebels used to be able to have a poke at national crews, but they can't now, owing to the structure of the world cup. If I could keep my eight together, Henley is the only place where I could have a go at a national team. I'm uncomfortable with the structure, and I would like to reverse the trend. We are not going to make international rowing slower, so we should make club rowing faster. We need to broaden the base as well as raise the peak.

To produce athletes in the long term, we should better enable clubs to produce good athletes. I'd like clubs to get stronger. In the long term I think we'll do sport more good to leave athletes in clubs so that clubs grow stronger. I also believe that rowing clubs add to the social fabric of communities.'

Paul Thompson, chief coach for GB women and lightweights -
Podium funding through GB rowing is not designed to fund education. The total number of athletes we can support is limited, and we have to justify what we do. The aim

of the programme is to facilitate Olympic success. However, I have found the better rowers are also the ones who can juggle their squad commitments with studies and other interests. In high performance, the athlete has to really want to participate, and not be coerced. It is essential that we have a strong relationship with clubs and universities, and that the athletes use the performance lifestyle people at establishments such as the English Institute of Sport (EIS) to create a balance between sport and their career.

'Access to athletes is imperative for the performance director and chief coaches, funded by UK Sport for podium success.'

Di Ellis, chairman of the ARA

Athletes have to be attached to a club to participate in the national squad. We work closely with high performance club programmes and hold regular coaches' councils to exchange views on where the programme is heading. The squad also doesn't monopolise the athletes outside the international competition season — for example, we do not enter squad crews for head races. We release athletes back to their clubs for 10 days before the Fours and Eights head races. This allows club and squad athletes to mix. Our aim is to have quality athletes training with quality athletes to push each other on. We have several training bases for the women's and lightweight squads.'

— *Rowing & Regatta, February-March 2007*

Sean Bowden, Oxford University BC chief coach -

British Rowing is more of a column now than a pyramid where talent is identified at an early point and then accelerated up through a large investment of resources. If you think back, in the days of Sport for All, the policy was to broaden the pyramid by increasing participation, but it didn't

produce much at the top, particularly when looking at "bang for your buck". Successful nations now are less pyramidal, and it is GB Rowing's job to produce a British team.

To do this they want athletes training together as much as possible. For example, Jurgen believes in altitude training. It's no good just going to altitude in the summer. To be effective it means going once or twice in the winter as well, and to have the Boat Race people unable to attend those camps is frustrating for him. If he is charged with producing medals and that is one of the ingredients he needs to win them, then GB Rowing must try and deliver. I understand that argument perfectly. I wouldn't criticise where they are coming from.

But we always get into this trap. At Oxford we also want our athletes training together as much as possible during the winter leading up to the Boat Race.

In the medium term, the strategy impacts upon young people's perception of what they have to do to succeed. In the long term, it will be a shame if British rowers can't row in the Boat Race.

In the days before there was any money, the national team needed strong independent clubs and centres who could fund themselves and put up a fight. Associated with this was a more combative environment that needed great managerial skill to pull these forces together into a coherent national team and then produce well prepared crews out of rowers who generally had jobs or were in full-time education. The national team now has a far more corporate feel to it with less room for individualism and competing ideas.

Now that they have the money to do what they want, we are no longer needed to fulfil the same role. Whilst the ARA is investing in clubs and converting a selection of them into centres of excellence' this is a diff- »

at St Mary's, which has many associations with watermen.

Red faces at the Pink Palace

Oh my, the incandescence at the Pink Palace! **Roz Savage**, the former Osiris and Oxford lightweight, was up for membership, having rowed the Atlantic and about to attempt the Pacific. But the big girls blouses who run the club decided that Roz of the Ocean didn't meet the committee's requirements of 'proficiency of oarsmanship'.

Roberta Treharne-Jones, the ancient palace's double-barrelled public relations blazerati, donned her pink tie and socks and took a deep breath to announce: 'To be an ordinary member and to be able to wear the club's colours you must have competed in a world championship, the Olympics or have won the Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race. Miss Savage did not win the race and one of the races was actually a reserves race. We acknowledge the fact that rowing across the Atlantic is an awesome feat but it is very much about endurance, not what you need to become an ordinary member.' Endurance is pretty essential at Leander's bar and functions, and besides, we do not recall seeing Roberta rowing in a world championship, Olympic Games or Boat Race, but that is the case for quite a number of full Pinkos of our acquaintance. Nor, come to that, the hapless Charlotte Barker, the club's manager, who was also wheeled out to talk to the BBC.

To add insult to injury, the palace offered Roz associate membership instead Associates cannot wear official pink, and are expected to live locally and bring punters in.

Of course, Roz's ill-advised leaking of her rebuff and the palace's pink posturing was media manna. Don't you just love a story about toffs »

«-erent ideology to the free market forces of a few years ago. I know that there is a concern amongst many coaches that the decline in those elite clubs of the past is related to the centralisation of the national team, and any continuation in this trend would be highly undesirable and damaging to rowing in the future.

This situation risks breaking down the fabric of the column, never mind the pyramid. In the past we have handed athletes over willingly. It is no longer possible for a club to retain its athletes and develop a boat outside the central programme, and we recognise this. We want to see the British team succeed, and it is a matter of great pride at OUBC when people like Hodge and Reed win international medals. But it is a shame now that it is going to be extremely difficult for this sort of example to happen again – no university in the country is going to let an athlete go for two years for Olympic training.

So people will either opt out of trying for the national team, opt out of education, or put their studies on hold until their mid-20s and beyond. Athletes will be

'It is a creeping policy - first you take the Olympic year out, then you take the pre-Olympic year out, before London it will be all four years. Where does it all end? Council should debate and decide. Rowers are not paid enough to retire without qualifications. The decision shouldn't be left to David Tanner and Di Ellis.'

*Richard Phelps,
Cambridge div rep*

forced to choose, and some will be faced with this at 16, compelled to decide on their future too early. I accept that for older athletes, who have been paid by the national team to row for a number of years, they will have to think hard about choosing to

go back in to full-time education. There is clearly a responsibility here from the athlete to involve the head coach in this decision and find a workable compromise. In the end, the athlete will have to make a choice, although one would hope that, in a reasonable

'I am very strong on following education. But if we are to win medals, it's part of my job to say how to do it. Time out from the programme is negotiable.'
David Tanner

world, choosing to extend one's education is not viewed entirely as a negative.

For those rowers who develop into national team candidates during their time at university, it seems fair that a workable solution is found that doesn't disadvantage the athlete and in some way recognises the contribution of the relevant club. It seems that the money is the big lever here. Other than results, I have to say I am unclear on the exact criteria on which lottery grants are made except that the rower needs to comply with the head coach's wishes.

In the context of Oxbridge, along with the increased demands on graduates there is a message going back into junior rowing that Oxbridge is no longer the place to go for aspiring internationals. I don't think this is deliberate, but the message is getting around. I think that the trickle of promising GB juniors to Oxford has diminished in the last couple of years, although I recognise that there are other forces acting on this.

It was very frustrating when this process of requiring GB squad members to train together full-time began. There was no consultation with us in advance. When you look at the GB team, good guys come in very rarely. Bar one or two, the team's the same every year, and it's almost impossible for 19-21 year-olds to make it. This trend is going to continue [at least until 2012]

when team members are well paid and can therefore afford to stay around longer. These paid athletes are in a very privileged position and it is now possible for them to look forward to competing without anything holding them back or the need for any excuses. It's likely that it is going to get more full-time, with more pay for coaches and more pressure to win medals.

It seems that having promising rowers set up in well run university programmes would be a distinct advantage, and they will probably mature into good prospects in time to join the senior team as they near graduation. There appears to be an increased pressure on the under 23 team to centralise and become more full-time now that the under-23s has world championship status, although there have been some recent efforts to be more conciliatory to the clubs.

Unfortunately not everyone is going to win an Olympic gold medal, and not everyone will be able to capitalise on Olympic success to forge a career once they have retired from sport. Allowing and even encouraging athletes to get good academic or professional qualifications under their belts could help them to feel more secure in their futures and thus give their rowing the 100 per cent commitment it needs without looking over their shoulders as they get older.

Medals are down to talent, and I repeat — good guys come along rarely. Once they do, you have to keep them motivated. You don't want unhappy people. Being happy with your life impacts strongly on your performance on the water.'

Robin Williams, high performance coach for GB women and lightweights -

There's no doubt that rest and recovery determines how hard you can train to fulfil a modern training programme. We have been quite lucky. All the athletes work or study some of the time, so they »

« sticking their noses in the air?

Roz's revenge

Shortly after the above fiasco, a Pink Palace computer exploded, melted down and deposited a thick layer of hippo droppings over everything. Roz's revenge, you may think.

Body count on the Schuylkill

Merry Jones's thriller *The River Killings* piles the bodies high along Boathouse Row, the historic centre of rowing in Philadelphia. All the usual suspects are present in this tale set in the clubs along the Schuylkill river.

The older we get, the better we were

Karl Zinsmeister, retiring editor of *The American Enterprise*, rowed for Yale. His tribute says that at the Henley Regatta prize ceremony he sneaked a water pistol onto the platform to take a squirt at royal personages. Well, in 1978 he lost the final of the Ladies to IC when John Garton was the prizegiver, and in 1979 he lost the final of the Grand to Thames Tradesmen, when Kingman Brewster, the US ambassador, gave away the pots. So sadly, Karl was never called to the podium or the royal presence. » p. 16

*Hammer
Smith*

Tittle and tattle to
hammer@rowingservice.
com

SPRACKLEN SPEAKS

Mike Spracklen, coach to Canada's Olympic team and sometime to Redgrave & Pinsent, Silken Laumann, Marlow, Leander, India, GB and the US, will lecture at the River & Rowing Museum, Henley-on-Thames, on Saturday 8 September 2007. Tickets and further info from <http://www.rrm.co.uk/>

'It's not about West and James or about the boat race versus the squad. We are concerned about what UK Sport are doing to our athletes. Where do we draw the line in terms of cost required for an Olympic medal? And who makes the decision?'
*Richard Phelps,
Cambridge div rep*

« taken steps to adjust their working patterns around their rowing. If all the lightweights had full time work or study commitments, my job would be a lot harder. Those at university and in work who are trying to break into the squad definitely find it harder.

Students are by definition at intermediate level, and in transition, so we need to work with the promising ones, along with their coaches. But it takes time, and it isn't always easy. The picture at Cambridge when I started there in 1994 was a lot different to the increased emphasis on postgraduates and academic standards that there is now. GB Rowing's landscape has also changed — we benefit from fantastic funding which really does make a huge difference, and allows for full time athletes. We try to involve the coaches who have athletes in the national team via coaches' councils, and work closely with the lightweight high performance centres at clubs such as Leander, Wallingford, Tideway

UK Sport funding for athletes on world class pathway

Athletes receive support via two channels

Channel 1: World class coaching, sports science and medical, warm weather training, travel and accom., development programmes, training. £75000 per athlete at podium level; £45000 per athlete at development level.

Channel 2: Athlete personal award (APA). Paid directly to athlete to contribute to ordinary living costs and personal sporting costs. Level determined by criteria not least of which is the athlete's

'The grants are UK Sport's, not ours, so we are now much more accountable. They will be getting about £8.5k this year. Development grants are completely unaffected - this is about the Olympic squad only.'
*David Tanner
British Rowing high performance director*

Scullers and London RC. The same should be true of those university systems which have solid programmes producing athletes.

Caversham has been wonderful. In 2005 I spent as much time working out where boats and athletes had to be as I spent coaching. What I'd like to capture is the loyalty and passion that the top clubs generate. It's not easy to create that feeling in a national team because people are under a continuous selection programme. I don't run a fully centralised lightweight group. We train together quite a bit, but I also try to work with the club coaches as much as possible, and make visits to their patch. It also means I get to see some of the new faces who might be on their way up. We haven't the perfect model yet.'

— *Rowing & Regatta, April 2007*

**What do you think? Have your say by emailing
voice@rowingservice.com**

performance capability.

Levels (sports can set their own criteria)

Band A: medallist at Olympic and world level — £23930 pa.
 Band B: among top 8 at Olympic and world level — £17948 pa.
 Band C: likely to be a major championship performer — £11965 pa.

The amount is means tested – the maximum income threshold is £56220, so a Band A athlete can earn £32000 from sponsorship, prize money or employment before the means test cuts in.

NEWS

Women's Head breast aware

The Women's Eights Head of the River (17 March) is linked for the second year running to The Breast Cancer Haven, a UK charity specialising in making women more aware of breast cancer and how to detect it early. Guides to breast awareness have been sent to all crews entering, and all competitors are requested to make a voluntary contribution to the charity. Every crew that raises £30 or more will be entered into a draw to win a set of Magik oarlocks for their boat. In 2006 just over £10,000 was raised by crews entering the Head, with Reading Rowing Club doing the best at more than £4,000. Twickenham novices won the draw, and an ergometer.

Champs a'changing

The National Championships of Great Britain are changing their schedule and system this year, in the hopes of making planning ahead easier for crews who enter. The 2007 championships are being held at Holme Pierrepont, with the first change being a shift so that all J14 and J15 finals are moved back to Saturday. This means juniors in those age-groups will only be competing on a maximum of two days: cheaper and simpler to organise.

A second, and related change has been made to the most popular events. For 2007, any event with 25 or more entries by the closing date will start with a time-trial, run over 1750m on either Friday (for some juniors) or Saturday (remaining juniors and all seniors). Only the top 12 from these time-trials will make into two semi-finals, with no repechages. This reduces the number of races required, simplifying the programme. Where competitors withdraw and reduce such events below 25 entries, the time-trials will still happen, to avoid a last-minute timetable change. All

other events are unaltered. Full details and a useful Q & A about the new systems at the official website, <http://www.natchamps.org.uk/>

The cruellest cut

It's one thing for your local rowing club to make the newspapers: quite another when the story is about two veteran oarsmen flipping their boat. Embarrassing doesn't describe it. Upton RC received some extra publicity in the last week of January when the *Worcester News* described an incident to which the local ambulance service were called.

'When [we] arrived, both people were out of the river but were very cold', said an ambulance service spokeswoman. 'It appears they had been taking part in a rowing club exercise and had been going downstream quite fast when their oars made contact with a moored boat, which caused them to tip over. A very fit, 72-year-old male hung on to the boat until he was pulled to the side and a 38-year-old male swam to shore straight away.' Anonymity preserved, then, if not dignity, and on balance not a description the veteran would probably quibble at.

A later report in the *Malvern Gazette* made it clear just how serious the incident could have been. The Upton double, Brian Swindell and Alan Rodgers, were rescued by local ex-fireman Chris Clements, who threw them a rope from his garage and got both men to shore fast, while calling for help. Both men suffered mild hypothermia, but said it could have been much worse. Upton's chairman, Angus McLeod, said afterwards that the club was reviewing their rules and considering the use of more effective insulating clothing during winter conditions.

Making of a new Steward

Rowing Voice congratulates Greg Searle, Henley's newest badge-holder

Greg Searle MBE has been elected a Steward of Henley, joining his elder brother Jonny for a lifetime of checking toilets, directing traffic and helping to run the venerable Royal regatta as smoothly as he makes a boat run. In congratulating Searle on his elevation, it is timely to remind ourselves what a fine sportsman and entertainer he is.

Greg Searle is one of most successful oarsmen of his generation, winning the 1992 Olympic title and 1993 world title in coxed pairs with his brother. At Hampton School he won the Princess Elizabeth Cup in 1988 and 1989, plus three other Henley trophies as an adult – the Stewards' in 1991, the Diamonds on 1997 and the Goblets in 2000.

His international career began with gold medals in coxless fours at the world junior championships in 1989 and 1990. He then won senior medals every year from 1991 to 1997. He was also a champion on the ergometer. After the 2000 Olympics he joined Britain's America's Cup team as a fitness trainer and grinder. In 2006 Greg and Jonny returned to Henley in a Molesey quad and reached the final after a spectacular progression through the previous rounds.

What the Searle brothers brought to rowing was excitement. Their losses were as tantalisingly memorable as their wins, and their demolition of the Abbagnale brothers at the Olympic regatta at Banyoles was the best race I have ever seen. It was the race of the 1992 Games. At halfway they were four-and-a-half seconds down on Carmine and Giuseppe Abbagnale, the legendary gladioli farmers of »

THE ENCLOSURE IN THE SKY

David Cazes DFC, navigator supreme

My first meeting with David Cazes was in fractious circumstances. At Henley in 1970 I was deputed by my press colleagues to seek out a copy of the rules under which Trident had just been awarded the Wyfold Cup after locking oars with Thames Tradesmen when the crews were level, about 100 metres from the finish line. Oarsmen, reporters and spectators alike disputed the result, but the Stewards rejected Trident's offer to re-row.

The prize giving was in progress as I entered the secretary's tent to discover a lone sentinel in an empty office. He was stoutish coxswain-sized with a neat moustache and a military bearing. At first Cazes claimed that the office did not possess a rulebook, but when I stood my ground, he rummaged in the desk and reluctantly produced one. I insisted on copying out the relevant paragraphs, and from a face now puce with fury, his gimlet eye bored through my skull as I laboriously transferred clauses into my notebook in longhand. The umpire's verdict consequently received a roasting in the press (and incidentally the wronged Tradesmen's stroke is now a Steward and a Henley umpire).

I didn't know anything about David then, but was to encounter him and his wife Isabel years later during FISA congresses where he was an ally of the then president, Thomi Keller. He also became an admirer of my rowing history books, which led to one or two shared dinners where the world — as well as erring waiters and chefs — was set to rights.

David's father was a Gibraltar and his mother was from Ulm, Germany. He went to school at Chillon College, Switzerland. This gives some clue as to his brilliance as a linguist, speaking all

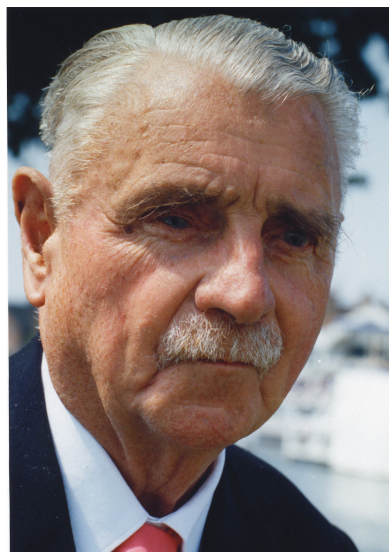
the major European languages like a native. He took up rowing at Wadham College Oxford, occupying the bow seat in Wadham's Thames Cup crew in 1933 (weighing 9st 9lbs). He qualified as a solicitor, worked for London Transport, and became heavily involved in the administration of rowing.

During the Second World War, Cazes used his knowledge of astronomy to good effect as a navigator in Bomber Command. He continued to navigate behind the scenes as a council member of the International Rowing Federation (FISA), the Amateur Rowing Association (ARA) and a Henley steward. In 1959 he qualified as a FISA umpire and was manager for Britain's 1973 European championships team. He joined FISA's council in 1969 and the ARA council from 1973-81. At Henley he was the steward in charge of entries, and responsible for drawing up the daily racing programme with the then chairman, John Garton. He joined Leander Club in 1962, was hon. sec from 1967-73 and hon. treasurer from 1973-78.

In the international federation, Cazes played an active part in Keller's skilful management through the cold war years. Where Keller variously charmed and bullied his flock in several languages all delivered in heavy Deutsche-Suisse, Cazes smoothed out problems behind the scenes, becoming a Frenchman in French, a German in German, an Italian in Italian, a Norwegian in Norwegian. I am sure he even spoke like a Kiwi when acting as New Zealand's delegate in the 1986 congress to vote down East Germany's proposal to introduce national anthems at world championship medal ceremonies. He was invaluable to the Stewards when Soviet crews began entering for Henley in 1954. He was, of course, also a flawless translator, assisting me with *The Story of World Rowing* in this capacity.

During the war Cazes saw a lot of action as a navigator in 158 Squadron, which flew four-engined Halifax bombers from Lissett in Yorkshire. The squadron helped to destroy most of the Ruhr, raiding now familiar rowing places such as Mannheim, Duisburg and Essen and participating in the 1000-bomber raid on Cologne.

Remembered by the president of the squadron, Bluey Mottershead, as a perfect English gentleman and the quiet man of the squadron among a considerable number of hotheads, Cazes was awarded the DFC on August 1 1944 for being 'a navigator of high merit whose ability in several dangerous and difficult situations has contributed in a large way to the successful return of aircraft. Both in the air and on the ground his conduct has been exemplary.' On one of his rowing trips after his time in the RAF, David was stopped on the outskirts of »



David Cazes by John Shore

« Naples, and it was evident already to spectators on tender-hooks that the Searles were too far back to succeed with their customary lightning finish. But Garry Herbert, the pilot, was not convinced. 'If not you, who?' he regaled his engine room. 'If not now, when?' The granite-faced Abbagnales, with two Olympic and seven world titles already notched on their boat, had erupted like Vesuvius off the start, set a relentless pace, and opened a big gap at the head of the field. They hoped that stoicism and power cruising would not require them to change gear before the finish line.

Herbert and the Searles, however, were out to inflict pain. 'Do you want to make a little magic for yourselves? Do you want to make history?' queried the cox in the sharp end - after a sharp prompt from his bow-man. At 1500 metres gone the Romanians Dimitri Popescu and Nicolai Taga were in second position, despite the Searles putting in an unscheduled push at 1250. The brothers decided to make history. They went at the Abbagnales like no one had ever done before. And when the grandstand was on its feet hollering and tear-jerked, they blew the decade's most successful oarsmen apart. Cox Giuseppe di Capua raised his hands in utter despair. Herbert, though, was on his feet.

It was a breathtaking, unbelievable feat. Greg said later that he looked across at the Abbagnales and had a pang of guilt at what he had done. 'They rowed over and said "well done". I was very touched by their graciousness.'

All of Greg's races in the 1996 Olympic coxless four (with Jonny, Tim Foster and Rupert Obholtzer) were exciting. So was the 2000 Olympic pairs final, in which he and Ed Coode were unbelievably beaten into fourth place after leading, Abbagnale-style, for 1500 metres. So was the bravado of the Molesey quad at Henley 2006. With Greg joining their number, maybe there are enough Stewards to form a winning crew for 2007.

Christopher Dodd

« Cologne for driving without lights. 'Last time I visited your fair city,' he said to the traffic cop, 'lights were the last things I was there to show.'

Cazes had plenty of interest off the river, too. He built an extensive collection of books on the history of railways. He was a Fellow of the Royal Meteorological Society, involved in the preservation of rural crafts, and an active member of the British Legion. He was an accomplished amateur actor and producer, involved in the restoration of Henley's Kenton Theatre. He was a judge for British Drama League's annual competition for one-act plays.

Cazes married Isabel Clarke in 1943 and they lived at, appropriately, Perseverance Cottage in Henley from the end of the war until 1982, when they retired to Isabel's childhood home, Guernsey. But during the regatta the couple moved into Leander Club for the duration and entertained friends from all over to lavish lunch and dinner parties. An accident almost ended David's life in 1983, but he doggedly recovered and also coped with increasing blindness in the last years of his life. Isabel died in 2001, and David is survived by their daughter Catherine. [Christopher Dodd]

Joseph David Cazes DFC, born July 28 1912, died September 20 2006.

Ernie Bayer, prophet of women's rowing

Ernestine 'Ernie' (Steppacher) Bayer, mother of rowing for women in the US, died on September 10, aged 97. Founder of the Philadelphia Girls RC in 1938, she forced the American federation to take women's rowing seriously and contributed to the campaign to get women's rowing into the Olympics (1976).

Bayer also popularised recreational rowing in Alden ocean shells and introduced thousands to rowing, becoming a coach in New Hampshire as well as continuing to compete until she suffered a stroke in 2005. She took part in the first FISA tour of the US in 1990 and showed more stamina than people half her age. Her first FISA masters regatta was in 1989, and she won her division of the Head of the Charles in 1991.

In 2000, aged 91, Bayer won gold in the women's double and women's eight and silver in the mixed doubles at the FISA Masters. In the same year she set an ergo record for the 90+ age category. One of her racing partners, Jeanne Friedman, said, 'she proved three things during her lifetime. 1, women can row; 2, women can row fast; and 3, women can row no matter how old they are.' Women in rowing should bow to Ernie Bayer, feminist of rowing (her husband Ernest Bayer was also extremely supportive). [Christopher Dodd]

Ernestine Bayer, born March 25, 1909, died September 10 2006.

Tom Yuncken, Cambridge Blue

Tom Yuncken (Cambridge 1974) died on Thursday October 19 2006 when a fall from his bike during a bicycle race at Geelong, Australia, crushed his vertebrae and triggered a heart attack. Despite swift attention at the scene, he never recovered consciousness and died with his family by his side four days after the accident. Yuncken rowed for Melbourne University and Pembroke College, and won the Visitors' in 1974 with Bradley, Clay and Jacobs of Pembroke and CUBC. [CUBC]

Tom Yuncken, died October 19 2006.

Muriel McCann, Cambridge and UL

Muriel McCann MBE, who has died aged 80, was president of the women's boat club at Cambridge when she read English there after serving in the Wrens in Sri Lanka during the second war. She continued rowing with UL when studying for a diploma in social science at the London School of Economics. It was never clear to her family whether it was academic work or rowing for London University that appealed most. McCann became a social worker in Birmingham and then Liverpool, where she met and married Joe McCann. Six children later, she became a scripture teacher at Birkenhead girls high school.

She was an avid reader who could quote considerable passages of classics and poetry with ease, and in retirement did voluntary work for 20 years with the Citizens' Advice Bureau. A convert to Catholicism, she raised many thousands of pounds for the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development.

In Memoriam this winter:

Mick Williams, Hereford RC former captain and President, in August. **Cathy Cruickshank**, stalwart of Henley RC and Henley Women's Regatta, in September after a short illness. **Dave Swan**, former Tyne RC member, suddenly on September 17. **Allister Bowtell**, sculptor and Vesta RC vice-President, on September 20, aged 66. **Paul Hiscock**, former captain of City of Oxford RC, in November. **Derek Ritson**, member of Talkin Tarn, unexpectedly on November 21. **John Webb**, former rowing umpire, on December 25. **Sid Clay**, Auriol Kensington RC member and President of the Fours Head, in January. **Albert Andrews**, former OUBC boatman, on January 25. **Nick Scott**, former Newcastle RGS and Newcastle University cox, in January. **Alan Watson**, Henley Royal Regatta Steward and former President of University of London BC, on February 15 after a long illness. **Dick Offer**, former President of Kingston Rowing Club, in February. **David 'DJ' Jones**, former junior sculler at Windsor Boys' School, in a car accident on 2nd March.

NEWS

Fixing the vote?

Three of the four places available in the London Triathlon Academy have gone to former rowers, after an appeal for votes which may have swung the decision their way. The competition was publicised when former University of London cox Katherine Vile (pictured) begged rowers of her acquaintance to lend their weight to the December-January public vote,



which whittled 10 hopefuls down to four. The LTA, sponsored by Herbalife and the London Triathlon company, aims to engage potential champions with a sport they

may not have encountered, and to support and coach a handful each year to compete at the highest level possible. All four in the inaugural 2006 group ended up representing Britain at the world or European championships in age-group events, a level below true internationals, with one winning a bronze medal. The four athletes hoping to emulate them as the class of 2007 are Tristan Shippides, Louis Verdi and Katherine Vile, as well as lone non-rower Jessica Adams.

Romero on track for 2008 and Beijing

Rebecca Romero, the Olympic rowing medallist who was recruited to cycling last year, has won her first international medals at two of the top five track cycling competitions of the year. Romero was second in a world-class field at the Moscow round of the four-leg cycling world cup, just behind last year's world cup champion, Briton Wendy Houvenhagel. She repeated the feat at the Manchester world cup in February (shown).



A member of the 2004 silver and 2005 gold medal women's quads, Romero switched from rowing to cycling during a period of rehabilitation therapy with the BIRO doctors for a recurring back injury. She

won the GB time-trial race this summer after starting full-time cycling training in April, and has quickly moved into the British cycling team. She was five seconds slower than Houvenhagel at the GB track championships in October in the women's 3000m individual pursuit, the event to which both women have been recruited, but has clearly closed the gap.

Romero's stated aim on her website is "to become the first athlete to win Olympic medals in two different sports", but this has already happened. American Eddie Eagan won gold in two sports - bobsleigh and boxing - twelve years apart between the two world wars, while in 1988 Christa Luding-Rothenburger won summer and winter olympic medals (cycling and speed-skating) in the same year. With the British Canoeing Union recruiting rowers at the recent British Indoor Rowing Championships, and British Cycling testing athletes from several different sports, the cross-over may become less of a rarity in these days of fully-funded sportsmen and women. So, when is GB Rowing going to start recruiting basketball players, triathletes, swimmers, cyclists and gymnasts?

Boustead Cup

London chalk up 27th win in the 50th Thames Derby

London Rowing Club won the 50th contest for the Boustead Cup convincingly by ten lengths from Mortlake to Putney in 17 minutes 26 seconds on February 11. Thames finished ten lengths behind. London, on Surrey, hit a strong rhythm early and had clear water by Barnes Bridge. They made a clean sweep of it by winning the races for second and third eights.

Thames were always likely to have difficulties against a London crew which included multiple Henley winners and former GB under-23s. Illness also forced them to make three late changes.

At Thames's boathouse, the trophy was presented by Nicholas Boustead (grandson of Guy, who donated it in 1947) and his wife Sarah. Tom Killick, London's captain, thanked the Boustead family for their continued support and for instigating an event which, he said, undoubtedly has helped raise standards at both of the great Putney rivals.

The trophy was presented for an annual race between the London and Thames

first eights in memory of Guy's father, J.M.Boustead, who rowed for Oxford in 1875, 1876 and the dead-heat Boat Race of 1877.

Results on page 15.

Making it buoyant

The Leo Blockley Memorial Campaign website at www.leoblockley.org.uk has opened a section with advice on retrofitting buoyancy to older boats, with contributions from readers welcomed. This joins their cold-water survival guide and hypothermia advice, as practical steps which Leo's parents feel may help others in rowing. Meanwhile a complicated series of manoeuvres within the Scottish Amateur Rowing Association resulted in an emergency SARA meeting held on 30th December 2006, at which it was eventually decided to go ahead with the implementation of an earlier decision to require all SARA clubs' boats to meet FISA's flotation standard by 1st January 2007. This applies to all boats, whether racing or training, and includes old shells, though the retrofitting wording was slightly tweaked.

FISA's standard for minimum flotation: "When full of water a boat with the crew seated in the rowing position should float in such a way that the seat is a maximum of 50mm (2 inches) below the static waterline." FISA has ruled that all boats built after 1st January 2007 must carry a plate stating whether or not they meet this requirement.

Boundary changes

The junior inter-regional regatta for 2007 will be held on 21st April at Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham. At the winter Thames Regional Rowing Council meeting, the boundary between the upriver and downriver Thames teams was shifted, since the latter did not manage to field a full team last year. The six clubs geographically affected are St. George's College, Weybridge Ladies, Walton, Weybridge, Cranmore and Halliford School, all of which are now officially in the Downriver Thames area.

Aberdeen manage assets

The 12th Aberdeen Asset Management Universities Boat Race on Saturday 4 March saw Aberdeen University beat Robert Gordon University to regain the »

« title Aberdeen lost last year for the first time. Racing on the River Dee over 3500 metres, Aberdeen boated in a new Stampfli called Alumin VIII donated by their alumni, and finished more than half a minute ahead of their rivals to set a new course record.

Results: Aberdeen Univ 8min 1.9secs

Robert Gordon Univ 8-35.6

Series total: AUBC 11 wins, RGU 1.

Welsh Champs opened up

The Welsh Amateur Rowing Association (WARA) are throwing Cardiff Bay open to all-comers on Saturday 12 May, when they hold their open rowing championships for the first time. The event, with categories over 1500 metres from J16 to Elite, and over 1000 metres for J14, J15 and veteran, can be entered by anyone, and there is a cash victor ludorum prize of £600 for the most successful or most represented club. Entries open on 4 April and close on 4 May. See www.wara.org.uk/welshopen/ for more details.

Coaching awards ditched

The ARA's bronze and silver coaching awards have bitten the dust, to be replaced by the UK Coaching Certificates. Anyone who has attended bronze award courses but not yet completed the video and training plan section, or attended silver award courses and not yet submitted training plans or race profiles, may do so before July 2007 to complete the award. Material should be sent by recorded delivery to the ARA coaching secretary, 6 Lower Mall, Hammersmith, W6 9DJ. Online assessment forms will also be available until 1 July 2007. After this date all previous work will be void.

FAT do the double

First and Third Trinity, the boat club for Trinity College Cambridge, lorded it over the Cambridge Lent Bumps this year, their men's and women's first eights finishing the week with the double headship. FAT men bumped Caius on their first day of racing before rowing over for the remaining three days, while the women bumped Emmanuel, Caius and then Clare, and survived the accidental loss of a blade to row over on Saturday.

Day tickets voted out

After some controversy and discussion at the February ARA Council meeting, the decision

to scrap day tickets was upheld, though by a narrower margin than the original decision last September. The new regime comes in from 31st March 2007, after which date all competitors must be registered with the ARA. This will make emergency membership renewals, particularly over weekends and bank holidays, very difficult.

ROWING ON THE HIGH SEAS

The autumn of 2006 was a busy time on the world's oceans. If rowing is addictive, then ocean rowing is even more so, judging by the number of those attempting their second or even third trip across the open sea. The Rames Guyane 2006 solo race from Senegal to French Guyana started on 19th November. Fifteen competitors started, but five had to give up, leaving ten still racing. Head of the pack from halfway through was Romain Verge, in the boat *Parrainez Un Enfant* ('Sponsor A Child'), who won the race on 29th December 2006, a week ahead of his nearest rival, Patrick Favre. The next Rames Guyane will be held in 2009, and the organisers 'want British competitors', for anyone feeling valiant who fancies a Christmas on the open seas.

Dutchman Ralph Tujin enjoyed doing the Atlantic Challenge so much in 2001 that he decided to cross the Pacific at its widest breadth, in the *Zeeman Challenge* named for his sponsor. As a warm-up, he rowed the Atlantic with brother Michael to help so that Ralph didn't tire himself out too much. The Tujins had to be towed the last few miles into Curacao in the Caribbean, where Ralph is now resting before beginning the main Pacific challenge, from Peru to Brisbane, some time in March.

Other crews rowing the Atlantic over the New Year included Hungarians Gabor Rakonczal and Andrea Palos (mainland Spain to Antigua in 94 days with stopovers in Morocco and the Canary Islands); Spaniard Andreu Mateu (La Gomera to Martinique, taking just under 95 days and becoming the first solo Spanish ocean rower); and French rower Charles Hedrich (Senegal to South America in 36 days). Double solo ocean rower Maud Fontenoy is still in the middle of a hugely ambitious plan, begun in October 2006, to row all the way around Antarctica (and therefore technically the world) on her own.

But the most accident-prone recent attempt recalls one of the saddest days in ocean rowing. In 1966 David Johnstone and John Hoare, who were trying to be the first 20th century Atlantic rowers, were lost during Hurricane Faith, with only their 15-foot wooden boat *Puffin* found after the storm subsided. Expe-



rienced ocean rower Graham Walters recently found *Puffin* in a museum and decided her unfinished voyage had to be completed. On 20th

December four boatsful left San Sebastian de La Gomera to start an east-west Atlantic crossing in memory of Hoare and Johnstone. Walters was rowing the 40-year-old *Puffin*, now refitted, while Bhavik Ghandi, Victor Gavrishchev and Stu Turnbull/Ed Bayliss were in three more modern boats, each of the four vessels sporting a Puffin logo in honour of the men who were lost.

The modern Puffin contingent set out on 20th December 2006, from La Gomera harbour, after months of delays. Unfortunately after only 8 hours rowing, the *Puffin* was stopped by Spanish coastguards, searched, and impounded when they discovered some equipment which did not comply with regulations. A bail of 30,000 euros was set to release the boat, which was damaged on the way back to harbour while being towed. Victor Gavrishchev and his boat suffered a similar fate, as did Ghandi, the latter restarting at the end of February. Turnbull and Bayliss were too far out to catch when the coastguards arrived, and completed the row on 21st February. Walters restarted his row on February 3rd and is still on the Atlantic. He is gaining inspiration and helpful hints from reading chapters from Merton Naydler's book 'The Penance Way' based on Johnstone's journal, discovered intact when the *Puffin* was found.

February has seen several teams complete rows, apart from Turnbull and Bayliss. On 26th February Dutchmen Wendel Rontgen and Gijs Koning landed in Antigua, on the way resupplying the famished Turnbull and Bayliss - an ocean rowing first. The two crews met up on Valentine's Day, rendezvous-ing at 17 degrees 20 minutes north, 55 degrees 38 minutes west, transferring much-needed supplies to the British boat and sharing »

« a meal of chicken satay and rice followed by cookies. The generosity of the Dutchmen made it into most UK national newspapers. On 27th February Olivier Bertonnier and Bruno Froideval landed in Guadeloupe, having set off from Pacito Blanco in Gran Canaria 51 days earlier. The week before, *Ocean Four Atlantic Quest* had landed in Barbados, rowed by Dom Mee, Peter Bird, Ed James and Tom Rendell, who narrowly missed breaking the speed record across the Atlantic by two days. The record is still held by French team 'La Mondiale' who did it in 35 days, 8 hours in 1992.

The Ocean Rowing Society is holding its third black tie dinner on Saturday May 19th in London. Certificates will be presented to those who have rowed the world's oceans. Details on the ORS website at <http://www.oceanrowing.com/>

NEWS

Beating Russia

Members of Clyde and Clydesdale have just returned from the Descenso Internacional De Remo do Ribeiro in Galicia (northern Spain). The Clyde men's eight finished 10th overall,



but the Clyde/Clydesdale women's quad (shown) claimed a bronze

medal position, finishing behind the Romanian and Russian national teams. The Russian quad contained two members of the disqualified world championships crew.

Fury on the Tideway

The University of London trial eights race has returned following a two year hiatus. In the men's event starting at Putney, 'Fist', with Olympian Pete Wells on board, took an early lead over 'Fury' past Craven Cottage and won the first of two trials by a length and a half. The second race from the Eyot to Chiswick Bridge saw 'Fist' cross the line just half a length in front of 'Fury'.

The women's event saw 'Bubble' come back from a deficit at the half-way mark to beat 'Squeak' by half a length, before winning the second trial by a length. The rest of UL's internationals were unavailable to take part.

OVERSEAS NEWS

Going to court to row

Student athletes in Britain think they have a hard time: lack of funding hampers many rowing clubs, and sport is not seen as an important part of university life by most vice-chancellors - until they want to beg funds from their alumni. But the resources of the USA, home to multimillion-dollar boathouses and rowing scholarships, are now being seen in a different light.

Big universities in the USA and Canada routinely fund their sport at a professional level, it's true. Students pay nothing, have a menagerie of full-time coaches, and those on 'crew' scholarships are expected to spend hours a day on the river or in the gym, allowed for when their academic timetable is constructed. Alumni queue up to donate: it is rumoured that the boat-buying programme at Harvard now stretches 50 years into the future, so keen are former clubmembers to donate money for a boat named after them. But a devil's pact has been made in return: the US university authorities choose the sports and limit their numbers. If they want to include women's soccer, for instance, another female sport has to go.

The University of Cincinnati, Ohio, recently announced that it is scrapping women's rowing at the end of this academic year, to make way for a new UC women's lacrosse team. Their justification was the increasing popularity of lacrosse in high schools. UC's female rowers promptly took them to court, and have now obtained a temporary restraining order prohibiting the university from dumping 'crew' as a sport. The UC oarswomen are notoriously litigious, having claimed that their university was breaching Title IX funding requirements two years ago. No doubt the authorities like the idea of getting rid of these troublesome rowers and bringing in a squad of nice quiet lacrosse players. UC is, of course, citing diversity and cost, and says it's "trying to find the most appropriate mix of programs that can benefit the largest number of students." Of course. Meanwhile some commentators in the US press are suggesting that sports should be maintained based on the amount of money they fundraise for themselves or the university. One wonders what they would prefer their athletes to spend the time doing: studying, train-

ing or asking donors for cash.

China's little people

For those who can't read or speak Mandarin, FISA are keeping an eye on the progress of China's famous TV reality show: a series with the backing of the Chinese Olympic Committee which will end up choosing the next men's and women's eights coxes for the Chinese national team. No doubt the coxswain jobs were chosen as being the most accessible sporting role, likely to attract members of the public who might not think they could be involved in the Olympics. Even (slim) couch potatoes can imagine sitting in a seat and yelling at panting rowers, after all. Chinese nationals living abroad were also encouraged to enter.

Amongst the entrants is current women's cox Na Zheng, who finished fourth with her crew at the Athens Olympics and has 11 years experience in the team. Fortunately for the credibility of the programme, she is still in the running, having joined the last 80 who are now being reduced to 20.

The format is 'Pop Idol'-like: viewers from China's 1.3 billion population are encouraged to vote for the coxes they like best, and entrants take part in skills-based games. But not all of these are related to rowing. FISA report that one game involves being poised on a pseudo-boat platform to simulate balancing in white-capped waves, while communication skills are tested by "personally chosen performances by the contestants using their own talents like singing and dancing." It is questionable how much this will reveal of the coxes' abilities to multitask, to run pieces, call technique from the cox's seat, liaise with the coach, plan tactics and inspire their crews.

There are professionals involved; judges including coaches and former athletes will score the contestants after each exercise before the voting begins, and no doubt the rowers will make their feelings clear. From the final 20 four will be chosen as 'winners' (presumably including two spares), while the remaining semi-finalists will be offered jobs in the Chinese Olympic support team. The Chinese women's eight is ranked high in the world and expected to qualify for the Olympics in Munich this summer, while the men are seeking their first ever Olympic qualification.

VOICE RESULTS SERVICE

The RowingVoice will bring you results from all the UK and top international events in a standardised format.

Results for head races are generally grouped into boat types for ease of comparison, in time order where details are available. The names of single scullers will be published where known. Events are listed chronologically. If you would like to submit your own race's results, please stick to the format and send to as a text file to voice@rowingservice.com - full format details available on application.

Results for February 2007 below.
December 2006 and January 2007 results are available in a special supplement.

Peterborough Head of the Nene
Sat 3 February 2007

2500m (SBH)/5000m (eights), river, 245 raced

S2 M8+	Agecroft	15-04
S1 M8+	Eton Coll	15-45
J18 MJ8+	Abingdon Sch	15-58
S3 M8+	1st & 3rd Trinity	16-17
Vet M8+	Nott'm/Notts & Union	16-19
Nov M8+	Bedford Sch	16-54
S2 W8+	Agecroft	17-18
J16 MJ8+	Eton Coll	17-19
S3 W8+	Headington Sch	18-13
Nov W8+	Queens' Coll Cam	19-43

S2 M4x	Rob Roy	9-53
S3 M4x	Star	10-04
S2 W4x	Xpress/Rob/City C/Leics	10-56
S3 W4x	Rob Roy	10-52

Elite M4-	St Paul's Sch	10-00
S2 M4+	Broxbourne	10-15
Elite M4+	Lea	10-18
Vet M4+	Notts & Union	10-26
S3 M4+	Abingdon Sch	10-32
Nov M4+	Lea	11-11
S3 W4+	St Neots	11-55
Nov W4+	Univ of Kent	12-41

Elite M2-	Abingdon Sch	10-40
S2 M2-	Abingdon Sch	10-40
Elite W2-	Headington Sch/St Neots	11-27
Vet M2x	Lea	9-54
S3 M2x	Peterborough City	10-40
Elite W2x	Imperial Coll/W'ford	10-59
S3 W2x	Cambridge '99	11-32
S2 W2x	Northampton	11-33

S2 M1x	Carter (Minerva Bath)	11-04
Vet M1x	V Riley (Lea)	11-11
S3 M1x	Hamblitt (Sudbury)	11-16
J18 JM1x	Butler (Star)	11-30
Nov M1x	Lennon (Rob Roy)	11-32
J15 JM1x	Scott (King's Sch Ely)	11-40
J16 JM1x	Walton (Leicester)	11-43
S1 W1x	Brown (Xpress)	12-10
S2 W1x	Jenkins (Star)	12-31
J18 JW1x	Piggott (Bedford High)	12-40
Elite W1x	Bridges (Rob Roy)	13-37

Durham Small Boats Head
Sat 3 February 2007
 1800m upstream, 293 raced

1	J18 JM4x	Composite	6-15.8
8	J15 JM4x	Yarm Sch	6-50.2
14	S3 M4x	Tees	6-53.9
45	J16 JW4x	Yarm Sch	7-24.1
45	J18 JW4x	Durham	7-24.1
47	Nov M4x	Yarm Sch	7-24.4
52	S3 W4x	Durham	7-26.9
89	S3 W4x+	Yarm Sch	7-40.6
107	J14 JM4x+	Chester-le-St	7-57.2
159	J15 JW4x+	Durham Sch	8-28.7
206	Mxd 4x+	Tees	8-57.5
211	J14 JW4x+	Queen Eliz HS	8-59.2

2	S2 M4+	Collingwood Coll	6-34.7
3	S4 M4+	Collingwood Coll	6-43.6
4	S3 M4+	Angel	6-44.6
22	Nov M4+	St Aidan's Coll	7-05.7
26	J18 JM4+	Queen Eliz HS	7-07.1
32	J15 JM4+	George Watson's	7-12.4
60	J16 JM4+	George Heriot's Sch	7-31.9
93	VetDEF M4+	Durham (Vet E)	7-44.0
121	S3 W4+	George Heriot's Sch	8-05.6
124	Mxd 4+	Chester-le-St	8-07.2
127	S4 W4+	St Aidan's Coll	8-10.0
149	Nov W4+	Collingwood Coll	8-25.0
169	J18 JW4+	George Heriot's Sch	8-33.9
173	J16 JW4+	George Heriot's Sch	8-35.4

5	S2 M4-	Angel	6-47.3
7	S3 M2x	George Watson's	6-49.8
10	S4 M2x	Yarm Sch	6-51.0
11	J18 M2x	DUS Composite	6-52.3
23	J15 M2x	George Watson's	7-06.0
49	VetC M2x	Durham	7-25.8
56	Nov M2x	Durham	7-27.7
58	S2 M2x	City of Sunderland	7-31.2
96	VetE M2x	Durham	7-46.2
110	J16 JM2x	Queen Eliz HS	7-58.6
112	Mxd 2x	Ustinov	8-00.0
126	J14 JM2x	George Watson's	8-09.9
127	J18 JW2x	Durham	8-10.0
158	VetNov M2x	Durham	8-28.6
160	VetF M2x	Hexham	8-29.1

161	Nov W2x	Durham	8-29.8
183	VetD M2x	Hexham	8-39.3
193	S4 W2x	Ustinov	8-47.9
204	J15 JW2x	Tyne	8-55.4
242	J14 JW2x	Talkin Tarn	9-20.5
277	J12 JW2x	Tees	10-28.4

30	S2 M2-	Angel	7-10.3
64	S3 M2-	Durham Sch	7-32.9
90	S2 W2-	Durham	7-40.9

24	J18 JM1x	Rowe (Yarm Sch)	7-06.2
36	S2 M1x	Willi (Durham Sch)	7-17.4
38	Elite M1x	Thompson (C-I-S)	7-21.0
40	S4 M1x	Sarabs (G Wtsn's)	7-21.9
54	S3 M1x	Mills (Yarm Sch)	7-27.1
78	Nov M1x	Couch (Trev Coll)	7-38.1
97	J15 JM1x	Walker (G Wtsn's)	7-48.3
108	VetC M1x	Cowan (Talkin Tarn)	7-57.4
117	VetE M1x	Jaggard (Durham)	8-02.5
131	J16 JM1x	Wright (Chester-I-S)	8-12.1
168	S3 W1x	Wilkinson (Tees)	8-33.8
178	S2 W1x	Bell (Durham)	8-37.6
201	S1 W1x	Conn (C of S'land)	8-54.1
212	J14 JM1x	Murray (G Wtsn's)	8-59.4
213	Nov W1x	Reay (Durham)	8-59.6
218	J18 JW1x	McCarthy (Durham)	9-03.1
254	J15 JW1x	Wilkinson (Tyne)	9-28.6
288	VetNov M1x	Henderson (D'hm)	11-10.2

Wycliffe Big Head
Sat 3 February 2007
 4500m canal, 153 raced

J18 JM8+	Shrewsbury Sch	14-10
S3 M8+	Radley 'A'	14-53
S4 M8+	King's Sch Chester	14-57
S1 M8+	City of Oxford	15-11
J16 JM8+	Radley 'A'	15-23
Nov M8+	Cardiff Univ	15-25
J16 JM8+	King's Sch Chester	15-53
S2 W8+	City of Oxford	16-26
S3 W8+	City of Oxford 'A'	17-23
S4 W8+	Cardiff Univ 'A'	17-48
J18 JW8+	King's Worcester	18-51
J14 JM8x+	King's Sch Chester	19-24

S2 M4x	Sir William Borlase	15-31
J18 JM4x	Sir William Borlase	15-38
S3 M4x	Cardiff/Cardiff Univ	15-45
Nov M4x	Pangbourne	16-30
S4 M4x	Sir William Borlase	16-30
J15 JM4x+	King's Sch Chester	17-02
J16 JM4x	Sir William Borlase	17-24
J18 JW4x	Sir William Borlase	17-50
S3 W4x	City of Oxford	17-51
J14 JM4x+	Sir William Borlase	18-25
J15 JW4x+	Sir William Borlase 'A'	18-36
S4 W4x	Avon County	18-36
Nov W4x	Wycliffe	18-56
J14 JW4x+	Sir William Borlase 'A'	20-38

Elite M4-	King's Sch Chester	16-02
S1 M4-	City of Oxford	16-22

S3 M4+	City of Oxford	16-54
S4 M4+	Pangbourne	17-35
J18 JM4+	RGS Worcester	17-42
J16 JM4+	RGS Worcester	17-52
S2 W4+	City of Oxford	17-54
Nov M4+	Monkton Combe	18-08
S2 M4+	Christchurch	18-15
S4 W4+	City of Oxford	18-45
Nov W4+	Cardiff Univ	19-29
S3 W4+	Cheltenham Ladies' Coll	20-36

Thames Valley Trial Head
Sun 4 February 2007

1900m lake, 383 raced incl. coastal (C) events

1	S3 M8+	Southampton Univ	6-19.6
4	Vet M8+	So'ton Coalporters	6-41.0
15	J16 JM8+	Molesey Schs	6-54.7
22	Elite W8+	Marlow RC	7-01.4
33	Nov M8+	Southampton Univ	7-14.8
58	S3 W8+	Marlow	7-34.2

5	S3 M4x	Windsor Boys Sch	6-42.6
6	J16 M4x	Marlow	6-44.2
7	J18 M4x	RGS High Wyc	6-44.7
18	Nov M4x	Marlow	6-58.6
28	J15 JM4x+	Windsor Boys Sch	7-07.5
57	J18 JW4x	Sir W Perkins's Sch	7-33.7
74	J15 JW4+	Star	7-42.0
79	J14 JM4x+	Tideway Scullers	7-43.2
100	S3 W4x	Abingdon	7-51.0
105	J16 JW4x	Eton Excelsior	7-54.5
139	J14 JW4x+	Maidenhead	8-08.2
230	J13 JM4x+	Reading/M'Head	8-40.4
261	J13 JW4x+	Tideway Scullers	8-52.0

14	H'cap M4-	Weybridge	6-54.0
27	H'cap M4+	Guildford	7-07.1

34	S3 M4+	Itchen Imperial	7-15.9
38	Nov M4+	So'ton Solent	7-19.6
43	(C) M4+	Herne Bay	7-21.2
48	J18 JM4+	Guildford	7-25.0
76	S3 W4+	Guildford	7-42.1
185	Nov W4+	Univ of Surrey	8-20.4
247	(C) W4+	Sheff'd Hallam Univ	8-45.8

29	J16 JM2x	Maidstone Invicta	7-07.8
66	J18 JM2x	Star	7-38.1
70	J15 JM2x	Maidstone Invicta	7-40.6
98	Nov M2x	Magdalen Coll Sch	7-49.3
117	J14 JM2x	Maidstone Invicta	8-02.1
119	J18 JW2x	Abingdon	8-02.8
149	J16 JW2x	Weybridge	8-11.7
171	J15 JW2x	Walton RC	8-18.5
189	J14 JW2x	Maidenhead	8-22.1
220	(C) M2x	Bexhill	8-37.2
255	Nov W2x	Weybridge	8-49.7

77	Elite M2-	Itchen Imperial	7-42.6
240	(C) M2-	Sheff'd Hallam Univ	8-43.8

52	S3 M1x	J Watson (W Boys)	7-29.1
67	J18 JM1x	S Kleshnev (W Boys)	7-38.8
93	Vet M1x	R Green (BTC So'ton)	7-48.3
94	Elite M1x	J Barrett (Burway)	7-48.4
113	J16 JM1x	A Torbica (M Inv)	8-00.1
157	(C) M1x	D Holdaway (Bexhill)	8-14.6
213	Elite W1x	A Finn (TSS)	8-32.6
217	J16 JW1x	D Colsell (Eton Exc)	8-37.0
223	Nov M1x	(Christchurch)	8-39.1
229	Nov W1x	A Larcombe (U B'hm)	8-40.2
232	J13 JM1x	T Barras (Burway)	8-43.8
243	J18 JW1x	L Entwistle (M'head)	8-44.2
314	S3 W1x	E Stutters (TSS)	9-17.5
339	(C) W1x	J Cropper (Bexhill)	9-36.6

Hampton Head**Sat 10 February 2007**

downstream river, 133 raced

1	1st JM8+	Latymer	7-52.2
6	2nd JM8+	Hampton Sch	8-04.5
8	3rd JM8+	Hampton Sch	8-09.1
15	J15 JM8+	Hampton Sch	8-17.3
32	J18 JW8+	Lady Eleanor Holles	8-46.5
55	J14 JM8x	Emanuel Sch	9-07.8

7	Sch/J JM4x	Walton	8-07.9
25	J16 JM4x	Maidenhead	8-32.2
46	J15 JM4x+	Tiffin Sch	8-58.5
57	Sch/J JW4x	Bedford High Sch	9-08.8
63	J16 JW4x	Marlow	9-18.0
66	J14 JW4x	Lady Eleanor Holles	9-28.1
69	J14 JM4x+	Molesey Schs	9-30.7
71	J15 JW4x+	Henley	9-33.9

38	Sch/J JM4+	Norwich Sch	8-53.5
61	J16 JM4+	Evesham	9-12.9
81	Sch/J JW4+	Molesey Schs	9-44.5
86	J15 JM4+	Hampton Sch	9-50.5
98	J16 JW4+	Kingston G Sch	10-01.4

South Yorkshire Head**Sat 10 February 2007**

3000m upstream river, 118 raced

Third division cancelled in worsening conditions

1	S2 M8+	Durham Univ	11-20.6
3	Nov M8+	Durham Univ	11-55.2
5	S4 M8+	Leeds Univ	12-25.1
6	S2 W8+	Durham Univ	12-36.9
17	S4 W8+	York Univ	13-36.5
21	S3 W8+	Leeds Univ	13-43.9
30	Nov W8+	St Peter's Sch	14-02.4

15	Nov M4x	St Peter's Sch	13-29.3
16	J16 JM4x	St Peter's Sch	13-30.0
19	J18 JM4x	Agecroft	13-43.3
26	J15 JM4x+	York City	13-50.8
27	S3 W4x	Durham	13-55.2
42	J18 JW4x	York City	14-44.1
43	J14 JM4x+	Yarm Sch	14-50.2
45	S4 M4x	Newark	14-54.3
67	J14 JW4x+	Newark	15-46.7
70	J15 JW4x+	Newark	15-49.3
86	Nov W4x+	Newark	16-25.8

8	S4 M4+	Trevelyan Coll	12-56.6
20	S3 M4+	Leeds Univ	13-43.7
51	Nov M4+	S'field Hallam Univ	15-09.0
55	Nov W4+	St Peter's Sch	15-14.1
69	S3 W4+	Hollingworth Lake	15-47.9

12	J16 JM2x	York City	13-14.1
13	S2 M2x	York City	13-20.3
24	S3 M2x	Durham Sch	13-47.1
32	J15 JM2x	Warrington/Runcom	14-05.9
36	Nov M2x	Durham	14-16.5
47	VetB M2x	Ancholme	14-59.1
52	S2 W2x	Hollingworth Lake	15-10.6
72	S3 W2x	Hollingworth Lake	16-00.1
73	J18 JW2x	St Peter's Sch	16-03.3
77	J14 JW2x	York City	16-09.9
90	J14 JM2x	Agecroft	16-36.4
106	J15 JW2x	St Peter's Sch	18-11.7
111	J13 JM2x	Stoke Rowing Assoc	18-52.2

14	J18 JM2-	St Peter's Sch/Tyne	13-22.2
23	S3 M2-	St Peter's Sch/Tyne	13-46.7

18	Elite M1x	H Mackworth-Praed	13-39.4
37	VetABC M1x	(Durham Sch, Vet B)	14-17.2
40	S2 M1x	Armstrong (S Halll)	14-24.5
50	S4 M1x	(Dart Totnes)	15-07.6
56	J15 JM1x	J Reeder (York City)	15-18.6
57	J18 JM1x	(Runcom)	15-19.1
60	J16 JM1x	E Clark (York City)	15-24.0
61	Nov M1x	Grant (Shf Hallam)	15-27.0
80	J16 JW1x	(Yarm Sch)	16-16.6
93	S3 W1x	(York City)	16-43.3
101	J14 JM1x	Jones (Yarm Sch)	17-24.0
102	S2 W1x	P Barker (Ancholme)	17-25.0
108	J14 JW1x	Lywood (Yarm Sch)	18-23.8
114	S4 W1x	Fletcher (St Peter's)	20-01.5
117	Nov W1x	James (Yarm Sch)	20-58.4

Strathclyde University Small Boats Head**Sat 10 February 2007**

river, 50 raced incl restricted (R) crews

Division 1

(1	Elite M4+ (TO)	Glasgow Univ 'A'	18-53
2	J15 JM4x+	George Watson's	18-57
4	Elite M2x	Castle Semple	19-47
5	R2 M2-	George Watson's	20-32
6	J19 JM1x	Saraha (G W's)	21-03
7	Nov M2x	SABC/CARC	21-21
8	J18 JM1x	Dixon (George W's)	21-29
9	VetD M2-	Glasgow	21-44
10	Elite W2-	Clydesdale/Clyde	22-04
11	R2 W2x	Paris	22-06
12	Nov M4+	Castle Semple	22-07
13	VetF M2x	Glasgow	22-08
15	J14 JM2x	George Watson's	22-41
17	Elite W1x	Limond (C'dale)	23-01
22	Nov W1x	McCahill (C'dale)	24-07
26	J14 JM4x+	George Watson's	25-08

Division 2

(1	Elite W4x (TO)	Clydesdale/Clyde	19-27
2	R2 M2x	George Watson's	19-51

3	Elite M2-	Clydesdale	19-55
6	Elite M1x	Prescott (Str'clyde U)	20-45
8	Nov M1x	Scrimgeour (Str U)	21-36
10	J16 JM2x	George Watson's	22-24
12	Nov W2x	Clydesdale	22-44
16	VetF M1x	Trenchard (Glasgow)	23-53
20	J18 JW1x	McCahill (C'dale)	25-09
21	R2 W1x	Buescher (Glasg U)	25-40
22	J14 JW1x	Findlay (NARC)	27-30
23	Nov W4+	Strathclyde Univ	27-44

Bedford Eights & Fours Head**Sun 11 February 2007**

river, 204 raced

1	S2 M8+	Thames Tradesmen	4-19
2	S1 M8+	Thames Tradesmen	4-20
3=	Elite M8+	Star	4-21
3=	Elite M8+	Nottingham	4-21
12	S4 M8+	Oriel Coll Ox	4-27
14=	J18 JM8+	Bedford Mod Sch	4-28
14=	S3 M8+	Lady Margaret	4-28
14=	S3 M8+	Clare Coll Cam	4-28
14=	S3 M8+	St Anne's Coll Ox	4-28
35	Nov M8+	Bedford Sch	4-37
47	J15 JM8+	KCS Wimbledon	4-44
63	VetD M8+	Abingdon	4-51
87=	S2 W8+	Bedford/Sons/Tham	5-05
89=	S4 W8+	Bedford High Sch	5-07
94	S3 W8+	Emmanuel Coll Cam	5-10
102	Nov W8+	Bedford High Sch	5-13
175=	NovInt M8+	Bedford	5-42

87=	S4 W4x	Bedford High Sch	5-05
121	S3 W4x	Star	5-18
141=	J15 JW4x+	St Neots	5-23
141=	J16 JW4x	Star	5-23
147=	J18 JW4x	Star	5-26
151	Nov W4x	Bedford High Sch 'B'	5-27
163	J14 JM4x+	Bedford Modern Sch	5-34
165	Nov W4x+	Dame Alice Harp Sch	5-35
197	J14 JW4x+	Nottingham	6-07

32	Elite M4-	Star	4-36
65	S2 M4-	Nottingham	4-52
127	VetE M4-	Bedford	5-20

85	S3 M4+	Milton Keynes	5-03
89=	Nov M4+	Bedford	5-07
116=	S4 M4+	Univ of East Anglia	5-17
116=	VetD M4+	Bedford	5-17
147=	S2 W4+	Nottingham	5-26
173	NovInt M4+	Star	5-39
175=	S4 W4+	Emanuel Sch 'B'	5-42
178=	Nov W4+	Dame Alice Harp Sch	5-43
178=	S3 W4+	Nottingham	5-43

City of Swansea Small Boats Head**Sun 11 February 2007**

2300m downstream, 53 entries

S2 M4+	Llandaff	8-20
S4 M4+	Llandaff	8-46
Nov M4+	Swansea Univ	9-13
Nov W4+	Swansea Univ	10-07
S2 M2x	Cardiff City	8-00
S4 M2x	Wycliffe	8-42
J15 JM2x	Llandaff	8-59
Nov W2x	Cardiff City	10-09

S3 M2-	Swansea Univ	9-31
Nov M1x	Donaghy (Cardiff City)	8-45
J16 JM1x	Williams (Llandaff)	9-40
Nov W1x	Wolferen (Cardiff City)	9-40
S4 W1x	Wolferen (Cardiff City)	10-25

Boustead Cup (Mortlake to Putney), Feb 11

London RC (Surrey) beat Thames RC (Middlesex) by 30 seconds, 17mins 26 secs.

Overall: LRC 27, Thames 23.

Second eights: LRC (Middlesex) beat TRC (Surrey) by 13 seconds, 17:49

Third eights: LRC (Surrey) beat LRC (Middlesex) by 56 seconds, 17:51

Inverness Eights and Small Boats Head Sat 17 February 2007

4500m canal, 61 raced incl restricted (R) events

Division 1

1	Elite M8+	Glasgow Univ	15-21.25
5	R2 M8+	Robert Gordon Univ	16-58.05
9	R1 W8+	Edinburgh Univ	17-39.98
12	Elite M2-	Clydesdale	18-21.19
13	Vet W8+	Inverness	18-27.84
14	R2 M2-	Heriot Watt Univ	18-43.95
15	Elite W2x	Clyde/Clydesdale	19-07.08
16	Nov W8+	St Andrew	19-24.84
17	Vet M2x	Aberdeen/Glasgow	19-34.78
21	J18 JW2x	Strathclyde Park	21-12.45
23	R2 W2-	St Andrew	21-28.56
25	Nov M1x	Wilkinson (Glasg)	22-06.55
26	J16 JW1x	McCahill (C'dale)	22-45.58

Division 2

1	R1 M8+	Aberdeen Univ	15-23.65
3	VetC M8+	CSRC/composite	14-52.81
5	Elite M2x	St Andrew/G W's	17-12.34
8	Nov M8+	Strathclyde Univ	17-42.28
9	R2 M2x	Strathclyde Park	17-46.17
11	R2 W8+	St Andrew	18-01.02
13	Elite W8+	Aberdeen Univ	18-19.67
15	VetD Mxd8+	Aberdeen	17-18.98
17	J18 JM2-	Strathclyde Park	19-02.49
18	J16 JM8+	Aberdeen Schs	19-04.99
20	R2 W2x	Clyde/Clydesdale	19-08.06
23	R1 M1x	McNabb (Clyde)	19-36.80
25	J16 JW2x	Loch Lomond	20-00.21
27	VetC M1x	Duff (Inverness)	19-33.40
29	VetF M1x	Trenchard (Glasg)	18-13.48
30	Nov W1x	Limond (C'dale)	21-05.45
31	VetE M1x	Baker (Inverness)	19-00.79

Scottish Amateur Rowing Association trial Sat 17 February 2007, Caledonian Canal winners only

M2-	A Crosland/A Sinclair	19-03.65
LM2-	M Loader/J Stevenson	19-25.52
JM2-	J Wright/J Lockhart	20-58.45
W2-	E Parsons/P Swann	22-06.28
LW2-	S Forbes/E Grimshaw	23-00.05
JM1x	D Prescott	20-16.33
LM1x	J Logan	20-03.51
M1x	J Graham	20-28.80
W1x	E Crighton	21-49.69
LW1x	M-A Chalmers	22-28.87
JW1x	R Young	23-53.79

GB junior assessment Sat 17-Sun 18 February, river. * = J16**JW1x (1st)**

1.	S Cowburn	18-50.2
2.	A Brooks	19-10.4
3.	P Smith	19-28.4
4.	C Cummings*	19-28.9
5.	J Fitzsimons	19-31.6

JM1x (1st)

1.	P Clapp	17-21.4
2.	A Walker	17-25.1
3.	J Preston	17-25.4
4.	J Wedlake	17-33.5
5.	L Knollmann	17-34.7

JM2- (1st)

1.	G Nash/C Wright	16-34.5
2.	R MacLeod/K Emery	16-47.1
3.	J Morrissey/D Cater	16-56.9
4.	J Clark/A Gillies	17-00.5
5.	P Lapage/B Bathurst	17-03.2

JM2x

1=	J Preston/P Clapp	16-29.3
1=	C Clark/A Walker	16-29.3
3.	J Hockley/E Ford	16-41.0
4.	J Wedlake/L Knollmann	16-48.8
5.	T Wright/J Clegg	17-01.4

JM2- (2nd)

1.	G Nash/C Wright	17-09.9
2.	P Lapage/M Rossiter	17-24.1
3.	J Morrissey/D Cater	17-34.2
4.	R MacLeod/K Emery	17-36.4
5.	R MacMillan/A Were	17-46.3

JM1x (2nd)

1.	A Ford	18-11.4
2.	S Kleshnev*	18-11.9
3.	M Mottram	18-13.1
4.	W Fletcher	18-16.2
5.	G Caines	18-16.5

JW2-

1.	L Howard-Merri/J Fitzsimons	18-36.9
2.	A Johnston/F Schlesinger	18-58.5
3.	E Piggott/E Piggott	19-11.4
4.	J Arnold/C Cummings	19-13.2
5.	C Van Besouw/P Smith	19-24.2

JW1x (2nd)

1.	S Cowburn	19-17.5
2.	A Ancora	20-17.1
3.	A Parker	20-19.1
4.	Z Thompson	20-19.4
5.	H Moon	20-19.5

Head of the Trent Sun 18 February 2007

3700/6000m downstream, 170 raced

Division 1

1	Elite M8+	Cambridge Univ	15-24
3	S2 M8+	Agecroft	15-31
4	S1 M8+	Grosvenor	15-52
9	S3 M8+	Edinburgh Univ	16-08
20	Sch/J M8+	Hampton Sch	16-39
44	S2 W4x	Leicester/Derwent	18-47

Division 2 (shorter)

1	S4 M8+	Agecroft	9-18
2	Nov M8+	L'borough Students	9-43
18	S4 W8+	Nottingham	10-30
19	S4 M4+	Edinburgh Univ	10-33
23	Nov M4+	Edinburgh Univ	10-46
28	Nov W8+	L'borough Students	11-09
35	S4 W4x	Nottingham & Union	11-31
41	Nov W4+	Univ Coll Durham	11-42
50	S4 W4+	Univ Coll Durham	12-15

Division 3

1	Elite M4-	Leander	15-59
3	S2 M4x	Walker	16-24
4	S2 M4-	Agecroft	16-27
5	S1 W8+	Cambridge Univ W	16-43
7	S2 W8+	Agecroft	16-52
8	S2 M4+	Agecroft	16-55

10	VetD M8+	Tees	17-01
14	S3 M4+	Edinburgh Univ	17-04
24	S3 W8+	Grosvenor	17-30
46	VetD M4+	Nottingham & Union	18-38

Warrington Head of the Mersey Sat 24 February 2007, 90 entries

1	J18 JM4x	Runcorn	12-48.8
2	J16 JM4x	Warrington	13-08.8
3	VetCD M4x	Grosvenor	13-41.1
23	J16 JW4x	Runcorn	15-09.8
34	J14 JW4x+	Runcorn	15-36.3
40	J18 JW4x	Runcorn/Warrington	15-49.2
41	J14 JM4x+	Runcorn	15-51.8
45	J15 JW4x+	Warrington	15-57.2

5	VetC M4+	Grosvenor	14-02.1
6	S4 M4+	Grosvenor	14-18.9
16	VetB M4+	Grosvenor	14-43.5
17	Mxd 4+	Liverpool Victoria	14-44.9
24	Nov M4+	Grosvenor	15-10.1
47	S3 M4+	Agecroft	16-01.1
67	S3 W4+	Warrington	17-07.4
69	Nov W4+	Liverpool Victoria	17-33.9

4	Elite M2x	Warrington	13-51.8
8	J15 JM2x	Warrington	14-24.7
18	J16 JM2x	Bradford	14-51.4
20	VetBC M2x	Grosvenor	14-53.9
22	J15 JMxd2x	Runcorn	15-09.5
26	S3 W2x	Runcorn/Warrington	15-13.0
29	J18 JW2x	Warrington	15-28.2
52	J16 JW2x	Runcorn	16-15.3
63	J14 JW2x	Runcorn	16-48.4
68	J14 JM2x	Runcorn	17-25.7

10	S3 M2-	Warrington	14-32.2
7	J18 JM1x	Johnstone (Warr'ton)	14-24.3
9	S1 M1x	Fagan (Warr'ton)	14-26.2
13	J16 JM1x	Pearson (Warr'ton)	14-34.3
19	VetC M1x	Hacketts (Rex)	14-53.4
39	VetE M1x	Perrin (Runcorn)	15-45.6
42	J15 JM1x	Spence (Warr'ton)	15-53.3
55	S3 W1x	Edwards (Runcorn)	16-31.4
59	Nov M1x	Holder (Warr'ton)	16-40.2
61	J18 JW1x	Unsworth (Warr'ton)	16-46.7
70	J15 JW1x	Grieve (Runcorn)	17-43.0
76	J16 JW1x	Pearson (Warr'ton)	18-10.4

Molesey Veteran Head Sat 24 February 2007

3250m downstream, 43 raced

VetC M8+	Crabtree	8-00.0
VetD M8+	Walbrook/Molesey	8-12.8
VetF M8+	Tideway Scullers	8-33.5
VetE M8+	Wallingford	8-52.1
VetNov M8+	Molesey	8-56.2
VetG M8+	Lea	9-00.2
VetCD Mxd8+	Bewl Bridge	9-07.9

VetC M4x	Walton	8-29.4
VetDEG M4-	Weybridge (adj)	8-43.2
VetCD W4x	Tideway Scullers	9-40.4
J14 JM4x+	Hampton Sch 'A'	10-15.4
VetNov W4x+	Maidenhead	10-25.2

Worcester Head of the River Sat 24 February 2007

6000m downstream, 130 entries

S2 M8+	Shrewsbury Sch	16-14.19
J18 JM8+	Hampton Sch	16-38.00
S3 M8+	Bristol City	16-44.28

S1 M8+	Worcester	16-45.54
S4 M8+	Hampton Sch	17-34.36
Nov M8+	Bedford Sch	17-39.80
S2 W8+	Univ of London Women	17-49.42
J15 JM8+	Shrewsbury Sch	18-06.50
J16 JM8+	St Edward's Sch	18-13.83
S3 W8+	Univ of London Women	18-37.41
VetC M8+	Stourport	18-40.75
VetE M8+	Worcester	18-56.30
J15 JW8x+	King's Sch Worcester	20-01.14
S4 W8+	Bristol City	20-13.36
J16 JW8+	King's Sch Worcester	20-14.58
J15 JM8x+	Shrewsbury Sch	20-44.66

J18 JM4x	Monmouth Co Sch	18-55.05
S4 M4x	Bewdley	19-25.48
Nov M4x	Evesham	19-36.28
Nov W4x	Univ of London Women	19-49.81
J15 JM4x+	King's Sch Worcester	20-36.44
J14 JW4x+	Stoke Rowing Assoc	21-20.14
J15 JW4x+	Monmouth Co Sch	21-50.84

S1 M4-	Worcester	17-22.55
S2 M4-	Bewdley	17-52.00

S3 M4+	Stoke Rowing Assoc	18-30.77
S4 M4+	Stratford-upon-Avon	18-51.06
S2 M4+	Stourport	18-54.00
VetC M4+	Worcester	19-42.48
J16 JM4+	St Edward's Sch	19-43.81
Nov M4+	RGS Worcester	19-44.55
J18 JM4+	Clifton Coll	19-49.48
J16 JW4+	King's Sch Worcester	21-16.73
S3 W4+	Monmouth	21-47.81
S4 W4+	Worcester Univ	23-40.34
Nov W4+	Cheltenham Ladies Coll	25-06.56

Norwich Head

Sat 24 February 2007
4500m upstream.

Results not yet available.

Clydesdale Fours and Eights Head

Sat 24 February 2007

4000m downstream, 56 incl restricted (R) boats

Elite M8+	Edinburgh Univ	12-12
R2 M8+	Strathclyde Univ	12-47
VetC M8+	Glasgow	13-54
R2 W8+	St Andrew	14-13
Nov M8+	Strathclyde Univ	14-16
Elite W8+	Edinburgh Univ	14-26
Nov W8+	Edinburgh Univ	15-02

J14 JW4x	Castle Semple	15-47
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R2 M4+	Strathclyde Park/Castle S	13-27
R1 M4+	Strathclyde Park	13-32
J18 JM4+	George Watson's Coll	13-46
J15 JM4+	George Watson's Coll	14-01
Nov M4+	Strathclyde Park/Castle S	14-18
R2 W4+	Strathclyde Park	15-19
J18 JW4+	Strathclyde Park	15-24
Nov W4+	Strathclyde Park	15-45

Greenwich Head

Sun 25 February 2007
3 miles, tidal, 22 raced

1	S2 M8+	Curlew	12-29
2	S3 M8+	Curlew	13-02
4	S3 M4x	Royal Docks	13-20

5	S2 M4-	Poplar Blackwall & D13-38
7	J18 JM4x	Royal Docks 13-49
8	VetD M8+	Poplar Blackwall & D13-50
9	S3 W8+	Poplar Blackwall & D14-19
10	S3 M4+	Poplar Blackwall & D14-41
11	J16 JM4x+	Royal Docks 14-47
12	J18 JW8+	Royal Docks/Lea 14-49
13	Nov M4+	Poplar Blackwall & D14-54
15	S4 Mxd4x+	Globe 15-28
17	S3 W4+	So'ton Coalporters 15-33
18	VetB M4+	Gravesend 15-35
19	Nov W4+	Poplar Blackwall & D16-16
20	S4 W4+	Gravesend 16-52
21	Nov Mxd4+	Curlew 17-29
22	VetC Mxd4+	Gravesend 18-30

Hammersmith Women's & Juniors Head

Sun 25 February 2007

2.75 miles, tidal, 62 raced

1	J18 JM8+	Westminster Sch	10-57.94
2	S1 W8+	Furnivall/Auriol Ken	11-43.46
3	J15 JM8+	Hampton Sch	11-48.50
5	S2 W8+	Mortlake A & A	11-51.93
7	J18 JW8+	Lady Eleanor H Sch	11-56.10
17	J14 JM8x	Emanuel Sch	12-30.52
19	S3 W8+	Putney Town	12-39.08
20	S4 W8+	Mortlake A & A	12-40.85
29	VetC W8+	BB/B/MAA/Sons/Th	13-03.41
31	Nov W8+	Barnes Bridge Ls	13-07.18
36	J16 JW8+	St George's Coll	13-18.50
37	J15 JW8x	Tideway Scullers	13-24.13

6	J18 JM4x	Westminster Sch	11-54.35
8	J16 JM4x	St George's Coll	11-58.88
18	J15 JM4x+	Tideway Scullers	12-34.13
30	Elite W4x	Tideway Scullers	13-05.83
34	J14 JM4x+	Tideway Scullers	13-14.91
49	J15 JW4x+	Tideway Scullers	14-05.45
55	J16 JW4x	Tideway Scullers	14-20.62
59	J14 JW4x+	Emanuel Sch	15-14.05

24	J18 JM4+	St George's Coll	12-52.06
46	J18 JW4+	St Paul's Girls Sch	13-58.47

BUSA Championship Fours and Eights Head

Sun 25 February 2007

5000m downstream, 265 entries

Champ M8+	Oxford Brookes Univ	11-44
Jun M8+	Oxford Brookes Univ	12-06
C2 M8+	Durham Univ	12-44
Nov M8+	Imperial Coll	12-48
Champ W8+	Durham Univ	13-44
C2 W8+	Durham Univ	14-02
Jun W8+	Durham Univ	14-05
Nov W8+	Cardiff Univ	14-34

M4x	Imperial Coll	12-37
M4-	Imperial Coll	13-05
M4+	1=	Bristol Univ 13-23
M4+	1=	Nottingham Univ 13-23
W4-	Oxford Brookes Univ	13-52
W4x	West of England Univ	14-10
W4+	Southampton Univ	14-29

The Jolly Roger

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Water Boiling Aft

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Rowing History Forum

The River & Rowing Museum is staging a Rowing History Forum on Saturday 20 October 2007. Speakers will cover a variety of topics concerned with the history and culture of rowing, from grand themes to small projects. The programme will follow the successful formula of forums in the US organised by the Friends of Rowing History. A reception and dinner on the evening beforehand and dinner after the forum are optional extras. Further info and suggestions of topics to be covered to Michael Rowe on +44 (0)1491 415643 or email michael.rowe@rrm.co.uk

Thanks to Intersport Images (Peter Spurrier), Jolly Roger cartoons, and all the Voice contributors.

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VOICES OFF - MORE REVOLTING OXFORD

« continued from page 2

'The notion that 'the Yanks wanted to keep their friends in the boat' is total bullshit. It is a crazy idea. Talk to any bunch of athletes who are serious about a race which is on the line, and you will find that nobody is trying to get their buddies in the boat. When so much is on the line, it is truly a meritocracy. The fulcrum of the argument is that nobody wanted a buddy boat. That idea was patently wrong. What everyone wanted was the fastest boat on the water. After all, Daniel Topolski recruited us.' — *Chris Huntington, 2007*

'There were a lot of issues, with Chris Clark — injured, returned out of shape, got ill, assigned to his unnatural side, a long way off his best physical shape, trying to get back into shape in a frustrating environment, but he couldn't really pull, couldn't really work because he was on his wrong side. But for the period after he went back on stokeside in January Chris trained and performed very well and visibly improved. Again, that made the decision to drop him all the more difficult for the rest of us to live with.' — *Tony Ward, 2007*

'Like Pavlov's dog, I learned much from that time. However, unlike said dog, when the press 'bell' rings, I don't salivate but head in the other direction. So, I respectfully decline to comment.' — *Chris Clark, 2007*

'From my point of view, the issue was very simple. The great thing about rowing, like most sports, is that it is a meritocracy. You advance yourself as far as you can based on your abilities and the work you are willing to do. If you don't make it, you try again the next time. Period. If you try to advance yourself by other means, outside the rules of the game, that is dishonesty. The issue was about fairness and honesty. Given the same circumstances, I would not hesitate to do the same thing again.' — *Dan Lyons, 2007*

'I started the mutiny as much as anyone else. For me, selection had ceased to be about finding the fastest boat and had become about finding Donald [Macdonald] a seat at the expense of either Tony [Ward] or Hugh [Pelham]. That seemed very wrong to me.' — *Gavin Stewart, 2007*

'Winning the Boat Race itself has to be the best thing, and more important is starting to get on with my life. The worst was probably when we realised it was over and a lot of our American colleagues were not going to row, and I felt then and now desperately desperately sorry that that had happened to them.' — *Tony Ward, 2007*

'We couldn't turn their heads. Dan and I felt we'd failed, really, as management, one that they'd dug such a hole, and two that by not being hands on — we were all amateurs in those days, giving of our time for nothing — we weren't there when these seeds were being sown. But I don't think it damaged or hurt the club at all really. With an exercise like that you usually come out stronger. Because you must learn lessons, and this was a big lesson.' — *Steve Royle, 2007*

'OUBC does learn. Oarsmen's views must be taken into account, and usually are. You need to do the best with the people you've got.' — *Tom Cadoux-Hudson, 2007*

RANT

Smokes 'n Mirrors

'Clearly the Eton Illusion continues to dazzle the minority, the 'hugely successful summer' a beacon for the future - proof that all open water gets bumpy; GB winning one real gold against the other far more amateur nations; key open-access lakes closing, popular regattas left date-less. Success? Our international efforts can be lauded, yet is it really the tail wagging the dog? Less than 60 rowers will make 2012 to which everything is geared, ranging from Project Loathsome to World Class Tart doing little to promote any club, coach or athlete loyalty.

So what will be left by 2014 as very few bask in the glow of a job (well?) done and all the government funding has been spent, will there be any real rowing clubs left, and what of all the professionals suddenly grant-less and a generation used to being highly paid to row or coach suddenly left bereft, poor souls?

The much-to-be-changed ARA Pointless System continues to provide us with countless amusement. Key open events such as the Henleys and several Tideways can't begin to sort out how to grade crews as the system remains poor, some crews don't want to win in case winning gets too hard, and others don't even enter some regattas in case they do win!

The much-discussed and expensive competition review generated little or no change, the chaos on dates gets worse by the year and the vets and univs have very effectively gone and done their own thing over the past decade. One suspects the schools will be next... effectively leaving club rowing in a fairly poor or almost non-existent state.

Not everyone can win. We applaud all those who try, but 'prizes for all' is hypocritical in any competition framework. So why do we endorse an apparently pointless system that still rewards evasion and cheating. Don't moan pathetically: do something about it!

Nigel Mayglothling contributed this issue's RANT. To have a go yourself, email voice@rowingservice.com. Kindly keep it short.

HOLIDAY PLANNER

March

17 Women's Head of River, Mortlake to Putney
26 GB women's camp, Varese (to April 7)
31 Head of River Race, Mortlake to Putney

April

1 Henley Boat Races (OU v CU), Women's Boat Race
1-12 GB men's camp, Varese
7 153rd Boat Race, Putney to Mortlake, Isis-Goldie race
15-16 GB trials, Hazewinkel

May

5-7 BUSA champs, Nottingham
17-20 GB U23 Essen

June

1-3 World Cup, Linz

22-24 World Cup, Amsterdam

July

4-8 Henley Royal Regatta
13-15 World Cup, Lucerne
15 Junior GB v France, Nottingham (prov)
23 GB men + women camps (to August 10)
26-29 World U-23 Champs, Strathclyde

August

3-5 Coupe de la Jeunesse, Varese
8-11 Junior World Champs, Beijing
11-22 GB men+women camps (venue tba)
26-Sep 2 World Champs/Olympic qual, Munich

September

6-9 World Masters, Zagreb
21-23 European Champs, Poznan