

# Cygnets Newsletter

July 2014

The annual Henley Special Newsletter - with a colour copy of the Henley A - Z from your Club Historian.

*If you like to join in with the picnic at Old Blades, just tell me what you intend to bring - wine, bubbly or Pimms is always good. With salads, the only reason we're asking you to let us know is so that we get a variety of salads and not 10 Greek Salads and nothing else!*

Marjorie ([marjorie\\_israel@hotmail.com](mailto:marjorie_israel@hotmail.com))

## From the Captain

It's been only two months since the last Newsletter, and the regatta season is in full swing, following the magnificent wins recorded at the traditional Tideway regattas and Twickenham Regatta.

We had two Cygnets pairs racing at Marlow Regatta at Dorney Lake on Saturday 21 June - our only 2k racing this season. It was some of the best conditions we've seen, skylarks singing above the fields, damselflies dancing on the stern as we paddled up the practice lake etc etc. Which was a welcome distraction for those parts of the day where we were being brutalised down the course. Because whilst the format has changed from previous years, unfortunately 2,000m hasn't got any shorter, and the propensity for very good oarsmen to rock-up at Marlow hasn't changed either.

The pairs put in some solid rows against big opposition, with Nick Bates and me managing 3rd in the B Final of Sen 2-, only a few seconds ahead of Bart De Groot & Novice Gav Hunter, who were racing at least one status up. Nick and I also doubled-up into the Elite 2-race, which proved to be a race & status too far.

Still, the change of format was much better in our view, and we should definitely make an effort to fly the Cygnets colours there next season: the time trial in the morning required the self-discipline of a head-race, with the excitement of finding out the results afterwards. And then the finals being split into A, B, C etc. in the afternoon made for some close and adrenalin-fueled racing.

After our efforts at Marlow Regatta, Nick and I travelled to Henley-on-Thames last Friday to join in with the many crews having to qualify for the Regatta proper. Four pairs entered in the Silver Goblets were required to row for two places; the Oxford pair withdrew from the race, so we had to beat one crew out of an American pair and a Canadian pair. Thankfully, we did not have to wait very long, as we were the first qualifying event AND crew to race at 4pm. An epic time trial followed, which nearly killed Nick Bates, during which both the American pair and the Canadian pair hit the booms and which resulted in us qualifying for Henley Royal Regatta!

We will be racing the Canadian pair on Thursday 3rd July, so if you have some time, do come and cheer us on - the time table will be published on the Henley website on Wednesday evening.

Training for the regatta season continues under the management of Sue Grobler, with weekday assistance from Nick Rowett which is proving very successful for the senior squad, the scullers pod as well the Learn To Row.

I hope to see many of you at Old Blades on Friday 4th July. Marjorie is coordinating the usual picnic, where Cygnets bring the drinks, and BBLadies bring salads, so do get in touch with her if you intend to join in.

**David French**

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## Subscriptions and Donations

Are always due, please return this tear-off slip with your cheque to the Treasurer, Dr R P du Parcq, 39 White Hart Lane, London SW13 0PU. Active Members: members of the Civil Service Sports Council - £230.00, Others - £314.00; Club Friends: Suggested minimum - £15.00.

Enclosed my subscription/donation for £.....

Your name \_\_\_\_\_

Your address: \_\_\_\_\_

Post Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Your CSSC number (if you're a member of CSSC) \_\_\_\_\_

## 300 Club - Special July offer

**For July only:** Set up a standing order for 3 or more 300 club tickets and get 1 free ticket for the 2014/5 season!

We have enclosed the application form and if you hand it to one of us, or to Marjorie, by Friday 4th July your tickets will be assigned and included in the draws carried out that day!

Thank you to everyone who has already committed to the 300 Club and of course to those who continue to contribute by standing order. If you haven't yet committed to buy some tickets, now is the perfect time, before the first draw of the year, and with a special deal on offer for standing orders.

Remember that your total contribution is the promised number of tickets x £10.00. Please send an email to Guy (dupb01@gmail.com) when you have done this so that he can check that the money has made its way into the account and also so that he can allocate you your ticket numbers.

Thank you!

***Guy du Parc Braham and Nick Bates***

## Another Special Offer - "Cygnets" Bungalow

The Bungalow is not booked between June 29th evening to 13th July midday. Members are welcome stay at any time during this period F.O.C. providing they are willing to help with a bit of maintenance during their stay.

If you're interested, please let Derek know which day/s you can do. He will be there Monday to Friday both weeks. The middle weekend can be booked as normal.

***Derek Bush***

## Dates for your diary:

4th July        Henley Friday  
22nd July     Cygnet Ordinary General Meeting - at the boathouse, 20:15  
29th August   End of Season Dinner  
4th October   Rhine Marathon - row the marathon and party in the "Duck Fest"  
25th October   Club Lunch at Henley

## Cygnets @ 125: Appeal for Input

By now, the more mathematical among you will have worked out that Cygnets will celebrate its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary on 12th February 2015. While we may not be able to look back on the illustrious history of Thames, London or Leander, we can claim to be one of only two surviving business houses clubs on the Thames (the other is HSBC).

As Dusty Miller, the author of the first part of the club history wrote: 'Cygnets has ever been a club to foster the social side'. In short, we intend to celebrate the event. An additional justification, if one was needed, is that it will also be the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our association with Benrath Rowing Club in Dusseldorf.

Among the events we are planning will be a reception on the terrace at the House of Lords on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2015. In addition, Neil Pickford is in the process of digitising the Club's extensive photographic archive, making it accessible to all; the Cygnets website will be revamped; and there will be a revised Club history publication, updated for the last 25 years.

### 'What Does Cygnets Mean To You'

As part of our preparations, we would be interested to hear 'What Cygnets means to you': whether you have been a member for half a century or a matter of months, we'd like to hear why Cygnets is special to you.

Please email your thoughts etc. to: [prawkins@googlemail.com](mailto:prawkins@googlemail.com) or post them to Paul Rawkins, 30 Bracken Gardens, London SW13 9HW.

### Appeal for Photographs

As mentioned above, we are currently engaged in a major exercise to digitise the photo archive. During the course of this exercise it has become clear that we have very few photographs of some eras, in particular the 1990s. As this was the club's most successful time in open competition, we would be grateful for access to any member's photo collections of that time. We don't need your entire collection of rowing photos, just a handful of your favourites. All prints will be returned after scanning.

Please contact Neil Pickford - [neilpickford@mac.com](mailto:neilpickford@mac.com) if you can help.

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## From the Secretary

ACTIVE MEMBERS: DON'T FORGET TO GIVE ME YOUR EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS/  
NEXT OF KIN DETAILS, FOR OUR RECORDS AND YOUR SAFETY.

To streamline our communications to you, can you please take some time to fill in the following questionnaire and send it to me, or the treasurer, whichever is most convenient. We'll then ensure that the details are entered in our club database, with due consideration to keeping your personal data safe from misuse.

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I'd like to receive the newsletter by post/email\*

I'd like to receive the weekly club news by email yes/no\*

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your address: \_\_\_\_\_

Post Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Your email address: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Please delete as appropriate

Please send to **Marjorie Israel, 49 Oaklands Avenue, Osterley, TW7 5PY**, or email relevant details to: **marjorie\_israel'at'hotmail.com**. You can also add this slip to your subs payment note to Dr R P du Parcq, Hon Treasurer, details above.