



Cygnet Newsletter

February 2018

From the Club Secretary

This is the only newsletter mostly dedicated to club business.

First of all, please see the agenda of the Annual General Meeting copied below. Club members are encouraged to come along to the AGM which will be held on **Saturday 24 February 2016**. A notification has been posted at the club this weekend.

PLEASE NOTE: The date of the Annual General Meeting has been changed to **Saturday 24 February** due to the 2018 Hammersmith Head being held on Sunday 25 February, the date on the Fixture card.

I also attach the Committee of Management's Annual Report for 2017, for your enjoyment and perusal. Please note that the committee will present this report at the AGM.

Notification of an Annual General Meeting of Cygnet Rowing Club
to be held at the Civil Service Boathouse on Saturday 24 February 2018 at noon

Agenda

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held on 18 July 2017
3. Minutes of the Special General Meeting held on 17 December 2017
4. Matters arising from the Minutes
5. Annual Report
6. Captain's Report
7. Bungalow Report
8. Presentation and Adoption of Examined Accounts
9. Election of Officers and Committee of Management
10. Appointment of Independent Honorary Examiners
11. Any Other Business - So that it can be displayed on the Notice Board this must have been previously advised in writing to the Hon Secretary by 17 February at the very latest

Subscriptions and Donations

Are always due and can be paid by electronic payment (please inform the treasurer by sending an email to treasurer@at'cygnet-rc.org.uk or by cheque.

If you prefer to pay by cheque, please return this tear-off slip with your cheque to the Treasurer, Matthew Byrne, Flat 102 Westfields, Railway Side, Barnes, London SW13 0PL. Active Members: members of the Civil Service Sports Council - £290.00*, Others - £360.00; Club Friends: Suggested minimum - £15.00.

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

Your name _____

Your address*: _____

Post Code: _____

Your CSSC number _____ (please provide if you pay £260.00 Cygnet subs)

* Club members paying the CSSC-member subscription fee are now required to show their 2016 CSSC membership card.



Cygnet Committee Annual Report

Marjorie Israel

1 January 2018

The Cygnet Management Committee presents its one hundred and twenty-seventh report for the year ending 31 December 2017.

Club Members and Friends

This year we lost another stalwart club member with the passing of Len Huggett on 16 June. Len was a member of Cygnet since the 1950s and after his active rowing career he remained a firm supporter of the Club; many current club members will know him from the Henley Friday picnic, where he always put in an appearance up until last year. We also note that Dame Di Ellis, former Chairman of the Amateur Rowing Association, and the wife of Cygnet member John Ellis, passed away.

Fourteen new members were elected during the year. Encouraged by new CSSC membership rules, the club continues to encourage non-Civil Servant members to apply for so-called "linked" membership of CSSC to further strengthen our association with the CSSC.

Rowing

In this year the Club made good progress developing committed experienced and new novice oarsmen whilst being represented at all major Head races and most regattas.

In 2017 the focus continued to be on boosting the membership by holding another two Learn-to-Row courses in April and September. The April course did not result in any new members, but the September course was slightly more successful, with two applicants voted in as full Cygnet club members.

This calendar year, the club competed at the Quintin Head as well as the Hammersmith Head and the Veterans Head; the club had entered the Head of the River but this was cancelled. Regattas on the itinerary for the year included Chiswick Regatta with a win for David French in the Novice single, Twickenham Regatta, Borne Regatta, and Barnes and Mortlake Regatta with a win for the Novice coxed four of Robin Harries, Scott Livingstone, Ian Schofield and Sam Sears, coxed by Gareth Furby. At Richmond Regatta the same crew, coxed by Marjorie Israel, won the Intermediate 3 coxed fours event against a Putney Town crew which had raced at Henley qualifiers the day before. Unfortunately, Cygnet did not enter a crew for Henley Royal Regatta. David French won his IM3 single race at Kingston Regatta, the above mentioned four won the "Tier 2" coxed fours event at Peterborough Summer to finish the main regatta on a high note for themselves and the club. The club also entered fours and singles at St Neots and Oxford Regatta without wins.

A squad of 12 rowers from Cygnet and BBLRC travelled to Dusseldorf/Benrath in October to row the Rhine Marathon; all crews managed to finish the rather challenging event, with the BBLRC coxed quad of Philippa Sondheimer, Jo Broadhurst, Jackie Darling and Ali Elliott bringing home a gold medal. Starting the winter season, Cygnet entered crews in the Pairs Head, and three crews in the Vet Fours Head with good rows reported by all crews. Five scullers were entered in the Scullers Head.

To finish off a good rowing year the Cygnet Veterans eight won the Quintin Christmas Puddings race.

Coaching

From the beginning of the winter season in 2016, Tim Male worked at Cygnet as the club head coach. Tim is an ex-GB lightweight oarsman who holds a number of indoor rowing records and has a fantastic coaching reputation. He made an almost immediate impact in getting the squad, from beginners to experienced novices, take part in a seat racing session at Dorney Lake and generally commit to more training sessions; the results were encouraging from the start. The committee members are sure they're not the only ones to believe that his work contributed to the wins by the coxed four as above.

As ever, coxing continues to be an issue at Cygnet and this year we were very thankful for the coxing carried out by Cygnet members Robin Harries, Charlie Pretzlik, Gareth Furby, Jeremy Pugh and Matt Byrne, in addition to a wide variety of Barnes Bridge Ladies who helped out. We are delighted to report that Georgina Hensher was found willing to cox the so-called "meat wagon" four, winning her first ever regatta at Peterborough. We hope that she'll be winning many more.

Additions to the Cygnet Fleet

Due to the longevity of the fleet these days, no purchases were made to add to the fleet, apart from a new club single named "Golden Oldies" in memory of those members who passed away. Neil Pickford had continued to maintain the boats on a regular basis until Iain Golder volunteered to take over; some boats have been to the Boat mender for hull overhauls. Scott Livingstone has also been helping out with minor repairs.

The fact that Cygnet continues to add to its range of top flight racing boats reflects both the success of the longstanding boat buying programme and the continuing generosity of members old and new in furnishing the necessary funding.

300 Club

The 300 Club continued to be managed by Guy du Parc Braham. The usual draws were held through the year and new ground was broken with the publication of the results on the Website and through Twitter; it is recognised that the marketing efforts to promote this important fundraising tool to all club members old and new carried out by Guy du Parc Braham had a positive effect on the sale of 300 Club tickets and the Committee hopes that this progress can be maintained in future years.

General Meetings

Annual General Meeting –Held at the Boathouse on Sunday 26 February 2017

Was attended by Vice-President and Chairman N J Wylie, Vice Presidents Dr R P du Parcq, P L Rawkins, P Brown, A Cox and A Rawkins also M Israel, M Byrne, N Davison, C Cabrera, T Broadhurst, C Pretzlik, R Harries, I Golder and S Sears. Apologies for absence were received from S D Bush, N Pickford and J Pugh.

The existing eleven Vice-Presidents were re-elected. Re-elected were N J Wylie as Chairman; Ms M Israël, Hon Secretary; M Byrne, Hon Treasurer; and T Broadhurst as Assistant Treasurer. Mr N Bates was voted Assistant Secretary and Mr C Cabrera as Social Secretary. Committee Members elected were P L Rawkins, Dr R P du Parcq, I Golder and S Sears.

A Cox, P L Rawkins, N V Pickford and M Byrne were re-appointed Trustees and M Burman and T N Davison re-appointed Honorary Independent Examiners.

The membership agreed to three proposals; that the front loaded four "Peter Roche" be sold and replaced with a new second-hand front loaded four, for an additional cost of up to £2,500.00; that the Club purchase a new Janousek single for an anticipated amount between £5,000.00 and £7000.00; that the club purchase eight sets of sculling blades for a maximum amount of £6,000.00.

The Annual Report had previously been circulated and was adopted. The Captain's report was presented and adopted. The Annual Club Accounts were presented by M Byrne; these were accepted without qualification.

Ordinary General Meeting & Election of Captaincy held on Tuesday 18 July 2017

Chaired by N J Wylie – Vice Presidents Dr R P du Parcq, P Rawkins, A Rawkins attended. Also attended M H Israel, Hon Secretary, M Byrne, Hon Treasurer, D French, N Rae, S Sears, C Cabrera, I Golder, S Gibbons and J Pugh. Apologies were received from C Morgan, T Broadhurst, N Smith, G du Parc Braham.

Mr J Pugh, as outgoing captain outlined the changes that had taken place in the club in his two years of captaincy, from different coaches, to winning pots and a great number of new club members. He wished the new Captaincy all the best.

There being no other nominations the following were elected to Office:-

Captain: Matthew Byrne; Deputy Captain: Sam Sears; Vice-Captain: Charles Pretzlik.

Special General Meeting held on 17 December 2017

Chaired by Dr R P du Parcq, Vice Presidents P Rawkins, A Rawkins, A Cox and P Brown attended, also attended M H Israel, M Byrne, I Golder, R Walters, S Gourevitch and G Furby.

The meeting discussed two proposals from the Committee of Management; that a coxless four/quad be bought for an estimated cost of £16,000.00; that a new set of sculling riggers be purchased for the Janousek coxed four "Ronnie Lambe" for an estimated cost of £500.00. These proposals were carried unanimously.

Club Management Meetings

Five committee meetings were held during the year with a 74% attendance record. The dates of meetings were mostly set at the end of each meeting. British Rowing was advised that the number of members for whom affiliation payments were due was 62. Items of special note are detailed below.

Civil Service Sports Council

The Civil Service Sports Council continues to support the changes to CSSC membership that allow for linked membership. Informal feedback from CSSC HQ is that they are pleased with the way Cygnet is making use of the new membership categories. They have kept in touch through the year and we are determined to get as many members into CSSC as possible. It is still a challenge to get Cygnet's Learn to Row courses published on CSSC documentation, but we will persist in our attempts.

"Cygnet's" Bungalow

Again a successful year for our second important fund raising source. The premises were fully in use from May until September and also at several weekends. Two Sculling Camps were held by Cygnet. Management of the Bungalow being carried out by Mr D Bush as Bungalow Manager. Mr Bush will present a full report at the Annual General Meeting. The Cygnet Management Committee expresses its heartfelt thanks to Mr Bush who is and who always has been a staunch supporter and now manager of the bungalow since it was built.

The Website

The website which continued to be updated by Neil Pickford, with Club officers able to post information themselves still provides most relevant information about the club and its activities. Club members can get access to members-only sections by requesting a password from the Webmaster, Neil Pickford. All members and friends are urged to log on to www.cygnet-rc.org.uk.

Members and friends alike can now also follow the club's activities with the official Cygnet Twitter account @CygnetRC, and through this have access to regatta results, Tideway news from the PLA and British Rowing initiatives.

The website is also the main link for the Cygnet photo archive, which was completely digitised by Neil Pickford with input from Paul Rawkins in 2015 and which we can highly recommend to all members. The Committee of Management extends their heartfelt thanks to Mr Pickford who continues to work very hard for the club and its members.

Social Events

The usual social events were held, such as the Club Picnic at Old Blades in Henley during Henley Friday, the End of Season dinner in August and the Club Lunch at Leander Club in Henley on Thames in October at which many members from BBLRC were present. The annual Clubs' Day, organised by the Social Secretaries of both clubs was held in August and it was very gratifying to see so many Cygnet members, old and new, attending this event.

The End of Season Dinner also saw the awarding of our two annual awards:

The G.P. Jeffries Cup for Cygnet Rower of the Year. This goes to the oarsman who has improved most over the past 12 months - and there were several to choose from but ultimately the award went to David French.

The Wally Whedal Cup for Cygnet Sportsmanship & Endeavour, also known as 'Clubman of the Year', is an award about showing willingness and eagerness in joining in the fun and lending a helping hand wherever needed. For doing all of this, the award went to Robin Harries

Before Christmas, older members attended a weekday lunch at the Civil Service Club, admirably organised by Lawrence McVeigh.

At the End of the Year...

We look back at a year of mixed emotions. Hopes raised of better rowing times under the coaching leadership of Tim Male who inspired the rowers to train harder, eat better, run harder and generally filled everyone with hope of a season of wins and pewter did materialise, only to be dented by the departure of Tim at the end of Regatta Season. The captaincy has plans to compete at Quintin Head, Hammersmith Head and, as always, the Head of the River Race and the Veterans Eights head. The club continues to be active both on and off the water. The Captaincy follows the policies laid down by previous holders of office and encourages club members to be further involved in club organisation. There is a constant hunt for coxswains, experienced or willing to learn and it is hoped that coaching will continue on both a professional and amateur basis. It is expected that 2018 will involve a very active racing season and the need for a high level of individual fitness will be necessary, so circuits remain on the menu.

The relationship with many other clubs both on and away from the Tideway are excellent, in particular that with Barnes Bridge Ladies Rowing Club remains as strong as ever. The camaraderie between members is remarked upon and Cygnet remains a very friendly and happy club.