

## From the Captain

Cristobal Cabrera

A good start to the 2019/20 season. Training in The Shed and outings have been very well attended in the last quarter of 2019, following the plan of our coach Chihiro Calvin.

In October we had four crews 'enjoying' Pairs Head in some fresh and rainy conditions. The results went as follows:

- Op 2x Intermediate (Furby/Sears) 109<sup>th</sup> - (14:23)
- Op 2x Club (Pugh/Stewart) 213<sup>th</sup> - (15:16)
- Op 2- MasB (De Groot/Hunter) 289<sup>th</sup> - (15:42)
- CYG/ AKN (Jackson/Otterburn) 416<sup>th</sup> - (18:03)

A "few miles" away on the same weekend we also had two crews once again enjoying the exceptional hospitality of our friends from RG Benrath for the Rhine Marathon. More fresh conditions and a nice head wind but no rain.

- CYG 1, 03:04:03 – Martin D, Matt B, Tom B, Rupert B coxed by Mario (RGB)
- CYG 2, 02:46:38 – Neil P, Cris C, Anna C (BBL), Marj I coxed by Mucha (RGB)

In November training continued at a good rhythm and another Learn to Row was completed – thank you everyone who has been involved in that. We didn't attempt 4s Head but did have a fantastic Thanksgiving dinner after the race.

In December five Cygnet scullers completed the Championship course in Scullers Head. Congratulations to all of them especially "newbies" Rupert and Mustafa. Good conditions on the day for a well-known challenging course:

- 344 CYG Sears 24:25
- 333 CYG Piguet 24:35
- 491 CYG Du Parc Braham 25:14 (Adjusted time 24:15)
- 366 CYG Bailey 25:25
- 359 CYG Ozyurt 28:32

We finished the social year with the Cygnet Waddle and BBLRC Christmas Party. Congratulations to Tom B. for being awarded BBL's Cygnet of the year! The rowing year was rounded-off with a red flag on the Tideway, sadly causing the cancellation of the Christmas Puds race on 22<sup>nd</sup> December, although we were still able to name the latest addition to our fleet – a shiny new Jano VIII, named for the late, great Noel Davison by his wife Eleanor.

Thank you everyone for the fantastic year and looking forward to a successful 2020.

## Contacts

[www.cygnet-rc.org.uk](http://www.cygnet-rc.org.uk)

Chairman 07753 863430 [chairman\[at\]cygnet-rc.org.uk](mailto:chairman[at]cygnet-rc.org.uk)  
Captain 07711 058717 [captain\[at\]cygnet-rc.org.uk](mailto:captain[at]cygnet-rc.org.uk)  
Hon. Secretary 07530 747816 [secretary\[at\]cygnet-rc.org.uk](mailto:secretary[at]cygnet-rc.org.uk)

## Cygnets Bungalow 38 Hamhaugh Island, Shepperton

The bungalow is ideal for a riverside holiday and is available for booking by members and friends between May and the end of October. Other periods and winter bookings may be available, please enquire. **Contact:**

**Derek Bush** [bungalow\[at\]cygnet-rc.org.uk](mailto:bungalow[at]cygnet-rc.org.uk) 07880 548804

## Cygnet 300 Club

300  
CYGNETS  
CLUB

This is our principal fund raiser which keeps our fleet maintained and up-to-date. Tickets are just £10 each and there are ten annual draws with a top prize of £100 and a bumper £250 Christmas top prize. All members and friends are encouraged to participate and active oarsmen especially are expected to have a 'few' tickets. **Contact:**

**Tom Broadhurst** [tombroadhurst\[at\]live.co.uk](mailto:tombroadhurst[at]live.co.uk)

## A History of Cygnet Rowing Club, 1890–2015

Copies of this high quality, hardback book are still available from Paul Rawkins. **Contact:** [prawkins\[at\]googlemail.com](mailto:prawkins[at]googlemail.com) or in writing to 30 Bracken Gardens, Barnes, SW13 9HW



## Subscriptions and Donations

Active members: CSSC £330.00\*, non-CSSC £400.00  
Club friends: suggested minimum £15.00

For **electronic payment** please email the treasurer for bank details on [treasurer\[at\]cygnet-rc.org.uk](mailto:treasurer[at]cygnet-rc.org.uk)

By **cheque**, along with the tear-off slip below to: Mr M. Byrnes, Flat 102 Westfields, Railway Side, Barnes, London SW13 0PL

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Enclosed my subscription/donation for £ \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Post Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Your CSSC no.\*: \_\_\_\_\_

\*CSSC members are now required to show their CSSC membership card to a member of the Management Committee



# CYGNET ROWING CLUB

## January 2020 Newsletter

## From the Club Secretary

Marjorie Israël

Happy New Year and welcome to another decade. We finished the previous decade with a bitter-sweet moment – the naming of our new Januosek VIII in memory of Noel Davison – and will start the next one with significant anniversaries for both the bungalow and the boathouse, not forgetting Cygnet's 130<sup>th</sup> birthday of course! The boathouse in particular faces some big challenges, with the CSSC changing its funding and pressure from the Local Authority about how Dukes Meadows are used and managed – the Boathouse Executive committee is on the case!

Also watch out for an improved, updated website coming this spring but, in the meantime, the Treasurer would very much appreciate some subs. The active membership have been emailed and brief details can be found in this newsletter. Subscription information is also available from the website.



## 2020 Fixtures

January	25 <sup>th</sup>	Quintin Head (12.00)
February	16 <sup>th</sup>	Hammersmith Head (09.30)
March	21 <sup>st</sup>	HoRR (14.45)
	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Vets Head (15.00)

## 2020 Club Events

February	12 <sup>th</sup>	Birthday Drinks, Ye White Hart (TBC)
	23 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Annual General Meeting (12.00)</b>

Cancer has claimed all too many of our rowing friends and colleagues lately. Sad to relate, therefore, its latest victim, Stan Collingwood, who died on Saturday, 12th October, at the age of 72, in St Theresa's Hospice, Darlington.

Rowing is all about characters and one person who amply fitted the mould was Stan Collingwood. Many clubs can claim an association with Stan, but, at Cygnet, we like to think we got in on the ground floor, electing D.S. Collingwood as an active member in January 1973. Although his birth name was David, to the world of rowing he will always be remembered as 'Stan the Man'.

Stan's stay at Cygnet appears to have been brief and the club annals do not record him rowing in any competitive crews. Perhaps more surprisingly, he avoided any committee or organisational entanglements, although he would later return as an impressive finishing coach and organiser of the Business Houses Head in the late 1990s.

Stan would grace many Tideway clubs in his time, but no club could truly contain him, and he was always destined for greater things in the guise of umpiring, coaching, commentating and organising. Chairman of Thames Region was but one of the many posts he would hold in the rowing universe. One medium that was tailor-made for Stan was Regatta Radio at Henley Royal Regatta and he would spend many happy hours regaling listeners with 'tales of the riverbank' in between races before the drone took over.

Stan always brought experience, enthusiasm and bonhomie to all he did. In 1998 he accepted an assignment to coach an aspiring Cygnet entry for the Thames Cup at Henley, professing that it would be unrecognisable by the time his ten weeks were up. Walking over Barnes Bridge late one summer evening and watching a technically near perfect VIII passing beneath, I can confirm that in this, as in all things, he was as good as his word.

Later in his working life, Stan was delighted to inform us that he had again become a Civil Servant and might even consider rejoining Cygnet. Although he never did, there was always a space at the Cygnet bar whenever he cared to stop by. He will be much missed.



As the Club approaches its 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary, members will doubtless be relieved to hear that we will not be publishing an updated version of the club history. However, your club historian felt that this occasion should not be allowed to pass without regaling members with a gem from the 1920s – the 'Wally' Wheldal Rowing Alphabet – which has only recently come to light.

A lifelong post office employee, Wally Wheldal is the best known of the original ten founding club members. By the time of his death at the age of 82 in 1947 he had given fifty-eight years of service to Cygnet.

An enthusiastic, if unremarkable, oarsman, he was a tireless club officer from the outset, serving as captain and secretary while representing Cygnet on countless committees in the wider rowing world. An early advocate of the National Amateur Rowing Association, he nurtured the club through the First and Second World Wars, helped negotiate the freehold on the club's plot on Hamhaugh Island and always clung to the vision that Cygnet would one day secure its own clubhouse.

Following his retirement from the post office in the mid-1920s, Wally turned his attention to coaching with some success in Fixed-seat Vllls and the early HoRRs. Inspired by these victories, he penned the following rowing alphabet, which appeared in the Civil Service Sports Journal in 1927:

- A** *Is Attendance, regular, punctual, of course; Your word is your bond, have no cause for remorse*
- B** *The Beginner, firm, true and smart; Forerunner to success, make a good start!*
- C** *The Curve inwards, which must be in the wrist; To keep arms to the body, without sway or twist*
- D** *Drop of hands at the finish, made without doubt; Else the water is on you, you're late and swing out*
- E** *Is the Ease with which all movements are done; Of tug and tear there must be none*
- F** *The Finish, on which your weight hang; End with a swish, and not with a bang*
- G** *Is the Grit, which you must show; When your stroke spurts, never say No*
- H** *For Hands, to the oar square and true; Not roaming about; anywhere wont do*
- I** *The Interest you take in your work; Try to improve, you must never shirk*

- J** *Is the Jump that must be on the boat; As you "catch it together" with powerful stroke*
- K** *"Keep off the Water" shouts Coach with his might; Don't grip the oar at the feather, let it ride light*
- L** *For Length which you must insure; Swing lightly from hips, your object's secure*
- M** *Is your Mentor, for the time, beyond reproach; A Crew's best chum should be their Coach*
- N** *The Nippiness you must display; At the beginning and "Hands Away"*
- O** *Is the Oar to be rowed square from start to finish; If it is not, the boat's pace will diminish*
- P** *For the Precision at which you must aim, Think of the others, "Play the Game"*
- Q** *? "I am in trouble, I do so try"; Ask your Coach, he'll tell you why*
- R** *The Recovery, swing light and free; In line with the keel, not across the knee*
- S** *Is Self-discipline, That's on the right track; Many crews fail because this they lack*
- T** *For Time, which you must keep; Legs, Body, Hands & Feet*
- U** *The Unity the Crew must display; If success is to come to them on "The Day"*
- V** *Is the Vigour with which shoulders must work; Right from the base without shrug or jerk*
- W** *For Wrist which must freely play; To row your oar square, and get hands away*
- X** *Is a puzzle. We'll no Xcuse make; Blame not others, but your gruel take*
- Y** *Are the Yells you hope to hear; As you shoot past the post a Winner clear*
- Z** *Is the Zeal with which all work must be done; Pull together, Success will come*

A product of its time, note that there is no mention of the 'slide', this being the era of fixed-seat rowing. Nevertheless, Wally's rhyming couplets bear more than a little relevance to rowing technique today. In his case, the coach was indeed the crew's best chum and Wally went on to coach many crews, male and female. Today Wally Wheldal's legacy lives on in the guise of a trophy in his name awarded annually to that member whom the captain considers has shown exceptional sportsmanship and endeavour.