

2022 Fixtures *for the one hundred & thirty third season*

April	23 rd	Hammersmith Amateur
	30 th	Chiswick Amateur
May	7 th	Borne at Chiswick Bridge
	14 th	Putney Town
	21 st	Walton & Weybridge
	22 nd	Weybridge Ladies
June	4 th – 5 th	Peterborough Spring ^{ML}
	11 th	Barnes & Mortlake
	(24 th)	HRR Qualifiers)
	25 th	Richmond Amateur
June	28 th – 3 rd July	Henley Royal Regatta
July	23 rd – 24 th	St. Neots
	30 th	Henley Town & Visitors
September	17 th	Vesta Scullers Head
October	2 nd	Pairs Head, Rhine Marathon <i>Düsseldorf</i>
	15 th	Weybridge Silver Sculls
November	5 th	Kingston Small Boats Head
	19 th	Fullers Fours Head of the River (12.00)
	20 th	Veterans Fours Head

2022 Club Events

April	6 th – 10 th	Training Camp, Reading
May	20 th – 22 nd	Sculling Camp, Hamhaugh Island
June	17 th – 19 th	Henley Women's Regatta
June	28 th – 3 rd July	Henley Royal Regatta
July	31 st	O.G.M. & Election of Captaincy (12.00) and End of Season event
September	9 th – 11 th	Autumn Sculling Camp
	24 th	Centenary Ball This is a joint club event and the big club social event of this year. See inside for further details.
December	(TBC)	BBLRC Christmas Party
February 2023	26 th	Annual General Meeting (12.00)

Fleet movements

We recently added a new boat to the fleet; a 'tin-fish' coaching launch from Chas Newen, which replaces the previous one, now over 20 years old and past her best. We are seeking a buyer for the old aluminium shell.

We also have a dingy for sale; the "Peter Sly" which, after years of sterling service at the bungalow, is surplus to requirements.

Contacts

www.cygnet-rc.org.uk

Chairman	07753 863430	chairman[at]cygnet-rc.org.uk
Captain		captain[at]cygnet-rc.org.uk
Hon. Secretary	07530 747816	secretary[at]cygnet-rc.org.uk

Cygnets 300 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. All members and friends are encouraged to participate and active oarsmen especially are expected to have a 'few' tickets. All winners and draws are posted on the club website. **Contact:**

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

Subscriptions and Donations

Active members: CSSC £360.00* • non-CSSC £440.00
Club friends: suggested minimum £20.00

For payment details please contact the Treasurer, Mr M. Byrne Flat 102 Westfields, Railway Side, Barnes, London or email [treasurer\[at\]cygnet-rc.org.uk](mailto:treasurer[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



The Cygnet camp on Hamhaugh Island, circa.1920



CYGNET ROWING CLUB

May 2022 Newsletter

From the Club Secretary

Marjorie Israël

At the AGM in February your management committee was duly elected for 2021/22:

Chairman • **Nick Wylie**
Hon. Secretary • **Marjorie Israël***
Hon. Treasurer • **Matthew Byrne**
Hon. Ass. Secretary (website) • **Neil Pickford**
Hon. Ass. Treasurer • *vacant position*
Committee Member • **Iain Golder**
Committee Member • **Paul Rawkins**
Committee Member • **Andrew Rawkins**
Committee Member • **Cristobal Cabrera**
Committee Member • **Matt Guttridge**
Social Secretary • **Megan Eldred**

Cygnets Captain • **Rupert Bailey**
Rowing Safety Advisor • **Charles Pretzlik**
Bungalow Secretary • **Derek Bush**
Cygnet 300 Club • **Tom Broadhurst**

Independent Hon. Examiners
Andrew Naylor, vacant position

*Marjorie is retiring at the end of 2022 and a new Hon. Secretary is being urgently sought.

As you can see, we also have vacancies on the committee for Hon. Assistant Treasurer and an Independent Examiner. The club can only exist through the efforts of willing volunteers, so if you are interested in offering your skills and enthusiasm in any of these positions, please contact the secretary or chairman.

In the aftermath of the First World War, Cygnet took a bold decision to step into the world of real estate. Members who had fought in the war were moderately flush with their severance payments and voted to pool them in the General and Holiday Fund that was used to purchase a freehold plot of land upriver on what we now know as Hamhaugh Island, Shepperton, for the princely sum of £114.00 (£5,400 in today's money) in March 1920.

Cygnet was no stranger to this part of the world. Upriver trips were popular pre-war and a plot of land had been rented on the island from 1909 for such occasions. Indeed, one of the best preserved photographs of this era – the Grand Reunion of 1911 – appears to have been taken on this site. 'The Camp, our upriver headquarters' as it became known, was furnished with a tent, camping equipment and a punt, but no running water or sanitation. Nevertheless, a lack of facilities did nothing to detract from its popularity with club members.

As a long-term tenant, Cygnet was in a prime position to secure a plot with one of the largest river frontages on the island, while its close proximity to the lock ensured that it gained easy access to a new connecting footpath to the mainland. Rental charges were fixed at 3/- (15p or £8 in today's money) for a weekend, 2/- for a day ticket and 6/- for a season ticket. Popularity of 'The Camp' went from strength to strength during the 'Roaring Twenties', attracting a band of stalwarts who came to be known as 'the good old Shiny Boys'. Partying on a Saturday night, especially if they had won at a regatta, did not endear them to other residents.

Following the relaxation of rules allowing permanent structures on the island, the first 'bung' was erected in 1930 using two erstwhile Nissan Huts from the First World War. Rudimentary at best, this structure would serve as 'Cygnet's' for over thirty years. By then, slumming it and, to quote one old hand, 'the old magic of the hurricane lamp, pub crawls with the triple or double sculler up or down river were of another era'. Times were a-changing and a younger, more discerning clientele demanded better facilities.

Rebuilding duly commenced in 1963–64, masterminded by none other than Derek Bush. Little did he know that almost sixty years later he would still be maintaining the same structure and younger club stalwarts would still be upholding the traditions of raucous boating, drinking and generally upsetting the neighbours. Still, it is a fair bet that none can match Cygnet's pedigree as the longest standing member of the Hamhaugh Islanders' Association.



Centenary Ball

Saturday 24th September

Save the date and get your best rig out of mothballs because you really won't want to miss this one! We are catching up on a number of significant anniversaries that the pandemic has caused us to miss over the last couple of years:

- **2020** was 100th anniversary of our ownership of No.38 Hamhaugh Island, better known as "The Bung" (see left)
- **2021** saw 100th anniversary of the CSSC
- **2022** is the Centenary of the foundation of what would become Civil Service Ladies RC and eventually BBLRC

And lastly, from a Cygnet perspective, former captain, coxswain and secretary Marjorie Israëel is hanging-up her shorthand pad after 25 years dedicated service to the club and taking herself home to Aruba for a well-earned retirement.

So what more excuse do we need for a big, posh get-together and knees-up? We've had some damn fine parties over the years and this one promises to be no exception!

- At the Richmond Hill Hotel • Black tie and Posh frocks
- Welcome drink • 3 course meal • Live band • Late bar
- Open to current and former members and their partners
- £95 per head • Visit cygnet-rc.org.uk/100ball for further details and to purchase tickets online or contact us by email at 100ball@cygnet-rc.org.uk

Cygnet has had a good winter training and Head race season, capped off at the end of March with HoRR and Vets Head and I am very pleased with the progress we have made. We were delighted also to welcome back our friends from RG Benrath.

Looking ahead to the summer training and races with continued weight training and more time on the water now lighter evenings permit. The summer season was launched recently with a squad get together, setting out our training and racing plans and enjoying some food at the club.

The squad summer training is geared towards a successful and enjoyable summer Regatta season with the clear aim of having race winning crews for targeted local regattas and select events further afield. For the most part, we will be focusing on smaller boats: 1x, 2-/x and 4x/-/+ . Cygnet will continue to be a place for our rowers to develop and get what they want from rowing; from competing hard at regattas to simply enjoying time on the water and at the boathouse.

A number of the squad participated in spring training camp between 6th – 10th April, which provided some really valuable coaching time on the water up river at Reading RC. We were impressed with the facilities and the water and those who attended had an excellent time. Both they and the coach benefited hugely from the experience. We hope to repeat a training camp for the squad (and wider club members) next spring – hopefully with an even bigger attendance so more can enjoy the development and bonding time off-Tideway.

We plan to run the next Learn to Row course in early summer, with Deputy Captain Martin leading preparations. We continue to try and attract experienced rowers wishing to return to the sport and are growing links with the civil service and public sector organisations to this end. Ideally we'd also like to attract some more coxes.

It has also been a busy season on land and on water doing our bit to support the club and wider rowing community, particularly hosting a lot of visitors to the Tideway for Head Races. Many Cygnets have put in hours of effort and a lot of support well above and beyond to make the races a success and our visiting crews to feel safe and welcome – from which we've received much positive feedback. Thanks to all for the contributions making us such a popular boathouse for hosting races – an excellent fundraiser for the clubs too!