

Ian Stephenson passed away on Friday 30th August following a long and hard-fought battle with pancreatic cancer. He was 53.

Ian, known to most of his Cygnet friends as Geordie, started his rowing career at Cambois Rowing Club in Northumberland, a few miles from his hometown of Morpeth and joined Cygnet for two years in 1988 before returning in 1997 via Curlew and Staines. On his return, he rowed in our Thames Cup VIII at Henley Royal that year and remained a stalwart of Cygnet crews until 2013, when he joined the Quintin Veterans 'Barflies'. Geordie continued rowing throughout his treatment, only stopping in July, just a couple of months before his untimely death.

During his time with Cygnet, Geordie spent almost as much time at the bar as he did in a boat – and he was in a boat a lot – often combining the two activities, seemingly without ill-effect, as his collection of pewter will attest to.

Even after he stopped rowing for Cygnet, Geordie could still often be found at the bar, getting a round in and talking to anyone that would listen; about the Glory Days; fishing; his latest eBay bargain; or his beloved Toon. It was also in the boathouse bar where a particular Barnes Bridge Lady caught his eye and Geordie and T's wedding in September 2008 was well attended by members of both Cygnet and BBLRC.

There'll be very few people indeed that didn't like or get on with Geordie. Row hard, play hard appeared to be his philosophy yet he was a man who tried not to take life or himself too seriously. He was as comfortable taking the rise out of the venerable older members as he was the new novices, his closest friends or himself. And he had a lot of friends, most of whom will remember him as the unconventionally dressed northern bloke in the tight jeans and well-worn Led Zeppelin T-shirt, with a beer in his hand and a heart as big as his hair. His generosity knew no bounds and he will be sorely missed all along the Thames Tideway.

He is survived by his wife Tracey and young son, George to whom we extend our sincerest condolences.



Contacts

www.cygnet-rc.org.uk

- Chairman 07753 863430 chairman[at]cygnet-rc.org.uk
Captain 07711 058717 captain[at]cygnet-rc.org.uk
Hon. Secretary 07530 747816 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 07880 548804

Cygnet 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 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:

Guy du Parc Braham dupb01[at]gmail.com

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 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

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

Scissors icon followed by a dotted line for a tear-off slip.

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

From the Club Secretary

Marjorie Israël

First of all, it is with great sadness that we have to report that Ian Stephenson passed away on 30th August, after a long battle with cancer. An obituary is included overleaf.

Since the last newsletter, a new Captaincy was elected at the OGM on 16th July; we are delighted that Cristobal Cabrera is continuing as Club Captain, supported by Sam Sears as Deputy Captain and Thomas Broadhurst as Vice Captain. See the Captain's report below for an update on racing, results, social goings on and future plans.

From the Captain

Cristobal Cabrera

Summertime means Regatta time and we had a lot of fun taking part in many of them.

We started in June, going to Sculling Camp at the Bungalow where the idea was to take part in Weybridge Regatta and have some fun sculling. Unfortunately the regatta was canceled due to strong winds. We also entered a 4+ and 1x into Barnes & Mortlake International [sic] and few weeks later went to Richmond regatta with an 8+, a 4+ and 1x. But it was not to be; we lost against the winners of the respective events in both regattas. July arrived and after a little break for Henley Friday (Cheers!) we focused again on the next event.

St Neots was a fantastic weekend, with an 8+ and a 4+ racing on Saturday and a 4+, an 8+ and two 1x on Sunday. Loads of rain, loads of racing, party, capsizing and a pot to report for Ross Stewart in the Masters A/B 1x, which made the wait under the rain worth it.

Next stop was supposed to be Peterborough Summer but it was canceled due to bad weather, so we aimed for Oxford City Regatta, the last regatta of the year. It was another fabulous weekend: Saturday we entered a 1x, an 8+ (which made it to the final), a 4+ and a 1x. We also took part in the 8+ Lunch Sprints. In the evening, after pizza, a good party was had in the Oxford City Club house. Sunday was back to racing, where we had two 1x, an 8+, a 4+ (in the final) cont'd

From the Captain *continued*

and a 4x (in the final). Again we participated in the Lunchtime Mixed 8+ Sprints with BBL (where we made it to the semi-finals). No pots but a lot of fun!

And...wind down. Club day was celebrated on the last day of August, together with BBL and including side-by-side racing in 1x and 8+ followed by a great BBQ. Thanks to Hannah S. and Rupert B. for organising a great day.

Finally we held the End Season Dinner on 7th September, with BB Ladies also invited this year. After a great Waddle (including a toast to Geordie), some nice food it was awards time: Congratulations to Ross S. (G.P. Jeffries Cup for Rower of the year), James D. (Wally Wheldal Cup for sportsmanship and endeavour) and Anna C. (BB Lady of the year) for their well deserved awards.

All-in-all it has been a good season. Looking back we missed the pennant by a few seconds in Pairs Head and established a good platform throughout the other Heads. In Regattas the 8+ reached three finals, the 4+ reached four finals, the 4x one final and of course, a pot in the 1x.

Thank you all, in particular the coaches (Chihiro and Alan) and coxes (Laurent, Anna, and Hannah).

We start the new season with the objective of raising standards and developing the strong work achieved over the summer. Next stops are Sculling Camp, Regatta London (where we have entered a Mixed 8 with BBLRC) and Pairs Head where we have four entries – may The Force be with them. Looking forward to a successful 2019–20 season.

2019 Fixtures *for the one hundred and thirtieth season*

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|-----------|-------------------------------------|--|
| July | 27 th – 28 th | St. Neots WIN Mas A/B 1x |
| September | 29 th | Regatta London |
| October | 6 th | Pairs Head, Rhine Marathon <i>Düsseldorf</i> |
| | 19 th | Weybridge Silver Sculls |
| November | 9 th | Kingston Small Boats Head |
| | 23 rd | Fullers Fours Head of the River (13.30) |
| | 24 th | Veterans Fours Head |
| December | 7 th | Vesta Scullers Head |

2019 Club Events

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|---------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| September | 20 th – 21 st | Autumn Sculling Camp, Hamhaugh Island |
| October | 26 th | Henley Lunch, Leander Club. See over for details and a reservation form |
| February 2020 | 23 rd | Annual General Meeting (12.00) |

Henley Lunch

Stuart Gibbons

1.00pm on Saturday 26th October 2019 at Leander Club, Henley-on-Thames RG9 2LP

Cygnets members, alumni and friends are very welcome, with or without partners. The bar is open from 12.00 so do arrive early to take in the Henley atmosphere – just don't be late for those amazing canapés! After lunch, you are welcome to retire to the bar which will remain open until 7.00pm or alternatively, join the Chairman's waddle down the tow path to the Flower Pot pub.

- Menu:**
- Canapés
 - Sole and salmon roulade with spinach, caviar and saffron dressing
 - Stuffed saddle of lamb, herbed rosti, glazed vine tomatoes, ratatouille, baby courgettes and rosemary reduction
 - Vanilla mousse with marinated strawberries served with Eton mess ice cream
 - Coffee with petits fours



Price: £54 per person (excluding service and wine)

Dress: Club uniform or smart casual

Parking: In the Leander car park

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Please reserve me places at the Cygnets Henley lunch

Name:

Telephone Number:

Partner / Guest name(s):

Preferred table companions (not guaranteed):

Any special dietary requirements:

Total cost (£54 per person): £

You can either detach and return this slip with your *cheque* (made payable to *Cygnets RC*) to Cygnets Treasurer c/o: Flat 102, Westfields, Railway Side, Barnes, London SW13 0LP

Or you can email [henleylunch\[at\]cygnets-rc.org.uk](mailto:henleylunch[at]cygnets-rc.org.uk) with this information and to notify that you have paid via *electronic payment* (Sort code: 09-01-55 Account Number: 71834000)

Reservations can also be made via the [Cygnets Henley Lunch page on the club website](#)

The Passing of the Old Guard

Paul Rawkins

The Cygnets Boat Buying Programme, dreamed up by then captain Richard du Parcq in 1979, has been the club's salvation, furnishing us with a fleet of modern equipment that few would have envisioned forty years ago.

In time, all boats work their way down the pecking order before being pensioned-off to the great boathouse in the sky – or that at least is how it used to be. With the advent of carbon-fibre and 'plastic' boats, the shelf life of racing craft is much longer than it used to be. Thus, whereas wooden boats were often regarded as little better than firewood after ten or fifteen years, today's craft are made of much sterner stuff and can look forward to a useful life of twenty years or more.

The custom at Cygnets has been to name IVs and VIIIs after 'deserving' club members with small boats being allocated quirkier names such as 'Hamhaugh Island'. In keeping with that tradition, the committee was unanimous in naming the latest addition to our fleet, a new Janousek VIII, the 'Noel Davison' in memory of our erstwhile 'squad co-ordinator' and more recent Independent Examiner, who passed away last year.

Such was Noel's standing in the Cygnets firmament that three boats – Mike Arnold-Gilliatt, Paul Rawkins and Ronnie Lambe – have been sold-off to make way for his namesake. This trio have seen sterling service stretching over more than twenty years. Moreover, it is a measure of the loving care that Cygnets takes of its boats that the sale/part exchange of these craft has raised a total of £8,000, roughly one third of the cost of the new VIII.

All three of these boats have had their moments. The 'Paul Rawkins' main claim to fame was carrying a Cygnets Wyfold IV through three rounds at Henley Royal Regatta in 1997. Messrs Rawkins P, Nick Wylie, Steve Reeves and Rhodri Walters gave it a valedictory dispatch last month.

Mike AG was unusual in having two boats named after him, in recognition of a lifetime of service embracing virtually every position on the committee, culminating in eighteen years as club chairman. The Ronnie Lambe, IV+, had gone about a quarter of the distance of its mentor who is now ninety something. Ronnie, who joined Cygnets in 1947, will be best remembered as an unrelenting club secretary and tireless advocate and official of Borne and Putney Town Regattas.

We expect to take delivery of the 'Noel Davison' in early October. The date of a boat naming and launching ceremony to be advised.