



TWICKENHAM ROWING CLUB ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE 1st April 2008 to 31st March 2009



Introduction

The majority of this report applies to the time period shown above. It should be noted that this does not correspond with the current committee year, which the committee members and officers listed below are now serving, as this runs from 4th August 2008 until 2nd August 2009. In some sections, the period from April 1st 2008 to 7th July 2009 is also reported to ensure that the report is as up to date as possible.

Officers and Committee Members

The current officers and committee members who were elected at the last AGM and who have been serving from 4th August 2008 are:

Officers:	President	Mark Ormiston
	Captain	John Wastnage
	Honorary Secretary	Vacant
	Honorary Treasurer	Peter Jennings
	Membership Secretary	Margot Cooper
	House Steward (Fabric)	Vacant
	House Steward (Bar)	Jonathan Cox
	Water Safety Advisor	Mark Ormiston

Elected committee members: Vicky Cheevers, James Easton, Erica Hamnett, Luxmi Selvarajah, Benedict Stanberry and Avril Vellacott. Unfortunately, Ben Stanberry resigned in March 2009, finally acknowledging that his commitments to his business and ongoing studies, made it impossible for him to play as full a part as he would have wished.

Vice Presidents: R R Dixon, P D Hunter, J L Sewell, Miss C E Maddox, P R Jennings, M J Spence, C N F Hunt, C P A Tether, Mrs K C Plumtree, P M Chandler, K I Baldwin, R J Hurles, Ms S C Howard, M J Francis, Miss R Woolf

The following Vice Presidents elected to attend meetings: John Sewell, Martin Francis.

At the first Committee meeting, Martin Francis, was elected as the Committee Chairman.

Michael Salzman attended meetings in an ex-officio capacity with the responsibility for the Club Newsletter.

The Trustees of the Club, who hold the freehold of the site for the benefit of the members, are: P D Hunter, J L Sewell and R J Hurles.

The President's Foreword

Next year the Club will be celebrating its 150th Anniversary and we have already come up with an exciting and varied programme to help us celebrate. Further details will be available in the later part of this year. If you would like to help please let us know, as your help will make all the difference.

The first stage of our redevelopment has been completed with the new access path, cycle shelter and stands. We received financial help from the Hampton Fuel Allotment Charity, SWELTRAC and Transport for London. The next stage is the relocation and updating of the sculling racks to improve access and gain extra space.

CASC (Community Amateur Sport Club) status was achieved this year which will enable the club to save money on council tax, donations and tax on interest payments. We also achieved 'Go Green Richmond' Merit and Advanced awards for improvements in environmental performance. Keep that recycling going!

The Committee have decided to start the main redevelopment of the Clubhouse and building work should start next year. We will have a bigger and better Clubhouse for a bigger and better club.

This year the Annual Dinner is on 20th November 2009, at the Richmond Hill Hotel. I hope you will all be able to make it as it is the highlight of our social year.

Finally I would like to thank all of you who volunteer, either as a Committee member, the person who takes the bottles to the bottle bank, or the launch driver. Without you we do not have a Club. Thank You.

Mark Ormiston

The Captain's Report

As we head towards the end of the 2008/09 season there is a lot for Twickenham RC to celebrate. Corin Margetson was selected as the ARA's Development Coach of the year highlighting two important and directly connected trends at the club: ever better coaches and better routes for new members to join the club.

Twickenham has a large fleet of boats compared to most clubs, but we are even more spoilt when it comes to the coaches who give up so much of their time to the benefit of their crews. As with coxes, we don't always show our coaches the appreciation that they deserve, yet every club lives and dies by the reputation of the coaching that it offers and in turn the way that it treats its coaches. The Committee has decided to trial a paid Head Coach role, which aims to ensure improvements on both fronts and is in line with developments at other rowing clubs across the country.

The Senior Learn-to-Row course has evolved significantly in recent years thanks to our team of volunteer coaches and with the support of our ARA coach, Jessica Essex. The courses are now not only increasing our membership numbers, but also fulfilling their main objective of strengthening our senior squads. Paul Davis has continued to provide coaching support to some of the veteran men in addition to his role as Boatman. The Veteran women's squad is evolving to create two squads – a mixed recreational veteran squad and a competitive veteran women's squad. Both squads are coached and thanks to the hard work of several veteran ladies, the club is now able to offer mixed learn-to-row courses for veterans.

Another trend which again can be attributed to the quality of squad coaches and beginner courses, has been the steady improvement in our results on the water. Autumn's strong intake of novices formed a promising Development Squad, which was quickly merged with the Senior Squads to enable a more personalized approach to coaching each rower's development. After a good Head season including several wins and the best results for several years at the HORRs for both our men's and women's 1st VIII, the senior squads including several novices, returned from training camp to start the regatta season well at Chiswick.

This form has continued with a large number of TwRC racing crews at all the usual regattas and probably more wins and more finalists than in recent years. Our novices have improved hugely during the racing season and have picked up a number of pots. The junior squad continues to attract new members with significant improvements on the water, but currently suffers from slightly chaotic administration off the water, which need s urgently to be resolved. The older juniors raced at National Schools and several other regattas, whilst the less experienced younger juniors missed out on local opportunities to race.

An increasing number of members are learning to scull, perhaps inspired by the club's faster scullers, such as Jake Nelson who beat Johnny Searle at Molesey Regatta and Simon Pullen and Robert Bailey who have been so dominant in Vet E. We had two women's eights and a J17 double at Women's Henley and for the first time in 11 years, a men's 1st VIII at Henley Royal. All of the crews were a huge credit to the club and to their coaches.

Twickenham's surfboat rowers are now back on the water and in 2008 made their debut at round 3 of the VB Summer Series, where they became the first crew this season to beat Blue Bali from Porthtowan (also beating a Molesey crew containing an Oxford Blue and a World Champion).

Despite slow progress, the club still aims to add an Adaptive rowing section in the coming months.

Next season will bring further improvements to our grounds and hopefully the start of the new boathouse development as well as our 150th anniversary. It is therefore necessary and perfect for us to consider our vision for our club's future. We can't be everything to everyone, but I believe Twickenham's strength lies in being accessible to the whole community and so offering appropriate activities for different types of people. For some groups this will be about trying to achieve excellence in racing terms, for others it will be about mixing competition with fun recreational rowing. Whilst planning for the future, we will also use the coming season to focus on making day-to-day rowing easier for existing members. However you look at it, we're making good progress, but there will always be a lot of hard work still to do.

The crews competing at Henley were:

<u>Henley Women's Regatta</u>	<u>Henley Royal Regatta</u>
Junior 2x 2 - Ellie Blow 1 - Kate Smith Coach: Scott Taylor / Mark Calvin / John Wastnage	Cox - Christine Palmer Str. - Estevao Pape 7 - Michael Dowell 6 - Phil Banerjee 5 - James Wren 4 - Steve Bowers 3 - Peter Crush 2 - Anthony Cox Bow - Adam Ellis Coach: Gerald Elphicke
Intermediate Club 8+ Cox - Vicky Cheevers Stroke - Sam Grant 7 - Rita Pape 6 - Charlotte Holloway 5 - Samme brough 4 - Erica Hamnett 3 - Jenny Day 2 - Vicky Owen Bow - Richmal Roseman Coach: Chris McCarthy	

John Wastnage

Veteran Rowing – Men

The Veteran squad has maintained its success over the year since the last AGM report. It's good to report that along with quite a good list of wins, the squad succeeded in winning divisions for the first time in both the Pairs Head and the Veteran Fours Head and in winning a medal at the National Veteran Championships at Holme Pierrepont.

In July 2008 the vets took part in a number of events at Molesey regatta, including, for the first time a mixed D8 eight. Apart from the usual vets, this included Katie Clare, Rebecca Tait, Alice Smitheman and Janine Pembroke. In a very close race against Molesey, the crew lost by barely a canvas.

In August the F Quad won at Maidenhead which was again at Dorney Lake. Notably, this crew included Larry Grant winning his first ever veteran pot.

Simon Pullen (Spike) and Robert Bailey maintained their winning streak by winning the E2x pennant at the Weybridge Silver Sculls in October and then capping that by winning the E2x pennant in the Pairs Head..

In November an F4x won at the Teddington Small Boats Head. The same quad then went on to win the same class in the Veteran Fours Head at the end of November..

At the Walton Small Boats Head, Robert won the G1x prize.

In the Thames Valley Trials at Dorney Lake in January this year, Spike, this time with Andy Davies, won the C2x event.

In the Heads, an E8 finished 6th in the Molesey Veterans and also competed in the Kingston and Vesta events, although with less good results.

Spike and Robert won E2x at Bourne Regatta at Chiswick.

Twickenham Regatta marked the first regatta of the season for the veterans in an eight, which they duly won. Spike and Robert also narrowly lost in the E2x event.

At the National Veterans Regatta at Holme Pierrepont, Robert won the IM3 G1x medal and, with Spike, also finished 3rd in the E2x and 4th in D2x.

At Richmond Regatta in June a scullers eight entered as a Vet C8 and won the C/D event. It was good to see some younger members taking part in a Veteran race for the first time.

Spike and Robert competed at Henley Veterans' in Vet E2x, losing by a narrow margin in the semi finals to the event winners.

The squad plans entries at Molesey and Maidenhead regattas.

Apart from those veteran members taking part in competition, the recreational squad thrives and is on the river each week.

Ian Lilley, Keith Baldwin, Dennis Kenny, John Sewell and Bob Hurles took part in the Vogalonga in Venice at the end of May. This is a 22 mile row from Venice, around the islands and back. A vet squad had last taken part in this event 15 years ago. The water conditions were very rough due to strong wind. Luckily the vets were rowing in the Club's surfboat which was absolutely ideal for the conditions. 100 other crews couldn't make it to the start, due to the conditions and more than 30 boats sank. A good time was had by our crew!

Summary of wins

Event	Class	Crew
<i>Maidenhead</i>	<i>F4x</i>	<i>John Sewell, Larry Grant, Keith Baldwin, Robert Bailey</i>
<i>Weybridge Silver</i>	<i>E2x</i>	<i>Simon Pullen, Robert Bailey</i>
<i>Pairs Head</i>	<i>E2x</i>	<i>Simon Pullen, Robert Bailey</i>
<i>Teddington SBH</i>	<i>F4x</i>	<i>John Sewell, Dennis Kenny, Simon Pullen, Robert Bailey</i>
<i>Veteran 4s Head</i>	<i>F4x</i>	<i>John Sewell, Dennis Kenny, Simon Pullen, Robert Bailey</i>
<i>Walton SBH</i>	<i>G1x</i>	<i>Robert Bailey</i>
<i>Thames Valley Trials</i>	<i>C2x</i>	<i>Simon Pullen, Andy Davies</i>
<i>Bourne</i>	<i>E2x</i>	<i>Simon Pullen, Robert Bailey</i>
<i>Twickenham</i>	<i>E8</i>	<i>John Sewell, Bob Hurles, Robert Bailey, Dennis Kenny, David Stanley, Jake Nelson, Keith Baldwin, Simon Pullen, Cox Janine Pembroke</i>
<i>National Veterans IM3</i>	<i>G1x</i>	<i>Robert Bailey</i>
<i>Richmond</i>	<i>C8</i>	<i>Graham Tickett, Robert Bailey, Jeremy Hullah, Haakon Skaane, David Stanley, Olly Cobb, Andy Davies, Jake Nelson, cox Paul Davis</i>

John Sewell

Women's Recreational Rowing

After a quiet start to the year, with the decommissioning of our 'old faithful' wooden VIII, the 'Christine Maddox', we were given a new lease of life with the purchase of a new boat for the Senior Ladies, as we were given priority use of the 'Foundation' and we also got some great new blades. Thanks to Christine Maddox and Avril Vellacott who managed to raise the funds to buy the blades. Christine Maddox decided to take a well earned break from coaching the Vet Ladies and Recreational Rowers, and we would like to thank her for her continued support of events such as the Christmas Party and Twickenham Regatta snack and tea stand (which helped to raise hundreds of pounds for the club).

To end the year we ran the club's first learn to row course for veteran novices which was very successful and resulted in some additional members for the club and we are hoping this will become a regular feature of the club's calendar each year. With the enthusiasm of new and existing members we are hoping to enter some friendly races next year to give ourselves some goals.

Luxmi Selvarajah

Surf Boat Rowing

Well it has been quite a year for the Twickenham Surf Boat, which has had outings on Le Grand Plage, Biarritz, the canals of Venice, the tough surf of Cornwall, and of course the delightful water of the Thames.

The summer of 2008 saw the Twickenham Exiles, Magenta Magic and Twix Chicks crews all compete in various rounds of the UK Surf Rowing League. However it wasn't until the highlight of the season, the Ocean Thunder/European Championships in Biarritz, did things really get interesting for the TwRC surf boat teams, with big surf on Le Grand Plage.

The European Open, organised by our very own Richard and Corinne Meadmore, was a fantastic event. A composite Magenta Magic women's crew (including Margot Cooper, Nic Butler and Clare Byrnes), the Twickenham Exiles, and rookie crew Twickenham Tridents all competed hard in the opening rounds. Unfortunately both Magenta Magic and the Twickenham Exiles failed to make it through the qualifying heats, which left the newly formed Twickenham Tridents to see what they could do in the finals. Motivated by pure adrenaline, fear, and sweep Jamie McKinlass from Noosa, Australia, the Twickenham Tridents came runners up in the European Open final behind a slick outfit from Piha Bay, New Zealand. The Tridents consisted of Mike Dowell, Jools Whitehorn, Richard Saunders and Justin Scholes. To say they were happy with the result is an understatement – it was categorically the best moment of their summer! It should also be mentioned that Richard Meadmore valiantly swept a French crew with Olympic bronze medallists on board.

Spurred on by success in Biarritz, the Twickenham Tridents have now joined the 2009 UKSRL. Unable to compete in the first two rounds of the league due to Henley Royal Regatta commitments, the Tridents made an impact at Watergate Bay, Newquay, by beating the as yet unbeaten Porthtowan Blue Bali in the first round. The Tridents, now swept by Richard Meadmore and carrying two new members, Estevao Pape and John Nimmons, eventually tied first place with Blue Bali on points. They now have their sights set on displaying similar performances for the rest of the surf boat season in the forthcoming UK and European Championships.

In other surf boat news, a crew consisting of Veteran Men raced in the Vogalonga race in Venice, held in May. (see Veteran Rowing Men report). This is a great example of how owning a surf boat opens up new worlds of rowing opportunities to the club.

Mike Dowell

Sculling School

The Sculling School carries on providing much needed sculling coaching and continues to gather support. For those interested contact Robert Bailey e:mail rjmb@blueyonder.co.uk

Membership 2009

The membership as at 31st March 2009 was 333 members in total, 202 men and 131 women. Which is an increase of 5 on the previous year

ROWING	Men	Women	NON-ROWING	Men	Women
Full Rowing	73	40	Full	8	1
Recreational Rowing	28	23	Social	39	21
Student	4	7	Country	31	12
Junior	6	12	Cox	1	9
Surf Boat	3	0	Coach	6	3
			Life	3	3
TOTAL	114	82	TOTAL	88	49

The above figures include overseas members, but exclude those members whose subscriptions were overdue and those who would not have been entitled to vote at a general meeting of the club. The comparable membership numbers for the year ending 31st March 2008 were 327 members in total, 197 men and 130 women.

In collaboration with Margot Cooper and Kay Plumtree, Tony McCrae is developing an on-line membership database. Kay is preparing a photographic record of the members, so if you are accosted by her, please be prepared to have your photograph taken.

Margot Cooper and Kay Plumtree

The Treasurer's Report

This year we have ended up with a deficit of £7348.94.

One of the main reasons for this was the exceptional expenditure in excess of £13,500.00 for repainting the boathouse and repairing the balcony. There was also a window replaced but this was substantially paid for from the G Plumtree memorial fund. The Bank Interest dropped by about £2,500 because of the financial situation and in the coming year I would expect a similar drop to almost zero.

The Training and Coaching costs are also up significantly as we have had the use of an ARA coach and also paid coaches to coach the Junior Squad. The previous year was low as we then obtained a £1429 rebate from the ARA for coaching paid for in the previous year.

During the year, the Committee decided to terminate the promotion of the Holiday Week as a method of Fundraising. Over recent years it had been increasingly difficult to sell adequate tickets, bearing in mind, the management fee payable. In addition, recent winners had, for a variety of reasons, been unable to arrange to use the facility.

The Committee wishes to thank John Spence for very generously making the Holiday Week available to the Club for fundraising and Mike Spence for his part in setting this up. The Holiday Week has raised useful sums for the Club since it's inception

The Boat Fund which contained a significant amount unspent from last year was almost all spent this year as apart from other items we acquired 2 Resolute VIII's.

We also spent £17,283.23 from the Building Fund largely on starting the new entrance and providing Cycle storage (We obtained a grant of £3,200 towards this cost and had received £10,000 in the previous year). In the coming year we hope to continue the development of the boathouse as per the planning approval but will need to spend around £25,000 - £30,000 on documenting the proposal (plans, bills of quantity etc) before we can obtain tenders. This large expenditure was discussed in committee but without spending the money how do we move forward?

In the coming year we will also lose the £2,500 we received for a corporate membership as the financial situation again takes its toll so the 10% increase in subscriptions in 2009/2010 will be very welcome.

Copies of the Balance Sheet and Income & Expenditure Account for the year can be obtained by contacting Kay Plumtree via e:mail KayPlumtree@aol.com or telephone 020 8241 8030.

Peter Jennings

Clubhouse Building and Maintenance Report 2009

Maintenance

During the course of the year a programme of repainting and repairing the clubhouse structure was undertaken. It had been some years since this had been done with the result that a considerable amount of timber restoration/replacement had to be carried out. In particular, many of the supporting timbers to the clubhouse balcony required replacement after inspection showed the presence of a substantial amount of rot. The treasurer's report reveals the cost of this essential work.

Clubhouse Building Extension Plans

Following planning approval being obtained on 15th May 2008, the main activity during the year has been carrying out the first phase of the work to the new club entrance. The footpath has been constructed and cycle stands erected. The second phase will start as soon as funds are available.

Progress has also been made on the main project which involves extensive modifications to the clubhouse and the tank area. Most of the work has involved deciding on the phasing of the work and in reworking the proposals for the entrance. The committee has now approved the expenditure required to prepare working drawings and to satisfy the building regulations.

We have only slightly less than two years left in which to 'activate' the planning approval and start the work on the main project.

The committee is very keen to recruit people prepared to become involved with fund raising. The club needs to raise at least £100,000 in order to make a meaningful start to the work.

Martin Francis

Safety Report

As a Club we take your safety very seriously. We have a comprehensive programme to make sure all those involved in taking boats afloat are aware of their responsibility. Safety information and guidance are available. All new members get in their membership pack ARA and RNLI safety information. If you have any concerns or feel you would like to learn more please contact me.

Mark Ormiston

Social Report

We've had a fantastic year of socials and fundraising events, which has really been helped by an influx of willing and enthusiastic volunteers, keen to get involved at the club. We hope to build on this success next year, and continue to actively encourage all club members to participate in the social events we offer as well as the training facilities.

Below is a summary of some of the year's more notable events and some info about the organisers/contributors:

September - L2R BBQ and Intra-club Regatta event

Organised between the Learn to Row coaching team and the Club Captain.

October - Halloween Party

Organised by the new Novice Year Socials committee and the juniors, this party was one of our most successful Halloween evenings in recent memory.

November - Annual Dinner

Another successful event at the Richmond Hill Hotel, Luxmi Selvarajah was the main organiser and facilitator for this event, helped by a number of members of the Veteran Ladies squad. Eel Pie resident and Guest Speaker Trevor Baylis gave a fascinating if long speech, and the fund raising was successful making more than £1000 in raffle money.

December - Christmas Party & Pudding Vlls

After a cold but exciting Pudding Vlls racing event, where we had a record number of scratch Vlls out competing down the Island, the traditional Christmas Party was a welcome feast. The Veteran Ladies did not disappoint, with a huge amount of delicious fare, and JC kept the bar stocked with mulled wine and real ale to keep the afternoon festive.

February - Valentines/Rugby Event

Traditionally a quiet month for the club, the bar was opened on Valentines Day for the England vs Wales Six Nations Rugby match. A surprising number of club members took refuge from the chaotic mix of Rugby fans and Valentines Day restaurant goers!

March - HERR/Rugby and Super Real Ale Saturday

While the men were battling their way down the Tideway at the HERR, the 2 Matts (Davis and Anderson) ran a Real Ale Event at the club, over 3 back-to-back Six Nations Rugby events. The ale really was super and the atmosphere electric, bringing back to the club a number of past and present rowers and members alike.

Curry Night - Delhi Durbar

James Easton organised a cracking event at one of our sponsors, a local Indian Restaurant called Delhi Durbar, to which almost 70 people attended.

Post-Boat Race Party

Another fund-raiser, the post-training afternoon included bar specials, a BBQ, a pot-luck lunch, sweepstake event as well as a "Guess the calories in a pot of Cadburys chocolate" and the sale of some fabulous Gingerbread men (decked out of course in navy or light blue!).

May - Twickenham Regatta Party

The Regatta party brings together competitors not only from Twickenham, but also other competing clubs, keen to see what Twickenham has to offer in terms of social life.

June - Rave in a Cave Juniors Party

The juniors entirely organised this innovatively themed and well attended do. Squads which won pots at Richmond Regatta earlier in the day, mingled with 'cave men', with luminous face paint and glowsticks.

To come:

August Saturday 1st - End of season Chill-out party

Last party of the season and a chance to unwind in a relaxed and chill-out environment.

Erica Hamnett

Bar Report

The Bar Income for the year was £5,873 which was a 2.4% decrease on the previous years income of £6,017. This was mainly due to the fact that the winter training excluded key squads from being at the Club on a Wednesday, a consequence of the demands on equipment and equipment sharing.

The importance of keeping the Club night on a Wednesday has been recognised and it is hoped that the Coaches will plan with this in mind for this coming year.

It's been hard but enjoyable work keeping up with the clubs demand for beer, peanuts and toilet rolls and trying to match demand for key events such as Varsity Match, Squad Parties and 6 Nations Rugby. Since what sells best at one function, doesn't necessary sell at all at the next one. The most notable achievement this year was to sell out at the regatta enclosure bars, an event in its own right but even more remarkable due both bars had been completely restocked in the early afternoon. Lets hope the sun shines again, next year

This year we have resurrected Sunday Lunch time opening and changed the draft lager brand to Fosters to align with Surf Boat sponsorship.

I must thank all who help the bar run so successfully – the regulars on the bar rota; the boys and girls who do stints behind the bar on party nights; plus those who take money on the door; the big strong boys and girls who help to carry crates of ale up the stairs; the volunteers who help recycle the empties and finally the handful of regulars who seem to spend their entire disposable income on our beer; and of course, everyone who passes through the bar for a “drink or two”.

Jonathan Cox

Fundraising & Sponsorship

No report received.

Twickenham River Centre

River Centre

Over the course of the last year, Richmond Council's project to redevelop the former swimming-pool site fronting the Embankment, immediately upstream of the footbridge, has progressed to the point where a developer (Countryside Properties) has been appointed to prepare detailed plans that will eventually be submitted to the Council for planning permission.

The deal between the Council and Countryside will see the developer profiting from selling private houses that it builds along the rear and one side of the site while it funds for public use the construction of a River Centre, the landscaping of the open space in front of the houses, and the revamping of the adjacent part of the Embankment.

Among the major components of the River Centre will be a boathouse, a café, an education centre and a Thames aquarium, and a rolling programme of events and displays is intended to attract a regular local clientèle of all ages.

The Council's plans for the swimming-pool site have met with opposition from local groups. Many object to a prime piece of public land being handed over to a commercial developer to use. The River Centre itself is a popular and uncontroversial idea and it figures in 'alternative' plans drawn up by objectors to the Council scheme. Our line at the Club has been to support the principle of the River Centre while restricting our comments on the wider Riverside Regeneration scheme to issues that present substantial advantages or disadvantages to the Club. Parking spaces and the possibility of a pontoon and extra commercial river traffic are issues that we have lobbied on in the past and are continuing to monitor as we await the developer's detailed plans.

The Council's aim is for work at the site to start and finish in the course of 2010. The Club will look for ways to collaborate with the River Centre to the benefit of both institutions.

Michael Salzman

100 Club Report

Our membership for 2008-9 was 236 numbers (271 last year) held by 129 members (154 last year). This gave the Rowing Club a donation of £1275.75 and a prize pot of £1541.25.

These figures are well down on last year and we need more members. To this end, we would like to recruit one or two new committee members from the main men and women's squads who could promote the 100 Club in these areas.

We are investigating the possibility of using the donation to make some improvements in the changing rooms.

I have continued as Hon. Secretary for this year with a committee of Martin Francis, Bob Scott, Haydn Davies and Luxmi Selvarajah. Peter Chandler has resigned as Vice president representative and Kay Plumtree has returned as the committee's Vice President appointment. We thank both Peter and Kay for all their hard work.

I have completed the accounts for the year and they are currently being audited.

We have taken action to collect outstanding 08-09 donations and have cancelled any unpaid numbers at the end of the year. We are encouraging all new members to pay by annual standing order in order to reduce the amount of chasing of payments, so that we can concentrate on increasing the number of new members instead.

At the time of writing our membership for 2009-10 is 236 numbers (£1275.00 for TwRC).

It is essential that we continue to be more active in increasing our membership. Recruitment still needs to be targeted at the newer members, such as the new Learn to Row members, as 70% of current membership have been members for over 10 years.

The 100 Club committee is:

Sue Abel (Secretary/Treasurer)
Kay Plumtree (Vice-President Representative)
Haydn Davies
Martin Francis
Bob Scott
Luxmi Selvarajah

Sue Abel

The Twickenham Holiday week 2009

During the year, the Committee decided to terminate the promotion of the Holiday Week as a method of Fundraising. Please see the treasurer's report for further comment.

The Newsletter

There have been two issues of the Newsletter in the period July 2008 to June 2009. In the latest issue members are offered the option to receive all future Club literature (including the Newsletter) by e-mail instead of by post. There is no pressure on anybody to abandon the paper version in favour of the electronic: what is important is that each individual receives the mailing in the form in which they are most likely to read it.

Michael Salzman

Obituaries

Unfortunately we have to report the death of two long-standing members.

George Walls

George Walls, who died on 14 February, was born in 1913 and brought up in Hammersmith. George began his rowing career at an early age and was classified as a professional as he worked as a boat builder.

During his rowing career, George rowed with Parkside RC and Sons of the Thames. He was President of Sons of the Thames in the 1970's and was an honorary member of Sons of the Thames, Furnival and Auriol Kensington.

George joined Twickenham RC in 1987 and, mostly in the company of George Plumtree, was active coaching, especially in the tank; he also spent many hours repairing club boats. In recognition of George Wall's work for the Club a four was named after him.

George was a member of Rememham Club and was frequently at Henley during the regatta. He was always a delight to meet, knowledgeable and full of fun.

A more extensive obituary appeared in the Newsletter earlier in the year.

Alan King

Alan King, who died on 28 April, after a long illness, at the age of 71, had been a member of the 1956 Thames Cup eight and he had achieved fame in Club folklore for the occasion during a training outing, when, being coached by George Plumtree and being heavily criticised for some aspect of his rowing, he stood up, jumped into the river, swam to the bank and walked back to the Club.

Again, a more extensive obituary appears in the April-June 2009 Newsletter.

The Committee, July 2009