



TWICKENHAM ROWING CLUB ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE 1st April 2009 to 31st March 2010



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 3rd August 2009 until 31st July 2010. In some sections, the period from April 1st 2010 to 17th July 2010 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 3rd August 2009 are:

Officers:	President	Mark Ormiston
	Captain	John Wastnage
	Honorary Secretary	Charlotte Holloway (resigned), Laura Baker
	Honorary Treasurer	Luxmi Selvarajah
	Deputy Honourary Treasurer	Peter Jennings
	Membership Secretary	Margot Cooper
	House Steward (Fabric)	Vacant
	House Steward (Bar)	Jonathan Cox
	Water Safety Adviser	Paul Davis

Elected committee members: Kelly Adams, Dominique Field, James Frater, Erica Hamnett, Vicky Owen, Bob Scott, David Stanley, Rob Turner and Avril Vellacott.

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: Christine Maddox, Kay Plumtree, 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

1860, what a year that was: Abraham Lincoln is selected as the U.S. presidential candidate for the Republican Party; Garibaldi's forces take Palermo, the capital of Sicily; one of the worst storms ever experienced in the region hits the east coast of England, sinking more than 100 ships and killing at least 40 people; the State Bank of the Russian Empire is established; St. Thomas Infirmary, the first nursing school based on the ideas of Florence Nightingale, is opened; the historic debate about evolution is held at the Oxford University Museum, and Twickenham Rowing Club, our Club, was founded on 26 July.

Now 150 years later we can take advantage of that decision. What have we got? - a friendly, enthusiastic (in everything we do) rowing club; run by volunteers for their fellow club members. To paraphrase another president 'It's not what your club can do for you but what you can do for your club'.

In this our 150th year I would like to give thanks to all of those who have put their time in over the years to make Twickenham Rowing Club what it is today; some of their names are on the boards by the fireplace.

After six years as President I am standing down. I have enjoyed myself, I wouldn't have done it otherwise, so thank you to all who have helped me. We have grand plans for the future, which I hope will improve the Twickenham RC experience. Here's to the next 150 years.

Mark Ormiston

The Captain's Report

New boats

After buying the new women's 1st eight and a men's 2nd eight last season, a generous discount from Filippi has enabled the club not only to plug the most pressing gap in our fleet (a men's coxless four), but also to replace the ageing top men's coxed four and 1st eight. Sadly this meant finally saying goodbye to Long'un, three years after the original proposal to sell it. I'm pleased to say that we were still able to achieve a decent re-sale value to balance the boat budget and we have identified some fours that can now be sold to provide a cushion until April.

Boat allocation

One of the biggest frustrations in past years was turning up to train only to find that someone else had left a boat in a state of disrepair or that the boat was on the water, making it difficult to plan training in advance. After some initial experiments with an online boat booking system, it was clear that a human approach to sharing boats was necessary. The Boat Allocation has meant that all members have had a clear and easy way to ensure that appropriate boats are available for their training sessions. The remaining challenge is to persuade members to use the spare parts that James and Gerry have so carefully laid out and to report damage that needs repair.

Membership categories

In April the club restructured its membership categories. The main thinking was to move away from the old one-size-fits-all categories based on whether a member wanted to race and toward a system that encourages all members to race and reflects how each member uses the club. I believe this to be a much more flexible and sustainable model going forward and a model that allows future Captains and Committees to tailor the club's offering to each user group.

Pathways

The club now offers three clear pathways: Juniors for under 19s, Seniors (18-35) & Veterans(32+). The restructuring of the veterans pathway and a huge effort put in by a number of the Recreational Vets has meant that the club now offers and has run several successful veteran learn-to-row courses to match the existing junior and senior courses. That means that we now offer entry points for beginners of all ages. The pathways are designed to enable progression from beginner through to competition and to encourage members to progress from one pathway to the next as they get older so that we retain members for life.

Coaching

The club has benefited from another season of excellent coaching across the three pathways:

Junior Pathway

David Stanley has done a fantastic job as the new Junior Coordinator and the rowers themselves have benefited from continuity on the water with continued coaching from Mark Calvin, Chihiro Fukushima and Scott Taylor.

Senior Pathway

As Senior Pathway Head Coach, Gerry Elphicke's planning and administrative efforts have ensured that the club has been able to support the ever-growing senior Pathway with high quality coaching throughout the season. Corin Margetson stepped up to coach the women this season and has forged a tight-knit squad with a trademark of technical accuracy. Gerry and Corin have been supported in the Senior Pathway by a

dedicated team of coaches including Nick Burkitt, John Nortje, Alex Hatwell, Pip Couzens, James Evans and Jonno Davidson.

Veteran Pathway

While Paul Davis has continued to support our successful Men's Masters, the Recreational Vets have not only grown in numbers this season, but have also made a visible leap in their technical ability and fitness. It is all thanks to their new super coach, Kosta Kolimechkov (who also represented TwRC in this year's Double Sculls event at Henley Royal).

Many thanks on behalf of all the rowers for the club's most valuable resource – its coaches.

Sport England/British Rowing 'Club and Coach' scheme

Maddie Dunn was recruited by British Rowing to replace the paid coach who we share with Vesta as part of the 'Club and Coach' scheme. She arrived at Twickenham in mid-February and after a few fairly unsatisfactory stop-start months she has been forced to step down from her role due to ill health. She helped with the first half of the most recent Senior Pathway learn-to-row course and was due to launch an early weekday morning session for intermediate and experienced single scullers, as well as two weekday daytime sessions (one for Recreational Vets and one for recent Mums). She would also have provided one weekday evening coached session for scullers of all abilities and another for Masters. I hope these sessions will become possible when a replacement has been recruited.

Learn-to-row courses

The club has run seven learn-to-row courses this season across the three pathways, teaching lots of new beginners to row. I would like to welcome all our new members and express the club's hope that they will stay members for many years to come. The next challenge for the club is to develop systems that allow us to manage our membership so that we continue to meet the full range of the club's aims rather than just focusing always on increasing numbers. Maintaining a friendly and welcoming club and providing the best rowing opportunities to our members should take priority over growth at any cost. For that reason the new development plan contains a projection of membership breakdown by squad and a plan for intelligent recruitment of new members.

Race results:

Head Season

The 2009/10 season began with three Twickenham crews at the Pairs' Head. Poor conditions meant that the Fours' Head was cancelled, but the club's Veteran F quad put in a good performance at the following day's Veteran event to finish 87th overall. The club was also represented in the Sculler's Head by Robert Bailey who finished 314th (2nd in his category). After Christmas, having finally resolved the dispute about risk assessments and private racing, the Remenham Club revived its fantastic Remenham Challenge for the first time since 2006. Twickenham's men finished a very respectable 6th and our Senior women the 5th fastest female crew. A good performance from our mixed veteran crew was slightly undermined by an ungenerous handicap from the race organisers, but a gutsy race from our Senior Novice crew meant that Twickenham was at least victorious in one of the categories. Mid-March saw Twickenham crews finish 148th and 214th in the Women's Head of the River. In the men's event the 1st VIII broke into the top 150 for the first time in many years but finished only 11 seconds ahead of the impressive 2nd VIII (183rd) and the 3rd VIII finished 308th. The mixed Vet VIII marked the end of the cold months by finishing 149th in the Vets Head.

Regatta Season

Almost immediately following their return from the Senior Squad Easter training camp the men's crews faced their first Dorney event. The IM2 4+ won their heat and finished 3rd in the final, but IM2 proved too competitive at that stage in the season for the newly formed VIII and they went out in their heat. A win for the Masters E 2x in a straight final at Borne at Chiswick preceded a string of wins that took them to the semis of Thames Ditton the following weekend. Meanwhile a large entry of TwRC crews at Putney Town Regatta saw several finalists and a win for the Nov 4+ (after their previous narrow loss in the final at Chiswick Amateur Regatta). The girls Women's Squad were out in force at both Walton and Weybridge and celebrated a win for Charlotte Holloway in Novice Singles and reached the finals in the IM3 VIII. The month of May ended with another brilliant Twickenham Regatta in spite of poor weather. I'm pleased to say that Twickenham won this year's Ian Rogers Victor Ludorum after narrowly missing out to Kingston last year when it was first presented. This was thanks to wins from the IM28+, Nov 2+, IM3 Lwt1x, IM2 4+, W.

Nov 1x, MC1x, as well as 6 losing finalists (including the Nov 4+ and the W. IM3 8+). Well done to all those who competed and a big thanks to everyone who volunteered to help run such a successful event). The run up to the Henleys really begins with Metropolitan so it was encouraging to see the Men's 8+ improve on their Wallingford result, narrowly missing the final of IM2 on Saturday but beating Putney and Staines by 10 seconds each. They went one better on Sunday reaching the university-dominated final. The Women's 4+ and 8+ both entered tough IM2 events that were full of university crews and in spite of their efforts were unable to reach the finals.

At Henley Women's Regatta the eight qualified through the time trial, but was beaten by City of Cambridge in round 1. Meanwhile at Marlow the IM1 4- finished third and the IM2 8+ reached the final. At Richmond the club celebrated 5 wins in singles, as well as the W. IM2 2x, IM3 4+ and a number of other finalists. In addition to the two crews entered for Henley Women's Regatta, the club had four entries to Henley Royal. Kosta Kolimechkov entered the Diamond Single Sculls and the Double Sculls Challenge Cup, but up against the best scullers in the world narrowly missed qualification for the former. In the doubles, he faced the New Zealand double in the first round and unsurprisingly was beaten. Two entries from the Senior Pathway not only brought the club's total entries to four, but also marked an important milestone in the strength and depth of the squad. The four raced valiantly in qualifiers but missed out and the eight lost in the first round to Molesey A. Sad to say there were no Twickenham crews entered to this year's Veteran's Henley, but it is realistic for the club to aim to send two crews to each of the three Henleys next season and in the years to come.

Late Results

At Molesey Regatta on 17th July the club had three wins, in the men's IM3 4+, the Garrick Doubles event and the Mixed Master' eights, with a close miss in the final of the IM2 2x.

Club Mission Statement and Development Plan

Following a lively meeting involving representatives of all aspects of the club, Keith Baldwin, John Sewell, Martin Francis and I have been working on a Club Development Plan that should be ready by the end of the summer. It uses the club values and mission statement as a basis for setting objectives for the coming years and a step-by-step process for achieving them. The plan includes the rationale for developing the club's facilities and will also include a boat plan, projected costs and income and will hopefully enable the Committee to structure its work better and for the club to measure each committee's success. If approved, the idea is that the Plan would be able to be adjusted each year by the incoming Captain and Committee as deemed necessary with a simple majority vote.

Thanks for all your support

This has been my fourth and final year as Club Captain. I have enjoyed the role immensely and am very grateful for all the support that I have received from the four committees, the coaches and dozens of other members since my election in August 2006. In particular I would like to thank the outgoing Club President, Mark Ormiston, for keeping me lubricated at the bar, listening to my grumpy complaints and for doing a huge amount of very practical work that would otherwise have left Committee meetings interminable. The club thrives because of the time and energy that its members put in throughout the year. I intend to stay closely involved with the Club's Committee and do what I can to support the incoming Captain, whoever she or he may be.

John Wastnage

Veteran Rowing – Men

Our Veteran squads continued in quite a successful vein over the past year.

The Mixed eight competed again at Molesey Regatta in July 2009 losing again by a canvas to Molesey, after beating another Molesey crew and a Molesey/Walbrook combination on the way to the final.

At Maidenhead, which moved back to the Thames after two years at Dorney, our Veteran F quad won their event for the third year running.

At the Teddington Small Boats Head in November, Robert Bailey won Veteran G sculls.

In the Veteran Fours Head, the F quad couldn't match their win from the previous year and finished a disappointing 4th. They had a much more satisfactory scull the next week to win at the Kingston Small Boats Head. Also at this event Robert Bailey won the Veteran G sculls and David Stanley finished a very close second in Veteran C sculls.

At the Thames Valley Trials in January the Veteran G quad entered and also a Mixed veteran E eight. Although both were listed as winners there was sadly no other competition in their classes.

The Mixed Veteran eight also competed in the Remenham Challenge at the beginning of this year and at the Molesey, Kingston and Vesta Veterans' Heads. In the Remenham and Kingston events there was no competition and in the Molesey and Vesta Heads the crew finished 2nd and 3rd in its class respectively.

In the Walton Small Boats Head, two veteran quads entered finishing 2nd and 4th.

At Bourne Regatta the Pullen and Bailey double won the Veteran E event. They also were losing finalists at in that event at Thames Ditton and Richmond regattas but won at Marlow Town.

David Stanley won Veteran C sculls at Twickenham. The Veteran G quad had to drop two age divisions to get a row and were rather outclassed by their opponents.

Two Mixed Veteran E quads raced at Kingston Regatta one losing to the eventual winners and the other in the final, both by quite narrow margins. These two quads raced and won as a mixed eight at Molesey Regatta.

Also at Molesey, Simon Pullen and Mark Calvin raced in the Intermediate 2 doubles and were narrowly beaten in the final – a very creditable performance with Spike reaching Masters D next year.

The 'Vets Abroad' event this year is planned to be in an eight the Head of the Hooch at Chattanooga in November.

The slightly more recreational veteran squad have also lifted their game with some of the group now making two outings a week and often an eight and a quad getting afloat on a Wednesday evening.

The idea of Mixed Veteran crews makes a lot of sense and I think will slowly gather popularity in Masters rowing. Certainly it has the benefit of bringing some lady members back into competition who've been out of it for quite a while. It also helps some of the older veteran men to continue to compete, where in the own age group, apart from top Masters' events, there is often a lack of competing crews.

John Sewell

Veteran Recreational Rowers

Originally known as the Vet Ladies, our squad was made up of a combination of experienced and novice rowers. Some joined as complete beginners and were coached by volunteer coaches who were members of the squad. The only new members of the squad were those that were introduced to the club on an ad hoc basis and most were complete beginners. This made the outings rather uncomfortable for the experienced rowers and people started to peel away. The numbers reduced to the point where we were struggling to get an eight out on a Sunday morning and morale was pretty low.

In April 2009 we decided to be proactive in recruiting new members to participate in recreational rowing by running a Learn to Row course. Many of our existing members joined the course to receive more structured learning and go back to the basics. In a year we are on our 4th Vet Rec Learn to Row course and our numbers are up to more than 20 and we often get an 8 and a coxed 4 out, even on a week day evening! Morale is high and we are even talking about competing occasionally. We also have a mixed squad of ladies and gents who enjoy the river together. We are employing an excellent coach, Kosta Kolimechkov, who keeps us motivated and is always smiling. We even have a 10 year old cox, Owen, who is the son of one of our squad members, Del! Next year our squad is celebrating 40th, 50th, 60th and 70th birthdays, which just goes to show we are open to all.

Dominique Field & Luxmi Selvarajah

Surf Boat Rowing

A crew is entered for the UK Open Surfboat Championships, which takes place at Saunton Sands on 24 July 2010.

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 2010

The membership as at 31st March 2010 was 336 members in total, 209 men and 127 women, which is an increase of 3 on the previous year

ROWING	Men	Women	NON-ROWING	Men	Women
Full Rowing	64	29	Full	6	0
Recreational Rowing	44	39	Social	42	20
Student	7	8	Country	29	12
Junior	12	10	Cox	1	6
Surf Boat	1	0	Life	3	3
TOTAL	128	86	TOTAL	81	41

The comparable membership numbers for the year ending 31st March 2009 were 333 members in total, 202 men and 131 women. In addition there were 12 coaches, 9 men and 3 women.

In collaboration with Margot Cooper and Kay Plumtree, Tony McCrae has further developed the on-line membership database, to improve the handling of membership fees and payments.

Margot Cooper and Kay Plumtree

The Treasurer's Report

The financial year to 31.3.2010 was a successful one in that the costs of running the club for the year were well covered with further investment in equipment maintenance throughout the year. The £3689.63 surplus has been allocated to the general fund.

We received £11.5k for the sale of Long'Un, Senior Men's first 8 which has subsequently been replaced. A further investment has been committed of £44.1k to buy 3 boats for the senior men's squad which means that the boat fund for 2010-11 has already been fully committed.

Subscriptions were up on last year by £5k although income was reduced overall by a reduced interest rate leading to reduced interest income of £2.8k and also a reduced Grant income, down by £3.2k as no grants were achieved this year. Donations were also down on last year by £1.9k.

The bar profits were down by £1.2k due to reduced attendance at the club nights throughout the year. Although bar takings next year should be improved by the introduction of the new screen and TV projector which was donated by the 150 Club, for sporting events etc.

In order to reduce the impact of the very low interest rate on our operating account we have set up a deposit account which will achieve a better rate of interest on our long term funds. We have transferred £35k into this account until we need to draw it down.

During the year we set up a JustGiving presence which allows us to raise funds externally more easily and claim a 28% tax rebate for all donations from UK tax payers. Although this attracts a 5% administration charge it is worth it for the extra funds received.

£30k of the current funds have been set aside to create the plans and drawings for the rebuild. This enables us to get quotes from contractors such that the work on phase 1 can begin in October 2010.

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.

Luxmi Selvarajah, Hon Treasurer
Peter Jennings, Deputy Treasurer

Clubhouse Building and Maintenance Report 2009

Maintenance

Following the extensive work repair and repainting work undertaken last year, very little work has been carried out this year. However, it has been necessary to undertake some work to enable the club to achieve certification from the fire brigade.

We have also installed fans in the lounge and improved the ventilation behind the bar (all largely paid for by the 150 Club donation)

Clubhouse Building Extension Plans

Following the appointment of an Architect (Peter Hartland of HMA) more detailed drawings have been prepared particularly of the proposed Phase 1, the extension over the existing lean-to. During the course of preparing the drawings it became apparent that the wall facing the river would have to be moved forward to ensure that external walls of the new building were supported appropriately by the existing structure. Unfortunately, although this change is small, and made for a good reason, the Council has insisted that we make a further formal submission; this is currently with the council and we are expecting a response by mid August.

Meanwhile, we have selected a structural engineer, appointed a CDM coordinator and organised a survey to establish whether bats were nesting on the site.

Work is also in hand preparing the drawings for the Building Regulations approval, with a target to let a contract for the Phase 1 works during this Autumn (2010).

In order to proceed with the works we estimate that we will need approximately £70,000. We are fundraising in earnest and are actively seeking donations from club members.

Martin Francis

Safety Report

We take your safety very seriously, with a comprehensive programme to make sure all those involved in taking boats afloat are aware of their responsibilities. In every new member's membership pack we provide British Rowing and RNLI safety information.

We are pleased to report that in the last year we have had no significant incidents .

We have acquired a number of personal flotation devices (PFDs) for use by novice junior scullers and intend to increase the number of these available over the coming year. We are also planning a new safety board with tide and navigation information clearly displayed, and to provide formal launch driver training.

If you have any concerns or feel you would like to learn more please contact me.

Paul Davis

Social Report

We've had a varied, well attended year of socials and fund-raising events, buoyed as always by some enthusiastic volunteers, keen to get involved at the club. We continue to actively encourage all club members to participate in the social events and have been helped by members' willingness to help us fundraise for the upcoming Building Project.

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

October - Halloween Party

Organised by the Development Squad and decorated by the Juniors, this party was well attended with lots of people making the effort to dress up and lots of new faces!

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. The speaker was forgone to make room for more dancing time and the fund-raising was successful in making almost £1000 in raffle money.

December

Quiz Event - A Quiz Event was held in the Club Bar to raise funds for the Building project with lots of members and their families attending. Quizmasters Paul Davis and Olly Cobb put together an excellent, well researched quiz with questions for all ages.

Christmas Party & Pudding Vllls

After a cold but exciting Pudding Vllls racing event, where we had four scratch Vllls 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.

March

Rugby and Super Real Ale Saturday

A Real Ale Event was run at the club for the second year running, fast becoming an annual fixture. The Rugby was on our new big screen and all three back-to-back Six Nations Rugby events were shown. The ale really was super and the atmosphere electric, bringing back to the club a number of past and present rowers and members alike.

Post HRR party @ TWRC

After all 3 men's Vllls had battled their way down the Tideway at the Head of the River Race, a party was held at the club to welcome back the crews. Celebrating everything Twickenham - real ale, a specially designed TwRC cocktail and many shots were consumed during the evening. The big screen showing all the photographic as well as rowing talent at TwRC was also running.

May - Twickenham Regatta Party

The Regatta party brought together competitors not only from Twickenham, but also other competing clubs, keen to see what Twickenham has to offer in terms of social life. We did not disappoint and with real ale and lots of Pimms consumed, a good night was had by all, celebrating a large number of pot wins for TwRC at their own regatta.

June

An Egyptian Extravaganza!

A farewell party/30th Birthday party for Charlotte Holloway leaving TwRC after six years with us, for pastures new, in Egypt. Emma Jones also celebrated her Birthday in style. Lots of unusual Egyptian food, cocktails and Pimms made for a great evening with many people choosing to dress up Egyptian style.

Remenham Garden Party

In celebration of TwRC's 150th Anniversary, a garden party was held at Remenham Club in Henley. A well attended event, with everyone making the effort to dress for the occasion.

To come:

July

Sunday 25th July - The BIG ROW Summer Party - After the BIG ROW event, a summer party and BBQ will be held at the Clubhouse to celebrating the largest flotilla of TwRC boats on the river at once!

Saturday 31st July - End of Season Beach Party - A themed Beach party to celebrate the end of the season, cocktails, a limbo competition and prizes for fancy dress. All proceeds to Building Fund.

Erica Hamnett

Bar Report

The Bar Income for the year was £4,672.92, a decrease of £1,200 on the previous year. 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. However summer sales have been strong,

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. The 150 Club have funded a large screen video projector for the bar, which has proved popular for both rugby and football events.

Unfortunately our draft beer supplier cancelled our account due changes to their business model, we are investigating alternative suppliers however the majority current customers prefer bottled beverages and draft can prove uneconomic due limited barrel life. In conjunction with Twickenham Fine Ales we have developed an Anniversary Ale, the pump clip art depicting Phyllis departing the Club.

My request for a sunny regatta day fell on deaf ears, the rain depressing sales of Pimms however Real Ale drinkers proved to be of firmer resolve and we enjoyed some firkins of Twickenham Fine Ales in the enclosure bar. Let's hope the sun shines next year.

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 people who help to carry crates of ale up the stairs; the volunteers who help recycle the empties and finally the 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

The fundraising campaign was started in order to raise funds for the much needed improvement of the existing buildings of the club. 2010, year of the 150th Anniversary of the club, is going to be used to increase opportunities to raise funds.

In January 2010 several initiatives took place. A letter from the club's President would be sent to all members in the spring 2010, asking for their donations towards the new building fund. Gift envelopes were purchased and sent to each club members.

Maureen Heffernan, from the Recreational Rowers squad, has undertaken the club's Public Relations for the celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the club. She proposed a series of events in order to raise the club's profile among its community and more funds.

A new building fundraising logo was designed and will be used on any fundraising publication.

The 100 Club became the 150 Club in order to link this fundraising to the club's Anniversary.

In February 2010 a fundraising committee was formed, it included: John Wastnage (club's Captain), Duncan McDermid and Laura (Seniors Squad), David Stanley (representative for the Juniors), Maddie Dunn (coach from British Rowing) and Dominique Field from the Recreational Rowers Squad.

In March 2010 a Just Giving page, allowing people from outside the club's community to donate funds, was set up by Luxmi Selvarajah on the club's website. For any donations it receives, the club, being CASC (Community Amateur Sports Club) registered can claim back an extra 28% from the tax authorities when the donor is a UK taxpayer.

On Wednesday 10th March the first meeting of the fundraising committee took place. It was decided that members from all squads should be recruited to form a sub-committee. That the fundraising would be divided into 2 categories: External and Internal Fundraising. John Wastnage and Duncan McDermid would take on the External fundraising with corporate sponsorships and grant applications. Dominique Field would take on the Internal fundraising.

Internal fund raising up until the middle of July 2010 includes -

-100 Club: the donation for 2009/10 will be £1,239.30 and hopefully the 100 Club Committee will decide that this donation should go to the building fund.

- The President's letter has brought in £8,300.00.

- The Recreational Squad has kicked off their fundraising campaign with the 150K Challenge on 10th and 13th June 2010. They put their challenge on the Just Giving page and this has raised £2,995.00 and in addition the gift aid supplement of £524.61, which brings a grand total of £3,519.61.

- The Vet Squad have raised, through the 147 Miles C2C Bike ride from 11th June until 14th June, over £700.

- The Seniors Squad are going to revive the Arctic Challenge and should arrive back at the Club on Sunday 1st August in the afternoon. They have put their challenge on the Just Giving page and have very cleverly succeeded in affiliating the club as a charity of the Middlesex 7s which will be held at Twickenham Stadium on Saturday 14th August. This should be a winner in fundraising.

Twickenham River Centre

The Council's plans to redevelop the old swimming-pool site and the adjacent length of Embankment went into hibernation over the winter, and were then promptly dumped by the incoming Conservative administration after the May elections. The Twickenham River Centre, which was to be the public-benefit element of the deal with the developer, has evaporated along with the houses and the undulating lawn.

As a temporary measure, much of the site was landscaped back in 2005, and a kiddies' playground set up in one corner; only the portion of the site near the footbridge, where the River Centre would have been built, is still an eyesore. The Embankment is not likely to be the target of any more Grand Schemes for a while yet, given the general economic situation, but perhaps one day Twickenham will get its River Centre, albeit in some other guise.

Michael Salzman

150 Club Report (formerly the TwRC 100 club)

The 100 club voted to change its name to the TwRC 150 club in honour of the 150th anniversary of the rowing club.

I have continued as Honorary Secretary/Treasurer for this year with a committee of Martin Francis, Bob Scott, Haydn Davies and Luxmi Selvarajah. Peter Chandler resign 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.

Many thanks to Luxmi Selvarajah who is resigning from the committee as she has extra responsibility since being elected treasurer to the club. Thanks also to Kay Plumtree for all her help with the finances and promotion. We have vacancies for two members on the committee.

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.

Our membership for 2009-10 was 235 numbers (236 last year) held by 133 members (129 last year). £1,500 has been paid out in prizes and a donation of £1239.30 will be given to the Rowing Club. Last year's donation enabled TwRC to purchase the new screen and TV projector.

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 150 Club committee is :

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

The 150 Club's AGM will follow the Rowing Club's AGM, when the 150 Club committee for 2010/11 will be elected.

Sue Abel

The Newsletter

While the Club celebrates its 150 years of glorious existence, the *Newsletter* is approaching a rather more modest anniversary: 25 years at the end of 2010, and 55 issues to date. Many thanks to everyone who has contributed articles and photos over the past twelve months; please keep them coming!

A year ago, members were offered the choice of receiving the *Newsletter* electronically as a PDF instead of on paper. Only one member chose that option. I asked around (thinking that perhaps no-one had read the piece), but found that people really did prefer paper, at least for the *Newsletter*. Even the younger members! Electronic's great for archiving, but I'm glad that paper still has a niche.

Michael Salzman

The Committee, July 2009