

2019 Fixtures *for the one hundred and thirtieth season*

June	22 nd	Marlow International ^{ML}
	28 th	HRR Qualifiers
	29 th	Richmond Amateur
July	3 rd – 7 th	Henley Royal Regatta
	12 th – 13 th	Henley Masters
	13 th – 14 th	Kingston Amateur
	27 th – 28 th	St. Neots
August	3 rd	Henley Town & Visitors
	10 th – 11 th	Peterborough Summer ^{ML}
	17 th	Oxford City
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

June	21 st – 23 rd	Henley Women's Regatta
July	3 rd – 7 th	Henley Royal Regatta
	16 th	O.G.M. & Election of Captaincy (20.15)
August	TBC	Squad End of Season Dinner
September	15 th – 16 th	Autumn Sculling Camp, Hamhaugh Island
October	26 th	Henley Lunch, Leander Club
February 2020	23 rd	Annual General Meeting (12.00)

Dates for your diary

Marjorie Israël

Friday July 5th – Henley Friday (12.00 – 18.00)

Club members, partners and friends are once again kindly invited by Mrs Pat Sly to join her on the lawn at Old Blades for the Friday of Henley Royal Regatta.

Tuesday July 16th – Ordinary General Meeting (20.15)

Captaincy elections.

Saturday October 26th – Henley Lunch (12.00 – 19.00)

Cygnets members, alumni and friends are very welcome, with or without partners. The post-lunch Chairman's Waddle to the Flower Pot is also back on the agenda this year.

Briefly, the menu is canapés, sole and salmon roulade, saddle of lamb, lemon posset, coffee with petits fours. The price is £54.50 pp. More details and applications forms will be posted on the website and in the next newsletter.

Contacts

www.cygnets-rc.org.uk

Chairman	07753 863430	chairman[at]cygnets-rc.org.uk
Captain	07711 058717	captain[at]cygnets-rc.org.uk
Hon. Secretary	07530 747816	secretary[at]cygnets-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\[at\]cygnets-rc.org.uk](mailto:bungalow[at]cygnets-rc.org.uk) **07880 548804**

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 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](mailto:dupb01[at]gmail.com)

A History of Cygnets 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\[at\]cygnets-rc.org.uk](mailto:treasurer[at]cygnets-rc.org.uk)

By **cheque**, along with the tear-off slip below to: Mr M. Byrne, 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*



CYGNETS ROWING CLUB

June 2019 Newsletter

From the Captain

Cristobal Cabrera

As spring arrived, the active squad attended a Training Camp at our beloved bungalow on Hamhaugh Island to prepare for the Regatta season. There was lots of hard work and good training sessions, all supervised by our coach Chihiro Calvin. However, this training camp will always be remembered for a big fire that broke out at one of the properties in the early hours of Sunday morning. With seven fire engines in attendance, a great deal of equipment had to be carried from the lockside and the firemen's work was greatly aided and hastened by Cygnets members. Remarkable behavior from all those present, giving support to the Hamhaugh Island Community and the Fire Brigade. Long story short: no personal damage to report and a good improvised team building exercise! A well deserved beer was consumed afterwards with our island neighbours.

The regatta season started well. We entered Chiswick Amateur with a Novice 4+ and a Masters F 1x. Unfortunately, the 1x straight final, was cancelled due to strong winds but the Novice 4+ won their heat losing the final by 1½ lengths in a very competitive race.

A week later, at Bourne, our 4+ couldn't make it into the final, being beaten by the eventual winners.

At Putney Town a 4+ and an 8+ both made it into their respective finals, winning their heats against Twickenham and AK respectively. That's the first Cygnets 8+ win in a long time and a second final for our Nov 4+. If we keep up the good work we will have silverware yet this season!

At Barnes & Mortlake International [*sic*] both our 4+ and 1x lost in their heats to the eventual winners of both events.

With summer already here (allegedly), we're sprucing-up the blazers ready for Henley Friday and also planning to attend regattas at Richmond; Kingston (or Mosley – TBC), St. Neots, Henley Town & Visitors, Peterborough Summer and Oxford City. Looking forward to a full and hopefully successful summer regatta season.

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Peter Jeffs on Thursday 25th April at the age of 88.

Peter joined Cygnet in 1966 at the relatively late age of 36 having spent most of his youth playing football. Veteran rowing was still in its infancy at this time. Nonetheless, Peter joined forces with the likes of Len Huggett, Roy Ellison and Peter Roche and together they carved out a role for themselves as a mean racing machine, whilst forging lifelong friendships. The high spot of their racing careers came in 1973 when they triumphed over Frankfurt, Germany and Barclays Bank to secure a win at the Vesta International Veterans Regatta.

One of the most senior civil servants to grace the ranks of Cygnet Rowing Club, Peter Jeffs always lent an air of authority to proceedings and was a natural choice for club chairman and chair of the Boathouse Executive. In later years, he succumbed to the clutches of the “Golden Oldies” and rarely missed Henley Royal Regatta, the Leander Club lunch or the senior hands Christmas lunch. Yet he remained active virtually until the end, playing tennis and golf well into his twilight years. Indeed for many of us, our last memory of Peter will have been of him striding off to Victoria Station after lunch in the Civil Service Club in December 2017, seemingly as ageless and timeless as ever.



The Royal Henley Peace Regatta 1919

At 3.12pm on Saturday, 28th June 1919, Germany signed the Treaty of Versailles officially bringing the First World War to an end. What followed was a huge outpouring of celebrations, official and unofficial, throughout the United Kingdom that lasted for weeks. Every household, club and society resolved to mark the occasion in some way. On the Thames, there were swimming races from Kew to Putney and a host of peace regattas.

In fact, within a fortnight of the signing of the Armistice on 11th November 1918 a letter had appeared in *The Field* advocating the revival of Henley. A meeting arranged at Leander on 22nd January 1919 to consider the proposal concluded that it was too soon to arrange a conventional Royal Regatta. However, a one-off Peace Regatta was deemed appropriate, and the Stewards were requested to set the wheels in motion.

They were not alone. Marlow was also keen to get back to business as usual and had arranged a ‘Victory Regatta’ for 21st June 1919. The *London Times* reported “A big list of entries has been received for the first of the ‘Victory’ regattas at Marlow on Saturday” from Australia, New Zealand, United States, Thames and Third Trinity. Allied Eights, Open Coxswainless Fours and senior sculls all promised keen competition.

The Royal Henley Peace Regatta was scheduled for two weeks hence commencing on 2nd July for four days. In place of the usual events, the Stewards commissioned ten special trophies including The King’s Cup for eights for crews consisting of Allied forces; the Leander Cup and the Wargrave Manor Cup for Allied Forces fours; and the Hambleton Pairs and Kingswood Sculls which were restricted to entrants from ‘allied countries’. There were also races for Public Schools and Oxford and Cambridge trial eights. A novel fundraising idea was the establishment of a Stewards’ Enclosure Club.

WW1 wrought many changes in everyday life and social mores. In the rowing world, however, it had little impact on the archaic distinction between ‘amateur and professional’. Thus, war veterans from the National Amateur Rowing Association (the working man’s ARA) were not permitted to enter The King’s Cup, which was presented to the winners – the Australian Army – by King George V. The King was incensed at this act of class distinction and allegedly vowed never to attend the regatta again until the rule was changed.



Despite poor weather and royalist rancour, the regatta was deemed to have been a great success, attracting an appreciable number of spectators and supporters, including a significant overseas contingent from the Dominions, France and the US. In reality, many of these men had been amateur oarsmen before the war and were biding their time in the UK awaiting demobilisation.

On Sunday 6th July, the *Sunday Pictorial* reported “The great attraction at Henley yesterday was the race for The King’s Cup between the Australian Army crew and Oxford University Service crew. The colonials scored a great victory.” They won by a length in 7 minutes 7 seconds.

Regatta goers were treated to a ‘splendid struggle’ in the University Eights, while Hadfield, the amateur champion of New Zealand, dispatched Nussey (Rhine Army) easily in the Kingswood Sculls. ‘The Englishman steered badly’. All winners received silver medals.

The Royal Henley Peace Regatta marked an important milestone in both the regatta’s and the competitors’ rehabilitation following WW1, but it would be another ten years before overseas entries attained pre-war levels.

On 23rd January 2019, almost 100 years to the day when Leander instructed the Stewards to mark the outbreak of peace, Sir Steve Redgrave, Chair of the Regatta’s Committee of Management, announced that to mark the centenary of the 1919 Peace Regatta HRR would be restaging the King’s Cup over the final three days of the 2019 regatta – with crews from eight nations expected to enter, it promises to be a compelling addition to the standard programme of events.

Programme reproduced with the kind permission of Tim Koch