

More from the captaincy

Social events

Thursday Night Supper club is up and running again and an excellent Burns Night supper was organised by former captain Rupert Bailey on 27th January.

This was followed soon after by Cygnet's 134th birthday party at the Crossing Pub in Barnes. The birthday party was immediately preceded by the AGM – *a devious plan by the vice captain we suspect, to encourage attendance at the Annual General Meeting!* ~Ed.

Finally in March a great day was had on Boat Race day, with members new and old along with the families of Cygnet and BBLRC. Shame about the last minute change of closure times of Barnes Bridge, otherwise the bar, armed with a temporary public licence, would've taken thousands!

Learn to Row

With great results from the last course back in September (4 out of the 6 are now club members), our latest Learn to Row course started in early May. The course lasts 6 weeks and interest has been encouraging with 5 new recruits signed-up and being put through their paces.



Laurent's farewell outing – coxing the Cygnet 8+ at the Plum Puddings

Merci Monsieur

The club would like to record our many thanks to Laurent Couacaud (who was also presented with a little gift in January) for all his efforts in coaching the LTR courses these last few years. Sadly for us Laurant has moved back to his native Mauritius with his family – *and judging from the photos of palm-fringed beaches, that looks like a big mistake [sic]* ~Ed.

Postscript

The President's Vets quad picked-up a second place at the annual Plum puddings race in December. Hopefully now it's in the Newsletter, Wylie will stop reminding us all about it!

2024 Fixtures *for the one hundred & thirty fourth season*

May	11 th	Borne @ Chiswick Bridge Regatta
June	8 th	Walton & Weybridge regatta
	15 th	Barnes & Mortlake Regatta
	29 th	Richmond Amateur Regatta
August	10 th -11 th	Peterborough Summer Regatta weekend

2024 Club Events

June	7 th -9 th	Sculling Camp
July	5 th	Henley Friday at Old Blades
	14 th	OGM (and captaincy elections)

Cygnet 300 Club



Matt Byrne

This is our principal fund raiser which keeps our fleet maintained and up-to-date. Tickets are just £10 each and there are ten annual draws with a top prize of £100. All members and friends are encouraged to participate and active oarsmen especially are expected to have a 'few' tickets. All winners and draws are posted on the club website. Please contact Matt for details, to buy tickets or help with the admin.

Subscriptions and Donations

Matt Byrne

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

Cheques "Cygnet Rowing Club" to: Cygnet RC Treasurer, Flat 102 Westfields, Railway Side, Barnes, SW13 0PL or for other payment details please contact Matt.

Cygnets Bungalow

Ross Stewart

The bungalow at No. 38 Hamhaugh Island, Shepperton, 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 with the new booking secretary, Ross Stewart.

Contacts

www.cygnet-rc.org.uk

Chairman – Charlie
Captain – Martin
Hon. Secretary – Dominic
Ass. Secretary – Neil
Hon. Treasurer – Matt
300 Cub – Matt
Bungalow bookings – Ross

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CYGNET ROWING CLUB

June 2024 Newsletter

From the vice-captain

Mustafa Özyurt

Head racing

As well as successfully hosting visiting crews for Quintin, Hammersmith, WEHARR, HoRR and Vets Head head races, Cygnet also had crews racing in the following events:

- Quintin. Mas. G/H 8+ composite with Guildford (13.11.2)
- Hammersmith. Mas. F/G/H 8+ (12.26.2)
- HoRR. Open 8+ (21.04.3)
- Vets Head. Mas. E 8+ (22:21.1)

As always it was great to catch-up with our good friends from RG Benrath over the Head weekend. Drinks were consumed at the Crabtree Pub on the Friday, with gifts exchanged at the clubhouse over good conversation and some more drinks. Members also received an invitation to Mucha's 60(+3)th birthday party in June.



A Cygnet sandwich – The Vets 8 three abreast during Hammersmith Head



The Cygnet 8 pushing hard past the boathouse during the HoRR

CSBE, Annual General Meeting – 15th March

At the CSBE AGM, the existing committee all kindly agreed to continue in their respective roles and we also, finally, have a new boathouse captain! We are however, still urgently seeking an assistant for Amélie. Thanks to all for offering their time on behalf of both clubs.

- Chair, **Tom Broadhurst** (CYG)
- Secretary, **Marion Telsnig** (BBL)
- Treasurer, **Kate Castelino** (BBL)
- Boathouse Captain, **Pieterneel Overweel** (BBL)
- Boating Coordinator, **Amélie Gourdon-Kanhukamwe** (BBL)
- Bar Steward, **Mustafa Özyurt** (Cygnet)
- BBL Captain, **Sharon McCoy**
- Cygnet Captain, **Martin Drage**
- Chair CS Canoeing Club, **Mark Sloan**

Without going into detail, it's been a tough few years for the Exec. much of which has fallen in Tom's lap as Chairman and Cygnet would particularly like to thank Tom for all his hard work on our behalves.

Cygnet RC, Ordinary General Meeting – 14th July

The date of the Cygnet OGM, when the next captaincy is elected will be on **Sunday 14th July 2024** at 12.00, in the bar.

Henley Friday at Old Blades – 5th July

Members of both Cygnet and BBLRC are once again invited to Old Blades, HRR's most exclusive enclosure, on the Friday of **Regatta week**. We are, as always, very grateful to our hostesses Pat and Pru Sly for their very generous invitation and hospitality.

New broom at the Bungalow

Cygnet would like to record their immense gratitude to Derek Bush who, after more years than we care to remember, has stood down as Bungalow Secretary. Derek has been fundamental to the Bungalow's management and maintenance and we hope his successor Ross Stewart will be as successful – and long-serving.

Club Communications

Thank you for your patience while we reorganised the club email groups into just two: Active and Family. This process is now complete and appears to be working well but if you have any issues please contact the Assistant Secretary on admin[at]cygnet-rc.org.uk

Cygnet RC is fortunate to be located on one of the most regatta-rich stretches of the Thames. The months April to June offer the competing oarsman a variety of regattas to choose from: Barnes & Mortlake, Bourne, Chiswick, Hammersmith Amateur, Putney, Richmond and Twickenham. Some of these regattas can trace their foundations back to the 1920s – Chiswick and Hammersmith are both celebrating their centenaries this year – while Barnes & Mortlake dates back to 1852.

Rowing in the 1920s still bore all the hallmarks of a gentlemen amateur's sport and Cygnet was effectively barred from open competition at many regattas until 1923 it was finally granted affiliation to the Amateur Rowing Association (ARA), forerunner of British Rowing. The timing was opportune and the club competed in the first Hammersmith Amateur regatta in 1924. Still, it would be some years before Cygnet crews graced the likes of Kingston, Marlow, Molesey, Staines and Walton, true blue regattas that could trace their pedigrees back to the mid-19th century.



There was a clear regatta hierarchy in these distant times. Thus, Molesey was at one time regarded as second only to Henley Royal, while a win in Thames Cup Vllls at a recognised regatta was regarded as an absolute must for any club aspiring to the event of the same name at HRR. By the 1930s Cygnet was riding high and in 1938 it broke the mould winning Thames Cup class at Walton and Chiswick, thus setting the stage for its first-ever entry at Henley.

Post-war, the regatta scene became less stratified and

inter-club events were popular. The Annual Civil Service Regatta offered a full range of events for men and women and the day always closed with a dance at the then nearby Civil Service Pavilion. A number of clubs, including Cygnet, ran scratch Vllls events that attracted droves of end-of-season pot hunters. Business house clubs flourished as banks, corporates and insurance companies lavished cash on their boat clubs and, in 1971, the thrice yearly Business Houses Regattas were born, followed by the Business Houses head in 1974, both now sadly defunct.

Hammersmith and Putney both spawned autumn events to add to their spring fixtures and a number of clubs ran non-qualifying events like the Cygnet-based John Cork Cup aimed at aspiring novices. Cygnet was not averse to abandoning the Tideway from time to time. In the 1950s the News of the World sponsored Open Sprints Championship held on the Serpentine in Hyde Park was popular and attracted huge crowds, as did The Welsh Harp held on a reservoir in Willesden. Further afield, one old hand recalled rowing at

a novice event in Evesham in 1963 which attracted 33 entries, while the club regularly decamped en-mass to Worcester, Monmouth and Hereford regattas in the sixties, seventies and eighties.

Then, as now, school crews were prolific while the big clubs like London and Thames generally dominated the premier events. An ill-judged attempt by some regattas in the early 1980s



to replace pewter pots with glass and ceramics was firmly rebuffed. Still, none could doubt the vagaries of running a regatta on the Thames and towards the end of the century many larger regattas were wooed away to purpose built four and six lane courses at Docklands, Dorney Lake and the like. However, for the most part, local regattas live on and if you're rowing at Barnes & Mortlake be thankful that it's no longer rowed on the original course from the petrol pumps to Barnes Bridge, over a mile and a half.