



HENLEY ROWING CLUB

FOUNDED 1839

Letter from the Chairman

August 2007

Dear Member,

CLUB DEVELOPMENT

It is over two years since we planned the third stage of the development of the Club premises. The plan was to extend the main clubhouse to include a separate gymnasium and additional changing facilities.

Owing to the lack of funds this development is still on hold.

During the past two years the needs of the Club have changed and the original plan would not provide the gym facilities we now need to maintain the status as one of the premier clubs in the country.

As a result, the committee have agreed to a change in plan that will provide a separate purpose built gymnasium at the rear of the clubhouse. The building will be single storey structure approximately 12 metres x 18 metres. Space will be left to extend the changing rooms as a second phase. These revised plans will provide excellent training facilities and allow us to upgrade the existing function room for hiring out. This will in turn help us raise more revenue. Future development would then concentrate on the social facilities to make the Club an attractive riverside venue providing facilities for increasing income.

The proposed gymnasium can be constructed for a considerably reduced cost from the original plans and, as a result, will definitely go ahead to enable its use during the forthcoming winter.

However, funds are still required. A number of members have already pledged money towards the extension and we trust that these will now be honoured.

For other members, this is an opportunity to invest in the future of the Club by making a donation towards the cost of this vital development. If you wish to donate a sum of money please contact me or the secretary Mervyn Theaker. It is intended to create a plaque on the new gym naming those that have contributed £500 or more to the fund.

I am sure that you will agree that this is an exciting venture for the Club which will enable us to provide some of the best rowing facilities in the country and build on the successes of recent years.

Nigel S Read

Chairman of Henley Rowing Club

Letter from the Secretary

Dear Member,

Circulating Nigel's note on the proposed club development, which I am sure will receive your support, gives me the chance to remind you of one or two things and pass on a couple of requests from the Captain.

Firstly, please make a note of the dates of

The ANNUAL BALL at the Great House at Sonning on Sat 15th Sept. This is a great opportunity, not to be missed, to socialise with other members and celebrate the many successes on the water this season. Make up a table and add names please to the list at the top of the stairs or call Val Spatcher before end August.

"THE CAPTAIN'S MEETING on Sunday 23 September at 1.00pm at the Boathouse" Ian Desmond will report on the 2007 rowing season and will be standing again for reelection. This doesn't mean other members cannot be nominated and any such nominations should be made to the committee before the meeting.

You will have received by now your invitation to renew your membership for the 2007/8 season and I would appreciate if you would let me have your completed form in due course. If you intend to M by Bankers Order this must start on 1 September.

The attention of boat owners is especially drawn to the need to insure your boat against loss or damage. You may choose to arrange your own insurance or take advantage of the Club scheme. Either way, you are strongly advised to obtain this protection for your property.

Also for boat owners, the Environment Agency requires you to display a HEN number on your boat from end of September this year. The Club has had a batch printed and you will see them on the Club boats already. I am in the process of completing this exercise and the owners of private boats will be issued with theirs shortly. There is no charge but you do need to pay your rack fee! In allocating these numbers it has been brought to my attention that a number of boats have "unknown" owners. That cannot be quite true but they are certainly unknown to the current Captain and coaches. When all known boats are numbered I will tag the others and would appreciate help in owner identification.

The Captain is also about to do some tagging. This time bicycles! Each coach should have one and will be asked to identify their own bike. The rest present a hazard to oarsmen and boats and will be removed if you don't remove yours first! Ultimately it is intended for coach's bikes to be stored in a purpose built rack so that none are in the boathouse at all.

Finally, the Club website is in the process of being updated to keep you fully informed of Club activities. However, communication is a "two way thing" so, if you want to ask any questions, raise any issues, volunteer for something or just let off steam, there is a team of officials elected by you. Just call, write or catch one of us at the Club.

Mervyn Theaker, Hon. Secretary