

## Thames Rowing Club

The Embankment  
Putney  
London  
SW15 1LB

14th October 2009

Dear Thames Member,

There has been a great deal going on at the Club in the past few months, but as members occasionally and rightly point out to me, we don't always keep you up to date with what we have been doing. Accordingly, I set out below a special bulletin, which will bring you up to date pending the next issue of the Thames Journal.

### New Season

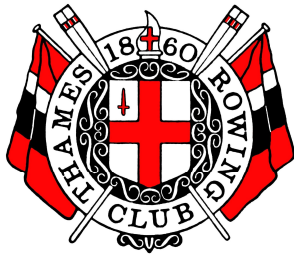
The new season began just under a month ago and training is now in full swing. Our Head Coaches, Alistair Heathcote (men) and Simon Fieldhouse (women), have settled in quickly, and the atmosphere among the squads appears vibrant. A number of crews will be racing at the Pairs Head this Saturday, but the first real test will come at the Head of the River Fours on Saturday, 14th November, at 1:30pm. It looks likely that we will have a large entry and we hope to see you there.

### Thames Juniors and London Youth Rowing

Members may have been aware that the number of Thames juniors has been steadily increasing over the past three seasons – a welcome change but one that brought its own challenges of organisation and administration. After a lot of thought, we concluded that these challenges needed a fresh approach. We have therefore in the past few weeks finalised an agreement with London Youth Rowing (<http://www.londonyouthrowing.com/>), who will take over the coordination and coaching of our junior squad. The juniors will continue to be TRC members and will race under Club colours, but will gain access to more support, coaching and fundraising than we could offer on our own. The aim, over time, will be to become competitive in high-quality events such as the Fawley Cup at Henley Royal Regatta and the girls' events at Henley Women's Regatta. One particular benefit of the arrangement is that LYR's lead coach is our own Paddy Ryan (winner of the Wyfold with TRC as both oarsman in 2003 and coach in 2006).

### Tank

One of the tasks I set myself last year was to complete our indoor rowing and sculling tank which had lain unfinished since the completion of the Burrough Building. I am very pleased to be able to tell you that Carl Douglas Racing Shells has now completed the fitting out of the tank. It only remains for us to finish the wall separating the tank from the adjacent gymnasium, fill the tank and test it. We expect to have it in use within a matter of days. It has taken a very considerable and



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sustained effort to get the project to this stage and our thanks are due to the TRC Charitable Trust (and to the donors who made their support possible) as well as to Sport England who provided matched funding. Individual thanks are due to Will Powell, Neil Grennan-Heaven and John Russell who all gave generously of their time, and to Carl Douglas, Steve Austin and their colleagues at Carl Douglas Racing Shells who enthusiastically embraced the project and made it happen.

### Clubhouse Redecoration

Recent visitors will have seen that the entrance staircase and corridor have now been redecorated, to excellent effect. Our House Manager, Mike Gratton, reports that the improved appearance is already having a noticeable effect on bookings for outside functions. Thanks go to Sarah Park and Mark Panter for getting this work completed. In an effort to keep it looking good, members visiting the Clubhouse for training are now asked to use the rowers' entrance at the rear. As a reminder, the code to the side gate is 2-5-3-1 and the code to all doors at the rear is 3 and 4 together-1-5.

### Annual Dinner

This year's Annual Dinner will take place on Friday, 4th December, at Savoy Place, overlooking the River Thames. Our featured speaker will be Charles Eugster, member of the Club's 1939 Grand Challenge Cup crew. A ticket application form will be circulated in the coming weeks.

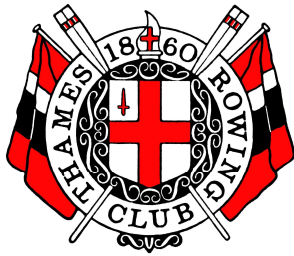
This will be the start of our 150th anniversary celebrations and we hope as many members as possible, past and present, will be able to attend. In conjunction with the start of our anniversary, we will be soon be providing you with details of memorabilia and other merchandise, including Christmas cards, calendars and much else. These items will also be on sale on 5th December at the Club's anniversary fair at the Clubhouse.

### Reunion Lunches

As part of the 150th Anniversary celebrations, we are holding three reunion lunches at the Clubhouse, for those who were active at the Club in different eras. The first of these, for those who did their rowing before 1980, was a resounding success and a very enjoyable event, with over 40 attendees. A good few friendships were renewed, while for many it was their first visit to the Clubhouse in at least two decades.

The next lunch, for those who were active in the Club in the 1980s and 1990s, will be on Sunday, 22nd November. The bar will open at 11am and lunch will be served at 12:30. The cost will be £15 for a two course lunch including wine. Our House Manager, Mike Gratton, will be coordinating bookings. You can make reservations by writing to him at the Clubhouse via email to [dinners@thamesrc.co.uk](mailto:dinners@thamesrc.co.uk) or calling him at the Club on 020 8788 0798. Payment can be made via cheque made payable to Thames Rowing Club and sent to Mike at the Clubhouse, or by a transfer to Barclays account 00885967 Sort Code 20-90-69 (NB, these account details should not be used for paying membership subscriptions to the Club). Please let Mike know if you have paid by a transfer.

As a reminder, this event is also open to lapsed and former members of the Club - so please tell your friends and crewmates even if they have long lost contact with TRC. Early indications are that



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the event may well be a sell-out, so you are advised to register your interest early.

A third lunch, for those active in the 1990s or 2000s, will follow on Sunday 21st March 2010.

### Clubhouse Planning Application

We wrote to you in June setting out our proposals for the Clubhouse redevelopment. One of the principal next steps was the submission of a planning application. I can confirm that the Club's application for planning permission has now been submitted to Wandsworth Council and can be viewed here: <http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/apply/showCaseFile.do?appNumber=2009/3440>. A further progress report on the development project and the launch of fundraising will follow in the next few weeks. If any past or present member would like a further copy of the June letter, please contact our Honorary Secretary, James Elder, at the address given at the end of the letter.

If you would like to know anything more about the above, please email me ([wbsaunders@jonesday.com](mailto:wbsaunders@jonesday.com)), the Captain, Will Pressley ([captain@thamesrc.co.uk](mailto:captain@thamesrc.co.uk)), or the Honorary Secretary (Administration), James Elder ([secretary@thamesrc.co.uk](mailto:secretary@thamesrc.co.uk)), or write to us at the club.

With all good wishes

William Saunders  
Chairman

### Calendar of Events 2009 - 2010

September 13, 2009	Start of season meeting (1000 h), followed by BBQ
November 6, 2009	Clubhouse open to watch the Bishops Park firework display. Mulled wine and hot food available
November 22, 2009 (provisional)	Era dinner, in clubhouse, for current and ex members who rowed for TRC in 1980s and 1990s
December 4, 2009	Official launch of anniversary year: Annual dinner, Savoy Place, London WC2R 0BL; 1930 for 2000 h; provisional ticket price, £75
December 5, 2009	Merchandise fair in clubhouse to launch 150th branded memorabilia
December 6, 2009	Plum Pudding VIIIs (time to be announced)
February 2010	Unveiling of commemorative plaque in Lord Raglan pub, London EC1A 4ER, where first meeting of TRC was held
March 21, 2010 (provisional)	Era dinner, in clubhouse, for current and ex members who rowed for TRC in 1990s or 2000s



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July 3, 2010	Club party at Henley Royal Regatta, Remenham Riverside car park, 1200 h to close of racing
July 3, 2010	Henley Royal Regatta commemorative row past by TRC crews during tea interval
July 7, 2010	Concert and fireworks, TRC clubhouse, 2000 h
December 3, 2010	Anniversary dinner, Mansion House, London EC4N 8BH (venue provisional)
April 2011	Start of rebuilding of clubhouse