

# THE OTRC SPIRIT

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF OUNDLE TOWN ROWING CLUB

## Captain's Report by Emma Stratton

Hi all, only a quick note from me in this newsletter. I wanted to say hello to everyone and also welcome to our newest junior and adult members from the learn to row courses we have recently held!

Over the coming months, you'll see a few changes that I'm making - all for the better hopefully!

The new crew allocations for this coming season have been sent out, and I will be working with Charlotte to put together some competitive junior crews as well!

If you ever have any questions, queries, issues (hopefully not so many) or ideas please let me know! My aim is to continue the hard work that Angela has put in and continue moving the club in a upward and positive direction!

For now - enjoy the rest of the summer and I look forward to seeing the results over the next few months of the regatta season!!

## August 2019 Edition

**With special  
contributions from:**

Angela  
Phillip  
Simon  
Marion



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## Sunday Session

The weather is beautiful, summer is here, so what better time to spend some extra time on the river. Helping out with safety on a Sunday morning is a perfect way to enjoy an outing without the distraction of having to row!

We try to be as relaxed as possible and the group is friendly and always welcoming. You'll get to meet the recreational rowers and some who have particular needs which mean sometimes doing things a little bit differently.

If you would like to sign up to help on a Sunday morning, you can do so easily from the main page of the website. Simply click on the link at the bottom of the page and you'll be taken to the sign up form where you can pick a date and volunteer with a click.

Calling all 16 – 17 year olds. Although you cannot come on the safety boat, we have come up with ways in which you can join in. Some of our rowers enjoy rowing in an Explore double, but don't often get a chance to do so. You could help by coming and rowing with them as well as generally helping us to set up and get boats in and out of the water. It would give you experience of working with different kinds of people and becoming more involved with the club outside your normal rowing session. The time spent helping others might contribute to the volunteering requirement for D of E or other awards. Please contact me if you are interested.

If you would like more details about what is involved in volunteering for a Sunday Session, please contact me on [marion-f@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:marion-f@hotmail.co.uk).

## The OTRC Regatta - By Angela Hook

- 29/06/2019
- 38 competitors
- 25 races
- 2 safety launches
- 100 burgers
- 1000s of cups of tea/coffee
- 30 degree temperature (very hot!!)
- 3 junior winners - Laura Dew, Ewan Tetley, Thomas Revell
- 2 plate competition winners - Claire Izod and Brian Hardwick
- 2 main competition winners- Daisy Attley and Leslie Edwards
- 1 John Milborne Cup winner - Keely Watson
- 1 OTRC Junior Cup winner - Jacob Cruise
- £245 raised for club funds.



Thank you everyone!

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**OTRC Regatta  
2019**

## OTRC Committee 2019/2020

### Main Committee

Chairman - Simon Murray

Secretary - Sally Cheney

Treasurer - Peter Cook

Captain - Emma Stratton

Welfare - Alan McMurdo

Safety Advisor - Dick Meads

### Co-opted

Mark Felton

### Other posts

Publicity - Zoe Smeeth

Membership - Jo Milborne

Social - tbc

Buildings Maintenance - Philip Chandler

Boats - Hugh McCormack

Grants - tbc

Fundraising - tbc

**If you can fill one of the **vacant** posts please get in touch.**

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## Match Reports By Keely Watson

British Rowing Masters championship on the 16th June at Strathclyde Loch

W NC A-C 1x Int, time 4:18 - Keely  
Mx NC A-C 2x Int, time 4:08 - Keely & Nick

Apparently Nick had promised sunshine but the Scottish weather decided to provide everything from sun to rain and thunder and lightning (causing a delay).

My semi-final in the single was cancelled due to someone scratching and making it a straight final. This was a relief as the time that the race would have been on a short storm came through the area with thunder, lightning and wind – I definitely would have gone swimming! Luckily the weather turned out to be good and deciding not to wear myself out (or look like a fool by falling in) I didn't practice a start on the way up. Somehow, I am not sure how, everything went well. I had a good start and managed to stay ahead, crossing the finish line first without a clue about the rating or check as the stroke meter didn't work. (Knowing me it was not slow or gentle, GPS later showed a 'brisk' start settling down to 32-34spm)

The double race was a mixed age category, expecting 7 crews on the start it turned out that only 4 crews made it there (and one of the crews was a pair of honey monsters). After waiting for a long time at the start (due to issues with a previous race) we started and settling into a rhythm and worked hard for the whole time. It was a hard fight for 2<sup>nd</sup> place (the honey monsters were well ahead) and but the opposition just finished a bow ball ahead of us. Again we did not have a clue about the rating as our full focus was on the rowing but as the boat unofficial name is 'Red Mist' people could guess it was not slow!

It was a beautiful venue, nicer than Nottingham with a lot less concrete and a well organised event and we were lucky with the conditions when we were on the water.

Thank you to Nick for all of that driving!



### A message from Alan .....

I just wanted to say a huge massive heartfelt thank you to all of you for your generosity and kindness on my handing over the chairmanship of this brilliant club.

Janet and I were both moved by the incredible variety and creativity of all the gifts and priceless memorabilia .

I look forward to being the Club's Welfare Officer and being part of the next phase of club development. ...let's get amongst it.

*Thank you Alan for everything.*

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## Thank you

The club would like to acknowledge the generous contribution of Richard, Dad of new junior rower, Faye Watson, who kindly mowed the grass (& weeds!) and levelled the car park in anticipation of the club regatta.

Such a contribution to the smooth running of the club is much appreciated, so if anyone - member, junior member or junior member's parent or guardian can spare any time at all for the well being of OTRC, then please let us know!



## Club Membership

I am delighted to inform everybody that our club membership numbers continue to increase. We would like to welcome all new members to OTRC, many of whom have come through the learn to row sessions run by Simon Murray and his band of willing helpers. Thanks to all who have helped out with these sessions.

It has come to my attention that there are a few active club members across the board, from juniors to U3A rowers who have let their British Rowing membership lapse. Please can I remind everybody that British Rowing membership is a club requirement, as well as your OTRC membership.

Members can check their British Rowing status on the BR website, and renew on line very simply. If you think your BR membership has lapsed, please renew it as soon as possible.

If you have any questions about your category of membership, or need any other information about membership, please contact me.

Many thanks,  
Jo Milborne (membership secretary.)

## Sign me up - By Phillip

Let's give a "Shout out" to JOE PENDRED for the new sign he's made for the club's entrance.

If you tend to arrive at the club in haste (like me, usually!) you may not have noticed it, so please take a moment when you arrive next time to have a look.

Not only has he included the correct website address (the old one was wrong!), but he's placed it so that it is much more visible to passing traffic and easier to spot for visitors.

Well done & thank you Joe. Photo on OTRC Instagram

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## **Day Trip to Banger Henley** *with thanks and apologies to Fiddler's Dram (some younger members may need to YouTube this!)*

By Angela Hook (of course!) *Thanks Angela*

Didn't we have a lovely time, the day we went to Henley? A beautiful day, took a bus all the way, and all 'dressed up to the 'nines', you know. Posh frocks and ties, the sun in our eyes, and a glass or two of bubbly. Cheering a few of our great British crews, as the boats raced past.

Do you recall the thrill of it all, as we walked along the river? Fast moving Eights, the clunk of their gates, as the rowers drove the boats along The splash of the oars, the loud coxes' roars, as the Berks and Bucks did battle Racing along in the heat of the day, and the crews flew past.

Chorus: Didn't we have a lovely time, the day we went to Henley? A beautiful day, took a bus all the way, and all 'dressed up to the nines', you know. Posh frocks and ties, the sun in our eyes, and a glass or two of bubbly Cheering a few of our great British crews, as the boats raced past.

Wasn't it nice, drinking cold Pimms with ice, as we strolled around the enclosure? Izod and me had a nice cup of tea, and then she flashed her legs, you know. Surprised an old man with a badge in his hand and we ended up in the Stewards' (enclosure) Mixing it up with the rich and the toffs, as the crews raced past.

Chorus: Didn't we have a lovely time ....

What can we say of the heat of the day, which made us all feel sleepy? Anita did laze, fell into a daze and nodded off in the bar, you know. I don't think she snored, but the barman, he roared, "That's not allowed in here, guys!" Peter just laughed and Anita slept on, as the crews rowed past.

Chorus: Didn't we have a lovely time ....

Wasn't it queer when Daisy did steer a barge along the river? Who would have thought, our D would be taught, to float along at Henley, but .. It was her birthday. "Hurray" we did say, for a fitting celebration. Coxswain Daisy, with her hands on the wheel, as the crews raced past.

Chorus: Didn't we have a lovely time ....

Got back on the bus and we all did agree, we'd had a lovely day out Wasn't it great, to share it with mates, and not to have to drive, you know Our Brian's a star, a man without par, for sorting out the details Didn't we have a lovely time, when the crews raced past!

Chorus: Didn't we have a lovely time ....

**Henley 2019**

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**Henley  
2019**



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## Chairman's Ramble - Simon Murray

At the recent AGM we thanked Alan McMurdo for his 19 remarkable years as founder and chairman of the club. His is a hard act to follow and as the new incumbent, I will do my best to help the club as it continues to grow and flourish in the coming years.

There are a few changes to the committee, notably with Emma Stratton as club captain and Alan taking on the welfare role. I'm sure that you will give them all the support in their new jobs.

Over the next few months I hope you will see progress in a number of areas. The clubhouse project continues to be the major priority and we have now made an application for building control approval which will allow us to move forward with this development. Work is also being done on increasing and improving boat storage, acquisition of a third launch and we are also considering purchase of additional boats. We have been awarded a further Rowing Foundation grant to help with the refurbishment of our existing boats.

I am also keen that we encourage more members to help on the coaching side, and as I mentioned at the AGM, we are able to provide some financial support for anyone wishing to gain coaching qualifications. In particular, for juniors there is a "Junior Leaders" course appropriate for those 16-18, and the Level 2 coaching course for adults. I can provide further details to anyone interested.

Within OTRC we are fortunate to have amazing members who do a huge amount of work, both seen and unseen, to help make the club function. Over the coming months, as we get into the details of new projects, we will identify more jobs that need to be done and will be asking for help with these. So please look out for this and consider what you might be able to do.

And, as always, if you have any questions or concerns about the club, do speak to me or a member of the committee."



Many thanks to all who have contributed to this newsletter, I am very grateful.

Please keep your photos and articles coming. Next Newsletter due Autumn 2019, all contributions welcome.