

Thames Traditional Rowing Association Autumn 2008 Newsletter.

'The wettest summer on record is drawing to a close ~ 'Thank goodness!' I hear you cry but we didn't let it dampen our spirits...'

This was how I started 2007 autumn Newsletter, seems nothing has changed in 2008!

For those of you who didn't make the journey to Hampton Court Palace for the start of the Tudor Pull you missed a whole new experience ~ the Stela was paraded out by Tudor musicians for the ceremony which took place on the lawns in front of the Palace followed by a musical escort to the waiting 'Jubilant' through a Guard of Honour provided by the crew of 'Class Leader' from Lloyds.

The Watermen in 'Jubilant' and oarsmen of 'Class Leader' progressed to Richmond to be joined by the fleet of cutters led by 'Lady Mayoress'. The crews of 'Arthur Alcock', 'Arthur Tisdall', 'Belle Founder', 'George Williams', 'Jim Holt', 'Penelope', 'Tallow Chandler' & 'Water Forget Me Not' made a splendid scene moving off downstream for the pull to London town.



This year we managed by various means to slow the faster boats down keeping the fleet together for a wonderful row through the pool of London all arriving within a few minutes of each other at Tower Pier.

Once again a guard of honour of crews formed up over the drawbridge for the Watermen as they escorted the 'Stela' led by the Yeoman Warder.

Inside the gate the Duty Governor of H.M. Tower of London accepted the 'Stela' into his protection and praised the company of crews present for their efforts once more in displaying the importance of the River Thames as a Royal highway through London.



Our thanks to both Hampton Court Palace, HM Tower of London and all those others involved in supporting us for their assistance in making the TP such a marvellous day. With plans to celebrate the 500th anniversary of Henry VIII's ascension next year already on the drawing board a bigger and even better version is hoped for ~ more news shortly!



Three Ladies & eight Men's crews entered in this years Admiral of the Port Challenge, a decision was made to run the race with two divisions, Ladies going first ~ eleven abreast was just too much to control!

THE Admiral of the Port, Alderman David Lewis Lord Mayor of London, saw both divisions off safely. The Umpire, Master of the Watermen & Lightermen Company, Ken Dwan had his work cut out trying to control the boats as the 'aggressive' coxing caused a few blades to clash.

No fouls were adjudged to have occurred and the keenly fought race was enjoyed by all over the 1.3 mile course with the ever efficient timing team fulfilling their role.

Once more the wonderful facilities of the Westminster Boating Base were the finish line and venue for the post race gathering. The Lord Mayor, who was joined by his wife, presented the prizes to the winning crews of 'Master Glazier' for the Rose Bowl for the fastest Ladies (19.55 mins) and to 'Water Forget Me Not' as the overall fastest crew (15.15 mins).

My thanks to all the Company Masters, Clerks and all the supporters who came along making the whole evening one to remember.

After the 'Grand National' style start of the Port of London Challenge last year it was decided to again split the field in to two divisions ~ Ladies and Mixed crews followed by the Men's.

The first division of 'Master Glazier', 'George Williams', 'Arthur Alcock' and 'Tallow Chandler' made a good get away even though the Umpire's launch tried very hard to obstruct the 'Tallow Chandlers'!



The second division of 'Jim Holt', 'Trinity Tide', Penelope', 'Paul Satow', Belle Founder', 'Lady Gillet' & 'Water Forget me Not' jostled for position and were sent on their way by the Starter Richard Everitt (Ch. Exec. of the PLA).

With the first division boats firmly in their sights the remaining crews set off to reel them in.

By Battersea the field had come together and there were some very keenly fought battles between the boats with the stately crew from Wandsworth in 'Paul Satow' bringing up the rear.

The 'MV Salient' had taken up position at Chelsea Harbour and the ever efficient timing team of Stuart Wolff and Paul Satow clocked the finishing times of a well fought race.

The crews transferred to the 'Salient' and their boats disappeared off up and down stream to home moorings (THANK YOU to all involved). The prizes were presented by Richard Everitt to the winning crew of 'Water Forget me Not' with a time of 41mins 9secs with the 'vintage' crew from Wandsworth Council breaking the hour (56mins 47secs) for the course.

A memorable evening cruise back to Blackfriars, as dusk fell over London, completed another successful TTRA event.

The Great River Race was to have a first this year namely satellite tracking for all the boats ~ fixed seat rowing has caught up with modern technology! A wonderful day dawned and the whole fleet of cutters were on the river fighting it out amongst the 100's of assorted boats.

As a spectator (for once) I can say it was a spectacle to behold ~ well done to all of you who took part in the Marathon of London's River. The Chairman of the Boat Race, Howard Jacobs, was there and we are cooking up a plan for next years event ~ watch this space!

The pictures I took will be on the web site, hope you enjoy them.



Once again Bob Crouch worked hard, ably assisted by numerous people, to develop the river events of the Thames Festival which followed hard on the heels of the GRR ~ the next day. Well done to all of you who kept enough energy in reserve to race on the Sunday, once again a wonderful spectacle of racing on the Thames.

The Frost Fair on the 13th December has invited us back with the Guildable Manor of Southwark playing host to all the crews. Last years challenge (the PLA don't like races!) went well and will be held again so please keep your crews on the boil and come out for just one more paddle before the winter land training commences... I'm dreaming again!

This year has, once again, seen rowing to be one of the most successful sports for Team UK in the Olympics and Paralympics. We at the TTRA will do all we can to encourage rowers to join your crews, please make them welcome. To this end I'm ensuring the Amateur Rowing Association web site is updated with details of our events, here's hoping keen crew members follow.

The small team (there are three of us) who run the TTRA would like to thank *all* of you and your willing helpers and the press ganged ones as well for making this year's events happen, keep up the great work!

There are a number of plans in the pipeline for more events next year so please watch your e mail for anything prefaced by 'TTRA', gee up your crews and join us on the river for more traditional fixed seat rowing ~ you know it's the best way to do it!

All the very best for the coming winter months, keep up the rowing whether it be on land or better still the waters of the Thames.

Malcolm Knight

Secretary TTRA