

# Curlew Rowing Club



NEWSLETTER

MAY 2019



## HEAD SEASON ROUNDUP

Head of the River, Vets'  
Head and more!

## UPCOMING RACES

The road to Henley  
begins!

## OTHER NEWS

Boat naming, and  
new social com-  
mittee

Welcome to our new-look newsletter! We are trying out a new format for this edition – hope you enjoy reading!

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# HEADSEASON RESULTS

## HAMMERSMITH HEAD

Op 8+ Intermediate: 6<sup>th</sup> (11:06.3)

W 8+ Club: 5<sup>th</sup> (12:14.3)

## READING HEAD

**Div. 1** Op. 8+ Band 3: 2<sup>nd</sup> (13:56.1)

W 8+ Band 2: 4<sup>th</sup> (15:47.2)

W MasA 8+: Disqualified (faulty steering resulting in a collision)

**Div 2:** Op 8+ Band 2: 7<sup>th</sup> (14:18.0)

W 8+ Band 1: 5<sup>th</sup> (16:12.4)

Op 8+ Band 3: 9<sup>th</sup> (16:40.1)

## WEHORR

Cancelled

## HEAD OF THE RIVER

Boat A: 81<sup>st</sup> 19:09.5

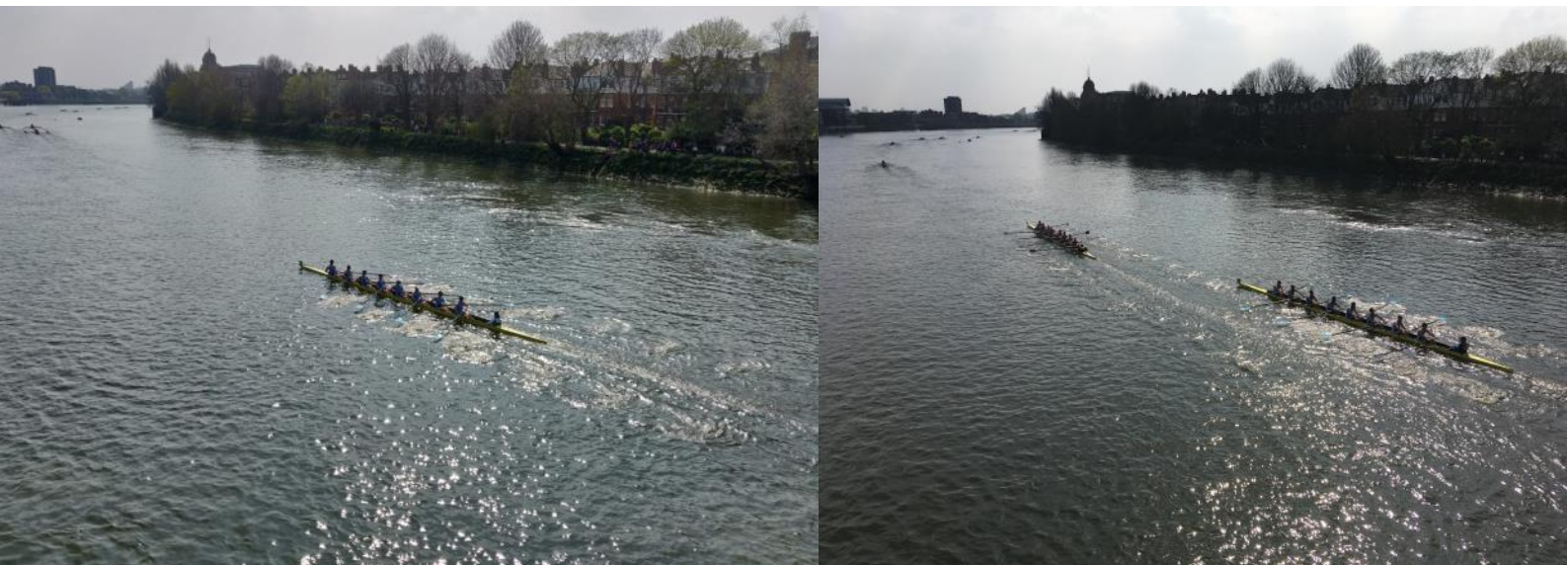
Boat B: 161<sup>st</sup> 20:10.2

## VETS' HEAD OF THE RIVER

MasB 8+: 129<sup>th</sup> 23:27.49

# HEAD OF THE RIVER

*Ed Hayden, who was sat at Bow in the 1st VIII, writes about the experience on the day...*



Boat A (left), number 78 and boat B (right), number 107, as they came through Hammersmith Bridge

It's a funny business being sat facing the wrong way, religiously following the movements of the man in front, and trying to make yourself hurt as much as possible. On March 30th, and in the weeks before, eight of us had decided that this constituted fun. Alex, our cox, was entrusted to do our thinking for us. Like a wise grandfather, he had the experience and expertise that we needed to do well. Eight's Head would be a race to remember.

Our build up to the morning of March 30th was not as straight forward as we would've liked. Since the New Year, Erik, Freya, and Gareth had successively left the docks a no-go zone. The wind brought by these storms, in combination with London's infamous fog, meant that we spent valuable water time in the gym. This wasn't all bad news though. The extra time that we devoted to the erg meant that we were fit and strong. Spending March on the road learning lessons at various races also meant that we had experience working as a crew – we wouldn't be racing Eight's Head blind.

The morning of March 30th saw not only over 330 boats (and all their baggage) arrive along the Tideway, but also the sun. At Thames Tradesmen RC, our base for the day, we were preparing ourselves and the boat for the challenge ahead. There was a feeling of optimism in the air. We headed to the water with Fred's last words ringing in our ears, Coverage is your everything. And just think of the pictures.

Once under starter's orders, we began to build. The rhythm was familiar and aggressive. We knew what we had to do. We came flying through Chiswick Bridge feeling strong. Alex's voice was coming through the speakers, authoritative and motivated. Keep relaxed. Coverage. Power through the legs. Before we knew it, we were pushing off of Barnes Bridge. Vesta RC looked further away than they had at the start. Things were going to plan.

We took the curve by Fuller's Brewery in our stride. There were no rogue gusts of wind to spoil our progress. Then we were at Hammersmith Bridge. This was where we began to really pay for our efforts. The boat lost some vigour. Vesta RC started to close the gap between us and them. By the Black Buoy we were locked in a fierce battle to keep Vesta RC at bay. The sweet relief of finishing and having kept clear water between us and Vesta RC held off the pain for only a fraction of a second. The race was done. Our time placed us at 81st.

Whilst not the result we wanted, it was a position that fairly reflected us and how we had performed. As a crew, we had tried our best. We left West London a little sunburnt and ready for regatta season. Our eyes now fixed firmly on Henley.

# VETS' HEAD

*After a successful Saturday at HoRR, the next day brought Vets' HoRR. **Ketan Patel**, who coxed the Development Squad mens' Masters B 8+, wrote about the race...*

It was with great anticipation, nervousness and excitement that the Dev Squad men prepared for Vets Head of the River. Having trained on the Tideway in January, we knew every bend, every buoy and every submerged rock. A few days before the race, we received the joyous news that we would be rowing in the Peakant. This (obviously) meant that we were going to crush it (the race, not the boat).

Race prep went off without incident – footplates were adjusted, gates checked, cox box tested. We planned our strategy (possibly last minute, but we thrive under pressure), kitted-up and got hands on.

The stern felt oddly heavy. Almost as if we were carrying extra weight at that end of the boat. On further investigation, we discovered we were...we were carrying enough Jelly Babies (both original and M&S versions) to sink a ship. The cox was having none of it. Mainly because he was irritated that no one took up his offer to carry and gently place him in the cox's seat. Anyway, we got the boat in the water without incident and set off.

We rowed up to the position indicted by the very polite marshals and waited. And waited. And waited. Finally, it was the turn of our division to set off...and set off we did. We had a Vesta crew in front of us and a Vesta/composite crew behind us. They looked to be half the age and twice the size of our crew. But, we were undaunted. Building the rate, we had a strong start. Eight men moving as one. Eight blades in together. Eight blades out together.

It wasn't long before the crew in front of us pulled away and the crew behind us came up alongside us and tried to overtake. In the spirit of sportsmanship, we allowed them to. Ahem. Our goal was to narrow the gap between us and them in front and increase the gap between us and the boat chasing us.

The water was odd that day – calm in some parts and choppy in others. We were spurred on by the cheers of well-wishers as we pushed off bridges and dug deep. We managed to stay ahead of the boats chasing us and more importantly, we managed to avoid hitting anything. Before we knew it, the race was over. Exhausted but exhilarated, we steeled ourselves for the soul-destroying row back to the boathouse, proud of the race we rowed.



## WEHARR

Our women's squad were hugely disappointed when WeHoRR was cancelled this year due to poor weather conditions, but when Ben Rodford (who would have been photographing the race) suggested a photo-editing competition on Instagram, captain Emily unleashed her skills to show what could have been!



# BOAT NAMING

On the 13th April we officially welcomed our new Hudson Coxless IV into our Curlew Family as the 'Eddie Maloney'. It was fantastic to have all the Maloney family there to witness this great event. Paul Maloney had this to say on the day:

*"Eddie Maloney was father to me, my two brothers and 3 sisters. He was born in Poplar, just a few yards from the entrance to the East India dock where his father worked as a stevedore. Both his grandfathers came from Ireland and became sailors in the British merchant navy, Edward McGovern on the coal ships working the east coast and Jeremiah Maloney sailed the world to NZ, Australia the USA on a range of ships including the tea clipper Thermopylae. Eddie grew up to love the sea and the river.*

*He spent all his working life as an industrial chemist at Burrells Wharf on the Isle of Dogs, just across the river, and frequently ate his lunch on the river wall watching the ships coming and going.*

*His main sport had been rugby, but he also rowed for some time at Crowland RC which became part of the Lea RC. Until his marriage to my mother he loved to spend his holidays punting on various rivers.*

*When Laura and Matt on the current Curlew committee got in touch with a number of old members, it was clear that over the last few years Curlew Rowing Club has undergone a renaissance and has become a formidable force on the river with an excellent fleet of boats. I was given the opportunity to contribute to this fine boat and I think that Eddie would have been delighted to think of his name on a boat going over the course at Henley and other regattas across the country with an excellent crew on board.*

*With no more ado I would like to name this boat Eddie Maloney."*



# OTHER NEWS

## New formalwear supplier

You will have seen the emails go out regarding our new blazer/formalwear supplier, Perry. They have been chosen by the club for their great quality, good value for money and flexible sizing services. The latest window for ordering items has now closed, but keep an eye out for the next one. Perry are able to provide blazer, trousers, waistcoats, ties, bowties and cummerbunds, so we look forward to seeing people fully kitted out!



## New Social Committee and next social!

After previous Social Secretary Zoe Amos left due to personal commitments, it was decided that the role of Social Secretary should be supported by a sub-committee, due to the level of time commitment required for the role. The role is now filled by Kamile Matulenaite, with support from Darren Williams and Anne Marie Cowling.

On that note, our next social has already been organised!

## Pop Quiz Night!

Quiz nights are back! Come down for a few drinks and bring your quiz hats for an evening of music across the decades.

21st May 8pm

@ Curlew Clubhouse, Crane Street

£10 per team of 4 (pay on the night or into the Curlew account)



# REGATTA SEASON RACES

**5<sup>th</sup> May** Wallingford Regatta

**11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> May** Nottingham Regatta and Nottingham Masters

**1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> June** Met Regatta and Peterborough Spring Regatta

**15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> June** Reading Regatta

**21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> June** Henley Women's Regatta

**22<sup>nd</sup> June** Marlow Regatta

**28<sup>th</sup> June** Henley Royal Regatta Qualifiers

**3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> July** Henley Royal Regatta

**12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> July** Henley Masters Regatta

