



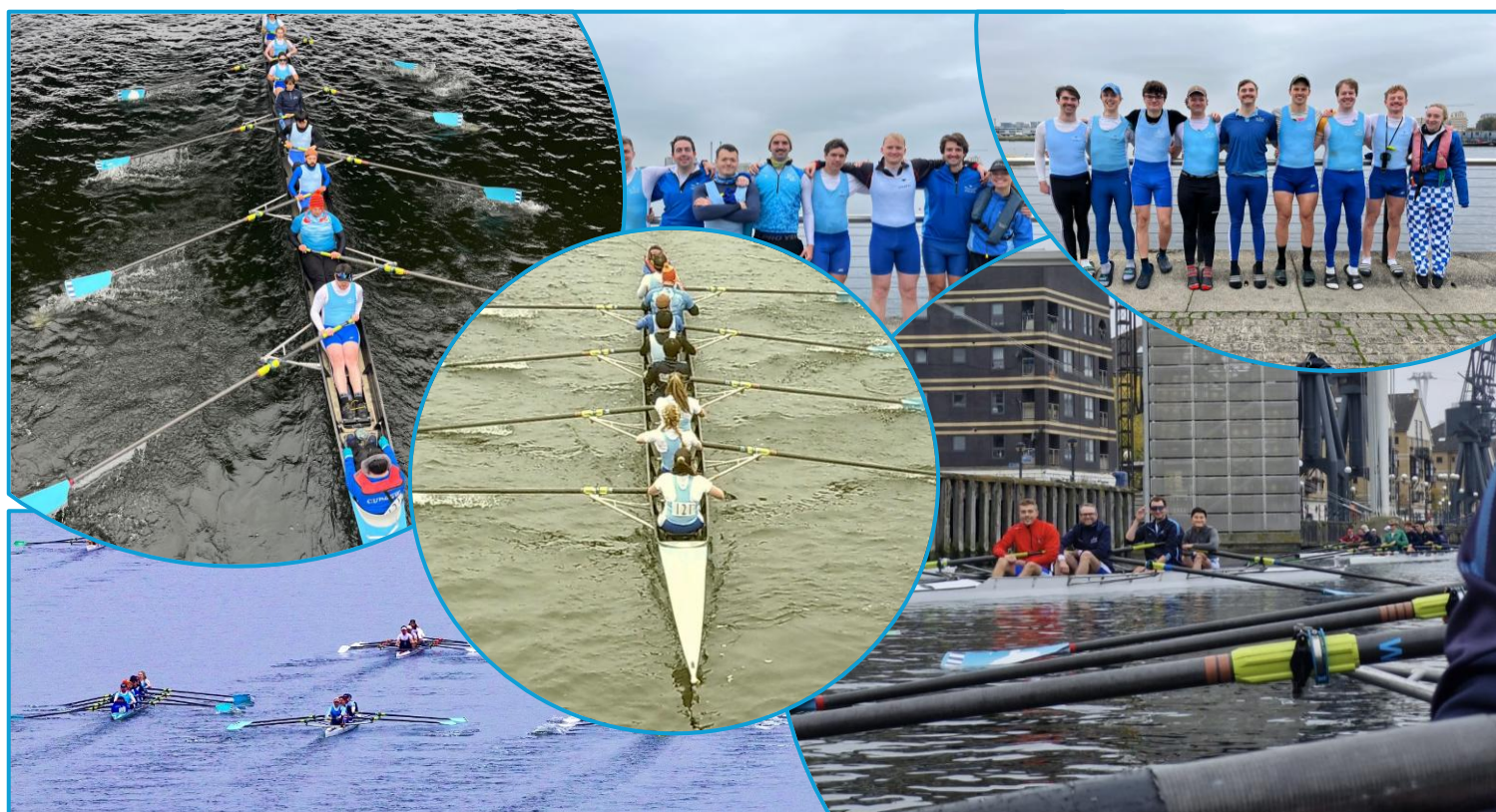
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The News for Curlew

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HEAD SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

CURLEW TAKES ON DOCKLANDS HEAD



With race commentary from:

- Senior Men's Captain- *Charlie Winch*
- Senior Women's Captain: *Kiernan Loue*
- Dev&Rec Squad Captain: *Tia Algar*

Senior Men

On a day where the water at the docks was the flattest most of the squad had ever seen, I'm pleased to report it was a successful event for the squad.

In the division 1, we had 3 men's 4s racing down the course which was a great sign of the depth in the squad. The four of Olly, Charlie, Mantas and Felix took the win in a time of 10'40". Then came Dulwich and closely following was the four of Chris, Oscar, George and Hunter of which 3 of the rowers are new to the squad. This demonstrates how much of a great addition they'll be this year. Our 3rd four rowed strongly coming 4th and beating most of the other opponents at the docks.

Then came division 2 and the bigger boats (2 in fact!).

This year, Poplar wanted every boat at the start line extra early so after boating we had plenty of time to freeze our toes off and indulge in suitably terrible chat before the off.

Both crews switched on when racing started and the two men's 8's powered down the course. The first of Curlew's 8's came 2nd behind a very good Dulwich School (who on earth invited them to the docks?!). Our 2nd 8 came a respectable 5th in the category, beating local rivals Globe comfortably.

Overall, a good day of racing and lots of optimism for the season ahead. Well done to all!



Senior Women

This Docklands Head, the Women's Squad had one goal: To Win!

We have big plans this year and we knew in order to achieve them; we would have to start with a solid performance on our home course.

We entered three boats in total, an 8 and two 4's. With the 8 scheduled for the first session and the 4's in the second, there was no time to waste on the turnaround.

The 8 had a fantastic race, even with the whippersnapper juniors from West London close on our heels. Molly set us off at a strong 32 down the course, and our bow pair kept the bow deck high. We took plenty away from the race including how to execute our last 500 and nailing down what calls were most effective. Overall, we came off the water feeling confident and having had a great race.

The two fours were set to be even boats, with no true A boat. As our primary focus this year is larger boats, we wanted to see how close a finish we could get together. The Saga had to overcome some equipment issues, and the Wintech had to steer away from many a dev quad. In the end, I'm pleased to report the two fours were only three seconds apart!

In the end, the 8 was 20+ seconds faster than the next crew and only 1 second off the Vets Men's 8 and was the fastest women's boat of the regatta! It was a fantastic way to start the season, and the first time we've regained the title of fastest women's boat in quite a few years. It was fantastic to bring this title back home! The Saga 4 ended out a very close win over the second place Wintech but the victory in this race was just how even the two fours were, even with all the complications the races threw at us.

This was the first race I've had as Women's Captain, and I'm extremely proud of the squad. There was total commitment in both races. We set a goal, and we only went and achieved it! I'm really looking forward to our next round of races in the New Year!

Dev&Rec Squad

The Dev's did exceptionally well at Docklands Head, competing in a pair, a 4, a mixed 8 and a men's 8 with British Rowing points being awarded to many.

Throughout the day, we worked together as a squad and cheered each other on. It was lovely to see all our hard work pay off, especially considering this was the first head race for many in our squad. I'm hugely excited to see what the rest of the year brings.

Tia Algar- Dev&Rec Squad Captain 2024-2025



NEXT ON THE AGENDA...

After a well-earned rest over Christmas and New Year, we're straight back into it with a series of head races coming up fast on the horizon.

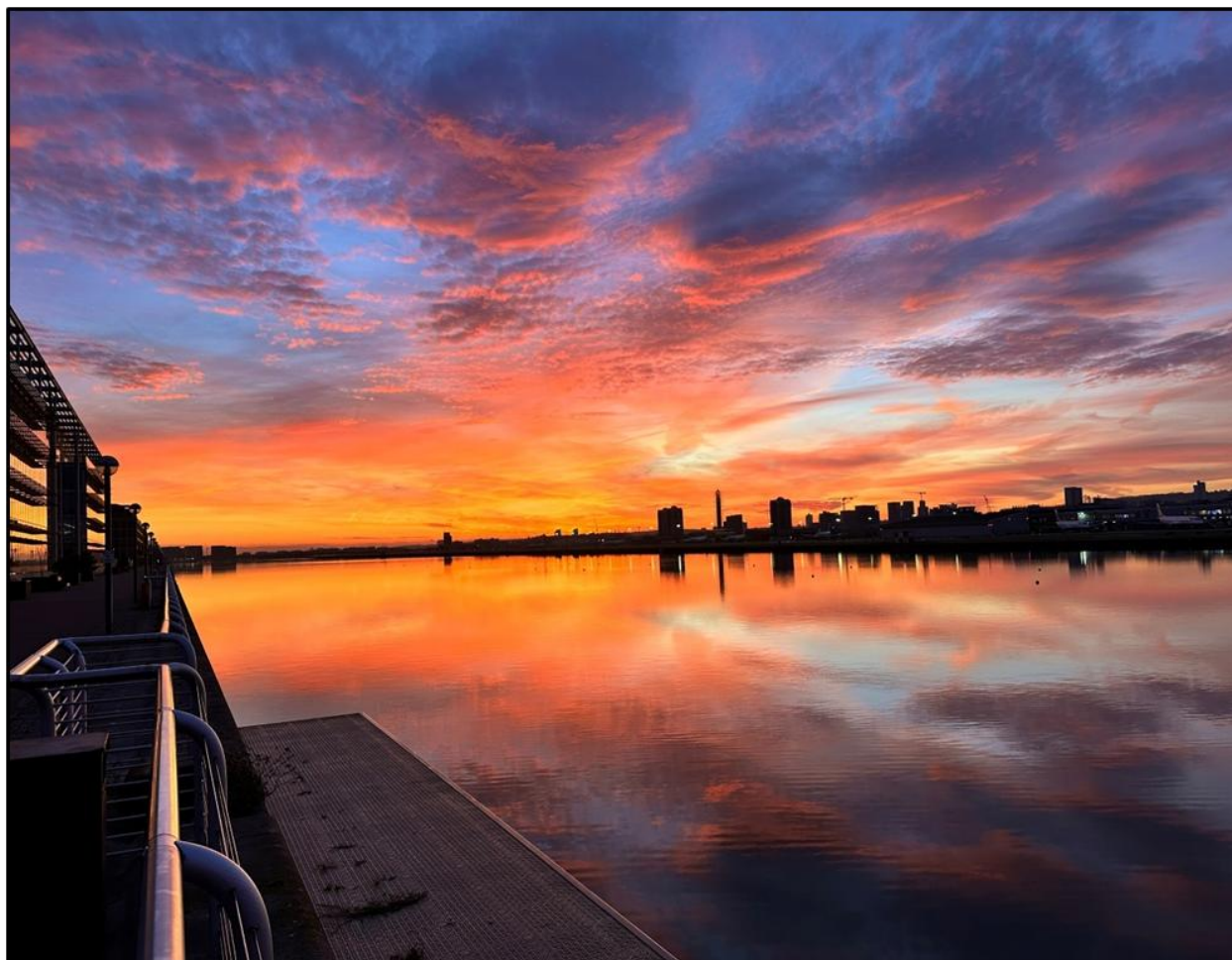
First will be Quintin Head on January 25th, swiftly followed by Greenwich Head on February 16th, where we'll be competing for the first time in over 10 years. We're still confirming how many boats we'll be fielding for the latter, but it should be an excellent event. As it's right in our back yard, any bankside support for our heroic crews would be much appreciated!

Head of the River is next with the women's race taking place on March 8th and the men's race on March 22nd. With crews yet to be finalised, it's fair to say we'll see some pretty big training shifts being put in by all hoping to compete. More details will be provided nearer the time.



Photos of the Year

A random selection from our very own docks. Please send me in your favourites from 2024 and I will make sure they're featured in our next newsletter. Enjoy!







A Merry Curlew to you...

This year's Christmas party was an enormous success thanks to the dedicated efforts of Lorna, our excellent social chair, and her willing assistants. We descended upon the Trafalgar Tavern on November 29th with great pomp and ceremony, everyone dressed to the nines and fuelled with liberal quantities of champagne.

After 20 years of loyal service to Curlew, Sparra was officially honoured with the Stampfli being named after him. The crew of the year award will also henceforth be known as 'The James Hasler Award'. We offer him our hearty congratulations and look forward to many more years of his excellent company!

Felix Rowbotham led first the raffle and then the auction which raised an impressive pounds for the club's coffers. Thank you to all those who bid and to those who provided prizes for both events!

It was then time for the inaugural performance of Curlew's official Christmas carol which I incidentally wrote and performed. I fear it won't be featured in the shortlist for this year's Mercury Prize but I've included it below for anyone who missed it on the evening. Thank you all again for an excellent evening. An extremely belated Merry Curlew to you all!



Merry Curlew to You

*Blisters roasting on an open fire,
Frostbite's nipping at your toes...
Riggers creak like a frog in a choir,
And water's dripping from your nose...*

*Everybody knows,
Some sunshine and a balanced boat...
Help to keep the season bright,
Thought it's been said, many times, many ways...
Merry Curlew, to you.*

*They say that Nick King's on his way...
He's got lots of horrid pause drills planned today,
And every aching back is gonna cry...
When Charlotte says it's time to fly and die.*

*And so I'm offering a simple phrase
For all those rowing in light blue.
Although it's been said, many times, many ways...
Merry Curlew to you.*

*They say that erging's gonna pay...
When we line up next to Vesta yonder day.
And that every 6am Tuesday in the rain...
Is gonna pay us back with victory and champagne!*

*And so I'm offering this simple phrase.
To all those rowing in light blue...
Though it's been said, many times, many ways,
Merry Curlew, to you.*



Learn to Row Graduation!!!



Curlew recently celebrated the completion of our Learn to Row (L2R) course with the 17 novice rowers who completed the eight-week course.

Held at the clubhouse, the event was an opportunity for the club to congratulate the newbies on their commitment, and to welcome them to the sport properly. It was great to see many of the current squad coming along to celebrate their achievement.

Curlew teaches many people to row every year, with previous L2R participants having gone on to race at Henley and British Masters. With some of this year's cohort now moving into our development squad, we hope they have similarly bright futures ahead of them.

If you know anyone who may be interested in learning to row with Curlew, they should contact: learntorow@curlewwrowingclub.co.uk

Alumni Notices

CALLING ALL ALUMNI

We are pleased to announce the Curlew RC alumni social for 2025 will take place on **Sunday 13th April**.

This will be a chance to get together on the day of the Oxford/Cambridge boat race to re-live and reminisce on Curlew's own HERR and WEHERR tideway achievements.

The event will take place in the **Greenwich clubhouse** and the boat race will be shown live on the big screen. Food will be included.

Tickets will go on sale next month.

For any alumni questions, please contact **Anita Jeff** at alumni_and_fundraising@curlewrowingclub.co.uk

Make sure to check your email Junk/Spam folders and add alumni_and_fundraising@curlewrowingclub.co.uk to your safe senders list to receive all the Curlew RC alumni updates

Please see the official poster for the April 13th Social on the next page...



Closing Notes

That's it for now folks! Please get in touch with Felix Rowbotham if you have any questions pertaining to forthcoming events, club procedure or announcements in future newsletters.

Lastly, please forward any photos taken at Curlew social events or regattas to Felix Rowbotham. My lacklustre Instagram skills need all the help they can get! 😊

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