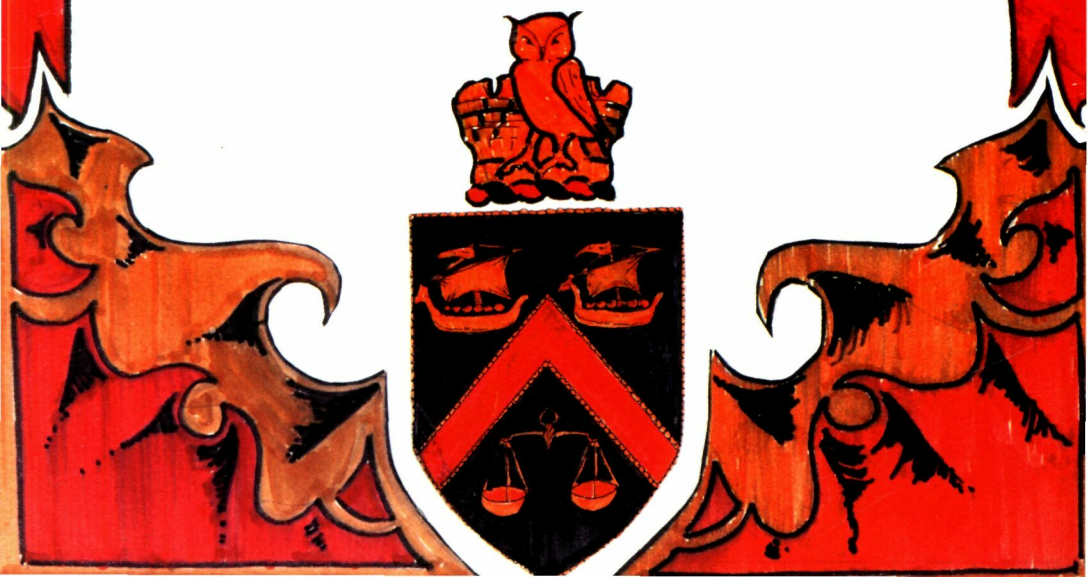


Shiplake College Boat Club
Supporters Association

Summer 1994



Shiplake College Boat Club Supporters Association

President, N V Bevan, Headmaster

Committee Members

Chairman: Colin Marett

Secretary: Linda Marett
1, Rivermead Cottages,
Mill Lane,
Shiplake, Oxon
0734 402258 or daytime 0491 574377

Vice Chairman and Old Vikings Rep:
Guy Jackson
Bridgefoot, Stedham,
Midhurst, West Sussex
0491 578334, Mobile: 0836 324861

Treasurer and 5th form rep:
Jeremy and Janice Dobbin,
Dene Hollow, Blakes Road,
Wargrave,
Berks 0734 404308

Social/Fund Raising and 6th form rep
Kate and Jerry Fitchett,
Beaumont House, Manor Wood Gate,
Lower Shiplake,
Oxon, 0734 401381

4th form rep and Editorial
Peter and Lis Ransom,
Prospect House, Binfield Heath,
Oxon, 0734 478411

3rd form rep:
Hugh Lacey,
Shiplake Rise, Binfield Heath,
Oxon 0734 478794

Master in Charge of Rowing:
Steve Fox
Burr House,
Shiplake College 0734 403555

Editorial:
Sally and Owen Bryant,
670, Bath Road, Taplow,
Maidenhead, Berks 0628 605720

Editorial:
Graham Saunders,
Tesla,
19, Amersham Hill Drive,
High Wycombe, Bucks. 0494 526360

Editorial:
David Creevy,
Ashleigh,
West End,
Waltham St Lawrence,
Berks. 0734 343533

Coaches Liaison:
Geoff Mosley,
Bartletts,
Britwell Salome,
Watlington, Oxon. 0491 613225

Ann Vos,
Tinks Cottage,
Poplar Lane, Winnersh,
Berks. 0734 784440

Captain of Boats: Dan Marett

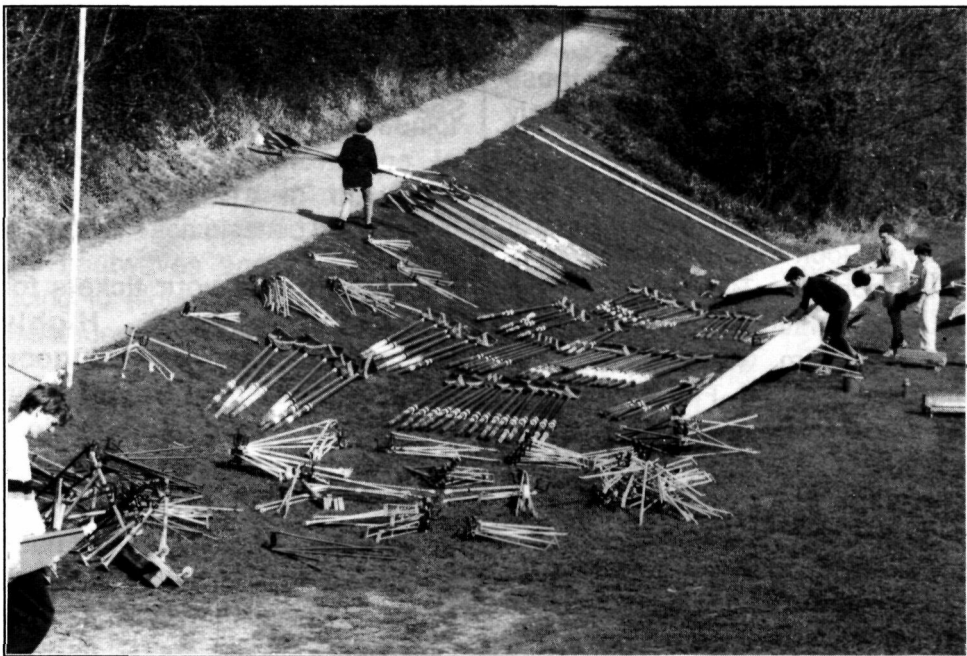
The Thoughts of Chairman Col, March 1994

by Colin Marett

Well, the second issue of Loud Hailer, the end of the Spring term and an awful lot of water under the bridge causing cancellations of most of the Heads - the younger boys must be wondering if they picked the right sport at the beginning of term. But things have started to look up over the last month with the J15 VIII and the J15 IV winning at the Reading School's Head, the latter winning again at the Schools Head on the

Tideway. The 1st IV have been winning medals as well, both at the Yorkshire Head and the Schools Head. Many more exciting events to come over the next term.

What else? Well, on the social side, the Quiz Night, organised by Steve Fox and expertly compered by Matt Gardiner, proved to be a terrific success, with extremely varied and interesting questions which caused



much head scratching and amusement. The Boat House Blitz on the last Sunday of term fell on a wonderfully sunny day and a small army of scrapers, painters and bonfire makers made huge inroads into the task of transforming the old boathouse into a clubroom.

Meanwhile, the boys took all the boats down to the river's edge and re-rigged, re-organised and re-assembled with enormous enthusiasm. From above, the scene resembled a giant airfix kit prior to construction. We carried on in the afternoon, after an excellent "school dinners" lunch - not a hint of semolina, but apple pie and cream for pud, and even a pint of beer. Many thanks to everyone who attended and worked so hard - boys and parents alike - and a special thanks to Steve and Russ for organising the day. Our sincere thanks also go to those people who have so generously donated wood, furniture, doors and windows to the boat club project.

We now look forward to next term. The second May Bank Holiday is the date of the National Schools Regatta at Nottingham, where we hope to meet some of you. For those new to the event, just a few tips which may assist your first visit - on approaching the course, fork left and be prepared to pay entry and carpark fees - possibly £10 per day. And if you are staying over for the Sunday, it's wise to book your accommodation now. (For

more information and observations about Nottingham - read David Creevy's article - Ed.)

As we have done for the past few years, between us we shall be putting together a barbeque after the rowing on Saturday evening, and you are most welcome to join us at this social event on a "Bring and Fry" basis! Please feel free to ring Linda or me (0734 402258 - evenings) if you would like to have more details.

Some of you with younger boys will be experiencing the summer rowing scene for the first time - do come along and meet some of the more experienced 'groupies' - there are usually Shiplake parents in abundance at most of the events. Those with older boys may be sad that this is your last term at Shiplake - so, here's to making this term memorable for all on the rowing front. See you on the water's edge!

PS Don't forget your tickets for the Summer Ball. Highly recommended and extremely good value. Where else can you get a steel band - big band music - roulette - live entertainment - river trips - all in such a super setting!



Headmaster's Invitation

National Schools Regatta,

Nottingham, 28-29 May 1994

I have been attending regattas at Nottingham since the Holme Pierrepont course was first opened. Windswept and bleak it certainly was in those days. There were no facilities for spectators, no grassy banks on which to picnic and one overcrowded loo for all the competitors.

I have also coached crews for every National Schools Regatta, except for 1979 when I was on exchange in Australia, and two years ago when I was in Hong Kong on business. I reckon I know the place pretty well and have seen it at its best and worst. I have had crews and results affected by every sort of wind. At its very best, I recall the World Junior and Senior Championships in successive years in the mid-seventies, each blessed by flat calm and heatwaves and extraordinary racing in eights between the New Zealanders and East Germans.

By contrast was the infamous 1987 Schools Regatta when there were six superb first eights in the final of the Queen Mother Cup. That was when I first sat up and noticed Shiplake as a major force in the rowing world. Having won the Child-Beale the year before, Shiplake were now

in there with a chance against Eton, St Edward's, Shrewsbury, Hampton and Radley. It was to be a straight final and then the whole regatta was blown off course by gale force winds. Trying to unwind the aggression and determination of my crew members was one of the most difficult tasks I ever had as a coach. 1987 was the great race that never was.

Although the atmosphere on the river bank at Henley has much to commend it, there is nothing for me quite like the sight of six crews hammering it out over the final 250 metres at Nottingham.

As always, I am greatly looking forward to this year's regatta and to watching the crews race with distinction. We hope to meet and entertain all Shiplake parents and supporters at lunchtime on the Saturday from about 12.30 to 1.30. We are planning to get up to Nottingham early and set up our stall on the bank, just beyond the scoreboard. We very much look forward to seeing you all there.

N.V.Bevan

A first visit to Nat. Schools

by David Creevy

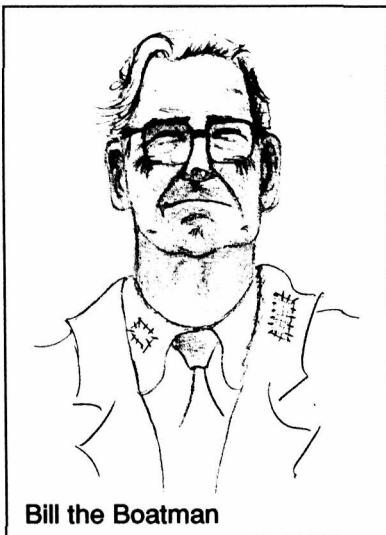
Perhaps staying on the M40 and approaching from the M42 would have been simpler than picking up the M1 at junction 16, but for reasons which now seem lost in the passing of time, it seemed necessary to travel via Weedon! On arrival, we chose the main car park (bearing to the left when approaching the venue from the Nottingham/Adbolton direction), where we found that our car could be parked with a commanding view of the course, and provided us with very convenient shelter for the occasional long gaps between races of interest, particularly as the weather was, as usual, unpredictable.

On our first visit to 'Nat Schools', we were impressed with the organisation. The starting times of the races were maintained fairly well, bearing in mind all the complications associated with getting six boats onto their stakeboats in such windy conditions.

We learned early on to find out in

good time in which lane our investment in Shiplake College was competing. Having to take a long run round to the other side of the course (and survive moving quickly through the perils of the boat park) in order to be nearer lane 6 than lane 1, or vice versa, can seriously damage your concentration on a race. This

information is available from the scoreboard or the lists at the regatta control office on the edge of the water in the boat park area. Failing that, a pair of moderately powerful binoculars can be a huge aid as the crews carry their lane number for each event on the canvas/bow of their boats and this detail can usually be easily identified on their way up to the starts.



Bill the Boatman

Do locate and visit the Headmaster's car at the appropriate time in the shadow of the main scoreboard. You will find it closely surrounded by enthusiastic parents and supporters - newcomers and old hands - swapping boating and other yarns while enjoying the excellent

hospitality of Mr and Mrs Bevan. If you are staying for the weekend, or can delay your departure until later in the evening, also make a point of joining the SCBC barbecue - admirably run by Colin Marett (the SCBCSA Chairman) and his wife Linda. This informal annual assembly has evolved from being an exclusively first VIII gathering to become an evening meeting point for all of the SCBC competitors and supporters.

Do go along to this year's event and support your son and his crew - enjoy the atmosphere, the racing and give a shout of encouragement to every Shiplake crew competing - but

remember that sound advice about not getting too close to the crews and the coaches before races. Should your son be amongst the finalists as the events reach their peaks, savour every second and take lots of photographs. However, as you return home, give a thought for the people behind the scenes who put so much hard work into running the National Schools Regatta, and to all those other crews and coaches who may have had to travel a very long way only to find themselves eliminated in the first round, but without whose enthusiastic participation the event wouldn't be the hugely successful and enjoyable occasion it is.

SHIPLAKE COLLEGE SUMMER BALL

Friday 1st July, 1994

To many of you this is a familiar event and we hope this year to be catering for an even larger crowd than last year.

To add a little more spice, we are including a casino with attractive prizes, and live entertainment from Larry Franks. The prime aim of the Ball is to provide an excellent evening of fun in a stylish setting. At the end of the day there is a profit, sometimes quite substantial. The Boat Club has taken advantage of this fundraising and been able to buy much of the equipment now enjoyed by so many. The entire fitness room was funded by the Ball as well as the ergometers.

We need your support to enable us to continue to give you ours. If you would like an application form for tickets, please contact the Ticket Secretary, Candy Jacklin, Everett House, Shiplake College or telephone 0734 403698. If you would like to join a Shiplake College Boat Club Supporter party for this event, please let Candy know.

Hands, Handcream, Handles and Blisters

A Coach Writes *

A few years ago, during a period of prolonged cold, wet weather that seemed to involve long, steady-state outings lasting all afternoon, a number of the crew started to complain about blisters on the hands (and, to some extent, on the backside).

The coach, a kind, tolerant sort of chap, listened carefully to our complaints and nodded sagely. And that was as far as it went - all co-operation short of actual help. Of course, not everyone needed help; a three-man named Marty L. told us that he had discovered the cure. Of course, we hastened to ask him this marvel - how did he avoid the painful experience of sloughing flesh? "Easy," he replied. "I don't pull hard."

In the past (so I'm reliably informed), oarsmen hardened the skin of their hands with turpentine or (believe it or not) by urinating on them. It was only in the U.S.A., a land free from such archaic concepts as white spirit, that anyone suggested a sounder solution. An article in "The Oarsman" magazine, April 1977 (yes, before the present J16s were born), said the following:

"Blisters are to the rower as



J.D.F.C.

adolescents are to society: painful, sometimes unattractive, potentially dangerous, to some extent detrimental to progress, but a necessary stage in growth." Well, that was a good start.

"The tendency of novices to attach themselves to rowing gloves should be quashed," thundered the oracle. Quite right too. Gloves is for poofs. But what about the blisters? Try these suggestions:

- 1) Keep the oar handle clean - wash it frequently in soap and water.
- 2) Use a handcream regularly, and especially before rowing. (No, handcream is not for poofs. It makes sense, if you think about it. Leather shoes crack if you don't polish them to keep them supple, right? They are

made of skin, aren't they? So are your hands, and you don't want those to crack and go flaky, do you? So use a handcream to keep the skin flexible; Johnson's Baby Oil is good (if you dare) but don't ask for Vaseline, or people will look at you strangely.

3) Trim off callouses on the hands as they harden, so that blisters don't form underneath when the oar handle pushes the upper skin into the soft skin below. Once trimmed, smother in handcream regularly, so that the callouses don't re-form.

Do these methods work? Well, yes, they do actually. Blisters form far less, and they don't become infected

by dirty oar handles. Heed the Awful Warning of the oracle:

"Infection is potentially very dangerous - at worst, according to medical theory, it can lead to amputation of the infected limb." - That should allow one to perfect the outside-hand-only technique.

I've used this method over a number of years and had far less grief from the old paws than used to be the case. On the other hand, maybe I just didn't pull hard.

J.D.F.C.

** Yes, some of them can!*

Bringing the Big 'Eds down to earth!

SCBCSA Quiz Evening

All right, so we weren't so clever after all. The Big 'Eds met their come-uppance and the Hopeless Cases weren't quite so hopeless as they seemed and (thank goodness) the College staff teams and rowing coaches really did know their stuff!

Winners of the first (hopefully not last) Quiz evening were the now famous Coach and Eight, closely followed by This Round's On Me, mostly composed of staff colleagues of Matt Gardiner who kindly (or was it?) set the questions and compered the show at twice the speed of light (for which he has a formula). He

clearly knows an awful lot.

OK, for you lot who didn't manage to attend, which 4 letters follow QWERTY on the keyboard, where is the Garden State, who played Dixon of Dock Green, who wrote Peanuts, etc etc. Answers to Mr Gardiner, on a postcard please. No prizes, those were all given away on the night, including an amazing raffle and a prize to us 'eds for having the best name! (We think Steve just wanted to make sure we'd do this next issue, but thanks anyway). Final question, how much did we raise? Answer: about £150.

Apology - or humble grovellings from the Ed.

Apologies first of all to Sam McLaughlan (5th form - Burr) who designed such a splendid cover - we plan to use it for the next few editions, and feel it is an excellent start to the new-look newsletter. Somehow his much deserved credit got lost in an editorial black hole - many apologies Sam, and thanks for your hard work.

Secondly, apologies to David Creevy who produced the results tables - again the gremlins were busy - we not only succeeded in transposing some of the figures, we actually managed to get the pages in the wrong order. I can only say in mitigation, m'lud, that this was our first edition and we'll try not to offend again!

Whilst on the subject of results, David Creevy has kindly offered to carry on producing the tables despite the above. Bearing in mind the sheer volume of summer events coming up, we have decided to publish them as a separate booklet.

This issue is by way of being a dry (?!) run as last term was notable mainly for the number of cancelled events, so the supplement is rather

thin - less margin for error, I hope!

This is a learning process for all of us on the Committee, so, please, if you feel you can offer any advice, constructive criticism, or, best of all, editorial copy, photographs, cartoons, etc, do write to me, or ring. If there is anyone out there actually reading this we should love to have some feedback, if only to reassure the editorial team that their efforts are not in vain.

Credit Where Credit is Due

The wonderfully talented caricatures which appear throughout this issue have been drawn by Benji Barnes (5th form - Burr).

My thanks to Lis Ransom for creating the design of the newsletter and for the typesetting and layout.

Thanks go also to Graham Saunders who kindly prints our publication at his printing business in High Wycombe (see back page for his address and telephone number - he's allowed a bit of free advertising!).

Also, mini-thanks to my elder son Tom, who attends a rival rowing establishment, and came home at the beginning of the holidays so much in debt to his mother that he agreed to type up all the articles for the Summer issue by way of repayment.



Fixtures

Fixtures for the Summer term

April

Saturday	23	Inter House Regatta, Shiplake College, 2pm.
Saturday	30	Wallingford

May

Sunday	1	Poplar Spring, Docklands Wallingford
Saturday	7	Avon County Schools
Sunday	8	Marlow Spring
Saturday	14	Bedford Thames Ditton
Saturday	21	Coate Water Park, Swindon
Sunday	22	Birmingham

Saturday	28/	National Schools,
Sunday	29	Nottingham

June

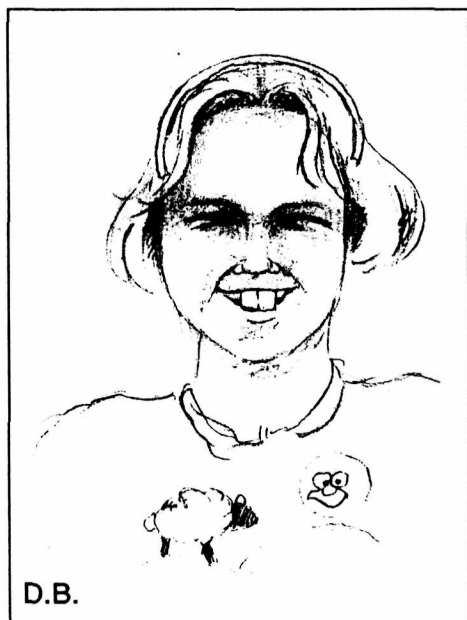
Saturday	4	Walton Docklands
Saturday	11/	Reading Amateur
Sunday	12	do
Saturday	18	Marlow
Sunday	19	Thames Valley Park, Reading
Saturday	25	Reading Town
Wednesday	29	Henley Royal
Thursday	30	Regatta

July

Friday	1	do
Saturday	2	do
Sunday	3	do

This as comprehensive a fixtures guide as we can manage as we go to press. There may be one or two regattas that will creep into the calendar - and there may be some here that we will not be attending, but this gives a pretty good idea of the "busyness" of the summer fixtures list.

As always, events are subject to the vagaries of wind and weather, crew fitness and so on, also, not all Shiplake crews will go to all events, so please stay in touch with your son who should know where he is going, and when!



D.B.

The Virtually Complete Guide to Shiplake Coxing

Dhani Harrison
(5th form - Orchard)

Coxing, Coxon, Coxswain, Cox - what's the difference? At Shiplake, people live together for the purposes of study, work and making fun of coxes - but I tell you, as an *expert* in the matter, it's not all sitting around shouting at rowers - no sir! The cox is the only link between the bank and boat. Coxing is a matter of:

1. Interpreting what the coach says and translating it into rower language.
2. Assessing any situation, predicament or problem the rowers may present you with, and making the right decision instantly, as the chances are the rowers will not do it for you.
3. Being in complete command of any situation - and always being right!

There is no substitute for experience - the unity in a boat is established and developed by a clever cox. For example, if there is a particular member of your crew who is insubordinate, you must silence him immediately before he severely damages the morale of the others.

A crew, for the benefit of land-lubbers,

is either four or eight rowers, *and* a cox. Coxes have a tendency to be excluded from most fitness training (because of their size and strength - see later), so if a cox does not get into the boat with a domineering attitude, the crew will exclude him as well.

As I only started in June 1993, I have been fortunate to have been accepted as a cox, but this owes a lot to the fact that most of the J16 squad are friends of mine. Nevertheless, I still get, "*Go on, Harrison, do something!*" shouted at me from some far distant place in the boat, which has to be better than, "*Harrison, what the hell are you doing?*" as at least it shows that they think I am competent enough to solve the problem. But what to do?

This will come with time - start in the third year and you should have a 100 percent chance of knowing what's going on by the time you come to cox the senior crews. When you are an experienced cox you will be able to feel problems. Whether 2 has his hands at the correct height, or whether the boat is being allowed to run or not. Coaching from the boat is only correct when you know what you are doing, otherwise you can seriously offset the feel of the boat



Winners of their classes at the Tideway Schools' Head - the victorious J15 and Junior Coxed Fours.

and the crew's concentration. Coxing is not for the shy, the timid, the malcoordinated or the kamikaze. You must understand your crew's needs and vice versa, otherwise the rowers will do what they like. Think of them as a machine - if you don't tell them what to do, they won't do anything - well, nothing constructive anyway! Fellow coxes - you must stand up for yourselves - be their captain and motivator.

Rowers enjoy calling coxes - "fat" - "gnomes" - "blind" - and "little people" (that's the polite version) - as they often are (little that is, not fat or blind), but nevertheless, we are still crucial to the end result - we can make them win or lose.

A cox must be at one with the river, know its every move. He must know his crew because 99 percent of the time unity will prevail over strength. Coxes must get on with their crews in

order to be included. In my opinion, in a coxed boat the cox is the most important man - his attitude determines whether the crew succeeds or not.

So, my little fledgling potential coxes out there - do you think you are up to the mental exertion? It's not just about weighing in at seven stone, or steering on the right hand side of the river, it's about authority, leadership and understanding. And any rowers who defy me.....can keep on defying - after all I'm only seven stone and I'm not going to fight them over it!

Note from the Editor - can we have an article from a rower for our next edition - preferably someone from J16 - to put your point of view - how do you see the "little man in the stern" - comments must be printable in a family publication!



The Grass is Always Greener on the Other Side of the Fence!

by Steve 'Deserter' Fox



Many parents have asked me why I am leaving just when things are starting to come together so well. I'd like to answer in the form of an English test - see if you can spot the metaphors and similes, clichés, proverbs, etc. (*How could you miss them!* - Ed.)

Thinking of number one, I'm slinging my hook and moving to Shrewsbury in the hope that a change is as good as a rest. A year ago, I bit off more than I could chew by becoming Master i/c of Rowing as well as Head of Geography and Resident Tutor in Burr House - too much, too young? I became a jack-of-all-trades and master of none. The weight on my shoulders was too much to bear (especially as I had to give up training and became as weak as a kitten) and my skin wasn't thick enough to absorb all of the inevitable flak.

Hence, I had decided to flee the nest

and leave Burr House to lighten my load, ease my burden and allow me some privacy. But, in the throes of house-hunting locally, the Shrewsbury job reared its ugly head and tempted me north like a moth to a candle.

I'm shaking like jelly, and as sick as a parrot, about the prospect of leaping out of the frying pan and into the fire, but a change is as good as a rest - I hope! Besides which, it is an ill wind that blows no good because a rolling stone gathers no moss and a fresh start will rekindle my zest for life as an "Indian" rather than a "Chief".

The Boat Club will undoubtedly be put into safe hands and, with new coaches like winning "Blue" Mark Lauder joining the staff, should move from strength to strength. Hopefully, some of the recent initiatives will bear fruit and parental involvement will blossom and flourish like leaves

on a tree. Every cloud has a silver lining, and my hope is that the Supporters Association will prove to be the icing on the cake that is a very successful Boat Club.

We're all going to miss Steve enormously - his energy and enthusiasm have got the SCBCSA

off to a strong start, and I hope we turn out to be the sort of lasting, firm, royal icing on a celebration cake, not that flimsy stuff that melts away if it's not eaten immediately! Heavens - this terrible style is catching - he's got me at it! Good luck at Shrewsbury, Steve, we'll miss you. Ed.

“Shooting” the Slide

D.H.D.

This is a tale of Shiplake rowing long ago. It happened at the end of the sixties when the College had first ventured out in eights. The only way the coach could encourage his crew was from a sculling boat up and down the winding river to Sonning. No launch was available and the tow path was under plough or water in the winter.

It was a fine late afternoon. The rowing master sculled down a little ahead of his crew, past the island towards the boathouse bay. He was suddenly stung to increase speed, not by presence of his crew behind, who were at 18 steady rate, but by a fusillade of shots from the edge of the quarry above the old boathouse. It was the young Egg with his shot gun, who decided, as some sporting men may, that anyone sitting in a small thin boat and looking backwards, must be a prime target.

Most of the shots missed; but the aforementioned coach still has a bullet hole in his sculling boat. He did not sink at once, coaches do not sink easily, but rather settled somewhat lower in the water, thus presenting a lesser profile to the marksman. The eight increased their rate, encouraged by friendly fire and the sight of their submerging coach. They powered down to Shiplake Lock increasing their rate to 36 in a smooth build.

The hole in the boat was plugged with Araldite and the repair remains in place to this day and may be inspected at the Canford boathouse.

DHD is Derek Drury, Housemaster of Skipwith, and Master in charge of Rowing (1966-1972) - described by someone who knows as “the first man to make Shiplake go fast”. He is now enjoying retirement down in Dorset, where he also coaches the Canford 1st VIII. Ed.

Seating Arrangements (The VIII)

by Barry Currivan

In General...

Coaches, look for balance
When you pick your final eight.
Identify their talents
And distribute their weight.

When picking seats for your eight men
Make it your concern
To put heavies in the middle, then
the light in bow and stern.

Specifically...

Picking your stroke is usually done
With the following assumption;
That among the crew he'll be the one
With more than average gumption.

For the stroke whose only claim to
fame
Is maintaining a steady rate,
Does not deserve the strokeman's
name
He's only number eight.

The seven man who's at his back
Should be a wily bloke;
Who has the very happy knack
Of anticipating stroke.

To always move right with him
Should be his source of pride;
To telegraph his rhythm
Back down the other side.

The advice that one most often hears
On picking five and six
Is "Get men with muscles to their ears,
and not too much betwixt".

For the "Engine Room" as it is known
Is not the place for shirkers
But for rough and ready oarsmen
And conscientious workers.
(For a crew will meet an early doom
With cowboys in the "injun" room.)

Lacking the power of five or six,
But with technique all the more
They're the kind one usually picks
To sit at three and four.

Not such great oar benders,
Just efficient at what they do,
And two very strong contenders
For the first four from your crew.

The bow pair you pick for your eight
Should be masters of the art
Of how to keep boat dead straight
On a rough and windy start.

Good technique is the name of the
game
For picking this final double;
Indeed their biggest claim to fame
Is keeping out of trouble.

An oarsman's journey to the two man's
seat
Quite often you will note
Is one that is made in leaps and
bounds
From the other end of the boat.

A guy who rowed at number eight
'Till all his cards were played;
Another burnt out strokeman
Who didn't make the grade.

The bowman's place I would contend
Is the most contested seat;
For the man who sits in the pointy end
Gets in by the skin of his teeth.

(And coaches, be cute, there's one
attribute
That you should not forget in your
haste);
Pick long-legged men with broad
shoulders that then
Taper sharply right down to the waist.

For if bowmen have cribs,
They're narrow with ribs
That catch fat backsides in their grips;
And though the cost of their seat
might be skin of their teeth,
More often it's skin off their hips.

*From: Inside Rowing. The Outside
Handbook, by Barry Currivan.*

*We now have proper permission from
Barry Currivan to reproduce his poems in
the Loud Hailer - see our edited
correspondence next page! He appears
to have a few copies of the book left -
would you like one, or six, to put in the
loo, give as presents, keep by the
bedside? If you have rowed yourself, or
have rowing connections (you must have
if you've got this far!) this is essential
reading. We're going to order some from
him - give me a ring on 0628 605720 if
you would like one at a very reasonable
price of £4.00, which includes a £1
donation to SCBCSA. - Ed.*

HOW GREEN IS YOUR ROWING?

Loud Hailer's Bankside Correspondent

Surely rowing must be very close to the top of the list of the most environmentally friendly sports, ignoring the occasional damage caused from blades or bikes and the odd concussed duck - there wouldn't seem to be much the most ardent environmentalist could complain about.

However, a recent letter to *The Times* raises some serious questions which might suggest that we may have to encourage our young oarsmen to give some very careful consideration to their lower extremities, especially after races and training runs, to

minimise any increase in environmental pollution they may inadvertently cause. The letter is reproduced here, with permission of the author and *The Times*.

Sir, My wife bought me a pair of socks recently. The front of the label read, 'The ozone friendly sock. 100% natural cotton. This product contains no CFCs.' The back of the label carries on: 'Helps prevent foot odour which is probably a major cause of the destruction of the ozone layer.' I think we should create a stink about the failure of the Government to alert us to this danger.

Yours faithfully

G B Miller, Sittingbourne, Kent.

Irish 'Ayes'

Shiplake,, 17 March 1994

Dear Mr Curriuan

I have to offer a grovelling apology along with a cheeky request. As you can see from the enclosed, I used one of your poems in our first edition of Loud Hailer, which is the Shiplake Boat Club Supporters Association's Newsletter (try putting that title in a poem!). Somehow it was printed before I had time to write and ask your permission to use it.

Steve Fox, a lovely affable man, was totally optimistic that you wouldn't mind at all, I do hope he is right, because I'd like to be able to use another one! We produce three editions of *Loud Hailer* a year, and would be more than happy to include you on the mailing list in return for your permission to use your poems - on reflection, would it be kinder to repay you by not including you? If you still come to Henley - would a drink in Stewards be acceptable?

Do you have any copies of the book still available? If you have, it occurs to me that we may be able to sell some for you. My husband thoroughly enjoyed reading a (borrowed) copy, and would like one for himself - I think Steve needs a new copy too, his has fallen apart at the seams - send an order form!

Yours sincerely, apologetically,
hopefully, etc,
Sally Bryant

28 March 1994 - Dublin

Dear Sally,

I was going to throw a real a scare into you by starting this letter off with,

"Dear Miz Bryant,

On behalf of our clients, The Currivan

Publications and Scurrilous Acquisitions Group, we must advise you that ..."

However I thought better of dispelling this "awfully nice chap" illusion that you are currently labouring under and decided instead to give a blow by blow response.

Your opening was impeccable as, firstly, grovelling is something I always respond well to, provided, of course, that I am the grovellee; and secondly, cheeky requests that I receive from the delicately nurtured, may not always be granted but they are certainly given due consideration.

You may feel free to carry on taking liberties with the copyright laws, as my office (currently situated in the top right hand pocket of my Levi jacket) is too busy to take proceedings against you. Include me on your mailing list, and you can buy me a drink anywhere you like, and as it turns out you may well get an opportunity at Henley this year. You will be advised, but start saving anyway.

HAH! Do I have any copies still available? "Missus, I've lagged me attic with the bloody things!" So if you reckon that there would be a market at said Shiplake, well you just let me know how many you think you might dispose of and I will send them toute suite. I have ignored inflation, E.M.F., and the price of the turnips, and have maintained the selling price of the book to the punter at £4.00. By the way, I should really charge your husband £5.00, the extra being for rental on the one he has been reading up to this.

Well anyway best of luck to you and the school, and you may carry on for the time being with my blessing.

Yours just as sincerely, apology magnanimously acceptedly, and even more hopefully,
Barry Currivan.

ENTS

Boat Club Supporters Association social events

CORONATION WHIST EVENING

You are invited to take part in a very sociable evening in the Tithe Barn at Shiplake College on Tuesday, 31 May, at 7.30pm.

You don't have to be card sharps to play Coronation Whist, as long as you can tell the difference between hearts and clubs, spades and diamonds and can count from one to ten, you can play!

The game is varied and keeps you on the move from table to table which also gives you the opportunity to chat and to meet other parents in a relaxed atmosphere. Whilst there is a prize for the person with the highest number of points at the end of the evening, the game is not supposed to be taken too seriously! The main aim of the evening is to have fun, meet up with old friends, and make new ones.

The cost of this outstanding entertainment is just £5 per head which also enables you to enjoy the renowned cuisine of the Shiplake College. Tickets are available from Jerry and Kate Fitchett. Please make your cheque payable to Shiplake College Boat Club Supporters Association (well, OK, you can put SCBCSA if you can't fit it all on one line!), and send it to:

*Jerry Fitchett
Beaumont House
Manor Wood Gate
Lower Shiplake
Henley-on-Thames
Oxon RG9 3BY*

If you'd like to know a little more about it, or have any problems, please ring the Fitchetts on 0734 401381.

Copy for next issue to Sally
Bryant by end of term.

Your Questions Answered

AND finally, once again, the Loud Hailer investigation team has combed through the upper echelons of expertise to bring the best available advice to bear on a reader's query. This term, a question from a Third Form parent signed only "Unsure" of Caversham (be reassured, a lot of people are unsure of Caversham!).

"Are there rules of behaviour at Regattas?"

"No."

S.A.A.Fox

"It is wise to visit the Gents before boating, so as not to be caught short once at the start."

D.King

"Don't shout, 'Come on Shiplake' until you are sure that they are not Shrewsbury!"

A J15 Parent

"A fedora, triple breasted blazer and T.C.D. bow tie are only appropriate in the Steward's Enclosure at Henley Royal Regatta before dinner time."

I.R.Lowry

"The height of the hemline should be calculated by reference to the crew position in the preceding head of the river, minus the square root of the gusset lining, added to the depth of mud in the enclosure."

D. Blease c/o Bronze Award Holders, ARA.

"Restrained applause is in order as the winning crew passes in front of you."

The Public Schools Yearbook

"...Unless it is Shiplake, when you go wild."

Sam Hall

"It is impolite to start before the others, except when they deliberately hang back!"

Stroke of 1st VIII

"It is not a good idea to allow your son's grandmother to give him a good luck kiss as the crew is boating, especially if he blushes easily, or to allow her to give the coach words of advice."

J.M.Keys

"The ration of volume-to-knowledge in spectator audio-contribution should be relative to the difference in boat speeds and adjusted by either the amount of productive time spent in the beer tent or by reference to Module 25 of the Coaching Advisory Booklet published by the Rowing Magazine."

The Coaching Advisory Service, Rowing Magazine.