



# TYNE NEWSLETTER

24<sup>th</sup> January 2010

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Durham Small Boats Head  
and  
TRC Winter Ball**  
6<sup>th</sup> February

**Tyne Head of the River**  
27<sup>th</sup> February

**Nottingham Head of the  
River Trent**  
28<sup>th</sup> February

**Women's Head of the  
River race**  
13<sup>th</sup> March

**Head of the River Race**  
27<sup>th</sup> March

**Vesta Veteran Head**  
28<sup>th</sup> March

## Websites

**British Rowing**



**Port of Tyne Authority**

**North East Rowing**

## Club Committee for 2010 - Ian Wagstaff

There hasn't been a newsletter since the AGM, so if you haven't caught up with us, welcome to the new set-up. The positions are as follows: Chairman - Ian Wagstaff, Captain - Chris Parsons, Vice Captain - Laura Gilbert, Vice Captain - Dave Symes, Treasurer - Martin Colquhoun, Secretary - Colin Percy, Members - Laura Croisdale, Si Forster, Ailsa Hall, Julian MacBride, Lynne Michelson and John Mulholland. You can find more details including a 'who does what document' on the web site at [www.tynerowingclub.org/pages/governance\\_16401.cfm](http://www.tynerowingclub.org/pages/governance_16401.cfm).

In addition, John Goddard (last year's Chairman and a new trustee) has agreed to lead a small group looking at long term development of our site and buildings. Please let us know if you would like an input into this.

## Subscriptions - Colin Percy

Again this may have passed you by, but it's important you read this and act, if necessary. The Secretary will contact you all individually to check your contact and payment details, but please don't wait for this to do something.

New subs were agreed at the AGM and were operative from 1 December 2009. In future subs will be payable by the calendar year, not from 1 September. The full list of subs levels is on the web site at:

[www.tynerowingclub.org/pages/membership\\_16402.cfm](http://www.tynerowingclub.org/pages/membership_16402.cfm).

Full rowing membership is now £22.50 a month, with concessions generally half this at £11.25 a month. Juniors subs are £10 a month 14 and over and £5 under 14. We now have a land-based off peak membership for use of ergos etc during the day at £4.50 and a Parent/helper/volunteer/social category at £1 a month. Car parking is free.

If you have not done so, please amend your standing order now and let the Secretary have anything extra due from 1 December in cash or by cheque (you can leave in the black 'events' post box in front room. If you have already paid by cheque for September 2009 to August 2010, we'll be in touch shortly about taking you up to 31 December, so don't do anything.

## **Community Sports Coach - Colin Percy**

We have great pleasure in announcing the appointment from 15 February of our new CSC, Amy Ward. Amy comes from a similar post in the north west of England. She knows the area and river well, having coxed with Newcastle University up to 2008. She will be working mainly with schools and community based projects, but she will get round all the squads to introduce herself and do a little bit of work with you just to get to know the club. More details next time.

## **Welfare Issues - Debbie Owens**

Please remember we have a Club Welfare Officer, Debbie Owens. She is available at any time if you have concerns about child or adult welfare. Don't hesitate to get in touch - her details are on the notice board along with advice about reporting concerns and on the website. She has asked that three categories of members complete an anonymous British Rowing survey on safeguarding young people:

\* junior rowers                      \* parents and carers                      \* coaches, teachers and umpires

Go to [www.britishrowing.org/news/safeguarding-young-people](http://www.britishrowing.org/news/safeguarding-young-people) to do the survey.

## **Rowing and Events - Chris Parsons**

Rowing took a big hit with the cold weather, but the enthusiastic kept going indoors. Training is now back in full flow, the senior squads looking forward in particular to Tideway events on the Thames in March. We have our own Tyne Head event on Saturday 27 February and we'll be looking for help from everybody as usual that day. We have also inherited the Ponteland Junior Head race from Pont High School. The current date down for this is 3 April, but tides are not good, so it may be 10 April.

## **Member behaviour - Colin Percy**

The Committee has discussed what advice we should give to members about behaviour on and off the water, following a couple of complaints. If you are an active rower, your squad coach or coordinator should give you the same general message, but a reminder here will do no harm. Taking a cue from the Tyne Safety Rules (and indeed the official rules of racing), we ask that at all times rowers should remain calm and courteous to all other river users and show due consideration. Remember that your outing is no more important than that of any other crew or boat also on the river.

Should you feel that the behaviour on or off the river of those from this club or from other clubs is incorrect or inappropriate, then please take this up with the Committee, do not deal with it on your own unless very minor and can be dealt with on the spot. If you are minded to send off an email to anybody or contribute to a web site or an on-line debate, then (a) count to ten before writing anything, (b) write your contribution but sleep on it and review it before pressing the send button and (c) consider if it would be best sent internally to the Committee first. We do not have precise or strict rules on member behaviour, but the Committee will take breaches of common-sense good manners and courtesy seriously, especially where juniors might be involved.

## **Water Safety News – Liz Bray**

There have been no incidents reported since end of October. The Durham Uni racing event for student crews over the weekend of 23-24 January was also held without incident or undue inconvenience. The annual audit has been done - we were the only club in the region to meet the deadline! It includes a "gap analysis" of how well we are complying with our responsibilities under *Row Safe* guidance (pretty well on the whole I think). Our "gaps" are identified on this year's safety action plan (draft copy on notice board and on web site).

Priority actions are:

- Club handbook,
- Boat ID numbers and weights
- Emergency numbers in the launches,
- Better induction for new members
- Revision of information on water-borne diseases.

On water-borne disease, the best advice really is that if you do nothing else make sure you **wash your hands** after doing anything with boats or equipment that gets used in the Tyne and especially before you go in the kitchen, or consume food and drink. We always have anti-bacterial soaps for you to use. Be careful with drinks bottles – make sure the top is covered securely with a screw top so you do not drink from a contaminated mouthpiece. Apart from that bear in mind that lots of us, me included, have had several immersions in the Tyne and we are still alive.

The audit includes private boats and I need some help with this. Please could owners let me know the following information - email details to [liz.bray@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:liz.bray@blueyonder.co.uk) or write out and put in the plastic envelope on the safety notice board.

- Do you have insurance?
- Have you checked your boat in the last month? (bow ball, buoyancy, heel restraints etc )
- Date of manufacture (if known) and recommended crew weight? Say 'don't know' if needs be.

Wishing everyone a very happy and safe 2010.

### **Fundraising - Laura Clack**

Thank you to members who have contributed to the food and hot drinks provided in the kitchen – we raised £102 for club funds between October and the end of 2009. Thanks go to those members who have donated food and time, to buy in supplies, get it ready and clear up. We will try and keep this going in 2010. Rutherford Head catering raised a further £445 for club funds. The juniors will be organising a tombola on the day of the Tyne Head. All contributions will be most welcome during the week leading up to the event.

### **Winter Ball - Laura Croisdale**

The club's Winter Ball is to be on Saturday 6 February 2010 at the Copthorne Hotel, Quayside, Newcastle. Cost £35, £28 for juniors. Details are on the club website.

### **Frozen Tyne Pictures, 8 January 2010**



### **Future Content**

Thank you to Liz Bray and Colin Percy for their contributions this time round. If you have anything you would like in the next newsletter please send me the info at [nickydexter@googlemail.com](mailto:nickydexter@googlemail.com).