



BOATHOUSE CHATTER

Welcome to Boathouse Chatter.

Thanks for all the people who have contributed to the Newsletter. Another full and varied issue. Please let us know your news and what you're doing to get by – stay in touch!

Please send your news to anita@newlandmail.com

Let's work together to keep the chatter going...

Robbie Coleman is updating our Twitter account. Follow us on Twitter @PBDRC

DIARY DATES

- **FRIDAY 25TH JUNE 2021 – DOGGETS COAT & BADGE (POSTPONED 2020 RACE)**
- **BOATHOUSE 50TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION – DATE TBC**

➤ Notice Board....

➤ *The Bar*

The bar is currently closed. Currently expected to re-open during the second half of May 21 (TBC).

➤ *Circuits*

Monday & Wednesday from 5.45pm in the park at Island Gardens – contact Andrea or Anita

➤ *Racking Fees*

Racking fees for the year to April 2022 are now due. £100 for a single.

➤ *Club Memories- Message from Chris Spencer*

I am collating memories of the club from 1980 to 2000 for the club's archives. If you have any recollections that you would like to share and be included, then please email me at cjospencer@me.com. They can be funny, factual and do not necessarily have to be competition related, just how you remember it in your own words.

➤ *Trustees*

The Trustees meet monthly. If you have any queries or concerns, please contact Dan directly at danbartlett1@btinternet.com.

➤ Roadmap return to rowing — Robbie Coleman & Trustees

British Rowing has issued its edition Covid 19 return to rowing advice to clubs, and below is a timeline of how the Trustees are going to safely reopen the club.

We are proposing to open for rowing on **29th March 2021**. The traffic light system will be reintroduced from this date. All classes of boats Singles, Doubles, Pairs, 4+/- 4x and 8+ from mixed households will be allowed. The hygiene and measures, in place prior to the recent lockdown, will be re-introduced. These are essential in order to minimise the risk of transmission of the virus.

Andrea Stock has agreed to take charge of the booking system once more and this will be done via messages and emails. As previously the booking system will be used to book and record details of those going afloat. In the case of a crew boat, one person from the crew will make the booking and give details of the crew. Crewed boats will go out during the boating times which will be published every week. It is vitally important that members book as the record will be used as part of the NHS test and trace if necessary. There will be slots of 20 mins where a maximum of 9 people will be allowed in the boathouse. Punctuality is essential.

Any adjustments and cleaning of boats must be done on trestles on the slipway. Face covering / masks must be worn at all times whilst in the Boathouse. The same procedure is to be followed for coming ashore and returning to the boathouse. Each crew must ensure that any equipment used is thoroughly cleaned before being put away after the outing.

Once afloat, Crews should aim to maintain the maximum distance between rowers at all times. Avoid rowing towards another rower sitting at backstops. Synchronisation is the key, be aware of the position of your crew mate. Whole crew rowing should be the aim for all outings thus maintaining social distancing in the boat. Rowers should avoid shouting to reduce the risk of droplet transmission. Face-coverings during the outing itself is a personal choice. Coxes should wear a mask and a face visor.

The reopening of the Club is subject of course to any outbreak at the club or local lockdown and the various measures being in place for everyone's safety. Please be conscious of the virus and don't get lulled into a false sense of security.

Please remember : Maintain social distance. Wash your hands. Leave the boathouse as soon as your boat is back on the rack. All debriefs should be done in a socially distanced manner outside the club.

The gym is an area of concern and is being urgently looked at by the Trustees. Please bear with us while we try to open this area of the club safely.

See table below for a summary of activity allowed at each date in the roadmap.

➤ Health & Safety Reminder — Nick Paul

Please keep the following key points in mind during all outings:

- ✓ Wash hands regularly and use the hand sanitiser provided.
- ✓ Wipe down all handles & door plates using the blue paper towel & disinfectant spray or use the wipes provided.
- ✓ Adhere to social distancing at all times and be mindful of the 2 meter rule. This will become increasingly important as numbers using the boat house increases.
- ✓ Please use your own face mask /face covering and gloves.
- ✓ Wash down all boats and sculls using the soap provided.
- ✓ Remember to have your phone with you at all times.
- ✓ Pull the boathouse doors together if you are the last boat out.
- ✓ Crews to remain constant to reduce the number of different close interactions between rowers
- ✓ Check boats before going out & before returning them to the rack. Please do not return a defective boat to the rack without making a note on the white board.

➤ **Return to rowing roadmap** — Activity allowed at each date

	12th April 2021	17th May 2021	21st June 2021
Club Facilities	Minimum to allow secure boating	Minimum to allow secure boating	All COVID secure facilities open
	Changing rooms closed	Changing rooms can re- open	
	Members to arrive ready to row		
Hospitality	Bar open for outside use.	Bar operation TBC	
	Possible tea & coffee on balcony after rowing TBC	Possible tea & coffee on balcony after rowing TBC	
On water Activity	All crew boats allowed from mixed households	All crew boats allowed from mixed households	All crew boats allowed from mixed households
	COVID secure protocols in place	COVID secure protocols in place	COVID secure protocols in place
	Booking system in place	Booking system in place	Booking system ceases
	9 people allowed in boathouse per 20 minutes	9 people allowed in boathouse per 20 minutes	
In Door Activity	Gym remains closed	Gym remains closed	Gym remains closed
		COVID secure and organised group exercise can take place in the hall. Numbers & management of this TBC	COVID secure and organised group exercise can take place in the hall. Numbers & management of this TBC
Competition	Competition level TBC	Affiliated competitions allowed	Affiliated competitions allowed

➤ The Club 1991 -1995 – Chris Spencer

I am collating memories of the club from 1980 to 2000 for the club's archives. If you have any recollections that you would like to share and be included, then please email me at cjospencer@me.com. They can be funny, factual and do not necessarily have to be competition related, just how you remember it in your words. Below I have listed some of my notes of growing up in the club from 1991 to 1995. Perhaps they might trigger some memories of your own.

Having had a reasonable Head of the River result in 1990, the club improved upon this by finishing 40th in 1991. Since the mid 1970s the club had attended the Dartmouth Head en-masse, normally with some great results and often winning the race outright. 1991 was no exception and the crew of Roger Spencer, Jon Ferris, Steve Harbut and myself won the race overall with Laura Dagg coxing. This was to be the last time that Laura would ever cox Jon, after the descriptive language he used to eloquently describe her steering halfway along the course! Obviously, these were the days long before political correctness became vogue.

Throughout the year, the club competed at many regattas with some success at all levels. Doggetts was once again won by a Poplar member Luke Neicho, in what were very challenging conditions, resembling a bad day on the Bay of Biscay.

Keith Read became Club Captain in 1992 and the committee made a decision to drop many of the members of the crew that finished 40 in the Head of the River for a younger crew who, rowing in the Senior 3 category, started 37 and finished 177.

Once again, the club attended the Dartmouth Head and Roger and I won the race overall in a double scull. However, the organisers awarded the trophy to second placed Shoreham Rowing Club as the race had never been won before by any boat other than fours. Twenty nine years later I still contest that decision with friends at Totness Rowing Club. Rather than getting the winners' trophy Roger and I were given a pennant. A few years later, I rowed at Shoreham in the crew that came second and, over a beer or two, I took the opportunity to mention the fact that it was actually us who won the head overall.

Jeremy McCarthy who had returned from Lea Rowing Club won Doggetts in 1992 competing as Poplar.

Ron Dovey became Captain in 1993 and the club improved upon its previous position in the Head by finishing 166. In September, I teamed up with former World Champion Peter Haining for the Pairs Head. Rating 40 for the final one and a half miles, it was a lung bursting experience but we managed to beat future Olympic Champion James Cracknell and his GB partner Rob Thatcher by over 40 seconds to win the race overall. The club had previously won the Head only once in 1980 in a double of John Dwan and Ian Gold.

Ron remained as Captain in 1994 and the club once again entered the Head of the River. It is fairly common for top ten crews to finish in their starting position but a strange thing occurred in 1994. Starting 158 the clubs young crew finished 158th which is an extremely rare occurrence for mid placed crews.

In 1995 the club once again improved upon its performance in the Head by finishing 134th. Ron Dovey remained as Captain and the club recorded some success at various regattas. Most notably was future Olympic Champion Mark Hunter winning the Junior Quads race at Henley Royal Regatta, the clubs first ever win at Henley in a composite crew with Windsor Boys School. Many club members had won at Henley in previous years but not rowing as Poplar. Unfortunately, Mark was the first and last!

The club's history has always been slightly unclear with a number of dates being thrown into the discussion for when the club was actually established. The club however did celebrate its 150th birthday in September 1995, an anniversary that it also celebrated previously in the late 1960's. There are a number of back boards in Waterman's Hall celebrating a Poplar Blackwall & District Regatta dating back hundreds of years, but when the club was formed it was called a different name so I guess that we will never really find the true date as club records were not kept in those bygone days.



Frank Barret — Captain 1960-61 — In conversation with John Skelton & Chris Spencer



Frankie Barret died on Thursday 8th April 2021 at the age of 92. Frank came from a family of watermen and lighterman. He followed in the family tradition, working on the river as a civil engineer.

Frank was a member of the club for many years and was Club Captain in 1960 and 1961. He was in the first ever crew from Poplar to row at Henley in 1956. The crew of eight was made up of lightermen & dockers who forfeited wages to take the time off work to row at Henley. Their efforts were rewarded as they made it to the semi-finals of the Thames Cup and were only narrowly beaten by the crew from the RAF who went on to win in the final.



The picture above left shows Frank (right hand side) with George Cole, also a member of the Henley crew. The picture on the right hand side shows the 1956 Henley crew.

Frank's funeral will be held on Monday 17th May 2021 at Kemnal Cemetery Sidcup at 2pm. The family hope to scatter Frank's ashes at the club later in the year -details to follow.