

# "All Together"

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE  
GREAT MARLOW SCHOOL  
BOAT CLUB

## NOTE FROM THE COACH

PIERS BARNETT

The first race of the year saw most rowers across all age groups compete at Hampton Head Race on the 7th of February. A very competitive event with many high level crews present. The notable results were the Year 9 boys octo who came 7th out of 23 crews, the year 10 boys eight raced well to finish 5th out of 18 crews and the year 10 girls double who ended up 4th in their category.

## WELCOME FROM THE HEAD TEACHER: GERALYN WILSON

It is a pleasure to write this first note for Great Marlow School Boat Club Newsletter and I am delighted that we will have a new forum to celebrate great news and to inform about events and developments in rowing.

The Great Marlow School Boat Club has the full support of the school and it is our intention that we will rival the best rowing schools in the country. Our aim is to promote a set of principles and practice that will allow teachers to deliver high academic standards while developing students' character strengths and improve their well-being. Rowing builds character as well as mental and physical discipline but the sport is unique in building self-confidence and making rowers adaptable, agreeable and great communicators. Rowing offers a healthy social environment and a great team environment too. To be successful at the sport you have to be committed, you have to have discipline and you have to have passion and truly want to row and our students and staff demonstrate these qualities consistently throughout each rowing season.

Thank you to the coaches and staff who dedicate their time so generously and to parents and supporters who make it all possible. The Great Marlow Boat Club's greatest asset is, of course, the students.



Most of the girls squad then raced at Gloucester head on the 8th of March. All the girls racing came away with a medal and there were multiple wins including the Women's IM38+, J18W4x and WJ154x+ .

The Schools Head of the River race sees the nation's fastest crews compete over the famous boat race course in reverse in a time trial format. The J16W 4+ came 5th in a competitive field and the year 10 boys eight won the 1st Eights. Their time compared to the results for the Championship 8's putting them 3rd overall in the country which was a great result.



The following day at the National Sculling Head, crews competed at Dorney, the Olympic lake venue, in another time trial format. The year 10 boys came second and picked up a silver medal in the quad event out of 39 crews. There were other impressive results from many crews holding their own in their category such as the year 9 boys octo coming 14th out of 51, the year 10 girls quad coming 16 out of 52 crews.

On Saturday 26th April GMSBC won a fantastic six events at Birmingham Regatta in Edgbaston. On Saturday 9th May 50 rowers took to the water at Bedford. GMS performed in the first race of the day at 08:15 and in the last race at 19:40. Between those times the school crews won 21 races in total and made it through to 5 finals. GMS bumped into local rivals Sir William Borlase on two occasions, in the early rounds, and in both instances emerged the victors.

On Sunday the 10th May, the GMSBC Year 8s went to Dorney Lake to compete in the Ball Cup. This is the South of England Junior Championships. For the rowers in Year 8, this was a really successful outing despite being only their second regatta, the boys won the gold medal and the girls won silver. The girls then went on to win outright at Maidenhead junior regatta the following weekend.

The results demonstrate the huge potential of GMS students, at this stage of the season they are a good indicator for the summer regattas but there is still plenty of opportunity for crews to step up and gain more speed to find themselves higher up the ranking come National Schools Regatta.

# FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Rowing is sometimes considered an expensive sport, given the cost of the boats can run into the tens of thousands for just one. Having said this, unlike football or cricket, the "pitch" is free and doesn't require grounds men for its upkeep. There are three separate strands to funding the boat club. Firstly, between the school and the parental donations, we aim to cover our running costs such as coaching costs, maintaining our boats, entering events, renting the racking space off Longridge, fuel for launches and tow vehicles etc. Secondly is the capital outlay for boats, launches, training equipment, trailers, cabins, racks, and pontoons which we have generally needed to look for further sources of funding and the generous donations of individuals.

Over the years we have benefited from a number of significant gifts as well as the success of various events organised by the Swans. This year has been particularly successful, with, in round terms, £8000 raised from the rowathon, £ 2,500, from Swans events with two more still to come, £10,000 from Sport England towards the cost of our new quad, and a handful of very generous personal and corporate donations amounting to just under £10,000. With this level of success we have insured sufficient funds to buy not only a new coxless quad and a set of sculling blades to go with it, but also improve our trailing capacity. We will look to add at least one more coxed four and perhaps an eight in 2015/2016 season (still to be funded).

SOFAR THIS YEAR  
GMSBCHASRAISED  
ANAMAZING  
£30,000



Thirdly, many of you will be aware that the school, in cooperation with Borlase, are looking to build a permanent residence for the two schools boat clubs. This will involve purchasing land and constructing a boathouse, in terms of storage capacity, not dissimilar to the Eton Boat House at Dorney. As you can imagine this will require a considerable push from all the rowers of both schools when the time comes. The extreme flooding in 2014 set our plans back somewhat and has meant that we have had to consider a number of different options. We are now getting closer to an agreed solution and we will keep the rowers informed as we make progress. This will be extremely exciting to the long term development of the school club once we have achieved it.

## SAVE THE DATE!

Following the tremendous success of last year's inaugural dinner, we hope that all Year 8 to Year 13 rowers and their parents will be able to join us again on the 14th July at the Crowne Plaza, Marlow for the annual awards dinner. All rowers will be receiving their personalised invitation by post after the half term holidays but as this is the pinnacle of the GMSBC rowing calendar we didn't want anyone to miss the date!

***" Well done to all the rowers- the evening showcased the incredible talent of the GMS rowers and it was a unique opportunity to celebrate with our children what they have achieved throughout the year and acknowledge their commitment to the sport. A really proud parent and looking forward to another great evening in 2015!"***

***Sarah Peace (parent of Oliver Peace in year 10 and Lucy Peace in year 8)***



*Greg Searle presenting the GMSBC Eight who represented the club at Henley Royal Regatta.*

# COACHES WHO'S WHO?

## Fergus Murison

Fergus teaches Mathematics at Great Marlow School and has been coaching rowing at the school since he arrived in 2007. He is responsible for the running of Great Marlow School Boat Club and is a Trustee of Great Marlow Swans, the fundraising arm of the club which also provides a means for people outside the school to compete. Fergus started coaching Oxford College crews in the 1970s and 80s, then spent a number of years coaching Rugby at Henley Hawkes from the mid 1990s before joining Great Marlow School in 2007.

## Piers Barnett

Piers is the rowing coordinator and assists in the running of the boat club. He has been mainly coaching the Year 10 boys squad. Piers is new to the school and started coaching at the school this year. He has worked previously at several schools and clubs in Oxford such as St Edwards, Headington, Falcon Rowing club and has also been involved in coaching a few Oxford colleges.

## Sean Farrelly

Sean works as the school librarian and has been involved in coaching students at the school since 2001. He is currently coaching the Years 8 - 9. Sean also maintains and repairs the boats. Sean also cut his coaching teeth, as it were, with Sommerville College, Oxford, before joining Marlow rowing club, where he helped re-introduce Great Marlow to rowing at MRC using the project oarsome initiative.

## Genevieve Bailhache-Graham

Gen is currently a full time athlete training out of Henley rowing club. She has been coaching the Year 10, 11, 12 and 13 girls. Gen started working at the school last year. She is also starting to coach the Year 7's on a Wednesday.

## David Haynes

David is a parent of ex pupil and rower Sam Haynes (who is also part of the coaching team). David coaches the Year 9 boys on a Saturday morning, as well as running the parent rowing sessions in the summer term. David coached the current Year 12 squad when they were in their early years of rowing at GMSBC and was instrumental in their first wins as J14 crew.

## David Reed

David coaches the senior boys (Years 11, 12 and 13). He has had a long history in rowing and is a member of Leander and Henley Rowing Club.

## Tony Peperell

Tony is a veteran rower from Upper Thames Rowing club and helps coach the Year 8's on a Saturday and Tuesday.

## Laurence Pyle

Laurence is a parent of a current rower as well as a rower himself. He helps coach the Year 8's on a Sunday morning.

## Sam Haynes

Sam is an ex rower from the school having left last year. He is currently rowing at Upper Thames rowing club. Sam coaches the Year 9 boys on a Monday and Wednesday. He also helps coach the new Year 7's on a Friday. In his time as a rower at GMSBC Sam has won medals at National Schools, competed at Henley Royal Regatta and for his country at Home Countries in 2014 where he won two gold medals.

## Jack Carroll

Jack is a teaching assistant at the school and helps coach the Year 7's on a Wednesday. He has also a long history in rowing.

## Nicki Messenger

Nicki is the deputy head of Geography and will be helping coach the Year 7's on a Friday.



# GREAT MARLOW SCHOOL BOAT CLUB AND SWANS

Great Marlow School Boat Club has approximately 120 members racing competitively for the school and is growing each year. In recent years we have won Medals at National and International Events, including The Schools Head, The Scullery, British Junior Inter-Regionals, the National Schools Regatta and British Junior Championships. We have also had representation at Home Countries and GB France competitions, winning Gold at both.



The parent support group for rowing at the school, the Great Marlow Swans are a platform of help and support for the coaches and children involved with rowing at Great Marlow School. The Swans are a group of committed parents and helpers with a passion for the development of the children and the club and hold many fund raising events throughout the year to help raise funds for rowing at the school. The swans also help the school to encourage participants to continue in the sport.

## CONTACT

If you would like any further information about the Great Marlow School Boat Club or the Great Marlow Swans, then please contact either:

**Caroline Money**, Rowing Administrator or **Piers Barnett**, Rowing Coordinator at [rowing@gms.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:rowing@gms.bucks.sch.uk)



## MAY

National School's Regatta  
Friday 22nd – Sunday 24th  
Year 9+

## JUNE

Blenheim Palace Junior Regatta  
Saturday 6th  
Year 8, 9

Marlow Town Regatta  
Saturday 13th  
Year 9+

Reading Amateur Regatta  
Sunday 14th  
Year 8, 9

Marlow International Regatta (Dorney)  
Saturday 20th  
Year 10+ boys

Women's Henley Regatta  
Friday 19th – Sunday 21st  
Top senior crews

Thames Valley Park Regatta  
Sunday 21st  
Year 8, 9, 10

Reading Town Regatta  
Saturday 27th  
Year 9+

## JULY

Henley Royal Regatta  
Wednesday 1st – Sunday 5th  
Top senior crews

British Rowing Junior Champs (NWS)  
Saturday 18th & Sunday 19th  
Top senior crews

**Good luck to all the Great Marlow School Rowers rowing at the National Schools Regatta in Nottingham on Friday 22nd - Sunday 24th May from all the parents and staff at Great Marlow School.**

*Please follow us on Twitter @GMSBoatClub*