



Torrens Rowing Club Inc
GPO Box 512, Adelaide SA 5001

BOATSHED BULLETIN JANUARY 2007

FROM THE CAPTAIN

Happy 2007 to all at TRC!

Volunteer Coaches

How often do we acknowledge the efforts of our volunteer coaches? If we were to pay all of our coaches, and I have been to clubs where this happens, our annual membership fee would need to increase by about \$200. At Torrens we are fortunate, not only with the hours our volunteer coaches put in, but also in the quality of their expertise. If you appreciate their work, maybe sometime you could look your coach in the eye, and thank them for their gift to you.

MBFS

McInerney Barratt Financial Solutions

Masters State Crews

Old fools mucking around in boats, or genuine athletes passionately striving to reach the top in their chosen sport? Whichever way you see it, one can't help but be impressed by the number and quality of Torrens masters who have nominated for this years State Masters crews. If they qualify in May, the four D-grade (average age 50yrs+) crews will represent SA at the Olympic Rowing Course in Penrith on the 2nd of June. Congratulations to the following TRC athletes...

Womens Eight : Leanne Sandow, Terry Brown, Karen O'Keefe, Correne Sandow and Helena Jasinski.

Mens Eight : Rob Curkpatrick, Chris Heaton-Harris, Peter Busby, Ross Hendry and Loch Mitchell.

Womens Quad : Carmel Murray and Henni Shepherd.

Mens Quad : Ian Robertson, Ab Holt, Andrew Verney and Roly Dankbaar

These rowers will be joined by a number of other TRC masters to compete over at least three days with outstanding masters rowers from all over Australia and New Zealand.

Nationals Fund

Money money money!

With our younger TRC rowers well-represented in State Crews and a number of others possibly nominating to race at Nagambie (Vic) in March, I know there are those in the club who would like to give some financial assistance. With that in mind, I will be looking to ask individuals from the various groups in the club to consider making a small personal donation to the TRC 2007 Nationals fund, to help pay for accommodation and boat transport. The committee has decided to pay for all Nationals entries with club funds. I know that the TRC rowers concerned will greatly appreciate your support.

Boat Reservations

Who remembers govt. minister Ros Kelly and her dastardly whiteboard? At last, our boatshed at West Lakes has a Boat-Reservation white-board. This makes it easier to avoid the disappointment and frustration of seeing your great plans for a wonderful row disappear in a line of another crew's puddles. My hope is that through good use, this will see more of us enjoying use of the West Lakes boatshed. Please abide by the guidelines. The Boat- Reservations white-board enables you to book boats up to 7 days ahead, and yes....you get to write with a felt pen!



Boat Damage

I was dreading this moment....but realistically it had to happen eventually. Two crews, both TRC, collided at West Lakes last week resulting in major damage to our latest acquisition, the Bone, as well as one of our single sculls. Recently, we have also had superficial hull damage to a double and a single at West Lakes. Please! Please! Please!.... take more care, be alert, and stick to the traffic rules, so that we can avoid insurance claims and trips to the boat-repairer.

The condition and use of TRC boats is my responsibility. You will therefore understand my tough stance on the use of boats, in line with the signs on each boat-rack.

Regattas...New Boat-loading Policy

Who's been the mug left trying to unload a trailer-load of boats with two others?

Rowers who take part in a regatta away from West Lakes need to contribute to the transport of boats.....every time.....no exceptions. Those people without the time to help with transport just don't have time to participate. In an effort to find a system that works, I'd like to try operating the whole process of boat transport in six phases, with every TRC rower from that regatta involved in at least one at West Lakes and one at the regatta venue.

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| At West Lakes | 1. preparing the equipment for transport (days before regatta) |
| | 2. loading the boat-trailer (day before regatta) |
| At the regatta venue | 3. unloading and rigging |
| | 4. de-rigging and loading |
| At West Lakes | 5. unloading the boat trailer and washing |
| | 6. re-rigging boats (day after regatta) |

Rowers Stretches – 15 minutes per day!

Here is a web-site that has 11 essential stretches for those rowers who are serious about the benefits of flexibility, good rowing technique and pain-free rowing.....

<http://www.row2k.com/physio/overview.html>



Youth Olympics (under 20 yrs)

Last week teams of 10 female and 10 male rowers from every Australian state, as well as teams from New Zealand, Great Britain and China competed on the Olympic rowing course. Our 7 TRC rowers found the going tough in slow conditions against international opposition. Congratulations to Alana, Alex, Alyssa, Annalise, Emma, Sarah-Jane, Daniel (M1x res) and coach Phil on taking part in the regatta and gaining valuable high-level racing experience. Here are the results :

Event	Winner	SA placing
M8	NSW	8 th
W8	GB	7 th
M4	GB	9 th
W4	GB	9 th
M4x	NZ	10 th
W4x	GB	7 th
M1x res	GB	3 rd
W1x res	GB	4 th
ML2x	T	8 th
WL2x	T	9 th
M2	GB	13 th & 16 th
W2	WA	18 th & 20 th
M1x	Ch	15 th & 19 th
W1x	GB	6 th & 13 th



The TRC Committee

The following people are ordinary club members who have volunteered to run as unpaid committee members. Please remember they do their best to meet the needs of all our members. This can be difficult in an environment where needs are diverse and opinions vary. Think of this when you next complain.

If you would like to become more involved in the club, please contact a committee member and offer your services. All help is gratefully received.

Ian Russell, Carmel Murray, David Neall, Helena Jasinski, Felicity Keiper, Adam Savis, Hamish McWhirr, Rodney Munro, Andrew Verney, Chris Heaton-Harris, Phil Blesing and Roly Dankbaar.

Masters Motions

Hmmmm...that could be ugly!

I have two motions set for the next SARA general meeting at the end of February. One attempts to bring an end to using results of Masters events to calculate RowerScore. The other is regarding Masters being able to row composite in Masters events, as in previous years. I am also looking at ways, next season, of running a full program of Masters events on a few more occasions. Whatever your view, if we don't speak up about these issues at the next Masters Commission meeting in early February, the push for change is lost. Andrew Verney is our rep. on that committee....isn't it great that we have a strong voice....let him know what you think (good and bad), and at the same time, purge yourself of all bad thoughts about SARA.

New Boatparts

The TRC Treasurer (David Neall) finally let me go shopping for rowing bits and pieces...it must have been because of all those sales that are on!

Expect to see some new grips and collars on oars and new gates, wheels and slides on boats....at both boatsheds.

.....And I expect to see you keeping them polished like new!

FROM THE SECRETARY

Members may recall from an earlier edition of the Bulletin where we made mention of “**our man in Qatar, Matt Draper**”, that’s right, you got it !!, up somewhere in the Middle East, sort of to the left of Saudia Arabia etc, etc. Anyway, proud father and club elder (Hi, Brian), persuaded Matt to give us a snapshot of his time and experiences – enjoy !

From Matt Draper,

The 15th Asian Games were held in Doha, State of Qatar, in Mid December 2006

Over 10,000 athletes, plus coaches and officials and who knows how many volunteers and contactors staged an Olympic level event in a city of less than 1 million people.

I was lucky enough to be given the chance (with some help from FISA) to be appointed as rowing operational competition manager for these games here in Doha. Starting back in March, 2006, I was engaged in trying to help stage an event in a land that basically was fighting to remain in the past, whilst paying to be part of the future.

The makeup of the local population is; Arab 40%, Parkistani 18%, Indian 18%, Iranian 10% and “others” 14%, with the majority 95%, being of the Muslim faith.

It seemed that of the working population, most were “expatriates” from overseas. Nearly 90% of the population have no idea about sport, let alone rowing. In fact, the “regatta” at the Asian Games featured a local Qatari crew that (a) were competing in their first ever race, (b) in boats that they had only recently purchased from China.

But let’s put all that into perspective, in summer it’s nearly impossible to go outside, if you have to , you do so, at speed in a air conditioned car, between your home, office, shopping centre. You may have had the occasional hot day this summer, but, during the months of July, August and September, (Doha summer), the temperature averages 50c + “in the shade !. In fact, during August, the temperature was over 44c ever day for three weeks !.

Driving is a real experience . If you can avoid the Landcruisers and Porche 4WD, driven by unskilled Qatari drivers in excess of 100kph on any and every type of road, then I suggest you try your luck negotiating a three lane roundabout, where (a) nobody takes any notice of the lanes, or (b) basic road rules whatsoever !. Every day is a new wonderful experience. Imagine this, traffic is banked for miles, no problem, just pull out of the lane in your 4WD and take over the pedestrian walkway, or drive over the traffic island or just plain “go overland”, yes, you miss the traffic jam and arrive at work 2-3 minutes earlier. If you can cope with all this, what about the roads that change traffic direction overnight or holes in the roads that are so large, they stop the traffic – period . Everbody drives a car everywhere.

The scale of the Qatari “Asian Games” development was breathtaking. They built every venue from scratch, in just a few years, and all of them to an “Olympic standard”. The main stadium was called “Aspire”. It consisted of the best of everything. Experts were imported to “get results”, essentially, they were not interested in gaining sporting knowledge, just results. Imagine this if you can, under

the one roof within “Aspire”, you have a full size football field, Olympic size swimming pool, diving pool, 3 full size gymnastic mats (fully sprung floors), a weightlifting auditorium, (and wait there more – Ed), basketball courts, badminton courts etc, etc.

The people – the Qatari are personally warm and friendly, BUT, they are nearly impossible to work with. Why, you ask, because they have this inbuilt “service mentality”, similar to most of the population of the Gulf States, and funded by unlimited petro dollars.

The scenario is thus – “I pay – you do; if you cant – goodbye; I’ll get someone else who can”. A friend of mine, who incidentally has worked there for the past twenty years, explained it this way – A Qatari will never admit he makes mistakes – He’ll just make a new law instead !!.

So as difficult as they were to manage and work for, you just has to admire them for even attempting such a huge undertaking.

Now for the rowing slant. FISA and the ICF (canoe federation) basically agreed to to any level of venue or lvel of service, just to finally get the two sports into the Asian Games. It’s about spreading the sport throughout Asia. The course was 1000 metres long, tidal and salt water, so all the challenges you would ever want !. but with the full backing of both federations, keen to expand their sport whatever. The competition consisted of 200 rowers and 150 paddlers, racing over 5 days (each sport) during the two weeks of the games.

In summary, to stage the Games was quite daunting. The country was not really ready for it, but certainly put their money where their mouth was (it’s a bit like the old saying, money talks, bullshit walks, -Ed). Without doubt, it set a level for future games and venues and it will be hard to match.

However it must be good for the sport and sport in general, the more the standard is raised, the better for all concerned. In the end, for the athletes and coaches they are the ones giving up their time and lives for our sport.

NEW MEMBERS – Say Hi, and please make them feel welcome

James Petitt



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