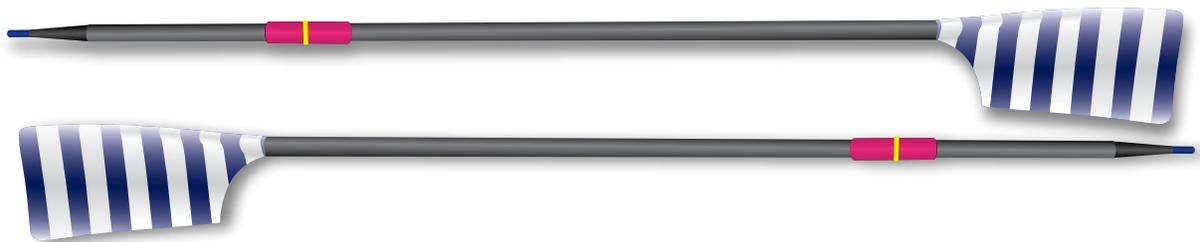


RIVERSIDE BOAT CLUB

Winter 2012





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A Word from the Editor

No Excuses. In all competitive sports, there should be no excuses. You do your best, accept the result, and move on. It is what it is. Timed sports are even more cut-and-dried. The clock determines the winner—no ifs, ands or buts. There are no (or far fewer) rules to be vaguely interpreted. No “Tuck Rule,” as in professional football, no imaginary and changeable strike zone, as in Major League Baseball. In rowing, the first boat to cross the line, even if by a hundredth of a second, wins—no questions asked.

The truth of the matter is, of course, that excuses abound in rowing, as in all sports. My personal favorite, from my experience in the 2010 Head of the Charles, is, “I would have won except...well...the other guy beat me.” But the best competitors and role models don’t make excuses (and mine, to be sure, was in jest). They take their lumps and move on, and in the process, they inspire the rest of us. Some of the most memorable performances in all of rowing come from non-first-place winners, with heroic examples such as Silken Laumann’s infamous bronze medal at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics—in which she battled back from having her leg nearly torn in half just 10 weeks earlier—and Mahe Drysdale’s incredible performance in the 2008 Beijing Olympics, in which he raced after having had the stomach flu for many days and was clearly weak and dehydrated. He led the field for most of the race and still held on to win the bronze for New Zealand, collapsing after he crossed the finish line.

I’m proud to say that, in my view, Riverside embodies the “no excuses” attitude. We are a volunteer organization without deep pockets, and yet we manage to maintain our boathouse, run several thriving programs, and provide facilities for the full range of sculling levels—all while continuing to send rowers to the U.S. National and Olympic teams, year in and year out. We don’t make excuses, we just go out and do it. And as we face the challenges for the years ahead, I have full confidence that we will continue this tradition of finding ways to meet them. Our recent Town Meeting is an excellent example of how the members of our club step up when called upon.

Finally, to address the elephant in the room and the inspiration for this essay, I would like to apologize to readers for the lateness of this newsletter. Believe me, I have plenty of excuses, but they are irrelevant. I had hoped for a quarterly newsletter, but it just didn’t happen this year. Perhaps having it come out mid-winter might not be so bad, as the racing highlights and goings-on from last summer and fall may serve to fire up readers for the upcoming season. I can only hope!

Thank you for your patience. 🌊

–John Tracey



President’s Message

A Look Back and Ahead. 2011 was a very busy year for our club. On the rowing front, we started it by hiring new coaches for the men’s High Performance Group (Bob Gillette) and sculling group (Gordon Hamilton), and transitioned Jeff Forrester from sculling to men’s sweep. As a result, Riverside produced its first ever U-23 internationals in Phil Grisdela and Phil Henson; a first time national team appearance for Kyle Lafferty; and placed third in the senior men’s eight at the Royal Canadian Henley Regatta. Meanwhile, the women’s high performance group produced a worlds medalist in Hillary Saeger; a fall speed order winner in Alexis Sneff; and THREE RBC Alumni won medals at the 2011 World Championships (Esther Lofgren and Meg Musnicki won gold in the women’s eight, and Natalie Dell won silver in the women’s quad). The sweep women put a crew in the final of the women’s eight and women’s quad at the Royal Canadian Henley, and won a medal at the Charles. Finally, Jim McGaffigan defended his title in the senior master’s single at the Charles, while Captain Sean Wolf increased his medal count once more. That’s a pretty good year—and this comes nowhere near listing all the highlights of this racing season.

We spent the last few months of 2011 putting together a development team to help us plan a future for Riverside that extends well past our 150th anniversary in 2021. We are very excited and fortunate to have Dick Garver and Lisa Kunze heading up the development committee, and Lynn Osborn working for us in a development coordinator/consultant role. Our boathouse is going to turn one hundred years old in 2012, and it was about time that we began charting its course for the years that follow. Over the next few months, we will be collecting and presenting data to the membership that will help us form a cohesive vision for the future of our club.

Of course, 2011 was not without its challenges. The brutal winter of 2010/2011 resulted in severe damage to our porch, threatening a delayed opening to the 2011 rowing season. Thanks to Mary O’Neill and Cindy Larson, we were able to put a temporary repair in place, while Sean Wolf worked tirelessly to manage the logistics of getting people on the water without the use of porch. Once the temporary repair was in place, the porch team worked on producing a plan for a permanent repair. We now await approval on our claim from our insurance company.

Finally, I’d like to close out this letter by thanking a few more people. Fred Good, our Treasurer for the last seven years, no longer holds the office, but without his tireless work, the Club would not be where it is today. Fred’s also been instrumental in helping bring Chris Dyke on board as the new Treasurer. I would also like to thank Chris Daly, of the President’s Committee, for helping with this transition, and helping create a Treasurer’s road map for the future. Thank you also to Sarah Potts, outgoing chair of the Regatta Committee—the Cromwell Cup has grown leaps and bounds since she took over as chair. Thanks to Amelia Booth for her service as head of the Social Committee—Riverside’s become a pretty fun place during your reign. Kate Sullivan deserves our gratitude for her tenure as head of the Community Relations Committee—our relationship with our neighbors has never been better. And, of course, thank you to the countless volunteers and coaches that help run this place on a day-to-day basis and make Riverside the amazing club that it is. 🌊

–Igor Belakovskiy



Development Committee Introduced As RBC Prepares For Future

By Dick Garver

On January 17th, Riverside Boat Club held a Town Hall meeting at the Morse School auditorium on its recently launched planning program. Its purpose was to introduce the RBC Development Committee, discuss the results of the recent membership survey, and to conduct an open discussion organized around the following topics: programs, facilities, financing, communication and community. The meeting was well attended by a representative cross section of the club's membership.

The Development Committee includes Co-Chairs Lisa Kunze (Program) and Dick Garver (Facilities), Severine Imbert de Smirnoff (Fundraising), Marianna McCormick (Communications), and Igor Lasic (Board Liaison). They are actively looking for help in their respective areas of responsibility from interested club members.

Lynn Osborn, the project's manager, conducted the meeting, with opening and closing comments from President Igor Belakovskiy and moderation of the discussion by Pete Morelli. Lynn began by presenting the survey's results. Seventy percent, or 122 of the club's 175 senior and provisional members, responded. Their clear message was that they care deeply about RBC and want to ensure that the

club is put on a sustainable basis for the foreseeable future. They support its general scale and overall programmatic and physical character but recognize that its facilities require improvement. Lynn characterized Riverside's present moment as a tipping point, in which it will meet its programmatic and physical challenges or face an uncertain future.

With regard to its mission statement, rather than selecting one of three proposed alternatives, they emphasized that the statement should express the club's devotion to both competitive and recreational rowing within a supportive community environment.

There was general satisfaction with the range and operation of Riverside's programs, although there were useful suggestions regarding improved coaching opportunities for scullers, better coordination of the youth programs with the club's afternoon programs, and institutionalizing board representation among our independent scullers. In the discussion it was recommended that non-competitive rowing should receive greater weight. Members expressed their desire for improved coordination and a stronger sense of community among all programs.

The survey participants agreed by a margin of 97% that the club's facilities require improvement. The most often-cited deficiencies concerned boat storage and the boathouse's structural stability. There was support for improvements to the erg and weight room and locker rooms and for improved meeting rooms, rest rooms and showers.

As for raising the funds required for these improvements, there was overall support for considering an assessment, increased dues and donations. Useful points were raised during the discussion about the need for a comprehensive fundraising program rather than one driven by special occasions, and that it should contain clearly identified categories to which contributions could be directed. The need to grow our fundraising base, particularly by reaching out to alumni, was recognized. Securing funds through corporate sponsorships or a partnership with another organization elicited strong concerns that the club not compromise its mission or control of its future.

Among other worthwhile ideas were the creation of a fund for regularly recurring large facilities costs, such as roof replacement, building a stronger community by creating a social space, achieving more transparency within and across committees, better board communication to the membership and the need for a boathouse manager to handle day-to-day facilities concerns. Members requested a protocol for renting the boathouse for social events, both as a source of revenue and as a service to our members.

Igor Belakovskiy concluded the meeting with a discussion of the next steps in the process. The club's engineer will begin an updated assessment of the building structure on January 17. In an effort to better meet the needs of our scullers, he will distribute a survey through which they can share their views. The results of the engineering assessment and the direction given by the membership through the survey and Town Hall discussion will be discussed at the February 7 board meeting, followed by a report from the development committee to the membership at its March 13 meeting. Their report will include a proposed mission statement, the broad direction they have identified from member input for the club's programs and physical development, and a proposed funding program. In closing, he expressed his appreciation for those who have gotten the club's improvement program underway and for the members' participation in the survey and the Town Hall meeting, and encouraged their engagement in the process as it proceeds. ■■■■

97%
of those surveyed
agree that the club's
facilities require
improvement.

The Late 70s and Early 80s Part II: the Women's Issue

By Dick Garver

As alluded to in the last newsletter, the late 70s and early 80s controversy over Riverside's expansion and its Metropolitan District Commission permit involved a crisis over women's membership. Women's rowing was expanding rapidly during the decades following Congressional passage of Title IX in 1972, with American women racing in the World Rowing Championships for the first time in that year. Gail Pierson, a U.S. team member, the fiancé of Riverside's Sy Cromwell, and a quite revolutionary, was a leader of the movement, having prevailed on the Head of the Charles Regatta committee to introduce women's rowing. The announcement that women's events would be included in the 1976 Olympics secured the legitimacy of women's rowing in this country. Treating the 1975 World Championships as a run-up to the games, Harry Parker agreed to coach the U.S. women's eight. Known as the "Red Rose Crew," with Gail as its de facto captain, this crew shocked the rowing world by finishing second to ascendant East Germany. Parker then agreed to put together the U.S. women's Olympic eight for the '76 games, and women began arriving in Boston to compete for the national team. The NAAO, however, required competitors to have club affiliations. In 1976, Riverside's membership was all male. Cambridge Boat Club, where Gail rowed, was the only Charles River club with women members, but its boathouse couldn't accommodate the influx. Without an alternative, the arriving Olympic aspirants formed the Boston Rowing Club, otherwise known as the Eastern Rowing Camp, and operated out of Weld Boat House.

Against this backdrop, Riverside Captain Ted Van Dusen proposed a young woman medical student who was training for the Head of the Charles for provisional membership in October 1977. She was permitted to row as a guest, but, despite club president Jim Moore's request for reconsideration, her application was denied and she joined Cambridge Boat Club. Nevertheless, there was widespread interest throughout the club in



Riverside members Patty Pinkerton (left) and Kathryn Reith at Canadian Henley Regatta.

enrolling women. In June 1979, Patty Pinkerton, training for the U.S. national team, was admitted as a provisional member, though without access to locker room facilities. In September, provisional memberships were approved for Kathryn Reith and Red Rose crew member Jacqueline Bachman.

Despite broad support in the club for adding women, one of its most influential members, a man who had been instrumental in keeping Riverside afloat in the 60s and a trustee in the late 1970s, conducted a regime of personal, sometimes physical threats intended to drive the three out of the club. It reached the point that the Northeastern boatman didn't leave the boathouse until they had safely finished their workouts. When intimidation didn't succeed, he undertook a campaign to exclude women through revisions to the club's membership policies. He had seven young men loyal to him accepted as senior members. Given the small number of senior, voting members at the time, they formed a voting block large enough to meet the 25 percent required to veto a membership application. Then, in a May 1980 membership meeting and a June special meeting, he and his supporters proposed constitutional amendments that would limit provisional memberships to twelve months and establish that any provisional member not obtaining the three-quarters vote required to become a senior member would cease to be a member of any type and could not reapply. An alternative provision was put forward permitting reapplication. Neither received the necessary two-thirds majority at the July 1 meeting, leaving the crisis unresolved.



Pinkerton and Reith preparing to launch at Henley Royal Regatta, 1982.

Up to this point, Riverside had been a small but congenial community. As consideration of Patty and Kathryn's applications for senior membership approached (Jackie Bachman, a 1980 Olympian, had withdrawn from the club), however, relationships between supporters and opponents grew increasingly bitter. The opponents asserted that the absence of separate changing facilities, required if women were members, was a reason to exclude them. The Massachusetts District Commission (MDC), the predecessor to the current DCR was alerted by a male member and notified the club that its permit would not be renewed unless the situation was resolved. Insults flew, tires were slashed in the parking lot, and the bulk of the membership was left appalled by the opponents' actions and the deterioration of civility within the club.

Then, in October 1980, in the midst of deliberations on the club's expansion and the renewal of its permit by the MDC, a letter arrived from the Commission alleging sex discrimination. With the women's application for senior membership to be considered the following month, president Jim Moore, with the assistance of trustee Bob Cutler and vice president Jim Hanley, implemented their strategy for obtaining the women's approval. Investigating the ages of the opponent's seven young allies, they discovered that three had not been 18, as required, when they were accepted as senior members. When the decisive November meeting was convened,



Jim Hanley, still an active and invaluable member of the Riverside community.

their senior memberships were rescinded. Then, on a recommendation from the trustees, Moore obtained a vote to censor the opponent. In the evening's climactic vote for senior memberships, during which the opponent demanded to know who had filed the discrimination complaint, to which it was acknowledged that the MDC had been in touch with Patty Pinkerton, the club's members voted 20 to 2 to grant her full membership and 21 to 2 to admit Kathryn. Jim Moore, Bob Cutler, Jim Hanley and members of the same mind had prevailed.

The story's epilogue is that Riverside raised funds for Patty and Kathryn to row a double at the 1982 Henley Royal Regatta, the first to include women's events on a demonstration basis. Today, Patty is Head Women's Rowing Coach at the University of California at San Diego and her husband is the captain of the Henley Rowing Club. In a fitting and happy end to the story, she met her spouse at the regatta that Riverside helped send her to. Kathryn now rows out of Lake Union Club in Seattle. Both fondly remember the support given to them by the majority of Riverside's members. The club stalwart who had been the bane of their existence at Riverside eventually became reconciled to the presence of women at the club. In fact, he is said to have befriended several and to have recently acknowledged that, with women a high percentage of its membership and a significant part of its leadership, the club has never been better run. ■■■■

The High Performance Group finds success from Boston to Bled

By Andrew Neils

It was a great season for Riverside Boat Club's High Performance Group. Another year of training meant roughly 550 practices in the books, a few newcomers to the group, and some of us even making a successful transition to that whole sculling thing! Since 2011 was a pre-Olympic year, competition has been heating up and no wins have come easy at any of the National Selection Regattas. Additionally, Riverside sent their first-ever U23 boat to World Championships, which came under the tutelage of the new men's head coach Bob Gillette.

The highlight of the season for the HPG was sending Hillary Saeger and Kyle Lafferty to Worlds to compete for the stars and stripes in Bled, Slovenia. Hillary and Kyle competed on picturesque Lake Bled, which has hosted the World Championships several times—the last in 1989 when Bled was part of the former Yugoslavia. Hillary sat in the bow of the Women's Lightweight Quadruple Sculls, where she contributed to the USA's medal count with a 3rd place finish. It was no easy race, however, as her quad had to come back from being one second behind Italy at the 1500m mark to capture the bronze at the finish by a mere 0.01 seconds. The event was won by Great Britain in 6:28 followed by China in 6:30 and the USA at 6:33. This was Hillary's second bronze medal in the lightweight quad at the World Championships, having achieved the same in 2009. Not bad at all.

Kyle Lafferty also raced in Bled, representing the USA in the Men's Lightweight Pair. In his first appearance on the U.S. national team, Kyle placed 3rd in the C-final,

finishing behind Denmark and Spain. Kyle's pair was very competitive in a tight field, and narrowly missed qualifying for the B final in a repechage race where the margin from 1st to 5th place was 3.5 seconds. Kyle's trip to Bled capped a very successful summer campaign where he spent time in the lightweight four camp in Oklahoma City, followed by lightweight eight camp in Hanover, New Hampshire.

Not to be outdone, however, were another set of accomplished Riversiders: "The Phils." Only three weeks after showing up at Riverside for the summer, Philip Henson and Philip Grisdela won the U23 lightweight pair trials and competed at U23 World Championships in Amsterdam, Netherlands. The Phils, who rowed together at Dartmouth, competed on the famous Bosbaan 2000m course in Amsterdam. After placing second in their heat to Germany, the pair moved onto the A/B Semifinal where they came in 4th behind Great Britain, Italy, and Hungary. Grisdela and Henson placed third in the B-Final behind Great Britain (1st) and South Africa (2nd), which was just 0.2 seconds ahead of them.

Earlier in the summer, in what could be considered the biggest domestic race of the year, the HPG stormed the U.S. World Championship trials held on Lake Mercer, New Jersey. The men's HPG team had several entries in both sweep and sculling events. Both Phil Henson and Phil Grisdela, after concluding a successful U23 Worlds in Amsterdam, came back to the U.S. to race against Riverside's Kyle Lafferty in the lightweight pair and finished just 5.5 seconds back. Competing in the lightweight single

sculls Andrew Hashway battled through heats and semis to make a stacked final, where he came in 4th. This was an impressive feat, as Hash earned the right to say he is the fourth fastest lightweight in the country! Lastly, in the lightweight quadruple sculls, Dorian Weber, competing with teammates from Vesper boat club in Philadelphia, narrowly missed winning trials and placed 2nd by just 4 seconds.

In every year preceding the Olympics, the Pan-American games are held. This year, Pan-Ams were held in October in Guadalajara, Mexico. There are fewer spots available on the Pan-Am team than at Worlds as competition is restricted to Olympic boat classes, and some of the big boats are formed as composites of the smaller boats, which have to compete in trials. Riverside's HPG was represented in the W1x, LW2x, LM2x and LM4-. After competing in the heats, Emily Huelskamp won her repechage in the open single. In the final, she finished 3rd, just 3.4% off the winning time. Alexis Sneff and Stefanie Sydlik competed in the lightweight double sculls, making the final where they placed 4th. Dorian Weber, competing in the lightweight four with teammates from Vesper boat club, earned a 2nd place finish, finishing behind NYAC by a mere 2 seconds. Lastly, Jake Georgeson and Andrew Neils placed 2nd in the lightweight double sculls, falling shy of U.S. Training Center-Oklahoma.

The last USRowing sanctioned event of 2011 was the Fall Speed Order, which was also held

on Lake Mercer in New Jersey. The format of the speed order was similar to last year's, in which 6k erg scores determined the starting order of the next day's head piece. Alexis Sneff paced the lightweight single field by winning both the erg and head piece. This concluded a successful fall season for Alexis, who placed well in Riverside's Head of the Kevin series and the Head of the Charles. Riverside's Stefanie Sydlik placed 5th in the lightweight Field. In the open single, Emily Huelskamp, Sarah Schwegman and Lauren Schmetterling placed 17th, 19th and 23rd in a large field of almost 30 competitors.

Nearly all of the HPGers competed in the Head of the Charles. Highlights of the Charles included Alexis Sneff's third place finish in the Lightweight Single and Siobhan Steyn's 4th place in the Championship Double, in which she raced in a composite Riverside/Penn AC boat. Finally, in the Lightweight Four, Kyle Lafferty, Nick Weigle, Richard Klein, Greg Kaplan and coxswain Katie Holzem had a raw time that put them in third place, but they just missed out on the medal stand due to penalties; it was a good race nonetheless!

Thus concluded another successful year for Riverside's High Performance Group, now in its second decade. We look forward to another great season in 2012. 🚣

U-23 WORLDS TRIALS
Lightweight Men's 2-
 1st Henson/Gresdela

WORLDS TRIALS
Lightweight Men's 2-
 1st Kyle Lafferty (C-final)
Lightweight Women's 4x
 1st Hillary Saeger
Lightweight Men's 1x
 4th Andrew Hashway
Lightweight Men's 4-
 2nd Dorian Webber (vesper)

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP
Lightweight Men's 2-
 3rd Kyle Lafferty (C-final)
Lightweight Women's 4x
 3rd Hillary Saeger

U-23 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP
Lightweight Men's 2-
 3rd Henson/Gresdela (B-final)

PAN AM TRIALS RESULTS
Lightweight Men's 4-
 2nd Dorian Webber (vesper)
Lightweight Men's 2x
 2nd Georgeson/Neils
Lightweight Women's 2x
 4th Sydlik/Sneff
Openweight Women's 1x
 3rd Emily Huelskamp

HOCR RESULTS
Lightweight Men's 1x
 6th Andrew Hashway
 16th Greg McKallagat
 19th Phil Henson
Lightweight Women's 1x
 3rd Alexis Sneff
 9th Sarah Schwegman
 13th Stefanie Sydlik
 18th Claire Wallace
Champ Men's 2x
 7th Neils/Georgeson
Champ Women's 2x
 4th Steyn/Reddick
 10th Gulich/Buck
 15th Foster/Zieff
Champ Men's 1x
 24th Will Allen
Champ Women's 1x
 11th Emily Huelskamp
 20th Lauren Schmetterling
 23rd Lib Diamond

SPEED ORDER RESULTS
Lightweight Women 1x
 1st Alexis Sneff
 5th Stefanie Sydlik
Openweight Women 1x
 17th Emily Huelskamp
 19th Sarah Schwegman
 23rd Lauren Schmetterling



Season Wrapup: Riverside Men's Sweeps

By Dan Kettler

For the Riverside men's sweep teams, 2011 was a year of both great change and great accomplishment. The spring season started with new coaching as Jeff Forrester began his tenure at the helm. The men's sweeps continued to grow both in the masters and open categories. This year saw the first large-scale addition of summer rowers to the open men's team. These recruits added to the team's depth and populated a second Senior 8+ at Canadian Henley. Fortunately, many of these summer rowers have stayed on to become year-round Riverside members and valuable additions to the team. New rowers and new coaching contributed to a very successful year.

The open men's team began its racing season with the marathon combination of Elite Nationals and the Independence Day Regatta. In our first experience at Elites, we gained confidence racing at a high level and revealed the first hints of our potential. Notably, Lucas Goodman and Andy Sayles raced their 2x into the final. Similarly at IDR, the team demonstrated its mettle, making the final in the Open 8+ for the first time. Riverside finished 5th, nearly 15 seconds behind the first place St. Catherines, Penn AC and others. We were eager to face these teams again soon at Canadian Henley.

Results at the Royal Canadian Henley demonstrated that the open men's team had become both faster and more efficient over the course of the summer. Lucas Goodman and Andy Sayles in the U23 2x set the tone for the rest of the regatta. Progressing confidently and consistently through the preliminary races, the U23 2x ultimately placed 3rd in the final. This was the best finish in recent years for Riverside's open men sweeps. Inspired, the Senior 8+ won its heat, handily beating several larger crews. In the final, we demonstrated that our heat performance was not a fluke. Riverside combined an aggressive start with a late settle to take the lead early in the race. Hanging with St. Catherines and Northeastern through the middle 1000, Riverside dropped into 3rd but continued to walk on the remainder of the field. In the last 500, we executed a solid sprint, walking more than 4 seats on Northeastern and nearly taking 2nd place. Ultimately, Riverside clinched 3rd place and reduced its Elite Nationals deficit to St. Catherines from 15 seconds to 6.5 seconds.

The open men's team continued to build on its successes during the fall racing season. At the Textile Regatta, we successfully defended our 1st place finish in the 8+. We also added good



performances in several smaller boats including 1st place finishes by the men's 4x and the men's 2- of Gabe Mahoney and Brad Sherman. The Head of the Charles demonstrated that we still have room to improve. In both the Club 4+ and the Champ 8+ we had disappointing races, placing 14th and 25th, respectively. While we had hoped to do better, these results have encouraged us to train harder for next year.

The masters men had a similarly successful racing season. The pattern was set early in the year at the Derby Sweeps & Sculls Regatta with a win in the masters 2-. The team then followed this up with a dominant performance at the Lowell Festival Regatta. Here, the team won the Open 2-, the Masters 2x, and the Masters 4+.

RBC's masters men sustained their solid performance through the fall head race season starting with a dominant performance at the Textile River Regatta. Here, the team won the Masters 4+ and Masters 8+, additionally placed 3rd in the Masters 2x. At the Head of the Housatonic, the team furthered its preparation for the Head of the Charles by handily winning the Masters 4+. The team performed well at the Head of the Charles, with the Masters 8+ taking 11th place, clinching a guaranteed entry for 2012, and the Senior Masters 4+ continuing its long-running bid to unseat the defending 1980 Rowing Club. While the 4+ crew was not able to win, the 3rd place finish was an extension of a series of such accomplishments.

Both parts of Riverside's men's sweeps are entering the winter encouraged by a successful, hard-fought racing season and buoyed by the improvements we've made. The team is eager to build on this year's successes with focused winter training. We intend to emerge next spring with a basic fitness level

that will allow us to get into racing trim faster. Additionally, we are shaking up our team's organization. Jeff Doherty, the long-time open team captain, has just gotten engaged and, in his first act of letting himself go, has stepped down as captain. Jeff has led the team through several years of rapid growth, helping to establish the positive atmosphere that we enjoy. Thankfully, Jeff will continue to exert his influence as a member of the team. The new captains of the open men's team will be Brad Sherman and James Brennan. Energized by this year's successes, Riverside's men's sweep teams are eager to pick up more speed and race faster and harder in the coming year. 🚣

“Energized by this year's successes, Riverside's men's sweep teams are eager to pick up more speed and race faster and harder in the coming year.”

-Dan Kettler

Women's Sweeps Whirlwind Summer Roundup

By Stephanie Bakkum

Now that the calendar officially marks fall, it's time to look back and highlight some of the summer gems that were *The Striped Life-Summer '11*.

Schuylkill Time. The ladies took to the water in Philadelphia to take on Vesper, Penn AC, NYAC and beyond at IDR. Strong finishes were seen in all of the 4+'s and U23 8+. No watches were won but the weekend was an overall success with solid race experience on an iconic course. Some stayed behind to party at PACRA and let's just say even though the 4th of July was on a Monday the weekend certainly was not without fireworks.

Boston Waters-"Lock It In." The Cromwell Cup arrived mid July and was a huge success both as a club run event and for the women's team in the medal category. Sweeping the competition, the women won in both 8+'s, took 1st and 2nd in the 4- and won the 2-. Running from race to volunteer to race again kept everyone on their toes and was a fantastic weekend to experience the inter-workings of RBC on and off the water.

Oh, Canada. This was my first summer rowing in the club scene and I had previously only heard stories of the infamous first week of August. Canadian Henley seems to be a right of passage into the rowing world and I'm glad I was finally able to experience it. Six days of grueling racing in St. Catherine's Ontario is why we trained 2/day 6days/week throughout the summer.

The competition was fierce. From Vesper to Argentina's former Olympians it was challenging and fun to come out of the stake boats side by side. Overall the women fared

okay. We had a lot of entries in a lot of events over the course of the week which allowed for an abundance of race experience.

The women's 8+made it to finals and finished 6th, the U23 8+ finished 3rd in finals and garnered 6th in the dash. Mary and Luisa finished 3rd in the lwt2-. The 4x of Kit, Severine, Claire and Val sculled their way into a 6th place finish in finals.

The week was full of team dinners, college style living at Brock and an infamous weekend party scene in Port Dalhousie-that may or may not have ended in Lake Ontario.

HOCR. After last year's Women's 8+ gold and amazing finish in the champ 4+ the Women's Sweeps team was anticipating a weekend of exciting racing. This year the team garnered three entries: Women's Champ 8+, Women's Champ 4+ and the Women's Club 4+. The Club 4+ cruised to the top of the medal stand on our team with a solid 4th place finish. Huge congrats go to Jane Hanlon, Kyle Gaffney, Christina Peltier, Alina von Korff and Kelsea Gusk. The Champ 8+ had a solid race as a boat, but when going up against some of the strongest crews in the country the squad was certainly in a new league of competition. The Champ 4+ had an extremely strong race but was unfortunately penalized with yielding infractions. The Head of the Charles is the most exciting rowing weekend of the year; deemed as 'Christmas for Rowers' the women's team was happy to volunteer at the race, celebrate the success of the Club 4+ and take in the last of the weekend's festivities at Ned Devine's 'closing ceremonies.'

“The competition was fierce. From Vesper to Argentina's former Olympians it was challenging and fun to come out of the stake boats side by side.”

-Stephanie Bakkum



The Fittest Rock & Roll Band In The World Storms Riverside

By Ripped McOarsman, RBC music critic

At the end of last summer, Riverside Boat Club experienced a first in its history: members getting together to form a rock band and perform for the club's membership. The details are not clear, but rumor has it that the group, conceived in the dark winter months of 2010-2011, began practicing in a dingy Brighton apartment, in a student-slum neighborhood where loud, frightening, raucous noise emanating from a ramshackle apartment at all hours of the night isn't a problem. No one quite knew what was going on with these hooligans, but word spread around the boathouse during the summer months that their practices were becoming more frequent and, amazingly, almost palatable to the ear, provided it was well plugged.

Then came the unthinkable – the Social Committee, in a bold move that risked banishing Chairperson Eliza van Lennep from the club for life, signed up the band for the end-of-season cocktail party in late August. Now the gossip was flying. Who WAS this band? What would they play? WHY did we have to listen to them?? Nothing like this had ever been done before. It was unprecedented! It was terrifying! It was TOTAL INSANITY!!!

But curiosity won the day, and a surprising number of RBC-ers showed up to hear this strange new phenom. The band called themselves The Blades – catchy, edgy, and very rowing-ish, without clubbing you over the head with the metaphor, or a sweep oar. The Blades, so-called, were David Smith on lead vocals and keyboard, Will Allen on bass and vocals, Andrew Neils on drums, Valerie Brinker on lead vocals, and John Tracey on guitar and vocals. The members were all in their 20s, bringing a youthful vibe to their set list. But wait...apparently Tracey is FIFTY-ONE!! Huh? What's an old dude doing in this lineup? Before complete panic set in, the crowd noticed that he rocked a cool Vox amp and a couple of decent axes – a '78 Gibson Les Paul and a '52 Fender Vintage Telecaster remake (but a real, American made Fender... WHEW!). Still, this seemed really out of place. One of these rockers is not like the others. Perhaps they let him in because he was the only one who had actually been to Grateful Dead and Rolling Stones concerts in the 1970s. Perhaps it was just a novelty. But could he play the new stuff? Only time would tell as the night wore on.



To their credit, the band did one thing right. Like any really hot rock and roll outfit, they made the crowd wait well into the night before they went on stage, building anticipation and, more importantly, allowing patrons to get good and liquored up before any notes could be blasted from the amplifiers.

Around 8:30 or so they hit the stage, roaring into Power of Love by Huey Lewis and the News. And what to our astonishing ears did we hear? They weren't bad! Smith, on vocals, apparently was a member of the distinguished Dartmouth Aires, as well as an experienced rock singer. And man could he belt it out. Allen nailed the bass notes, while Neils kept a solid beat on his wicked cool electronic drum set. Even Tracey kept up, without missing (too many) notes. It sounded damn good. We were ready for more. They then moved through a powerful and varied set of songs, as the crowd stood there, stunned. After Power of Love, they started in with Zeppelin's slow, sad and depressing "Babe I'm Gonna Leave You." But just as the confused crowd began heading for the doors, they faked us out, using this song as an interlude to "Whole Lotta Love," which then melded into "Can't Stop" by the Chili Peppers.

These songs were tight, fast and ROCKED. Smith ripped off his shirt for Can't Stop, and the EMTs had to be brought in for several fainting females. They slowed things down a bit for "Use Me," followed by another Petty rocker, "You Wreck Me," with Tracey surprising us on lead vocals with almost-understandable lyrics. Then Smith took over for Michael Jackson's "The Way You Make Me Feel," which went into "Black or White." They finished the first set with an admirable "Betterman," in which Smith absolutely channeled Eddie Vedder.

In the second set, they unleashed their female vocalist, the extremely hot and talented Valerie Brinker. She belted out Katy Perry's "Teenage Dream" and "Last Friday Night" like no tomorrow, and the entire crowd was dancing within the first few chords. They slowed things down with "Too Close," a surprisingly sexy number. The lyrics were a bit too vague for my taste, however – I prefer knowing what the song is about. The rest of the crowd didn't mind, though, and I was surprised by how much, ahem, dirty dancing, took place during this one. But Taylor Swift's "You Belong With Me" redeemed the band, with Val's sweet voice sounding amazing. She followed this

with Kelly Clarkson's "Since You Been Gone," and I thought the crowd would lose complete control, but they took a break, during which Smith and Allen crooned an acoustic "Heart of the Matter." The band finished it off with a rousing "Party in the USA." The crowd screamed for an encore, and they came out and nailed a killer rendition of "Under Pressure," with Smith channeling both Bowie and Freddie Mercury.

The performance left the crowd totally amped for the inevitable Phoenix afterparty. I myself was shaken to my core – how could a bunch of lunkhead athletes be so in tune... so on key and sound... almost professional? Well, they did it, and we were proud. They also looked like they had a lot of fun.

See the next issue for a review of their Holiday Party performance. I wasn't there, but I heard it was another great show. Tracey couldn't make it, however. I heard he had a shuffleboard tournament in Florida. 🎱



Lots of members - and future members - got involved in the neighborhood cleanup.

Riverside Members Continue to Upgrade the Neighborhood

By Kate Sullivan

Riverside Boat Club joined forces with the Cambridgeport Neighborhood Association, the Charles River Conservancy and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) for a third Magazine Beach Cleanup this year, held on November 13, 2011. Along with regular fall raking and the usual litter pickup, they again focused their efforts on the historic Powder House, especially keeping roots from scrub trees away from the mortar.

The weather was perfect for a fall cleanup and there was great turnout from the membership, the neighborhood and Conservancy volunteers from Boston Rotary Club and Harvard LASPAU.

DCR handled the trash and yard waste pickup, totaling about 30 bags of trash and 65 bags of yard waste. The park looks great!

The effort received a nice writeup by Cathie Zusy in the Association's Blog about the historic Magazine Beach: <https://magazinebeach.wordpress.com>.

Many thanks to all who helped out! 🌳🌳🌳🌳

That's a Wrap

Emily Huelskamp

For about a year Riverside has been raising money with our trash through the small black box beside the stereo. This shoe box is regularly stuffed full with nutrition bar wrappers. These wrappers are sent off to a company called TerraCycle that contributes two cents for every wrapper to any chosen charity. Riverside is contributing to the cause of the National Eating Disorder Association (NEDA). NEDA provides information and support to those affected by eating disorders. So far RBC has raised around \$300. This may not seem like a large amount, but that can mean a lot for the spread of NEDA's message. That also translates into an impressive amount of energy bar consumption. Keep those wrappers coming! TerraCycle accepts all foil-lined energy, nutrition, or granola bar wrappers. Also, look for a new, less mouse-friendly collection box coming soon. 🌳🌳🌳🌳



IMPORTANT DATES

- Meetings** Board Meeting | March 13th
Board Meeting | April 2nd
Quarterly Membership Meeting | March 13th
- Work Parties** March 3th
April 7th
May 6th
- Party Parties** Crash-B After Party | February 19st
Tavern-in-the-Square (Central) | Details will be e-mailed