

Frederick Kelly, 1881-1916

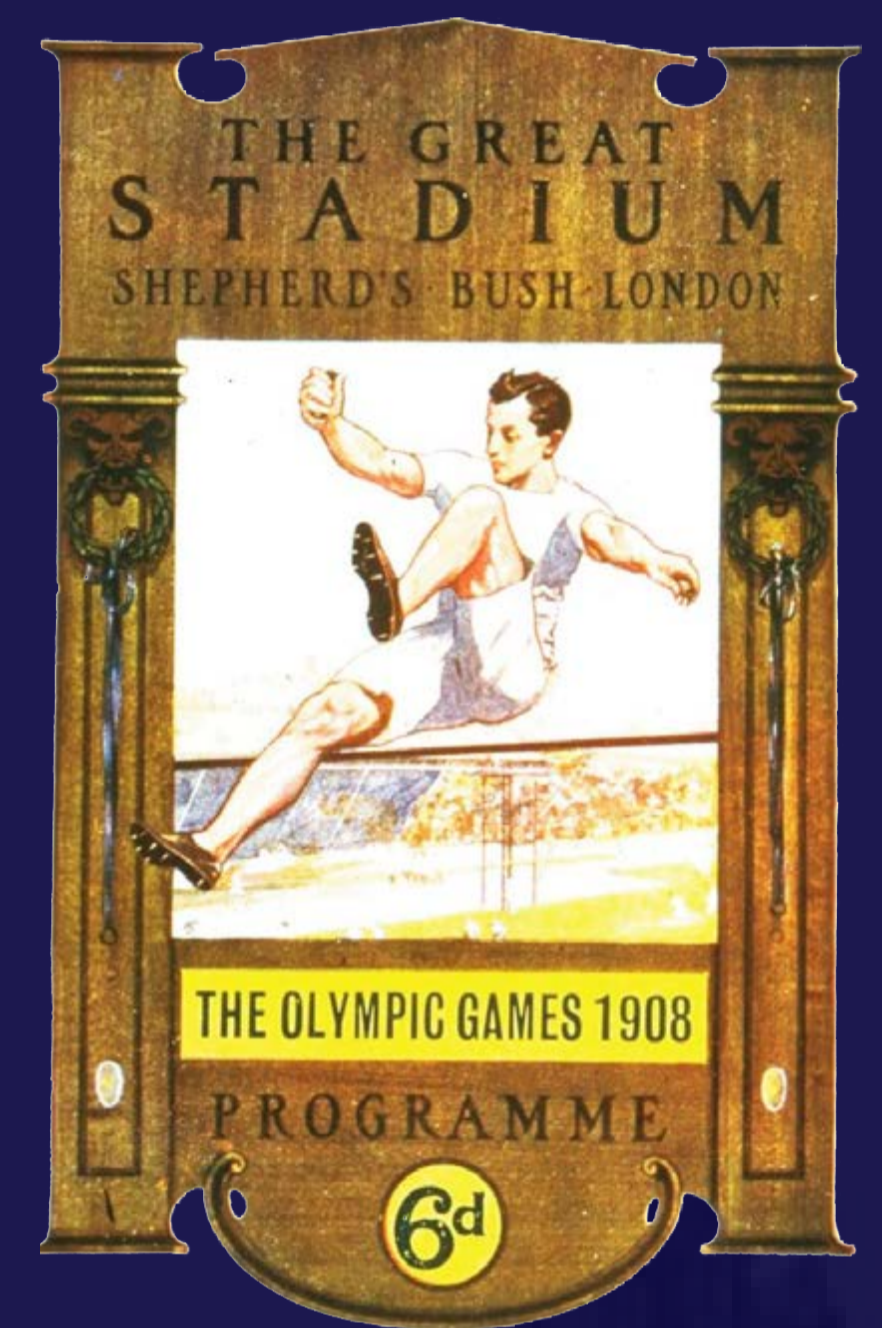
Frederick Kelly – the rower

While he never rowed competitively for Marlow, Frederick Septimus Kelly is probably the most famous of the rowers commemorated on the Club's war memorial.

Frederick was born in Sydney, Australia in 1881 and was educated at Eton and then Balliol College, Oxford. Frederick's first success as a rower was when he stroked the Eton College eight to victory in the Ladies' Challenge Plate at Henley Royal Regatta in 1899. He won a music scholarship to Oxford University and continued to row there as a student. He took up sculling while at Oxford and won the Diamond Challenge Sculls at Henley in 1902. He rowed in the losing Oxford crew in the Boat Race in 1903, but again won the Diamond Challenge Sculls at Henley that summer.

On leaving Oxford in 1903, Frederick rowed at Leander Club and was in the Leander crews which won the Grand Challenge Cup at Henley Regatta in 1903, 1904 and 1905 and the Stewards' Challenge Cup in 1906. In 1905 he again won the Diamond sculls, his time of 8 minutes and 10 seconds standing as a course record for over 30 years. His final competitive race was in the 1908 Olympics in London when he rowed as a member of the Great Britain crew that won gold medal.

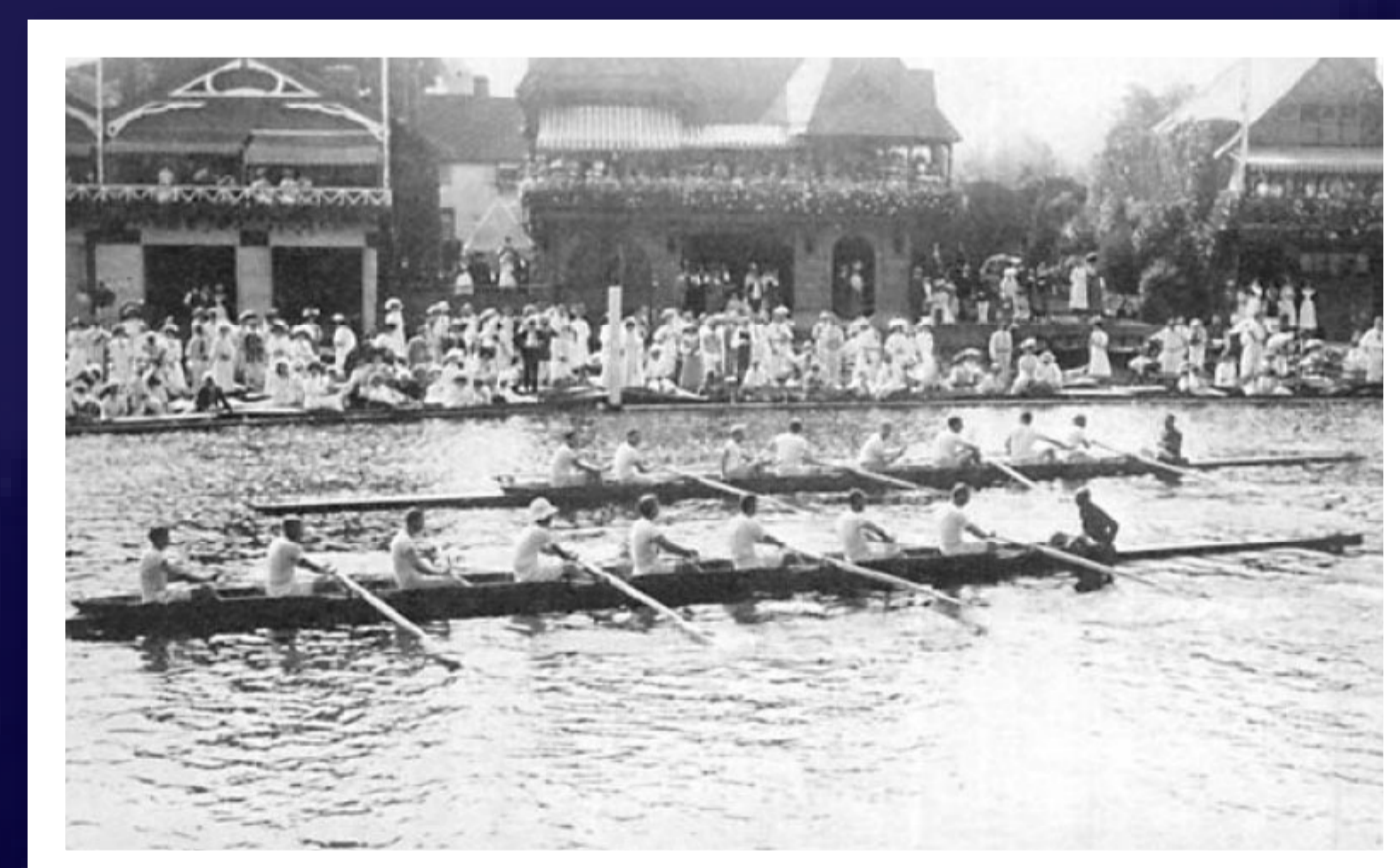
After retiring from competitive rowing, Frederick moved to Bisham where he continued to scull regularly along the stretch of the river between Marlow Bridge and Temple. He was famous as a rower for what one journalist described as 'his natural sense of poise and rhythm that made his boat a live thing under him'.



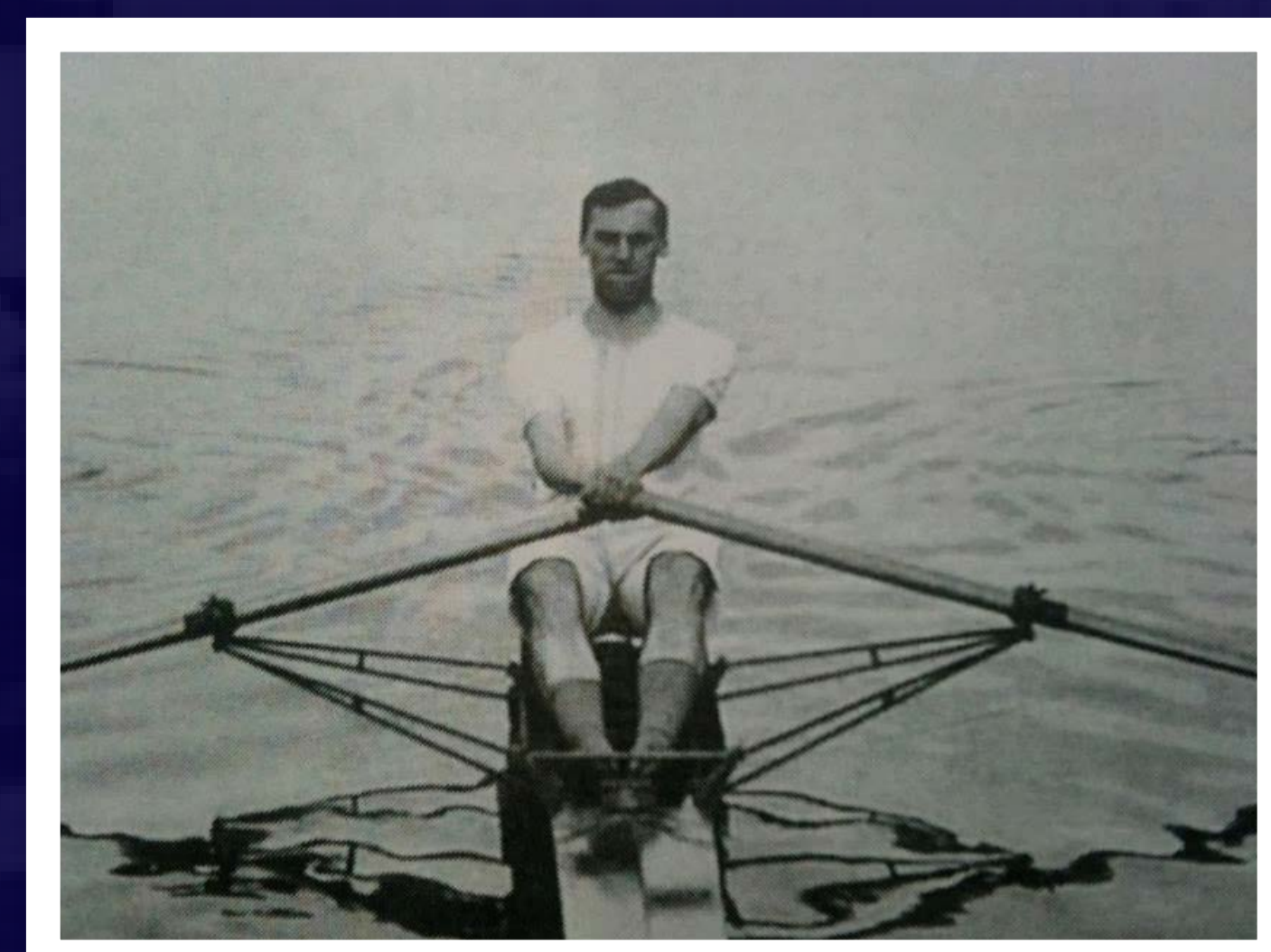
Programme for the 1908 Olympic Games held in London



Kelly at the Leander Club.
Photo courtesy of the Leander Club.



Crews rowing at the 1908 Olympics at Henley



Frederick Kelly sculling, early 1900s.