

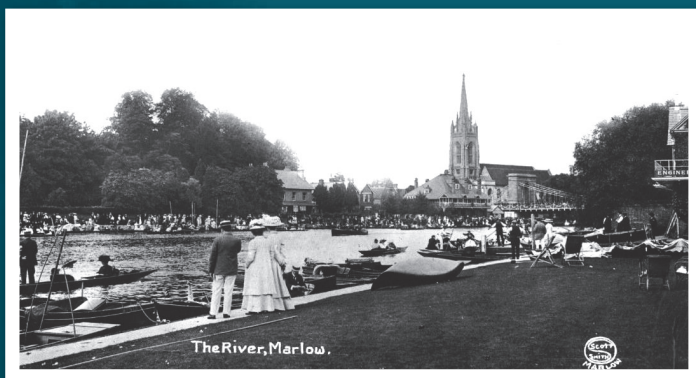


The early years of Marlow Rowing Club

Marlow Rowing Club was founded on 16th May 1871 at a meeting in the Compleat Angler Hotel. The Club colours were purple and maize (changed to cardinal in 1880). However, crews had already rowed in Marlow's name at Marlow Regatta in 1855 and at both Marlow and Henley Regattas in 1870.

The Club at first hired boats (coxed pairs) and housed them, on rented land, under Marlow Bridge. From the outset, a Monthly Cup competition was run for Club members. Initially this was in coxed pairs, but as the membership grew, it moved to coxed fours. In the first of the pair races, just four crews raced and one heat was won on a foul! The winners were W. Batting and J. Batting, coxed appropriately by W. Batting.

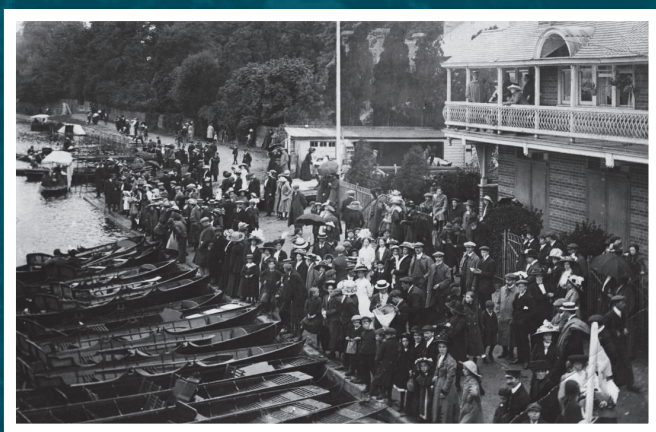
For 25 years, the Club was forced to hire land at various sites, on both sides of the river, until in 1896 it sub-leased part of the current site, next to the bridge. For much of this time, the Club had used a tent as its headquarters. Although the site was only leased, the decision to build a boathouse was made. It was opened on 9th June 1897 (cost £530 6s 3d). In 1910, Mr (later Sir) James Boyton bought the site and leased it, under favourable terms, to the Club. Almost immediately, Sir James gave the property to his son, Henry Boyton who won his first races with the Club in 1911. The site ownership passed down the line, until the Club bought the site as part of the re-building following the 2011 fire.



A pre-War regatta scene at Marlow.
Photo courtesy of Michael Eagleton.



Marlow Rowing Club members c.1890.
Photo courtesy of Michael Eagleton.



A pre-War crowd at the riverbank in Marlow.
Photo courtesy of Michael Eagleton.



The Compleat Angler before the First World War.
Photo courtesy of Michael Eagleton.