

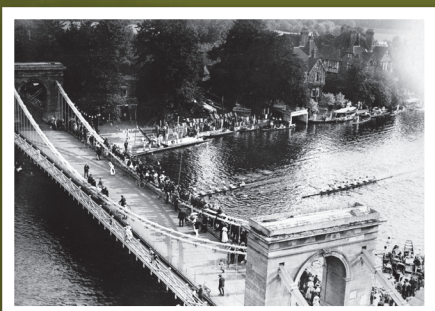


The Club before the First World War

In the period 1910 to 1914, the Club enjoyed great success in competitions. The annual report for 1909 stated that 'a number of young members showing considerable promise.' After some successes in 1910, the Club won 5 events in 1911- two at Reading Regatta and three at Marlow Regatta.

In 1912, the Club won ten races. In the following year, it won the Eights race at Marlow Regatta and entered an eight at Henley Royal Regatta for the first time. The crew raced twice on the first day, beating Pembroke College (Cambridge) by a canvas (7mins 14secs) and Anglian by 1 length (7 Mins 20 Secs). The next day they raced Caius College (Cambridge) at 5:40pm and dead heated. The re-row was at 7:00pm when they had another tough race and won by ¼ length in 7 Mins 25 Secs. The third day saw them lose the semi-final to Oriel College (Oxford) by 1 length (7 Mins 18secs). Oriel College went on to win the event.

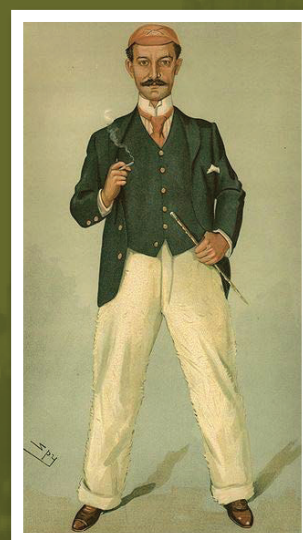
An eight was entered for Henley again in 1914, winning the first heat but then losing to Jesus College (Cambridge). It won at Marlow, Walton, Goring & Streatley and Reading Regattas. Reading Regatta took place the day before war was declared, and a four had to withdraw since one member was called up for military service.



Marlow Regatta before the First World War.
Photo courtesy of Michael Eagleton.



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



R.C. Lehmann.

A hugely influential figure at this time was R.C. (Rudolph Chambers) Lehmann. He lived in Bourne End, rowed for the Club from 1893 to 1898 and, amongst other very generous gifts, bought the Club a new eight in 1898 to celebrate his marriage. He was an outstanding coach to the crews of 1913-14, having great technical knowledge and the ability to impart that with considerable enthusiasm. R.C. also served as a Liberal MP between 1906 and 1910 and was a noted writer, contributing regularly to Punch and Granta magazines.



The Eight of 1912



Marlow Rowing Club before the First World War.
Photo courtesy of Michael Eagleton.

