



FoSC Officers

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A Message from Judy

Hello to all! As we're half way through the SHS Spring Crew season and nearing the end of the school year, I wanted to take a minute (well OK, maybe a bit more than a minute) to give one and all an idea of where we are currently headed. Maybe a quick recap of events is in order for parents of rowers in their first season rowing at Shrewsbury High School.

History - FoSC was not always in existence. There was a loosely organized group of parents that helped out as bus chaperones and with the lunch/snack service we provide for our kids at regattas. Occasionally, there would be an attempt to raise funds for replacement cost of items like oars, some boat hardware, etc. As time moved on, parents and the coaching staff saw the condition of our racing shells deteriorate with no means in sight to replace or refurbish them on any large scale. As you've all heard, a new boat costs in the neighborhood of \$30,000 equipped from stern to bow. With no money in the SHS Athletic Department budget for such expenditure, some parents began to think about how to raise funds in earnest this year. With the help of a paralegal at the law firm of one

of our girl's team parents, we filed the paperwork necessary to incorporate ourselves and to seek status as a nonprofit tax exempt organization. Our paperwork is currently under review by the IRS for that status so we can begin to raise funds for the team on a larger scale. This year is the Novice season for Friends of Shrewsbury Crew and we're all learning together what it means to be us!

Current Events - At this time, we've established some committees to help the FoSC run itself. We have groups for Fundraising, Financial Goals, and Communications. Most visible at this time has been communications. As those of us with upperclassmen can tell you, we receive better info about FoSC and the important things we need to know about crew schedules thanks to Mike Thomas, and Keith McKinley gives us a great place to look for a recap of team activities, race results and photos on the SHS Crew web site. Denis Leary is working to put together a Financial Strategy for us to set up spending for FoSC activities and to help determine how we can help replace SHS Crew equipment with funds we will raise. Sue Chatten has organized several successful "Nuts and

Bolts" fundraisers for the team and is already working to plan our activities at this fall's Spirit of Shrewsbury Expo on the Common.

The Future - Everything I've told you about so far is in the "Where We Are" category. Now, where we need to go gets interesting. The next big goal for FoSC is to begin to seriously look for alumni of the program and other friends of Crew within the community BEYOND our team parents! This will be the biggest growth area for membership in FoSC and even the largest sector for fundraising. There are people out there who would help if they knew we needed them! To that end FoSC is looking to establish an Alumni/Business Community Relations Committee that will work towards providing both a place for those groups to connect with old friends and help a sport that was such a large part of developing the character of so many in our town. If you think this is an area that you can help establish a direction for, please contact me so we can begin this next stage for FoSC.

As always, I'm reachable at jlindborg@townisp.com or



Upcoming Events

- 5/15, 9am-3pm—Car Wash fundraiser at Beal School
- 5/23, 9am—Dedication of the "Irving 'Jim' Donahue II" at the DRC
- 6/9, 7pm—FOSC meeting, DRC
- Note there is no meeting in July
- 8/11 7pm—FOSC meeting, DRC



The "Forrest 'Clink' Miner '41" takes to the water following the dedication held at the DRC on April 24, 2004. See over for more details of this very special event for all who were there.

The Dedication of the “Forrest ‘Clink’ Miner ‘41”

April 24, 2004 was a red letter day in the history of the SHS crew program. A large crowd of alumni, crew and parents joined with the family and friends of Forrest ‘Clink’ Miner for the dedication of a shell in his honor.

The purchase of the new shell was made possible by generous alumni donations made on behalf of ‘Clink’, donations from the athletic boosters, and the extensive fundraising efforts of the boys’ and girls’ crew teams.

The ceremony was held in glorious weather on the lawn in front of the boathouse at the DRC, with Lake Quinsigamond as a beautiful backdrop to the proceedings. Mr. Gordon Warren, the SHS Athletic Director, welcomed everybody on behalf of SHS, the Athletic Department and the crew program, thanking all those many contributors who had turned the shell dedication into a reality.

Mr. Warren paid a warm tribute to Clink as a great gentleman, who excelled as an athlete, winning two national championships, and then surpassing those achievements with his community contribution as a teacher and coach. “Crew was his life, people were his life. Looking around at all these people paying tribute to him is wonderful. I am sure he is looking down on us and is all



smiles”.

Reflecting fondly on his time rowing, with his father and Ken Burns as the coaches, David Miner noted the special pride he had taken in rowing in a shell named after Bill O’Donnell, who fought and perished in WWII. His wish was for the girls’ who row in the “Clink” to reflect on his father’s dedication as an oarsman and for the contribution he made in his many years as a coach.

Coach Jason Abraham presented Mrs. Mim Miner with a plaque recording the thanks and appreciation of the SHS Girls’ crew and the FoSC for her efforts on their behalf. Mim in turn expressed her appreciation for all that everyone had done. She noted that, “Forrest appreciated what crew did to build character. I hope that you win, but it is always more than just the racing and the winning that is important. The dedication needed



SHS Crew Alumni—Katherine O’Brien, ‘00

Katie O’Brien is in her fourth year at UMass-Amherst and has greatly enjoyed her time as a member of its prestigious women’s rowing program, under the tutelage of Jim Dietz, the three-time Olympic rower and two-time Olympic coach.

The summer before her freshman year Katie took part in the Shrewsbury Town Parks & Rec ‘Learn to Row’ program and became hooked on the sport.

She had a wonderful experience rowing at SHS and her crew experience helped her with college applications, along with good grades of course! She was recruited by Miami, Duke, Virginia and UMASS, choosing UMASS, where she received several academic & sporting scholarships, including the Rick Pitino scholarship.

She characterizes the UMASS crew regime “as very tough, but

also very rewarding”. The dedication to get up at 5.30 am to practice before starting a full academic day has been rewarded with a successful college rowing career that was capped by capturing the college eights title at the prestigious Royal Henley Women’s Regatta, in June 2003.

Katie is graduating in 2004 and is currently applying to graduate law schools.

