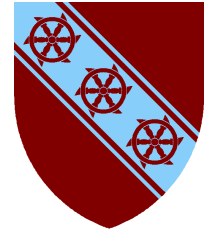




St Catherine's College Rowing Society
St Catherine's College,
Oxford OX1 3UJ



6th February, 2005

In this issue ...

Not much racing to speak of yet, but the river's been well-behaved and Torpids crews have been selected. There's news of the Torpids dinner, a new boat, Boat Race preparations and Ian Todd writes of the Boat Club of 30 years ago.

In the recent edition of *St Catherine's Year* you may have noticed one of our Vice-Presidents writing of shady dealings during his time in the Colonial Service, and congratulations to another of our recently-retired Vice-Presidents on his knighthood. Good to see a return to traditional values in giving such honours to someone you'd imagine might actually make a decent job of donning a suit of armour and taking on the odd passing dragon.

Torpids Dinner & AGM

Bruce Mitchell, Rowing Society Chairman

You will have read in *The Year* that in 2005 the College is organising a Dinner for all alumni who have rowed and their guests on the 26th of February, the Saturday of Torpids. I hope that there will be good support for what will be a very enjoyable occasion. The A.G.M. will be held at 6.15 pm in the Mary Sunley Building. This will be a formal meeting to enable us to attend the reception in the S.C.R. at 6.45 pm. Please send nominations for the Committee to the Secretary by February 21st 2005. I look forward to meeting you on the 26th if not earlier on the towpath.



Clare Shakespeare (bow) and Amy Banham-Hall, racing as a double scull in the Isis Winter League where they proved faster than our (admittedly scratch) women's VIII.

Results

Isis Winter League (23rd Jan)

Crew	Time	Overall	Class
Men's VIII	4:43	2nd/26	2nd/6
Women's 2x	6:05	17th/26	1st/1
Women's VIII	6:06	18th/26	7th/10

New Women's Boat

This term the women have taken delivery of a new Janousek VIII, purchase jointly by the College and the Rowing Society. The Rowing Society has also bought them a new set of blades.

After the usual heated debate, the women's captain has decided that the boat will be called *Alan Bullock*. It's a bit early to say whether this departure from the A A Milne theme marks the beginning of a new trend in Catz boat names, but I note that we seem to be getting through Masters more rapidly than boats nowadays, so it may be sustainable.

Due to various technical reasons, the boat won't be officially named until after Torpids when we hope that Lady Bullock will do the honours. And no, no one is suggesting that the women leave it under wraps until the official launch — it is already being used.

Torpids 2005

This year's Torpids have now been selected and you'll note that the word 'Novice' appears in the crew lists rather less often than last year.

Torpids will run from Wed-Sat, 23rd-26th February with divisions racing every 30 minutes from noon until 5pm (same times each day). There are four Catz crews currently in training.

Torpids 2005: Wednesday Start times

Crew	Div	Bungline	Time
Women's 1st Torpid	I	10	4.30pm
Men's 1st Torpid	II	1	4.00pm
*Women's 2nd Torpid	IV	4	1.30pm
Men's 2nd Torpid	V	8	1.00pm

*Subject to Rowing On

President: Tony Hancox

Vice Presidents: Don Barton, Rev. Joseph Bell,
 Lord Garden KCB, Richard Peters,
 Sir Matthew Pinsent CBE, Ben Sylvester.

2005 Men's 1st Torpid



Bow: Erik Vincent
Age: 23 Hgt: 183cm Wgt: 84kg
Subj: 2nd Year M.Phil
Development Studies
School: U.C. Berkeley, USA
Experience: 2004 M1T, M2E

2: Darren Chadwick (Captain)
Age: 21 Hgt: 180cm Wgt: 84kg
Subj: 2nd Year Human Sciences
School: Solihull School
Experience: 2004 M1T, M2E



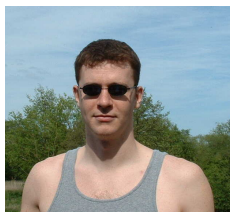
3: Steve Wicks
Age: 20 Hgt: 188cm Wgt: 90kg
Subj: 2nd Year Econ. & Man.
School: Dauntsey's School,
Devizes
Experience: 2004 M1T, M2E

4: Peter Goult
Age: 20 Hgt: 196cm Wgt: 89kg
Subj: 1st Year English
School: Eton College
Experience: Novice



5: Dave Royse
Age: 20 Hgt: 193cm Wgt: 89kg
Subj: 2nd Year Chemistry
School: Farnborough 6th Form
College
Experience: 2004 M1T

6: Evan Burfield
Age: 28 Hgt: 193cm Wgt: 96kg
Subj: 3rd Year PPE
School: Thomas Jefferson HS, USA
Experience: Varsity VIII, Occo-
quan BC; 2003 M1E; 2004 M1T,
M1E



7: Dan Blakey
Age: 26 Hgt: 185cm Wgt: 90kg
Subj: 3Yr D.Phil Neuroscience
School: Grenville & U.Warwick
Experience: 96-99 U.Warwick;
99-01 Norwich RC; 2002 M1T,
M1E; 2004 M1T, M1E

Str: Carl Fliescher
Age: 21 Hgt: 190cm Wgt: 82kg
Subj: Visiting Student
School: Brewster Academy, NH,
& Georgetown Univ, DC
Experience: 98-20 Brewster;
2001-02 Georgetown Fresh.VIII



Cox: Fleur-Estelle Shaw
Age: 18 Hgt: 147cm Wgt: 45kg
Subj: 1st Year Geography
School: Northwood College
Experience: Novice

2005 Women's 1st Torpid



Bow: Emma Willis
Age: 20 Hgt: 168cm Wgt: 65kg
Subj: 3rd Year Biology
School: Queen's School, Chester
Experience: 2003 W2T; 2004
W1T, W1E

2: Lydia Hutchinson (Captain)
Age: 19 Hgt: 176cm Wgt: 58kg
Subj: 2nd Year Chemistry
School: Burgess Hill School
Experience: 2004 W1T, W1E



3: Lena Matthai
Age: 20 Hgt: 168cm Wgt: 57kg
Subj: 2nd Year Biology
School: Henrietta Barnett
Experience: 2004 W1T, W1E

4: Amy Banham-Hall
Age: 19 Hgt: 173cm Wgt: 65kg
Subj: 1st Year Mod. Lang.
School: Bedford High School
Experience: 4-, 2- Cpe de la
Junesse, Silver 4- Nat Champs



5: Clare Shakespeare
Age: 18 Hgt: 164cm Wgt: 73kg
Subj: 1st year Medicine
School: Canford School
Experience: 5 years Canford,
2004 2x Coupe de la Jeunesse

6: Katherine Lampe
Age: 19 Hgt: 180cm Wgt: 69kg
Subj: Visiting Student
School: Wittenberg Univ, OH, USA
Experience: Novice



7: Katharine Pierce
Age: 21 Hgt: 172cm Wgt: 62kg
Subj: 3rd Year Maths & Phil.
School: Kodaikanal Interna-
tional School, India
Experience: 2003 W2T, W1E;
2004 W1T, W1E

Str: Sarah Boddy
Age: 25 Hgt: 168cm Wgt: 60kg
Subj: 2nd Year DPhil, Human
Anatomy & Genetics
School: Lytham St Anne's HS
& St Catherine's, Oxford
Experience: 1999 W1T, W1E;
2000 W1T, W1E; 2001 W1T



Cox: Stephanie Sit
Age: 20 Hgt: 165cm Wgt: 52kg
Subj: Visiting Student
School: Fordham Univ., NY, USA
Experience: Kingston HS and
Fordham crews

30 Years Ago ...

1974/75 was the year that St Catherine's and four other colleges went 'mixed', although it was to be another year before women had their own divisions in bumps races. Ian Todd recalls that period with additional extracts from the Boat Club History.

Ian Todd, Captain 74/75

1974-75 was my second year at Catz and second year of rowing. The most significant event for me that year was that I started going out with Sue from Westminster College — we celebrated our silver wedding a couple of years ago and our 50th birthdays last September. I started the year as secretary of the Boat Club, and ended it as Captain, taking over from John Whorwood who was hard pressed with work. As a second year Biochemist with no exams that year, the academic pressure on me wasn't quite so acute!

Eights the previous year (1973-74) had been memorable for the wrong reasons: the 1st VIII started towards the bottom of Division 1, but ended the week towards the bottom of Division 2. 1974-75 was therefore bound to be a time for taking stock and regrouping. It was also the first year that Catz had female students, so providing two very able (and light!) coxes for the 1st and 2nd eights, namely Josette Mooney and Beverley Little. We also had some expert coaching.

Eights started well for the 1st Eight with a bump on New College II followed by a row-over on the Thursday. Unfortunately we were bumped on Friday and Saturday, so ended the week down one place.

Torpids, 1975

Over the four days of Torpids the 1st VIII dropped a total of eleven places and passed from division 2 to division 3. The third day of the races was particularly disastrous when the 1st VIII was bumped just before OUBC. By the time the 1st VIII had extricated itself and rejoined the race it had dropped to the bottom of the second division.

1st Meeting, Trinity Term

The Captain then read out the positions of all four Catz crews which were already on the river. It was brought to the attention of the meeting by certain members of the Schools VIII — Catz III — that behind them they would have the Balliol third boat coxed by that infamous youth of the screen Mr. John (where's Val Singleton and Jason?) Noakes whose

appearances on Blue Peter used to (and still do) astound us all. Apparently there is to be a television series (to be shown in the spring of 1976) in which Mr. Noakes performs sundry feats such as sky-diving and coxing an Eight in Eights Week.

Eights Week, 1975

It was realised that if the St Catherine's 1st VIII was to put up a good show in Summer Eights, and banish the ignominy of Torpids, every effort must be made to find a regular and experienced coach for the crew. After much searching of the Oxford rowing scene, Mr. Mike Knapton, a post-graduate student at Corpus Christi, was found to be willing to give of his time and experience. He coached the 1st VIII at all its outings for three to four weeks up to a week before the races; his style of coaching was just what the crew needed to help pull them into respectable shape; he insisted on discipline, stood no nonsense, said exactly what he thought, but was never tyrannical or unreasonable — he expected a lot of us but recognised our limitations. Mr. Steve Plunkett of Queen's, the Captain of Isis, coached the 1st VIII for the week leading up to the races and instilled into the crew the extra bit of aggression and determination, though we never managed the number of Ratzeburg hops he expected us to do!



The 1975 1st Eight. Crew: Steve Hoskins (bow), Colin Please, Dave Bill, Mike Jackson, Geoff Kitching, Ian Todd, John Cracknell, John Whorwood (str), Josette Mooney (cox).

On the first day of racing the bump made by the 1st Eight was reported in the following terms in *The Daily Telegraph* (Thursday, 29th May):

'Josette Mooney will go down in history as the first girl ever to score a bump in the Second Division. After one unsuccessful swipe she steered St Catherine's College into New College II within yards of the line.'

2005 Boat Race

This year's Boat Race has a new sponsor (Xchanging), a new day (Sunday) and new TV coverage (ITV). Crews have not yet been announced but at the moment it looks like we'll have two men in the Blue Boat and another two in Isis. I'm assuming it'll move us back up the table of Colleges supplying recent Blues.

Colleges of Oxford Men's Blues, 1995–2004

1.	Keble	15
2.	Oriel	9
3.	Pembroke	8
4.	Lincoln	7
5.	Brasenose	6
=	Christ Church	6
=	St Catherine's	6
8.	University	4
=	Hertford	4
10.	Balliol	3
=	St Edmund Hall	3

You might like to know that the Oxford University Society's annual Boat Race gathering will be on the *mv Abercorn* at Chiswick Pier. We publicise this since Neil Chugani (M.87), cox of the 1991 Blue Boat, will be giving the talk before the race. Tickets, including lunch, are £45 each. Full details and application forms can be found at <http://www.alumni.ox.ac.uk/oneday/boatrace.shtml> Alternatively, contact the Oxford University Society on 01865 288087.

News from Alumni

Ian Todd (M.73) On leaving Catz, Sue and I married and moved to London where I did a PhD in Immunology at University College, Sue taught in Ealing and Hampstead and our daughter Catherine (!) was born. I then did post-doc research in Oregon and back in London before moving to Nottingham University, where I've been in the Immunology Division since 1987 doing teaching and research.

Sue is now National Junior Development Officer for Cerebral Palsy Sport, Catherine (24) teaches autistic children and our son, Adam (20) is at St Martin's, Lancaster training in Primary Education.

On the sporting front, Sue and I are involved in our local Athletics Club as coaches, officials, etc. Our involvement started some years ago when Adam was in to running and javelin, although snowboarding is now his passion. Having done half-marathons for several years, I'm hoping to do a marathon this year before decrepitude sets in!

The nearest I get to rowing these days is occasional trips to the rowing lake at the National Watersports Centre at Holme Pierrepont, which is just three or four miles from where I live, although this is to run round it, rather than row on it!

Helen Barnes (M.96) It's a little unnerving to discover that the 10-years-ago and beyond old fogies are actually people I overlapped with. Just a couple of years until they're all younger than me too!

Currently in Cyprus working for the UN — at least until late February anyway. Yet another step in my my nomadic lifestyle while I try to persuade someone to take me on for more than 2 months at a time.



Ah yes, one of those 'technical reasons' delaying the official launch of the women's new boat. It's on Jim's 'to do' list.

Coming Up ...

In the next newsletter there will be news of Torpids, the 'official' launch of the new boat, our OUBC trialists and a piece on the the Boat Club of 40 years ago when John Haden was Captain. News from alumni of other years also welcome.

Anu Dudhia

email: dudhia@atm.ox.ac.uk

Row.Soc: <http://www.atm.ox.ac.uk/rowing/rs.html>

Diary

18 Feb 2005	Torpids Rowing On
19 Feb 2005	Burway Head
23–26 Feb 2005	Torpids
26 Feb 2005	Rowing Dinner & AGM
05 Mar 2005	Women's Eights Head
19 Mar 2005	The Head of the River Race
26 Mar 2005	Henley Boat Races
27 Mar 2005	The Boat Race
25–28 May 2005	Eights
28 May 2005	Boathouse Buffet Lunch