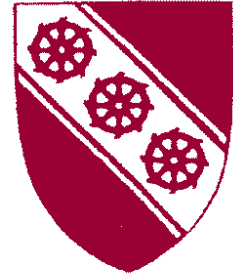


St Catherine's College Rowing Society
St Catherine's College
Oxford OX1 3UJ



25th March, 2006

In this issue . . .

We have the launch of the new fleet, just in time for Torpids, reports on the (rather successful) term's rowing, a look at the boat club of 35 years ago (also rather successful), news from alumni, an advertisement for The History and updates on our triallists preparing for next weekend's University boat races.

Boat Christening

Our 6 new VIIIs finally had their official launch just one day before Torpids started. On a wintry afternoon, The Master, Roger Ainsworth, did the honours for the men's 1st boat *Hostile Intent*; Lady Bullock the women's 1st boat *Alan Bullock*; Rowing Society Chairman, Kevin Skinner the men's 2nd boat *Catz 22*; Secretary for Alumni, Ceri Peach, the women's 2nd boat *Catz Me if You Can*; the men's 3rd boat, *Tony Hancox*, was christened by Tony Hancox, obviously; and the women's 3rd boat, *Sir Glyn Jones*, was christened by two of the man's grandsons.

As it turned out, the women's 1st Torpid actually raced in *Catz Me if You Can* and the men's 2nd Torpid *Tony Hancox* — the boats that they had been training in for most of the term. And, yes, they all came through the event in one piece.



Preparations for the official launch of the new fleet. Finally got hold of enough trestles, although the men's boat had to be christened on the water.

Results

Henley Fours & Eights Head 11th February

11:10	Sen 3 VIIIs	1st/6
11:59	Novice coxed IVs	3rd/19
12:10	Novice VIIIs	5th/9
13:08	Women's Sen 3 VIII	4th/6

Torpids 1st-4th March

	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Finish
Men's I	+1	+1	+1	+1	6th Div I
Women's I	+1	+2	+2	=	3rd Div I
Men's II	+1	=	+1	+1	9th Div V

The Men's (mixed) 3rd Torpid failed to row on

MEN	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
I ORIEL				
MAGDALEN				
NEW COLLEGE				
EXETER				
PEMBROKE				
QUEEN'S				
L.M.H.				
WORCESTER				
WADHAM				
ST CATHERINE'S				
TRINITY				
LINCOLN				
II CHRIST CHURCH				
ST JOHN'S				
UNIVERSITY				
BRASENOSE				
HERTFORD				
BALLIOL				
JESUS				
KEBLE				
ST ANNE'S				
S.E.H.				
ST PETER'S				
MAGDALEN II				
III MERTON				
LINACRE				
WOLFSON				
EXETER II				
CORPUS CHRISTI				
PEMBROKE II				
MANSFIELD				
CHRIST CHURCH II				
ORIAI II				
WADHAM II				
ST HUGH'S				
UNIVERSITY II				
IV SOMERVILLE				
ST JOHN'S II				
NEW COLLEGE II				
LINCOLN II				
BALLIOL II				
HERTFORD II				
JESUS II				
TRINITY II				
KEBLE II				
S.E.H. II				
BRASENOSE II				
OSLER-GREEN				
V L.M.H. II				
QUEEN'S II				
ST BENET'S HALL				
ST ANNE'S II				
ST PETER'S II				
WORCESTER II				
MERTON II				
PEMBROKE III				
LINACRE II				
ST ANTONY'S				
ST HUGH'S II				
ST CATHERINE'S II				
VI BALLIOL III				
WADHAM III				
HERTFORD III				
TRINITY III				
KEBLE III				
CORPUS CHRISTI II				
UNIVERSITY III				
MANSFIELD II				
HERTFORD IV				
WOLFSON II				
ST ANTONY'S II				
ST JOHN'S III				
REGENT'S PARK				

WOMEN	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
I NEW COLLEGE				
ORIAI				
CHRIST CHURCH				
QUEEN'S				
MERTON				
OSLER-GREEN				
SOMERVILLE				
ST CATHERINE'S				
MAGDALEN				
ST HILDA'S				
PEMBROKE				
S.E.H.				
II WOLFSON				
WORCESTER				
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MANSFIELD				
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CORPUS CHRISTI				
LINCOLN II				
WOLFSON II				
ST PETER'S				
ST ANTONY'S				
ST HILDA'S II				
IV MERTON II				
WADHAM II				
KEBLE II				
NEW COLLEGE II				
HERTFORD II				
WORCESTER II				
QUEEN'S II				
ST JOHN'S II				
S.E.H. II				
PEMBROKE II				
ORIAI II				
LINACRE II				
V WORCESTER III				
JESUS II				
MANSFIELD II				
ST ANNE'S II				
PEMBROKE III				
QUEEN'S III				
REGENT'S PARK				
BALLIOL II				
EXETER II				
ST HUGH'S II				
OSLER-GREEN II				
EXETER III				
BALLIOL III				

Women's Boat Club Report

Amy Banham-Hall, Women's Captain

Of all the challenges that I've faced in my rowing career, this term has proved to be one of the toughest. Because of this, the huge success that we have enjoyed this term is so much sweeter.

We had a small squad, in every sense of the word, but what they lacked in size they made up in spirit and sheer grit. By Torpids, many of the girls were pulling ergs that Matthew and I never imagined they could at the beginning of the term. A boat club is only as good as the people in it, and this term has shown once again that Catz girls are the most tenacious, determined and fun in Oxford, so I would like to thank all the girls for making this term the success it has been, both on and off the water.

Olympic athletes will tell you that it is all about peaking at the right time, and we did, but not before we had a few shaky weeks. I would be lying if I said I wasn't worried at times during the term, but with Matthew at the helm, and Timmy Cat in the cox's seat, we overcame some pretty large odds to pull off what many people said we couldn't do.



The Women's 1st Torpid closing on Merton on Thursday.

Our first race lasted all of five strokes, as the late arrival of Somerville left them flustered and starting only a boat length ahead of our bows. We dispatched them with clinical ease, and the scene was set for the rest of the week. Thursday saw us pitted against Merton. Unfortunately our phenomenal start was to be our ultimate downfall. Having hit 42 off the start, Merton's stern was soon bouncing off the aptly named *Catz Me if You Can*, but New College chose today to crash into the bank, allowing all boats in the division to row clean past them, which meant that they were no longer there for us to bump later in the week. If only we hadn't been so fast! Friday brought more woes. After we had pulled out the sensation of Div 1 and bumped Osler before the Gut, they went on

to bump the falling Christ Church. We were rapidly running out of crews to bump, but were certain that with a good row, Queen's were certainly not unassailable. As the race came round and there still hadn't been a Catz crew to have made it through the Gut, the pressure was incredible and all the crew ready to prove themselves again. We went through the Gut a length and half behind, but with some powerful pushes, narrowed the gap to only a length, but unfortunately this was to be the closest we got. After our gutsiest row of the week, we finished up 5 places and third in Div 1, a feat that we could have only dreamed of at the start of racing.

The success is due in no small part to Matthew's fearsome regime of ergs and outings, but more so a testament to the effort and determination every girl in the squad put in, without complaint. This is your victory, all of yours.



The Men's 2nd Torpid in pursuit of Queen's II on Friday.

Men's Boat Club Report

Peter Goult, Men's Captain

This term began with a very successful training camp, with a record attendance of 35 people during 0th week. Much progress was made early on and the boats began to order themselves. With senior rowers back the squad was looking very strong and, while hit by a few academic losses, things looked hopeful. A steady pattern of training below the lock and added support from Anu Dudhia and Matt Denmark helped Catz form very strong M1, M2 and W1 boats.

We approached Henley mid-term, entering 3 VI-IIs with half the men's 1st boat also rowing in a IV. All crews rowed the 3000m head of the river race well, settling to good rhythm and particular mention should go to the men's 1st boat who, due to recent illness, had been stroked by Danish International Stephan Moelvig, and he helped them on their way to winning the S3 event — silver pots all round. Well done to all concerned, and particular thanks to Matthew Elliot for trailering support and Anu for coaching M2.

Finally, Torpids. With illness and academic trouble, the outlook 1 week before the races was bleak, but a combination of huge erg scores and a little luck helped all crews fall into shape in time. M2 pulled four bumps out of the bag and were exceedingly unlucky to get bumped on the second day by a Wadham schools crew, costing them their blades. M1 however, got off to a flying start on all four days, moving from 10th to 6th on the river, and demolished every crew in Div 1 in front of them in 30 strokes or so. With only one Catz crew actually rowing through the Gut all week, this is if nothing else, a testament to some impressive starts.

A good night was had by all at the Rowing Society dinner. Blades for the men's 1st Torpid are being painted and chalked up as you read this. Very well done to all crews, and looking forward to Eights.



The Men's 1st Torpid taking the Boat Club flag for an airing after racing on Saturday.

2006 St Catherine's Torpids

Men's 1st Torpid

B James Bolton
 2 John Anderson
 3 Dominik Moser
 4 Darren Chadwick
 5 James Hutton
 6 Peter Goult
 7 Steve Wicks
 S Alexander Zdravkovic
 C Fleur-Estelle Shaw

Men's 2nd Torpid

B Christian Toennesen
 2 Malcolm Spencer
 3 Simon Christian-Edwards
 4 James Draper
 5 Leo Masson
 6 James Mee
 7 Ralf Schneider
 S Michael Tran
 C Alyssa Lubet

Women's 1st Torpid

B Emily Burfoot
 2 Bailey Cahall
 3 Joelle Abrahams
 4 Alice Newton
 5 Kate Stinson
 6 Bianca Rautenbach
 7 Charlotte Alldritt
 S Amy Banham-Hall
 C Timothy Rooney

Men's 3rd Torpid

B John Robbins
 2 Leila Higgins
 3 Grace Shortland
 4 Megan Steuer
 5 Adrian Johnston
 6 Ziqi Wu
 7 Joseph Ronca
 S Rajan Jandoo
 C Annika Goldman

35 Years Ago

1970–71 St Catherine's Association Chronicle

The Boat Club enjoyed a very successful year, the climax of which came in Eights Week when the 1st VIII reached the 1st Division for the first time this century after making three bumps. The College's purchase of a new shell VIII early in the year undoubtedly contributed much both to this success and to the five bumps made by the first Torpid, which now stands higher than ever [at 7th on the river]. The 2nd Torpid made nine bumps¹ and the 2nd VIII made five, a happy indication that good rowing at St Catherine's is not confined to the 1st VIII alone.



The 1971 St Catherine's 1st Torpid, photographed on the upper deck of the Barge. *From left to right, back row:* Michael Pocklington (7), Geoffrey Lloyd (3), Roger Bricknell (5), Alan Swanborough (6), Peter Kelen (2), *middle:* John Rollason (4), Nigel Henderson (str), Stephen Smith (bow), *front:* R. Flack (cox).

News from Alumni

Roger Noël Smith (M.71) I've lived in Finland — the sole representative of our Society here? — for seven and a half of the last ten years. I came with a company as preparation for opening a centre for them (in language and business training) in Barcelona (I speak Catalan and am familiar with Catalonia, after 30 years of close contact). There's a song by Frank Sinatra — not that I'm a fan of his, Robin Williamson being my musical hero — called *The Tender Trap*, that explains how I got diverted. My partner actually does have the surname of Siren. We are expecting a baby, with the useful provisional name of Proteus / Protea, in June. We were wondering if Proteus/a

¹which we think is a boat club record. Torpids in those days was run in a 'multilane' format which made large rises possible.

will row for Repton, if the school takes up rowing again — I've not yet written to the Head! — or Eton — attended by a relative of mine who stroked for Cambridge in the winning crew of 1904. My personal preference nonetheless is, of course, Catz and OUBC! Watch this space!

On the subject of labour, I'm a Lecturer at the University of Jyväskylä. Greetings from Finland to all SCCBC members. It was -20°C yesterday. A balmier -15°C today. Yes, the weather here IS barmy.

Adam Apt (M.77) I can boast that my weight is just above nine and a half stone, not much more than it was when I coxed the men's 2nd VIII. As it always has been, my principal physical recreation is walking, except that now, instead of tramping public footpaths to distant village pubs, I hike in the mountains of the northeastern U.S. Having finished solo-hiking the hundred highest peaks in New England, I've moved on to the Adirondacks, in New York, where I aim to hike every peak over 4000 feet.

But I still keep my hand in the river, so to speak, in three ways. First, every June, the Oxford and Cambridge Society of New England has a black-tie supper preceded by a boat race in IVs on the Charles River, and for something between 15 and 20 years, I've been coxing the Oxford boat, with results that, alas, have not been much better than those of the Boat Race during the same period. But I can proudly report that we handily beat an aging and decrepit Cambridge crew last Spring.

Second, for many years, I've been a volunteer umpire at the annual Head of the Charles Regatta here in Boston, in late October. This has now overtaken the London Head as the world's biggest regatta. The organizers are always grateful for umpires who actually know a little about rowing. There is no order to the umpires to maintain neutrality, and on the rare occasions when Oxford enters a crew, I cheer it on.

Third, every few years, friends of mine who row with the Cambridge (Mass.) Boat Club become desperate for a cox and call me at the last minute to turn up for a 7:00 am outing. It's still a thrill to be out with a powerful VIII on a moderately wide and curving river.

In my professional life, I got an MBA after Oxford and have been in the investment management business as a 'quant' for the last nineteen years, most recently with a couple of startup Web-based investment advisory firms. But I still consider myself an historian, too, and produce a steady trickle of book reviews and encyclopedia articles, most recently a couple for the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography.

Being on the board of the St Catherine's College (Oxford) Foundation, I get regular news of the College, and appreciate the reports of Torpids and Eights from the Rowing Society. It's been a couple of years, but I hope on my next visit to Oxford to see the new boathouse.

A History of St Catherine's Rowing 1875–1999

Tony Hancox

Now is the opportunity for those who have ever rowed for St Catherine's to obtain the second edition of the 'History', published in hardback with a maroon cover, with the arms of the College and the Boat Club magnificently impressed in gold and with a gloss dust-jacket — before the remaining copies sell out — but not by the route published in the February edition of the Rowing Society Newsletter; the telephone number quoted is not in use and should be expunged from any record of it which may have been made.

Orders should be made to the 'Editorial Director, c/o the Development Office', St Catherine's College, and should include the buyer's name, address, matriculation year and a cheque for £19.95 + £2.30 for postage and packaging (£4 p&p if overseas) — the cheque made out in favour of 'St Catherine's College Rowing Society'. Do not delay, send now!

University Triallists

As the crews currently stand, Bastien Ripoll (Stroke) and Colin Smith (2) are rowing for OUBC, Bruce Magee (Stroke) and Nick Brodie (cox) for Isis. I thought Clare Shakespeare had been the women's lightweight but she doesn't appear on the crew web-page so I guess we'll see who shows up.

Coming Up ...

In the next issue there will be the reports on the Boat Races, prospects and arrangements for Eights and a look at the Boat Club of 1960/61 when Robert Bloefeld was Captain. Contributions for 'News from Alumni' are always welcome, but particularly from anyone from that era.

Anu Dudhia

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

Diary

1st April 2006	Henley Boat Races
2nd April 2006	The Boat Race
24–27 May 2006	Eights