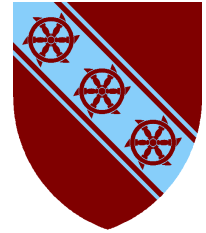




*St Catherine's College Rowing Society*  
*St Catherine's College*  
*Oxford OX1 3UJ*



20th March, 2011

**In this issue ...**

We have the Captains reports on Torpids: the Men's 1st Torpid returned to their highest ever position, 4th on the River while the 2nd Torpid won blades. The women didn't fare so well but, speaking as one of the 'pessimists' (see the Women's Captain's report), 'gravity-defying' still seems an apt description of their achievements. At least our men's and women's crews finish rather neatly occupying the same positions on the river in their respective divisions. And both our 1st boats were involved in the highest bumps in the men's and women's divisions. More photos and videos on the RS 'News' web-site.

We also revisit events of 25 Years Ago, and in News from Alumni, Paul Miron updates us on some of the characters from that era (and their offspring). We also have one, possibly two, representatives in next weekend's Oxford-Cambridge Boat Races.

**Results**

**Isis Winter League E, 21st February**

Time	Crew	Class
4:31	M1	7th/51 M8
5:44	W1	15th/34 W8



Theresa (M1 cox), Lizzie (coach) and Hugh (no.6) engaging in some post-match analysis after the end of racing on Saturday (no, it's not the camera angle: they really are those sizes).

**Torpids Rowing On, 25th February**

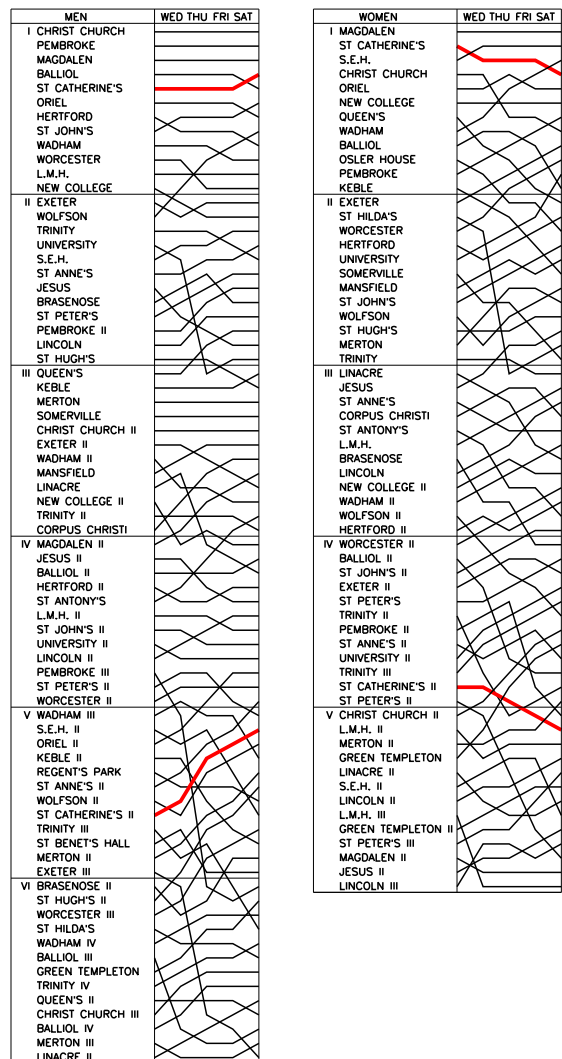
Time	Crew	Position	
3:23	M3	32nd/43	Failed to qualify

Top 13 crews to qualify, cut-off time 3:02.5

**Torpids 2nd-5th March**

	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Finish
Men's I	=	=	=	+1	4th Div I
Women's I	-1	=	=	-1	4th Div I
Men's II	+1	+3	+1	+1	2nd Div V
Women's II	=	-1	-1	-1	2nd Div V

**Torpids 2011 Bumps Charts**



**President: Bruce Mitchell**  
 Vice Presidents: Don Barton,  
 Richard Peters,  
 Sir Matthew Pinsent CBE,  
 Ben Sylvester.

## 2011 St Catherine's Torpids

### Men's 1st Torpid

B Martin Ramsdale  
 2 David Zimmer  
 3 Ben Trigg  
 †4 Chris Rees  
 5 Jeff Douglass  
 ‡6 Antoine Robin  
 7 Malcolm Spencer  
 S Alexander Sanders  
 C Theresa Kevorkian  
 †Sat: Antoine Robin  
 ‡Sat: Hugh Taylor

### Women's 1st Torpid

B Emily Risness  
 2 Sara Lukic  
 3 Briana Dance  
 4 Rosie Lang  
 5 Ilsa Haeusler  
 6 Jo Harrall  
 7 Abigail Wesson  
 S Inge Hertzog  
 †C Clio Seraphim  
 †Wed: Theresa Kevorkian

### Men's 2nd Torpid

B Joshua Morgan  
 2 James Boxall  
 3 Tyler Roberts  
 4 Dmitry Sokolov  
 5 Josh Landrenau  
 6 Christoph Haase  
 7 Toby Smyth  
 S David Ashmore  
 C Phil McCullough

### Women's 2nd Torpid

B Katrina Spensley  
 2 Christina Hookham  
 †3 Natalie Haley  
 4 Irina Finkel  
 5 Naomi Scott-Mearns  
 ‡6 Laura McLaren  
 7 Leah Carden  
 S Fran Webber  
 C Martin Ramsdale

### Men's 3rd Torpid

B Samuel Harris  
 2 Henry Renninson  
 3 Jake Steinberg  
 4 James Newman  
 5 Matthew McGilvray  
 6 Daniel Rebnord  
 7 Manuel Garrow  
 S Anton Hinel  
 C Martin Ramsdale

†Thu: Margherita Phillipp

†Fri: Hannah Buckley

†Sat: Rebecca Argall

‡Sat: Margherita Phillipp

## Women's Boat Club Report

### Katrina Spensley, Women's Captain

After training consistently during the holidays, the women came back during 0th week to try and make use of the quiet river. During the week, afternoon sessions were run daily, enjoying the freedom from lectures and the weather remained reasonable throughout. Unlike the same time last year there were only a couple of red flag days throughout the term, with the vast majority of days green flagged which was excellent for the novice coxes.

Unfortunately despite the positive weather the term was a stormy one, with the initial 8 girls in the first Torpid falling to 6 early on. The six continued to train hard with an array of subs taking the spare places in the boat for water outings. Despite the pressure of the situation, and the frustration caused, ev-

eryone remained positive but there was growing concern about what could be achieved over the short time we had remaining. After agonising for many weeks over whether entering Torpids was a sensible choice, a unanimous call that we should represent the College whatever happens was made.



The Women's 1st Torpid rowing over on the Friday.

The second VIII had a fairly erratic term due partly to the problems in the first boat. This led to an exciting four days of racing, with slightly different crews on all the days of racing including several members swapping sides for different days. They were given a place in the fixed divisions by crews above them pulling out and provided a solid start to their campaign with a relatively easy row over at the bottom of the fixed divisions. They succumbed to two very strong crews on Thursday but clawed back a place with a bump on Trinity. A very fast revenge bump from the Trinity team on Friday left them as the sandwich boat for Saturday's racing. The crew raced well on Saturday, but a good start from Merton gave them the edge.

The first boat was filled with just a week to spare, although injury led to another substitution just hours before the first race took place. The hours of hard work and water time paid off well over the first three days with only a single bump from a very strong Teddy Hall, in spite of many pessimists predicting spoons as the best possible outcome and fears of dropping entire divisions day by day. Saturday was another fantastic display of rowing and, despite an early concession to Wadham, these girls proved themselves and easily held off Oriel for a second day. These four days have shown what can be achieved in such a short space of time, and we can expect the best for Summer Eights and Torpids 2012.

We now look forward to another successful and exciting term of racing in Trinity Term, with renewed enthusiasm from a hopefully relaxing Easter break. Many thanks to the committee for their enormous support during the term, particularly to Leah Carden and Rosie Lang for enduring every decision with me and to Theresa Kevorkian for her constant expertise throughout. Finally, best wishes to anyone sitting exams next term

## Men's Boat Club Report

### Martin Ramsdale, Men's Captain

This term has been a successful one, with M2 winning blades moving up 6 places, and M1 bumping Balliol moving back up to 4th on the river, a well deserved result for all the hard work put in this term. Back in 0th week, after training over the holidays, we returned to a much warmer Hilary term and got straight out onto the water to get as much practice as we could. The weather stayed kind for most of the term, and with a strong hoard [horde? — Ed] of men we managed to train 3 boats throughout.

M3 was mainly novices from this term and last, but have improved so much this term both in fitness and technical ability. Despite all this, qualifying for Torpids is especially difficult, and unfortunately they did not qualify. They're not disheartened, though, and many of them are aiming at seats in M2 for Trinity Term.



The blade-winning Men's 2nd Torpid. Back row, left-to-right: Toby Smyth, Josh Landrenau, David Ashmore, Dmitry Sokolov, James Boxall, Christoph Haase; Front row: Joshua Morgan, Phil McCullough, Tyler Roberts.

M2's campaign was led by David Ashmore, backed up by Phil McCullough, and all their time and effort has really paid off. Throughout the term they've

managed to take advantage of our new coach Lizzie, something that 2nd boats don't always have the luxury of, and very quickly into the term there was competition for every seat. A lot of time has also gone into the boat itself, new shoes, annealed riggers, and cleaning it (thoroughly). I know you guys in M2 are proud of your performance in Torpids, congratulations to all of you.



The Men's 1st Torpid celebrating their bump on Saturday

M1, under the reins of Theresa and instruction of Lizzie, have had a productive term, entering into IWLs C,D & E and improving on fitness throughout. It hasn't been clear sailing, though: a trip to Dorney cancelled in the early hours of the trip to be, a mangled rudder and a lost fin a week before Torpids, and an eligibility issue with Matt who was at the heart of the team. We worked through this, holding off Oriel, and finally getting the bump on Balliol on the last day of Torpids. Well done guys, we did it!

Looking forward now to next term, holiday training has started already and at least 8 rowers will be coming back early to get some extra practice in preparation for Summer Eights.

Thank you very much to all of the committee, special thanks to Theresa, Dave, Phil and Lizzie who have all put in so much time, and supported me again throughout this term.

Finally, the best luck to all those taking exams next term.

## 25 Years Ago ...

Torpids in 1986 was notable for Friday's racing being cancelled due to a sudden onset of ice (The technical explanation being that the water had been super-cooled by a strong, cold wind which blew-up the pre-

vious evening). On the Saturday morning the ice was thawing but, in order for racing to proceed, a call was put out for volunteers to take to the water in tub-pairs to break up the remaining ice floes. Catz men's 2nd Torpid, having already picked up a couple of bumps on the first two days, were particularly enthusiastic participants. There had been some debate as to whether gaining 3 bumps in 3 days' racing would still make them eligible for blades but they settled the matter beyond dispute by gaining two bumps on the last day, including one as Sandwich Boat.

The men's 1st Torpid held their position at 12th in Div I but benefitted in the summer from a training stint down at Radley under Jean Le Manac'h, a regular arrangement which had started four years earlier with the help of the new Master, Sir Patrick Nairne. Having two ex-Radley schoolboy oarsmen in the crew did no harm either. Catz men rose three places to finish 6th in Div 2 (*cf.* 6th in Div 1 now).

The women, starting 2nd on the river in Torpids (as this year), fell to a fast Osler House crew on their way to the Headship but rowed over on the other three days to hold on to 3rd. Keeping much the same crew for Eights, they were bumped by Wadham on the first day, bumped them back on the 2nd day, were bumped again by Wadham on the 3rd day and finally bumped by a blade-winning Pembroke crew on the Saturday to finish 11th in Div 1 (compared to their current starting position 4th in Div 2).

We had two representatives in University crews that year: Joanne Gough rowed in OUWBC and went on to represent GB in the Seoul Olympics in 1988 (I believe she's still Catz' only female Olympic athlete); Ros Temple, now a lecturer at New College, rowed in Osiris.

It was the custom in those days for the Men's Captain to keep a diary, to be passed on to following captains for their amusement and, occasionally, education. This is the closing entry for that year.

### **Captain's Diary, 1985–86 (Keith Pritchard)**

Well dear me — what a relief, at the end of the diary. This is the time for all that mushy, nostalgic stuff you always see in Captains' diaries. A year as SCCBC Captain is one hell of an experience — most of it good — some not so good. You get to meet lots of people and make lots of friends, and for some strange reason people look up to you. . . . It's also one hell of a hassle — you'll only find out how much of a hassle as the year goes on. Every now and then you will think that you have got it under control, then you find you haven't. The things you remember most are the good friends you've made, the good times you've had — everything else gets forgotten somehow.

## **News from Alumni**

**Paul Miron (M.84)** Your readers, at least those of the Pritchard/Rhodes vintage, may be interested to hear that the erstwhile Catz guest coach of that era, Monsieur Jean le Manac'h finally retires this year from teaching and coaching rowing at Radley College. I can assure you that the dryness of his humour, which many of that period will no doubt recall, has not lessened with age. Your correspondent is still enjoying coaching the Radley Colts rowing, and is now running into the Sergeant family, most of whom seem to be rowing these days, at numerous regattas. My own son now rows for Abingdon J15s, and my daughter at Upper Thames. Both, I'm told, already have substantively bigger puddles than I could ever have aspired to. I'm also, shock horror, expecting a baby with my partner, Esther, this August!

## **University Triallists**

There doesn't seem to be an official Isis crew announcement, but having coxed them in their (emphatic) victory over Molesey's 2nd crew on 20th February, I'm assuming Zoe de Toledo will still be in the same seat next Saturday against Goldie (to be umpired by Matt Pinsent).

Charlotte Marshall, who only started rowing last October, took up an open invitation for all college rowers to 'gain experience' with the OUWBC squad and ended up in serious consideration for an Osiris seat. However, since she isn't mentioned in the crew that's been officially announced, I'm assuming she won't be racing at Henley next Sunday. But, as usual, I'll be on the towpath somewhere.

## **Coming Up . . .**

In the next issue there will be the results and reports on the University Boat Races, a look at the events of 35 years ago (under the Captaincy of Rowland Hill), prospects for Summer Eights and, something that's been bothering me for a while, an analysis of which are the most, and least, 'boatie' Colleges.

Anu Dudhia

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

[www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=93221115264](http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=93221115264)

## **Diary**

26 Mar 2011	Tideway Boat Races
27 Mar 2011	Henley Boat Races
21 May 2011	Gaudy for 'The Society'
1–4 Jun 2011	Eights
2 Jul 2011	Gaudy for 1990–99