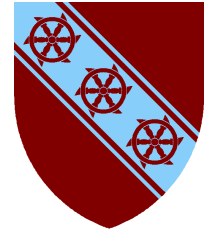




*St Catherine's College Rowing Society*  
*St Catherine's College,*  
*Oxford OX1 3UJ*



3rd November, 2002

## Introduction

Welcome to the new-style 4 page newsletter. By popular demand we've expanded in order to include more from the alumni (and, if it works, colour pictures). However, since I don't plan to start writing twice as much as usual, that, I'm afraid, is where I'll be relying on your contributions.

At the foot of the page you'll notice we also have a new sponsor, or rather a return to our former sponsor Coopers & Lybrand in their new guise as PriceWaterhouseCoopers. More on this in the next newsletter.

## Summer Rowing

A couple of wins were notched up for St Catherine's College Boat Club over the summer.

Mike Bull, Matt Denmark and Will Mulholland were joined by a couple of former lightweight trialists to win Senior 4 IVs at City of Oxford Royal Regatta. It has to be said, they actually rowed quite shockingly badly even if the semifinal was their first outing. Luckily I don't think any of the Lightweight coaches were around to see what had become of their hard-taught technique.



The winning Sen 4 IV+ at City of Oxford Regatta: Matt Denmark (bow), Jonny Holliday (New), Will Mulholland, Mike Bull (str), coxed by James Fullerton (New).

Training rather more seriously, and certainly rowing more smoothly, Tony Mitchell (M.78) and Sarah Payne (originally New College, now at Wolfson) have also been racing as a mixed double over the summer, getting a silver medal in the Veteran National Champs and winning at Stourport.



Tony Mitchell and Sarah Payne, after racing at the City of Oxford Regatta (tip for supporters: if you can't tell how it went, then don't ask).

Back in September I was warming-up for the start of the Isis Sculling Head (see tip in above picture caption) when a marshal called out the results from Seville which he'd just heard over his radio.

It had all been looking a bit predictable for Pinsent and Cracknell earlier in the season as they won the World Cup first round at Hazewinkel and the Silver Goblets at Henley. But then the Australians, Tomkins and Ginn turned at Lucerne and spoiled the party. Anyway, at least it ensured a large audience (myself and aforementioned marshal excluded) for the live TV coverage of their rematch in the World Championship finals in Seville.

There, of course, Pinsent and Cracknell just stormed away at the start leaving the field for dead and won relatively comfortably. Next season will be interesting, but in the meantime, congratulations to Matt on his wedding to former Balliol and Osiris oarswoman Demetra Koutsoukos.

## Pride or Prejudice?

It is a truth universally acknowledged that any College in possession of a good academic record must be in want of a decent 1st VIII.

For the past few years, while St Catherine's crews have enjoyed much success on the river, the College's name has usually featured somewhere towards the nether regions of the Norrington Table. However, last summer, although the performances in Eights were a little disappointing, only three other Colleges had better Finals results. This would appear to support the commonly held prejudice that dedication to rowing incompatible with strong academic performance. But let's see how the other Colleges did . . .

For the 29 undergraduate colleges competing in Eights 2002, the table shows their ordering based on the average position of their men's and women's 1st crews at the end of racing, their change in position in this order from the previous year (e.g., Catz dropped one place from 2nd to =3rd), and equivalent results from this year's Norrington table.

Statistical correlation is expressed as a coefficient varying from +1 (=fully correlated) to -1 (=fully anticorrelated), with numbers close to 0 indicating uncorrelated quantities. The matrix at the bottom of the table shows the correlation between each column. Obviously every column of numbers is fully correlated with itself (+1).

Statistically the most significant figure (-0.50) shows an anticorrelation between a College's position in the Norrington Table and its change in position; not unexpected since the lower a College is placed one year the greater the potential to rise a large number of places the following year (and vice-versa). A similar anti-correlation (-0.22) is evident in the Eights results, but rather smaller since crews can only rise or fall a limited number of places in any one year.

Now the interesting bit — the correlations between Eights and Norrington Table (top right or bottom left quarters of the Correlation Matrix). A positive correlation (+0.16) is observed between a College's position in Eights and the Norrington table, meaning that the better academic colleges tend to be the better rowing colleges. This could, of course, reflect external factors such as funding or intake. However, more significant (+0.17) is the positive correlation between the changes in position. St Catherine's results notwithstanding, the Colleges which *improved* academically this year also tend to be the Colleges whose 1st Eights *gained* bumps.

So congratulations to all last year's finalists, but if you thought avoiding rowing helped, I'm afraid it may have had the opposite effect.

$E$  = Position at end of Eights 2002  
 $\Delta E$  = Change in  $E$  2001-02  
 $N$  = Position in 2002 Norrington Table  
 $\Delta N$  = Change in  $N$  2001-02

College	$E$	$\Delta E$	$N$	$\Delta N$	
Balliol	13	-3	10	-9	
Brasenose	13	-1	25	-22	
Christ Church	3	3	8	-3	
Corpus Christi	27	1	9	0	
Exeter	18	-2	26	-16	
Hertford	15	-3	16	-4	
Jesus	19	0	7	8	
Keble	16	4	15	2	
Lady Margaret Hall	20	-4	29	-5	
Lincoln	11	1	20	-12	
Magdalen	10	-6	5	1	
Mansfield	28	-1	28	-1	
Merton	7	4	1	6	
New College	2	1	3	1	
Oriel	7	1	23	-12	
Pembroke	1	0	27	-4	
Queen's	21	2	12	9	
St Anne's	24	-1	6	10	
<b>St Catherine's</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>16</b>	
St Edmund Hall	5	1	18	8	
St Hilda's	5	4	21	4	
St Hugh's	29	0	17	2	
St John's	22	-1	2	0	
St Peter's	26	-1	19	10	
Somerville	16	0	24	4	
Trinity	23	-1	22	-4	
University	11	4	13	0	
Wadham	7	-2	11	10	
Worcester	24	1	14	0	
Correlation Matrix	$E$	+1	-0.22	+0.16	+0.02
	$\Delta E$	-0.22	+1	-0.12	+0.17
	$N$	+0.16	-0.12	+1	-0.50
	$\Delta N$	+0.02	+0.17	-0.50	+1

## Boat Club Committee 2002-03

Men's Captain	Dan Robson
Women's Captain	Laura West
Captain of Lower Boats	Michael Bull
Men's Vice-Captain	Ben Laurence
Captain of Coxes	Abi Davison Jenkins
Secretary	Nivedita Mani
Men's President	Simon Risoe
Women's President	Fiona Howarth

## Michaelmas Term — Novice Report

*From Mike Bull, Captain of Lower Boats*

Another hectic Fresher's Week saw this year's novice programme get off to a strong start, with a very popular drinks reception despite some "behind the scenes" last minute panics! [I can only think of one cause for panic at such an event, so presumably the drinks arrived eventually? - AD]. Some 50 new rowers and coxes have been in a boat, and we currently have 4 crews preparing for Christ Church Regatta, and — even more of a surprise — 6 new coxes to share between them!

Although the weather has given us a few scares, so far there has been very little disruption from the elements, which makes a pleasant change from the last 2 years, so here's hoping that it lasts for the next 4 weeks. There has been a slightly disappointing level of interest from the women's side, with only 1 all-girls novice crew (and one or two more in the mixed men's 3rds) however there is some promising talent — both from the men's and women's crews — so we have quality if not quantity.



Mike Bull coaching a novice crew yesterday morning.

I hope that we will be reporting our success stories from Christ Church in the next newsletter, and I know that our novice coaches are all wishing the same.

## News from Alumni

**Nigel Lloyd (M.67)** *took out a Catz IV with some friends over the summer, but also sends this request:*

The X-Press Boat Club, for which I row, is looking for a 2nd hand ladies VIII to buy. We tend to specialise in veteran rowing (although we also have a ladies novice crew in their 20s) who are

participating more for fun than glory. Therefore the boat we are looking for should be designed for an average weight of 65–70 kg and be easy to sit — we will have novices up to experienced rowers in the boat and not all these ladies will be very light. It will be almost exclusively used for head-races, bumps and sprint regattas on the Cam. Our existing Burgashell has been a tremendous success.

If anyone has a suitable boat they should contact Stephen Chapman (Stephen@X-PressBoatClub.com work 01954 782551, home 01223 527173)

**Paul Spedding (M.76)** I guess I never bothered to tell anyone that I married Sian Phillips (M.77, '79 Women's 1st VIII) 11 years ago but I suppose that won't surprise anyone as we'd been "going out" since 1977! Also managed to produce a Christopher Spedding in 1996 — keep redoing the analysis on the cash flow implications but still coming up cash negative (shurely shome mishtake). Still managing to survive in the City after 20 years which I guess is a pretty good performance in current conditions (famous last words?) Rowing? Only rowing I get involved in is the odd trip to Henley as a voyeur — but there's not much call for 12 stone coxes. Where did that 3 stone come from?

**Paul Miron (M.84)** Still here, still doing the same thing. What more could you want to know? Rate of hair loss? Anyway, as far as I'm concerned, the only salient point regarding my fellow alumni is that, even after their frantic training, none of them (Jem, Eric, James) has managed to beat me at 10 km, 1/2 marathons or marathons, so all that how big is yer puddle stuff was all well & good, but ...

**James Lovegrove (M.85)** *Well, James hasn't actually been in touch but I notice he won the Jacobsen Centenary crossword prize in the last Oxford Today magazine, while I'm still kicking myself for not figuring out what to do with those left-over numbers! — AD*

**Dean Asofsky (M.86)** I am about to re-re-locate back to NY from Houston. Staying with Credit Suisse First Boston.

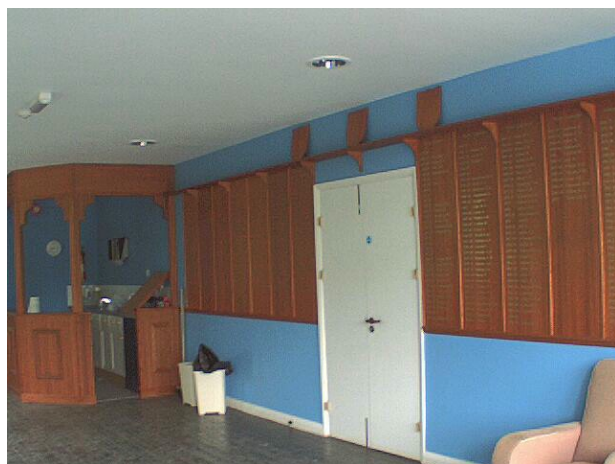
**Heather Balmer (M.94)** I got married to Mike Townsend in April, and am enjoying a life having retired from coxing!

**Richard Law (M.95)** As for me, in the near future I'm off to San Diego to do a 2 year post-doc at UCSD before selling my soul to the drug company devil. Rowing-wise, maybe I'll see what happening there — the weather will certainly make training in the winter more pleasant!

**Paul Halfpenny (M.97)** Competed for Société Nautique de Genève in the 160 km Tour du Lac. 14h 11m, eighth overall and fifth in class, after nearly sinking at Lausanne three hours in, took nearly an hour to bail out. Can't really remember much about the last hour except wishing it would stop!

**Hansen Wendlandt (M.97)** I am in graduate school at Boston University, rowing for Riverside Boat Club. I raced my first Head of the Charles last month, and have two and a half more years to row before I have to get a real job.

**Matthew Denmark (M.99)** I'm now living in Putney, working in corporate finance at PwC (the club's new sponsors I believe) and rowing at Vesta. Won a few pots over the summer rowing at Monmouth. Am doing some coaching for Catz on Sunday.



The 'honours boards' in the boathouse club room, showing major donors, sponsors, Captains of Boats, University and international rowers.

## Boathouse

The buffet lunch in the boathouse on the Saturday of Eights seemed to be popular so we'll probably repeat it next year. Those of you who've seen the newly decorated boathouse will notice some space left above the honours boards for shields to commemorate 'distinguished' (in the broadest sense of the word!) past

crews. These cost £90 each (i.e., £10 a person) so if you would like your crew commemorated it might be a good time to start phoning around anyone you're still in contact with and see if they'll pay up. We are hoping to unveil the first batch on the Saturday of Eights, 2003.



The '57 2nd Torpid, the original 'Beer & Blades' crew.

## Coming Up ...

In the next newsletter I'd like to do a piece on the Boat Club of 10 years ago, so if you rowed in 92/93 (when Richard Cochrane and Anna Cox were captains) please drop me a note to let us know what you're doing now and encourage anyone else from around that time to do the same.

However, we'd also like to hear from the rest of you if you have any news, or even if you just feel you've been out of touch for too long.

Our membership Secretary (and the College, too: alumni@stcatz.ox.ac.uk) would especially like to remind those of you who've moved recently to make sure we have your new address. Email me, or post to Anu Dudhia, 17 Rivercourt, Trinity St, Oxford OX1 1TQ.

## Diary

7 Dec 2002	Deadline for next newsletter
19 Jan 2003	RS Committee Meeting
5-8 Mar 2003	Torpids
8 Mar 2003	Rowing Society AGM & Dinner
28-31 May 2003	Eights

Anu Dudhia

email: dudhia@atm.ox.ac.uk

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