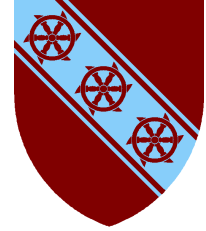




St Catherine's College Rowing Society
St Catherine's College,
Oxford OX1 3UJ



25th Anniversary Year 1984–2004

18th December, 2004

In this issue . . .

There are the end-of-term reports from the Captains and news of our OUBC Triallists — you'll notice a couple of new names near the top of the BIRC results. Cheryl Hardy's recollections of 10 years ago are included here, having missed the deadline for the last newsletter by some weeks (which will raise a few eyebrows among those of you who remember her captaincy) while Richard Peters writes of the Boat Club of 20 years ago. Torpids next year, by the way, has been moved forward a week, so dates are 23–26th Feb.



All's well that ends in the pub. Catz crews and coaches relaxing in the Isis Tavern at the end of Christ Church Regatta. Photo from Alex Kucherov.

Results

British Indoor Rowing Champ. (21st Nov)

<i>Men's BUSA – 129 Entries</i>		
Andy Hodge	5:59.8	5th
Chris Liwski	6:01.2	6th
Colin Smith	6:12.5	29th
Evan Burfield	6:44.5	87th
Darren Chadwick	6:51.1	99th
Steve Wicks	6:52.6	102nd
Peter Goult	6:57.1	108th
Carl Fleischer	6:57.3	109th
Philip Scott	7:25.5	123rd

Christ Church Regatta (24–27th November)

1st Round

- St Catz MA bt St John's MC
- Christ Church MA bt St Catz MB
- Worcester MA bt St Catz MC
- Oriel WB bt St Catz WA

Repêchages

- Keble MB bt St Catz MB
- St Catz MC rowed over
- Linacre WA bt St Catz WA

2nd Round

- St Catz MA bt Magdalen MB
- Somerville MB bt St Catz MC

3rd Round

- St Catz MA bye

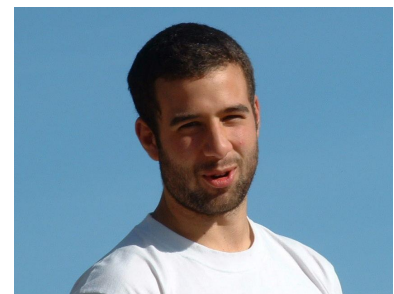
4th Round

- St Benet's MA bt St Catz MA

Men's Boat Club Report

Darren Chadwick, Men's Captain

In the men's camp, we've had a rather encouraging start to the year. This is largely because I have had the support of an amazing committee, Steve Wicks



and Erik Vincent in particular, and the novices were full of enthusiasm, responding well to everything asked of them. As I sat in the Isis tavern with some of the guys on the Saturday of Christ Church, I was proud to feel the club spirit and team feeling which we wanted to aspire to when we wrote our mission statement for the year. The strong club feeling is something that will hopefully be converted in hard work on the gym and results on the water.

Erik has done a brilliant job on organising, cuddling (in some cases!), and waking (in more cases!) the novices this year. Many thanks for your untir-

President: Tony Hancox

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

ing effort. Steve's enthusiasm for the training schedule could not have been further from his attitudes to erg tests last year (for those that don't know, Steve stopped during a 2k test to complain that it hurt!). Steve, I think, now knows that is the point and has found lots of innovative ways to add to the training pain since!

Our main priority this term has been the novices. There was a large intake this year, with nearly 60 names on the men's maillist alone. Well done to all of you. All three boats gave their all and have shown that, with a little hard work over Christmas, we have the potential for not one, but two quick crews in Torpids.

We have also had crews in Autumn Fours, the Isis Winter league, Nephthys Regatta and the Nephthys Head. We entered five men into the National Indoor Rowing Championship in Birmingham which was a chance to race against our Blues boys and the best of British Universities.

Not a bad start, but there is still much to do. Lots of training, lots of racing.

Women's Boat Club Report.

Lydia Hutchinson, Women's Captain

This term, as with any first term, the focus has been on the novices and Christ Church Regatta. The term started with a large number of female freshers expressing an interest in rowing, along with a few already at Catz. Unfortunately, the women's novice programme was slow in getting off the ground, so we only had one Christ Church boat rather than the two I had initially hoped for. Training was going well until disaster struck: one of our girls burst her eardrum, literally days before the regatta. This meant that the girls rowed with a last minute sub, Kate Lampe, who, despite having only had two training sessions before racing, acquitted herself admirably! Sadly, we lost both races and so were knocked out of the Regatta on the second day, but the crew are enthusiastic and will hopefully do better next term!

The senior women had two experienced freshers coming in Amy Banham-Hall and Claire Shakespeare. We did not compete in any events due to academic commitments, but have been training in all term.



OUBC Triallists

This year's OUBC Trials Race, held on 14th December, featured a record four Catz participants, three of whom came from the new intake. The *Indians*, coxed by ex-Junior International Nick Brodie with Colin Smith at 6, were up against the *Cowboys* stroked by Olympic oarsman Andy Hodge with US International Chris Liwski rowing at no.5. On announcing his retirement a couple of weeks earlier, Matt Pinsent had named Andy Hodge as one of the next stars of British rowing. So, no pressure, then. The *Cowboys* won by 4 1/2 lengths. Earlier in the term, in the Pairs Head, Andy Hodge and Chris Liwski won the elite pairs title with Colin Smith and Henry Morris (Magdalen) coming in second.

More on 10 Years Ago ...

Cheryl Hardy, Women's Captain 1994/95

Becoming a rower had never been my intention when I first came up to Catz, but having Louise Glasgow as my college grandmother (for those who remember the college parenting system) who was Boat Club captain, meant that by 3rd week I was recruited firmly into SCCBC and hooked! At the end of the year, I was thrilled to be asked to be the next Captain although I panicked somewhat with the realisation that Louise would not be there for advice, as she was a medic and off to Clinical School at the JR. Anu came to the rescue with suggestions for how to start — tub sessions and initial novice outings with experienced crew members and coxes. Before long, the women had 3 novice crews kindly coached by other SCCBC members and the men had 2 crews.

Michaelmas term went well with the experienced women rowers taking part in Marlow Fours Head race. After Christmas, there were four women's crews for Torpids (which was rained off for two of the four days) and many a happy hour (up for debate, of course) was spent training in the gym, including aerobics sessions in the squash courts for all the SCCBC women together, which were great fun. Trinity term was somewhat more successful with 6 bumps gained by both the women's crews and 4 by the men.

Being captain was a fantastic experience, even though I only managed a single tutorial in one term! I spent many happy hours down at the river, either on the water, coaching, or planning training in the old OUBC. Many thanks to all who supported me so much, especially the coaches: Anu Dudhia, Matt Pinsent, Susan Erb, Rich Copley and Nigel Manson (apologies to those I haven't named) and all my friends especially Nikki Collis (Deputy Boat Club Captain) and Sarah Jones.

20 Years Ago ...

Richard Peters, Men's Captain

It does not seem like 20 years ago when I was Captain of Boats. When I arrived in College in 1982 I happened to be on the same staircase as Mark Tucker the then Captain of Boats and fellow Geographer (in that order of priority) who pushed me down to the Boat Club Sherry party with its trademark Co-op British Sedgemoor Sherry and next day, having been appropriately drugged, found myself in a bank tub followed by a tub pair and then a coxed four. At least, I thought, it was a sport you could do sitting down.

I was fortunate in my 3 years to be in good crews whether it be second Eights or first Eights and never got bumped and obtained two blades that are on show in my house in Saigon. In my year as Captain the highlight was taking the 1st Torpid into the First division at a time when the womens crew was also very successful. It was also good having a very supportive Master in Sir Patrick Nairne at that time. This was also the period when the Rowing Society got off the ground having been inaugurated the previous year.

Other memories? Boat club dinners, diligently keeping the Captain's Diary up to date, training at Radley school, getting knocked out early at a London regatta and subsequently winning £50 on the slot machines and getting knocked unconscious whilst punting!



The 1985 Men's 1st Torpid. Crew: James Sergeant (bow), Russell Bates, Simon Church, Anu Dudhia, Keith Pritchard, Peter Collini, Richard Peters, Bob Coe (str), Helen Sagar (cox). The crew gained blades and returned to Division I after an absence of 10 years.

From the Captain's Diary, 1984–85

First Day of Torpids

Ladies 1st VIII closed on Osler from the start. Liz Brooks came off her seat and there were one or two minor crabs but nothing bad. Coming out of the Gut our bows were rubbing along their stern, with the bow bobble alongside the cox, Jem [Jeremy Brown, cox]

and the crew felt the bump; they did not acknowledge but Jem wound them down to light pressure. Seeing this I asked the umpire if she was giving a bump, she said yes. Within seconds the whole of Timms raft filled up, everyone was applauding as the women pulled in — Head of the River [Unfortunately, but not unexpectedly, the crew were deposed from the Headship on the last day by St Hugh's.]



The 1985 St Catherine's Women's 1st Torpid about to bump Osler to take the Headship. Crew: Gill Rhodes (bow), Hellen Newport, Liz Brooks, Hilary Roberts, Ros Temple, Cathy Panter-Brick, Marie-Clare Sowerby, Sarah Cawthray (str), Jem Brown (cox).

Last Day of Torpids

Men's 1st VIII rowed over head of Division 2. In Division 1 we blasted off the start but St Edmund Hall went away from us. We were 2 lengths behind in the Gut. We made up a lot of ground on the Green Bank. At OUBC 1/4 of a length down we pushed, then pushed for the bump, then pushed again. SEH took us to the other side of the river, then at the start of a stroke we were on the outside of them, at the end of the stroke our bows went over the top of their stern, we felt the bump, crowds cheered, 4 bumps and back into Division 1.

News from Alumni

Richard Peters (M.82) I have been living in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, since May 2001. I am the Assurance leader for PricewaterhouseCoopers, Indochina which includes Cambodia and Laos and thus spend a lot of time travelling between our 4 offices. HCMC (Saigon) is said to be one of the safest cities in Asia — which is probably true other than trying to cross the road when you have continuous streams of motorbikes going in all directions. Normally back each year to attend Henley Royal Regatta and Wimbledon Tennis.

Gill Rhodes (now Wheeler) (M.82) I now live in Chippenham, married with 2 children (Alistair 11, David 8). I still work (part time) for Airbus as a

project manager and am also developing an internet based referral marketing business. I have spent most of the time since leaving Oxford in Bristol and I rowed for 1 year but our IV was slower at the end of the season than the start! Our recent move to Chippenham is to a house that needs completely re-decorating and the addition of a large extension so will be up to our ears in bricks/cement/plaster/paint etc for most of the next year or two. I hope to come up to Eights some time when it doesn't clash with half term. Best wishes to all current boaties

Melanie Sore (now Merricks) (M.82) I have just finished my PhD, and have my viva just before Christmas. I have a job in Bristol starting in January, as a consultant in child and adolescent psychiatry working for United Bristol Healthcare Trust, although I expect to do some teaching and research with the University. We are currently organising the relocation so I'm a bit busy with all that. Rowing-wise I've not been out on the river for a while as job hunting and finishing writing up sort of got in the way. I now have to say good-bye to Cambridge '99 where I've been coxing since 1993, and try my luck in Bristol. If there are any alumni currently rowing in the Bristol area, any advice about clubs would be welcome!

Mark Walker (M.82) In 1986 I went to Penn State (USA) for a PhD in astrophysics. There I overdosed on work and underdosed on rowing (and all other sports). I headed to Sydney for my first job and liked it so much that I'm still there — at Sydney Uni — and am now an Aussie. Still not rowing, but I do a fair bit of swimming. I got married (to Janne Selletto) in August. Our honeymoon year is being spent in Europe — I write this from the Rijksuniversiteit, Groningen — and I hope we'll be able to catch up with some old boaties in 2005.

Jeremy (Jem) Brown (M.83) 5 years as a land surveyor and then decided to give up the outdoor life for the more lucrative field of IT. Now working as an IT Consultant in Cheltenham. Haven't been in a rowing boat since Catz but being a cox taught me many life skills including how to shout 'Stop shouting!' really loudly to one of my three children (Max 8, Phoebe 6 and Finn 3) when they get out of line! Enjoy mountain biking & running & good food!. Married to Rachel and very happy living in rural Warwickshire.

Rachel McKay (M.83) Qualified as a chartered accountant after leaving Catz and, bizarrely, worked for a couple of chemicals companies — without making use of any of the residual knowledge I have from my chemistry degree. Currently working part-time

as an accountant at Warwick University. Enjoy running, reading & good food. Married to Jem and very happy living in rural Warwickshire.

Chery Hardy (now Hutton) (M.93) I qualified as a Clinical Psychologist in Sept 2002 from Lancaster University and now work in Blackpool with Children and Families. I married Mark in May 2000 and we are expecting a baby in March 2005. I rowed for a short time whilst at Lancaster University, but found that knowing more about rowing than some of the men and didn't go down too well, so I played netball instead!

Dave Shoukry (M.93) Married to Valerie and father of 7 month-old Hermione. I'm the Assistant Director of Music at Bedford Modern School, and a professional classical recording engineer. In addition I write some of the music for 'Transworld Sports' on Channel 4.

Sarah Askew (M.94) I can't believe its 10 years since I first got in a boat! I remember the 94/5 Boat Club experience pretty well — especially getting blades with the 2nd VIII in the summer (and the crew generously paying for me to go to Boat Club dinner — something I couldn't afford at the time). I stopped coxing once I left Catz and took a year off from rowing before joining the boat club at Imperial. Had a great couple of years with them competing in the WHoRR and at Women's Henley before hanging up my oar to finish off my PhD. Moved to Cambridge as a PostDoc and came out of retirement to row for St Edmunds in Lents 2004. Five bumps later I got my second blade, this time as a rower (I was 5 months pregnant at the time). Now living in Bedford with Ben and our daughter Evelyn who was born at the start of July. Oh, and back in a boat with St Edmunds once again training for Lents 2005.

Coming Up ...

In the next newsletter there will be news on preparations for Torpids and our OUBC triallists, a look back at events of 30 years ago when John Whorewood and Ian Todd were Captains. News from alumni of other years also welcome.

Anu Dudhia

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

Diary

23–26 Feb 2005	Torpids
26 Feb 2005	Rowing Society Dinner & AGM
26 Mar 2005	Henley Boat Races
27 Mar 2005	The Boat Race
25–28 May 2005	Eights