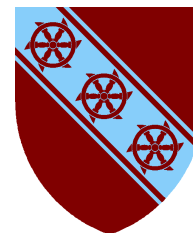




*St Catherine's College Rowing Society*  
*St Catherine's College*  
*Oxford OX1 3UJ*



6th November, 2010

**In this issue . . .**

We have news and results of our alumni have been competing at Henley, the British Masters, the Head of the Charles and in International competitions. Indeed, with this year's World Championships being held in New Zealand, it has been an unusually long international racing season, finally coming to a close just this weekend.

There are extracts from the *History* covering events of 50 years ago, our former President writes about the 150th Anniversary of Thames Rowing Club, our current President has a request for any information or reminiscences on the Catz barges, while I've once again been pondering the relationship between rowing and academic performance. For the younger (at heart) generation, Darren has an update on the monthly London Drinks.

Finally an early announcement of the date of the Rowing Society AGM & Dinner: 5th March 2011.

**Results**

**British Rowing Masters, Nottingham, 13 June**

Tony Mitchel (M.78) Vet D 1x 3rd



Last of the Summer Time. A busy Isis last Saturday as crews take full advantage of the last opportunity for a late afternoon outing before the clocks go back.

**Henley Royal Regatta, 30th Jun – 4th July**

*Silver Goblets & Nickalls' Cup (Open pairs)*

Andy Triggs Hodge (M.04), with Peter Reed  
 Thu beat Calvo-Ortiz &

	Dominguez-Lorenzo, Spain	2 3/4 L
Fri	beat Takahashi & Nagasaki, Japan	Easily
S/F	beat Tsilis & Tzaninis, Greece	3 1/2 L
Final	lost to Murray & Bond, NZ	Easily

*The Ladies' Challenge Plate (Intermediate eights)*

Martin Walsh (M.07) rowing for  
 Oxf. Brookes Univ./Oxford Univ.

Fri	beat Molesey BC	1 3/4 L
S/F	beat Imperial Coll. London & Berliner RC, Germany	3/4 L
Final	lost to Harvard Univ., USA	1/3 L

**Rowing World Cup I, Bled, 28–30 May**

Andy Triggs Hodge (M.04) GBR 2– 2nd

**Rowing World Cup II, Munich, 18–20 June**

Andy Triggs Hodge (M.04) GBR 2– 2nd

**Rowing World Cup III, Lucerne, 8–11 July**

Andy Triggs Hodge (M.04) GBR 2– 2nd

**World Championships, Karapiro, 31Oct–1Nov**

Andy Triggs Hodge (M.04) GBR 2– 2nd

**Summer Racing**

Our two alumni competing at this year's Henley Royal Regatta both ended up as losing finalists: Martin Walsh (M.07) in the Ladies' Plate (intermediate eights) and Andrew Triggs Hodge (M.04) in the 'Goblets' (open pairs).

For Triggs Hodge it has in fact been another 'silver' season, being beaten on every occasion by the New Zealand pair, most recently in the early hours of this morning at the World Championships in New Zealand. Much the same as last year, in fact. Having now lost to the New Zealanders on twelve consecutive occasions, perhaps it's time to consider putting them into another boat with a better chance of gold.

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

On the other hand, no one else has been able to beat them. And this morning they were only beaten by a couple of feet ...

Tony Mitchell (M.78), continues to battle on as a ‘masters’ single sculler at Wycliffe (‘Masters’ being newspeak for ‘Veterans’), taking a bronze in the ‘D’ age-category (50–55) at the British Rowing Masters Championships (I note their website still calls itself ‘vetchamps’). However, he managed to defend his Mixed C double sculls title at Henley Vets (to become ‘Henley Masters’ next year — am I the only person who’s bothered by this?). Tony was back in his single at Oxford Regatta in August. Richard Pullinger (M.80) was also there, but only to support his daughter who was doing the actual racing.

## 50 Years Ago ...

### 1960 Society News Sheet

The Boat Club had an interesting and not unsuccessful year. In the Christ Church Regatta, held during Michaelmas Term, and which seems to have become a useful fixture for the not-so-prominent rowing colleges, St Catherine’s won the Shell Eights from St Edmund Hall by two-thirds of a length. In the reconstructed<sup>1</sup> Torpids, which proved successful despite forebodings of chaos and confusion, the First Eight rowed over each day. In Eights the first boat was bumped by Wadham on the third day, but the second distinguished itself by rising four places in one afternoon — we overbumped Magdalen III and then, as sandwich boat in the next race, caught Keble III; the crew thus gained their oars in one day. At Henley, St Catherine’s were beaten by Vesta in the eliminating races for the Thames Cup.

### Robert Blofeld, Captain of Boats 1960–61

In 1960, St Catherine’s was still the Society. Our catchment area for rowing was pretty broad for both oarsmen and coaching (e.g., St Stephen’s Hall, Campion Hall, Mansfield). However, the actual numbers of active oarsmen was not large. We just had two VIIIs in Torpids and three in Eights. I was one of the very few who had done any rowing — at St Edward’s School — before coming up to Oxford. But we few had plenty of enthusiasm and some talent. One of our number, Frank Gignac, a large and genial American who was studying to be a Jesuit priest at Campion,

<sup>1</sup>This was the first year of the ‘multilane’ Torpids experiment

did well in the University trials<sup>2</sup> Another oarsman, John Linklater, had left the army to read medicine at what then seemed to us the incredibly advanced age of around 40. He proved a stalwart member of the club, too. Overall, though, we could not approach the heights of the senior rowing colleges.

On the rowing front we had mixed success. In Torpids we went up four places and earned a Bump Supper. That event is somewhat lost in an alcoholic haze but the whole Society was present in hall with Alan Bullock in the chair. We also burnt an otherwise useless old boat in the front of the Society.

Unfortunately the summer brought us down to earth. Despite some training pre-term, and some theoretical strengthening of the crew, results in Eights Week were equally moving — but in the other direction.

In those days we were still based on one of the remaining barges. In the summer of 1961 we undertook the task of redecorating it ourselves. It did not take us long to discover how much woodwork there was in those boats!

Boats were stored at Salter’s boat house. The club seemed to be going through an A. A. Milne phase;<sup>3</sup> boats had names such as *Piglet* and *Winnie the Pooh*.

Socially a good time was had by all. The Bird and Baby (Eagle and Child in St Giles) was ‘our’ pub — in those days unmodernized and beer at 1s 4d. There was also a tradition (although that may suggest more years than reality!) of Christmas Pudding races. This was a knockout competition for pairs in the heavy teaching tubs with a cox. Winners received Christmas Puddings made for us by friends of the club.

## A Sesquicentennial

### Tony Hancox (M.49), former RS President and earliest living Captain of TRC

The exhibition of Thames Rowing Club’s one hundred and fifty years of rowing opened in the Spring and will remain in the Schwarzenbach International Rowing Gallery at the River and Rowing Museum at Henley-on-Thames until the end of April 2011.

Three Catz ’49ers — Ben Sylvester Jr., Don Barton and Graham Kaye — rowed on the Tideway in Thames RC crews in the Head of the River Races; two very senior members of Thames — Karl ‘The

<sup>2</sup>A triallist in 1959 and 1960, he rowed in the Isis crew in 1961 which, at that time, ‘competed’ against Goldie in the annual Tideway Head of the River Race, one week before the Boat Race. The ‘Isis-Goldie’ races proper began in 1965.

<sup>3</sup>A ‘phase’ still continuing in the names of some of our current fleet

Bean' Vernon and J.H. 'Freddie' Page — coached Catz crews when they came up to Oxford; Don Elliott, the stroke of the TRC Grand VIII which represented England in the VIth Commonwealth Games in Wales, was the father of Graham Elliott, Catz Boat Club Captain in 1983 (and now master i/c Rowing at Bryanston School).

Sufficient connections for SCCBC (and the Rowing Society) to pay a visit? The exhibition's central feature is the Fairbairn Head of the River trophy (eight feet high) plus a host of Henley, Women's Henley, Olympic, Commonwealth and European Regatta memorabilia and much else.

The River and Rowing Museum is a spectacular modernist Chipperfield-designed building with free parking, very good eating, and has something which has a world-wide audience: a continuously running diorama of Kenneth Grahame's 'The Wind in the Willows'.

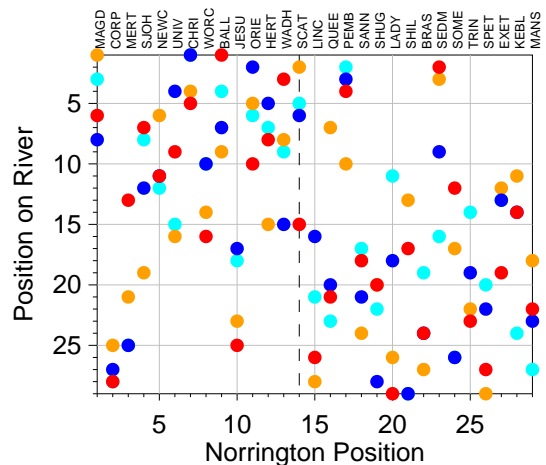
Not to be missed.



The Thames RC crew which rowed for England in the 1958 British Empire and Commonwealth Games, held in Wales. From left to right, back row: F. D. M. Badcock (res.), P. J. M. Thomson, A. C. Hancox (Capt.), J. A. Stephenson, R. L. Penney, R. J. Workman, J. F. C. Badcock, D. R. Mount, front: G. S. Dear (res.), D. S. S. Elliot, H. A. Wober.

## Norrington Headship

When this year's Norrington Table (ranking each College by its Finals results) was published, Magdalen displaced the usual suspects (Merton, St John's) to finish top. Since I recall Magdalen also displacing the usual suspects (St Catz) from the women's Torpids Headship, it got me thinking once again about whether there is any pattern to a College's position on the River and their performance in Finals (see plot below).



Position on the river v. Norrington table for Men's Torpids (light blue), Men's Eights (dark blue), Women's Torpids (orange) and Women's Eights (red). The dashed line shows St Catherine's.

At first sight, it looks fairly random, but, to my eye, it seems that the top left and bottom right quadrants are rather better populated than the other two, suggesting that there are two 'divisions' of colleges: one division which does well in both Finals and Bumps, and one which doesn't. It is noticeable that the latter group contains most of the less well-endowed Colleges, e.g., the former women's colleges. Pembroke and S.E.H., whose Boat Clubs seem to be in better financial shape than the Colleges, are notable occupants of the top right quarter, while Corpus and Merton feature in the bottom left quadrant — good academically (and financially) but poor at rowing, presumably due to their small size.

Apart from the general correlation resulting in two divisions, I'd also go so far as to suggest that within each division there is something of an anti-correlation: colleges are either good academically *or* good at rowing. Catz seems to occupy that dangerous territory in the middle of the Norrington table where we are at the better-rowing end of the top division but could so easily be in the worse-rowing end of the bottom division.



## News from Alumni

**Helen Barnes (M.96)** Our son, Thembani, was born on 14 October. Long legs and arms, and a tendency to wake at 5am suggest he will be better suited to rowing than I was :)

**Charlotte Alldritt (M.04)** I've just got back from Head of the Charles in Boston, MA. I rowed for Furnivall Sculling Club and we medalled in the Club Four category. The 'American festival of rowing' makes for an incredible experience with thousands of athletes and spectators, and all sorts of food, music and rowing stalls along the 3 mile course. Despite the terrible conditions we had on the Saturday, I'd recommend it!



Charlotte Alldritt rowing at no.3 in the Furnivall four competing in this year's Head of the Charles.

**Zevic Mishor (M.08)** I've returned home to Sydney, Australia, and in March will be commencing a PhD in Anthropology, studying and learning from an indigenous group in the northern Peruvian Amazon. My university-to-be, Sydney University, has a rowing club, but it's mostly high-level training, and it also serves as a development squad for national level competition. So unfortunately there's barely any 'middle-level' college-like rowing here, and therefore I won't continue rowing. I'll have to content myself with other sports like good old running!

## Barging Past

### Bruce Mitchell, Rowing Society President

I'd like to request any reminiscences of Cats barges — on any topic. I have been researching into the fishermen and watermen of Fisher Row and have come across the occasional reference to Cats barges. I have decided to try to collect all information about the use of the barge and any thoughts about when a barge was bought/hired.

Any takers, please email or write to me about any information no matter how trivial it may seem to be.



The College Barge in 1979. Photo: Nick Taylor (M.77).

## London Drinks

It has been great to see so many of you at the London Drinks over the last 12 months or so. The drinks, on the 2nd Thursday of every month, continue this November on the 18th from 7.30pm (a week later than normal for this month only!) at the Yorkshire Grey, 46 Langham Street, London. W1W 7AX.

Do join the facebook group to keep up with the latest information about upcoming events [www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=150015788376720](http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=150015788376720). December drinks will be held on 9th December at the Angel, 61-62 St Giles High Street.

To get in touch about London drinks, please contact Darren Chadwick on 07916 127085 or [darren.chadwick@brite-green.co.uk](mailto:darren.chadwick@brite-green.co.uk)

## Coming Up ...

In the next issue there will be the Captains' reports on this term's rowing, where Christ Church Regatta is likely to be the main event (river permitting), prospects for the University Boat Races including news of Catz triallists (if any?), and a piece on the Boat Club of 5 Years ago when Peter Goult and Amy Banham-Hall were Captains. I'll be soliciting contributions for the 'News from Alumni' from people from that era, but contributions from other alumni always welcome.

Anu Dudhia

email: [dudhia@atm.ox.ac.uk](mailto:dudhia@atm.ox.ac.uk)

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

18 Nov 2010	London Drinks: Yorkshire Grey
24-27 Nov 2010	Christ Church Regatta
9 Dec 2010	London Drinks: The Angel
2-5 Mar 2011	Torpids
5 Mar 2011	AGM & Dinner
26 Mar 2011	Tideway Boat Races
27 Mar 2011	Henley Boat Races
1-4 Jun 2011	Eights