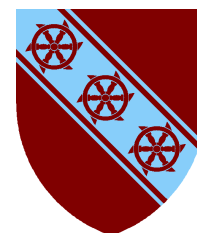




St Catherine's College Rowing Society
St Catherine's College,
Oxford OX1 3UJ



25th Anniversary Year 1984-2004

18th May, 2004

In this issue . . .

Firstly, if you want to come to the boathouse buffet lunch on the Saturday of Eights, you haven't much time (sorry, my fault!), so get your cheques off soon. There is an update on the 21st Anniversary Appeal — if you've already donated to the College's main appeal it is straightforward to contact them and ask that the donation is labelled as part of the Rowing Society contribution. There is news on the Boat Races, prospects for Eights and a look at the Boat Club of 45 years ago. The Barge, which was newly-acquired in those days, has also (literally) resurfaced.

21st Anniversary Appeal

From the President, Tony Hancox (M.49); Chairman, Bruce Mitchell (M.54) and the RS committee: Chris Talbot (M.62), Anu Dudhia (M.77), Kevin Skinner (M.77), Angela Kukula (M.86), John Mitchell (M.89), Jen Atkinson (M.89) and Emily Woodeson (M.97)

Thank you to all those who have so far contributed. We have not yet reached our target and we really would like to be able to provide a Rowing Society Foundation Scholarship (open to all) and two Captains' rooms. If you would like to help please contact one of us or the Development Office in College. No amount is too small — every penny counts and if we achieve our aim we will be able to leave a lasting mark at the College.



If you're driving up for Eights Week, we'd generally recommend the Abingdon Rd Park & Ride and walking from there.

The 2004 Boat Races

This year's Henley Boat Races were rowed in rough conditions with a stiff cross-tail wind. Oxford achieved a clean sweep, winning all five races although often by small margins. Nevertheless, it means that Oxford has now won all three women's boat races for three years in succession.

Isis continued the dark blue winning streak in their contest with Goldie and the Boat Race itself looked to be going the same way until a sequence of blade clashes in which Oxford definitely came off worst. However, it must be said, having got ahead, Cambridge did look very impressive.

We had a single participant in this year's Boat Races: Colin Smith, the freshman stroke of the Blue Boat. Originally from Zimbabwe, he is a former GB Junior and U23 International with a couple of Henley medals already under his belt. Paul Holland, from Princeton, was selected for Isis but missed out due to an unfortunately-timed bout of the flu. Both will be rowing in our 1st Eight.

Results

The Henley Boat Races, 21st March

Men's Lwt Reserves	Oxf	Canvas	5:45
Women's Reserves	Oxf	$\frac{1}{2}$ L	6:15
Women's Lightweights	Oxf	$\frac{3}{4}$ L	6:08
Women's Blue Boat	Oxf	4 L	6:06
Men's Lightweights	Oxf	$\frac{1}{2}$ L	5:36

The Tideway Boat Races, 28th March

Men's Reserves	Oxf	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ L	18:42
Men's Blue Boat	Cam	6 L	18:47

City Bumps, 24th April

St Catherine's Women's IV

Race	Result	Details
1	-2	bpd by Linacre & City of Oxford V
2	-	bpd by OxILP, bpd Wolfson II
3	-	bpd by Exeter, bpd City of Oxford V
4	-	bpd by Univ, bpd St Hugh's

Finished no.5 in Div II

President: Tony Hancox

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

City Bumps

The City of Oxford Rowing Club have recently received their 'Town Bumps' races. The event is held at the start of Trinity Term so also provides an opportunity for College crews to get in some early practice. The rules are basically the same as for Torpids (i.e., if you get bumped you're still racing) but for coxed fours rather than eights, and all four races are held on the same (rather long!) day.

This year our women entered a crew, competing as a new entry in Div II since we had no crew last year. Despite strategic, and not so strategic, crew changes every race they dropped a total of two places but at least they managed to bump a few other crews in the process — a bit of a novel experience for all of them — including rowing down St Hugh's about 10m short of the finish line in the last race.



One of the various St Catz women's crew combinations racing in City Bumps: Kassy Long (bow), Carolyn Aler, Dominique Bouchard, Katharine Pierce (str), Marc Coutanche (cox).

2004 St Catherine's Eights

There are a total of 7 St Catherine's crews entered for Eights, although only 4 of these crews have places in the fixed divisions. This represents our largest entry since 1998.

The men's 1st Eight have the advantage of a number of returning University squad rowers and spares so, on paper at least, should be significantly faster than Torpids and the 2nd Eight also benefits from the knock-on effects. The trouble with all these high-powered rowers is that they do tend to have other rowing commitments which has made it difficult to get the full crew out. The women 1st and 2nd Eights are largely unchanged since Torpids, but should have the benefit of an extra term's solid training.

Men's 1st Eight Women's 1st Eight

<i>B</i> Nick Heiney	<i>B</i> Kassy Long
<i>2</i> James McInerney	<i>2</i> Emma Willis
<i>3</i> Dan Blakey	<i>3</i> Carrie Shuckerow
<i>4</i> Evan Burfield	<i>4</i> Lydia Hutchinson
<i>5</i> Justin Puleo	<i>5</i> Lauren McGuirl
<i>6</i> James Woodrow	<i>6</i> Jen May Lee
<i>7</i> Paul Holland	<i>7</i> Carolyn Aler
<i>S</i> Colin Smith	<i>S</i> Katharine Pierce
<i>C</i> Alastair Ross	<i>C</i> Ben Gander

There was a bit of a problem over entries this year. Now that the whole operation is computerised, the entries system automatically switched off the second the deadline has passed. This left several captains (including our own Men's Captain) in the embarrassing position of not having quite got around to entering anyone. Call me a luddite, but it all seemed so much simpler in the old days when there was a human being collecting entries and occasionally applying a bit of timely common sense.

Various possibilities were proposed, varying from banning them from racing, imposing penalty bumps or making the offending captains race the whole week in pink bikinis (thanks, Hertford). An emergency Captains' meeting was convened and it was agreed that entries would be reopened, but all late entrants would have to provide extra marshals.

Eights Week

Eights will be run from 26th–29th May. On Wednesday–Friday racing starts at noon with the last division at 6.45pm, however, as in previous years, racing on the Saturday will be one hour earlier.

Eights 2004: Wednesday Start times

Crew	Div	Buncline	Time
Men's 1st Eight	I	11	6.45pm
Women's 1st Eight	I	7	6.15pm
Men's 2nd Eight	IV	5	3.30pm
Women's 2nd Eight	IV	6	2.55pm

NB: on Saturday all divisions race 1 hour earlier

If our lower men's crews row on they will be probably be competing in Men's Div VII (12.00) although our women's 3rd Eight could either be in Div V (1.45) or VI (12.35).

On the Saturday there will be a buffet lunch in the boathouse for members of the Rowing Society and their guests, for which you will need to buy tickets in advance (see attached information). However, strawberry teas and drinks will be available for all throughout the afternoon.

45 Years Ago ...

In 1958/59 the Boat Club had just moved into a new barge, acquired from Balliol, which was to serve as its club house until the end of the 1970's. The last of the College barges moored along Christ Church Meadow, it eventually fell into disrepair and was sold off, never to be seen again. Or so we thought.

This was also the first year that Christ Church Regatta was run, although it is not clear when it was transferred to the Isis.

Excerpts are from two contemporary College publications, and the Rowing Society chairman also sends his recollections. Frank Gignac, another member of the 1959 1st VIII, contributes to the Alumni News section.



Members of the 1959 1st Eight on the bow of the barge. Standing, left to right: C.A Berry, W.J. Compton, C.E.C. Greely, H.D. Moore (cox), G. M. Smart, R.I.F. Roughley (Capt), F. T. Gignac; seated: M.N. Read, B.E. Mitchell.

The Wheel, 1958–59

In the 'Christmas Pudding Races' the novices stayed the course while better men fell out of the heats — and in one case out of the boat. Hilary term brought a new boat, named *All Rabbit's Friends and Relations*¹. It was launched by Mrs. Bullock.²

1959 St Catherine's Association News Sheet

The Boat Club had an interesting and, on balance, a creditable year. In the November regatta, an innovation organised by Christ Church, and rowed on Long Reach by Port Meadow, St Catherine's in the novice Eights beat Pembroke easily, but lost to Oriel. In

¹This was the last clinker purchased by St Catherine's, and continued in service until 1988 when it was sold to St Hilda's.

²The wife of Alan Bullock, the last Censor of St Catherine's Society and the Founding Master of St Catherine's College.

Hilary Term, with a new barge and a new boat, the First Torpid, being bumped by Keble and bumping Jesus, kept its place. The Second Eight nearly caused a sensation on the last day. Having already lost three places, the St Catherine's crew threatened a double over-bump on Jesus II, five places ahead.

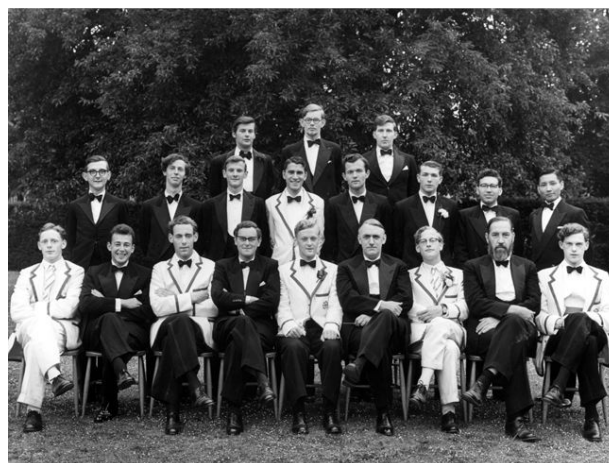
From Bruce Mitchell (M.54)

The crew outside the barge was the 1959 first VIII. We had bumped St Peter's Hall and, Exeter. I remember on the Friday of Eights week we were involved in a near collision in the Gut. Cox had to take evasive action and blades hit the wall including mine which was knocked out of my hands. That marked the end of our attempt to win our blades, but we did get the third bump on the Saturday on Wadham.

Most of the crew went on to row in the Thames cup at Henley but we were knocked out on the first day. However, the attempt was worth while because I remember that we thoroughly enjoyed all that Henley had to offer for the rest of the week.

We tended to enjoy life to the full in all the crews I rowed with, hence the photograph of the Beer and Blade which was founded by the first crew I rowed with — the 1957 second Torpid, which I fear was better at dinner than ever it was on the river.

Alan Bullock, the Censor, was an Honorary Member of the Beer and Blade and was always most supportive of such events — all of which were centred around good dinners which were taken very seriously as part of Boat Club training!



Attendees of 59 Beer and Blade dinner. Back row: O.V. Volkonsky, P. Hanley, C. Armstrong. Middle row: P. Groves, A.P. Waller, P.H. Broadbridge, C. E. G. Greely, M. N. Read, J. P. Taylor, H. B. Wise, C. Nomura. Front row: W. J. Crompton, G. M. Smart, R. J. F. Roughley, Dr. G. Garton, B. E. Mitchell, A. L. C. Bullock, H. D. Moore, Dr. E. G. Phillips, J. Lipscomb.

News from Alumni

Frank Gignac (M.58)

I rowed in the 1st Torpid and 1st Eight under the captaincy of R. J. F. Roughley in 1958–59, when we went to Henley. I also rowed in the 1st Eight for the next three years (we won our blades in 1962) and in Toppids, except for 1961 when I rowed in Isis. I also helped coach Catz crews in 1962–64.

After completing my D.Phil., I taught at Fordham University in New York, where I was also the assistant rowing coach, and since 1974 at the Catholic University of America in Washington, where I rowed for Oxford Alumni in our annual Camsis Boat Race on the Potomac for eleven years (from 1985–95) until they told me I was getting ‘too old and weak’. I am still the faculty advisor for our Catholic University rowing club.

Stuart Warmink (M.80)

What started off as an overseas assignment at Bell Labs in the USA ended up as a permanent job — well, as permanent as anything is in the telecoms industry these days. Although rowing has unfortunately not been part of my life since leaving Catz I do try to follow the goings on via the website and I have many happy boat club memories. Obviously all those cold, rainy, early morning outings must have all been erased from my memory!

My wife and I enjoy travelling, nature and gardening, and do not enjoy deer eating our plants or ales served too cold.

James Lovegrove (M.85)

Dean Asofsky (M.86) got in touch, mentioned you’d mentioned my spectacular Oxford Today crossword triumph in the Rowing Society newsletter, and so I thought I should get in touch. You may have noticed that I actually contributed the crossword to the most recent issue of the magazine [see last newsletter]. Poacher turned gamekeeper.

What have I been up to otherwise? I’ve had about 12 books published so far, mostly SF or in that vague genre, with at least another 4 in the pipeline. I’m currently living in Lewes, near Brighton, with my wife Lou, our nine-month-old son Monty, and for some reason the next-door neighbour’s cat. We’re planning on relocating soon, the only problem being that we don’t quite know where to yet. I still have most of my hair and some of my fitness, although I don’t hit the Concept 2 at the local gym anywhere near as hard as you used to make us. Generally, I’m doing all right, I think.

[James also has a web-site: www.jameslovegrove.com]

Richard Law (M.95)

Since leaving Catz a couple of years ago, and finally hanging up my oar, I’ve come out to sunny San Diego to continue down the pharmaceutical research road. Currently working at UCSD and will probably be moving to a job in industry later in the year. I took up triathlon briefly but realised I was a much better cyclist than either a runner or a swimmer (‘It’s all about the thighs Rich, surely you knew that!’) and am now on a cycling team doing lots of racing around California and also on the velodrome in San Diego. All good fun! If anyone needs a place to stay in San Diego, send me an email!

Barge Handling

A couple of weeks ago on BBC2 there was a programme recreating the original performance of Handel’s Water Music when, in 1717, King George I floated down the Thames to some specially-written musical accompaniment. The boat used for the programme was, in fact, the last St Catherine’s Barge, which had been restored, externally at least, in period style at Turk’s Boatyard in Sunbury on Thames. I believe that the barge is up for sale again (but, trust me, you can’t afford it).



For sale — a genuine College Barge. One careful owner, plus St Catz Boat Club.

Coming Up ...

In the next newsletter, we’ll have reports on Eights and a feature on the Boat Club of 55 years ago (48/49) when Geoffrey Garton was Captain (not a bad year, I gather). So if you rowed in that year, please send me something for the Alumni News section. News and contributions from alumni of other years also welcome.

Anu Dudhia

email: dudhia@atm.ox.ac.uk

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