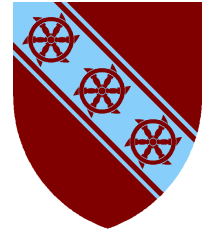




St Catherine's College Rowing Society
St Catherine's College
Oxford OX1 3UJ



4th May, 2008

In this issue . . .

Nick Brodie finally got to enjoy the sight of the Boat Race finish line course without the presence of a Cambridge boat to spoil the view. He's contributed a report and there's also a summary of the Henley Boat Races. A total of 5 Catz men were in winning Oxford crews this year which, together with the women's Torpids Headship, has prompted the College to organise a Rowing Celebration Dinner on 21st May. Thanks to a generous donation from a Rowing Society member, we've recently added a new sculling boat to the fleet. There is the usual historical piece, this time looking at the events of 50 years ago although, for once, it seems that none of our alumni has any news to contribute. Finally there are the arrangements for Eights, which include a boathouse buffet lunch on the Saturday and a reminder that those of you attending the Gaudy (28th June) will also have the opportunity to take a boat out beforehand.

Results

Tideway Boat Races, 29th March

Men's Reserves [†]	Oxford	3½ L	20:43
Men's Blue Boat [‡]	Oxford	6 L	20:53

[†]3: Anthony Mullin; 4: Martin Walsh

[‡]B: Jan Herzog, Cox: Nick Brodie



There's no escaping the traffic chaos of a Bank Holiday Weekend.

Henley Boat Races, 23rd March

Men's Lwt Reserves	Oxford	R.O.	6:29
Women's Blue Boat	Oxford	½ L	6:38
Women's Lightweights	Cambridge	⅓ L	7:01
Women's Reserves	Oxford	easily	7:09
Men's Lightweights*	Oxford	2½ L	6:15

*Cox: Colin Groshong

The 2008 Boat Race

Nick Brodie, OUBC President & Cox

On the 29th March 2008 Oxford defeated both Goldie and Cambridge in the 154th Boat Race. Cambridge won the toss (the only thing they did win that day!) and chose the Surrey station. Again we had two Catz boys in the boat but, unlike last year when we were both in the stern, this year we were sitting at opposite ends. Jan Herzog sat in the bow seat whilst I coxed.

We had a strong start, and had 3/4 of a length coming past the Boathouses. Off the Middlesex bend Cambridge did well not to let us break out to clear water. They then put a large effort in down the Mile Post straight, clawing back their advantage. After they pushed, we pushed, taking our advantage back out to 3/4 just before the long Surrey bend. This gave us some sliding room as we were positioned on the outside of their long bend. Coming through Hammersmith they again pushed in what was their final effort; they almost took it out to 3/4 of a length. However, by St Paul's, the first part of their bend was ending and they had thrown everything at us. Conditions were turning into a headwind (our favourite) and we found a far stronger rhythm than we had established up to this point in the race. We rapidly began taking seats and I am sure that by this point Cambridge knew their time leading this race would soon be at an end. By Chiswick steps we had moved through them and moved over in front. From then on we covered their steering moves and aimed to put as much distance as possible in to them. In the end we won by 22 seconds in a time of 20mins 53 seconds.

Half an hour earlier the Isis Goldie race took place. This also had two Catz men in: Englishman, Anthony Mullin and Irishman, Martin Walsh. Isis won their toss and chose the Surrey station, due to predictions

President: Bruce Mitchell

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

of poor weather. From all accounts they had a strong start but were almost a length down on Goldie by the Mile Post (who had the advantage of the first Middlesex bend). Isis got on to a strong rhythm coming down the Mile Post straight and started to move through Goldie, this was looking very good at this point with the long Surrey bend approaching. Isis then put in a decisive move coming on to their bend and by Hammersmith Bridge were in a position to take the race. Isis cleared Goldie by St Paul's School and from then on extended the lead to four lengths by the finish. Isis crossed the finish line in a time of 20mins 43 seconds, Goldie followed 11 seconds later.

As this is my final year at Catz, I would like to thank both the St Catherine's College Rowing Society and The SCCBC as well as all our members for the help and support you have provided to the resident Blues trialists over the years. It was a great honour for me this year as President not only to represent and win this for Oxford, but for Catz also. I do hope to see several more Catz men participating in the race in years to come!

Boat Race Statistics

OUBC have now won 6 of the last 10 Boat Races, while Isis have won 4 out of 10. This was, however, the first joint OUBC-Isis win since 2002.

While we may have given up the stroke seat, this year's two Blues mean that Catz now tops the list of Colleges providing members of the OUBC crew over the past 10 years.

Top Oxford Colleges 1998–2007

by number of seats filled in the OUBC boats

1.	St Catherine's	12
2.	Oriel	11
3.	Christ Church	10
4.	Pembroke	8
5.	Keble	6
=6.	Brasenose	4
=6.	Lincoln	4
=6.	University	4

I *believe* that Nick Brodie was the first Oxford President to take up the cox's seat and Jan Herzog became the oldest oarsman ever to cross the Boat Race finishing line — a record which he held for about 1 second.

The Henley Boat Races

Conditions were once again 'tricky' for this year's Oxford-Cambridge Boat Races held on the Henley

stretch, both for the crews (fast stream and stiff headwind) and for the spectators (bitterly cold!).

While the crowds were still arriving, Nephthys (the Oxford men's lightweight reserves) went through the formalities of rowing over, Cambridge once again declining to boat a Granta crew on the grounds of insufficient resources.

The next slot in the programme is usually the women's reserves' race but, with conditions forecast to deteriorate during the afternoon (as it turned out, they didn't) the women's Blue Boats decided to grab that slot for themselves. The Oxford crew, having won the Women's Head of the River Race a couple of weeks earlier, were hot favourites but they never broke clear of a very determined Cambridge crew and won by just half a length.

The women's lightweight were next with Cambridge marginal favourites, again based on their Head results. This was the tightest race of the day, with Cambridge winning by one third of a length.

The Osiris and Blondie crews, enjoying their moment in the 'prime-time' of the afternoon, provided a close race for the first couple minutes. But then one of the Blondie crew caught a crab which stopped them in their tracks (not a blade clash, just very rough water) and Osiris romped home to their 8th successive win, the longest winning streak in any of the current Boat Races.



The Oxford Men's Lightweights about to break clear of Cambridge in this year's Henley Boat Races. Compared to conditions at the start, it was relatively calm at this point on the course.

Last off were the men's lightweights. As ever, there's usually very little evidence on which to judge the relative form of these two crews beforehand. So while the outcome is theoretically less predictable than the women's races, Oxford have had the upper hand in recent years, and this year they made it seven in a row with a $2\frac{1}{2}$ length victory. The only Catz competitor on the day was also the last Oxford person across the finish line: Colin Groshong, coxing the men's lightweights.

One of the Fiercer Animals

One of our alumni, Mark Walker (M.82), is now settled in Australia but, on his occasional returns to Oxford, has obviously been frustrated by the Boat Club's lack of a heavyweight single scull boat that he can take out for a paddle. So, with typical Aussie pragmatism, and a fair amount of generosity, he gave the College the money to buy one, specifying only that we name it *One of the Fiercer Animals* (returning to the A.A.Milne theme that provided SCCBC with its boat names throughout most of the second half of the 20th century).



Women's Captain, Lucy Rowland, probably one of the least appropriate people to christen an 85kg boat named *One of the Fiercer Animals*.

The boat was officially christened last Sunday. So far only the Boat Club President, Mal Spencer, has dared go out in it and, given his reputation for instability, may by now even have been in it.

This is a good opportunity to acquaint you all with the current fleet.

Current SCCBC Boats

<i>Hostile Intent</i>	M18	Sims 2005
<i>Alan Bullock</i>	W18	Sims 2005
<i>Catz 22</i>	M28	Janousek 2005
<i>Catz Me If You Can</i>	W28	Janousek 2005
<i>Tony Hancox</i>	M38	Janousek 2005
<i>Sir Glyn Jones</i>	W38	Janousek 2005
* <i>Harmonny</i>	Nov8	198?
* <i>Tom Agutter</i>	M4	Sims 200?
<i>Heffalump</i>	W4	Janousek 1996
<i>Tiddley Pom</i>	2x/2-	Janousek 1997
<i>One of the Fiercer Animals</i>	M1x	Janousek 2008
* <i>Very Little Brain</i>	W1x	Burgashell 1986

*boats acquired second-hand



The Women's 1st Eight adjusting the rig on their boat, the *Alan Bullock*.

50 Years Ago

The academic year 1957/58 receives little attention in *The History*, mostly due to the disappearance of the minute book covering events from Michaelmas Term 1957 onwards, but no doubt also partly due to the 1st VIII dropping 4 places in Torpids (down to 22nd) and a further 3 in Eights (down to 23rd). The men's 1st VIII has subsequently re-emerged from those depths and we still have hopes that, someday, the minute book will do the same.

With all colleges being single sex, and there being just 5 women's colleges, bumps racing was strictly a man's sport. Yet the number of divisions in Torpids and Eights was similar to the number of men's divisions nowadays. These figures probably just reflect the general enlargement of the Oxford student body as a whole rather than an increase in the proportion of students rowing. Back then, St Catherine's itself was still a fairly small 'Society' rather than a full-sized College, occupying buildings in St Aldate's just north of the Police Station (currently housing the Music Faculty). Boat Club numbers were boosted by the inclusion of those from various theological institutions but nevertheless the ability regularly to boat two Torpids and three Eights suggest that the Boat Club then represented a *larger* fraction of the student body than at present.

A major sporting event of 1958 was the 'British Empire and Commonwealth Games', held in Wales. The rowing competition was held on Llyn Padarn, near Snowdon. England were represented by a Thames RC crew which featured our former President, Tony Hancox (M.49), who can therefore lay claim to being St Catherine's first international.



The Men's 2nd Eight in one of their many variations.

Summer Eights

This year's Eights will run from Wed–Sat 21st–24th May. Catz have 3 crews in the fixed divisions, plus two more who finished in the Rowing On divisions last summer so will have to requalify via the Rowing On races on May 16th.

Eights 2008: Wednesday Start times

Crew	Div	Bungline	Time
Men's 1st Eight	I	8	6.45pm
Women's 1st Eight	II	5	5.15pm
Men's 2nd Eight	IV	4	3.30pm
Women's 2nd Eight*	V	2	1.45pm
Men's 3rd Eight*	VII	7	12.00pm

*subject to qualifying in Rowing on

NB: on Saturday all divisions race 1 hour earlier

The Women's Boat Club has rapidly distilled itself into 3 crews, the 1st Eight largely resembling the Torpids Headship crew and they'll be racing at Bedford Regatta on 10th May.



The Women's 3rd Eight who prefer to style themselves the *Cocktail VIII* because it sounds more sophisticated than *Beer VIII* (even though the intentions are the same).

The Men's Boat Club is rather less settled due to some uncertainty over which of their three OUBC & Isis oarsmen are available on any given day. They're also boating an equally-fluid 2nd Eight, but the Captain thought that a 3rd and even a 4th Eight may appear by Rowing On.

Internationals

The international regatta season is about to get under way with the first of three World Cup events scheduled for Munich 8–11th May. In this Olympic year, competition will be even fiercer than usual. Perusing the entry lists, I notice several of our alumni staking claims for seats to Beijing. Rather tidily, this is also the same as the list of storkemen of the Oxford Blue Boat for 2004–2007.

Catz alumni entered for Munich 8–11 May

Ante Kusurin (M.06)	CRO	2x
Bastien Ripoll (M.05)	FRA	8+
Andrew Triggs Hodge (M.04)	GBR	4–
Colin Smith (M.03)	GBR	8+

Celebration Dinner & Boathouse Lunch

There are two events for alumni associated with Summer Eights this year and, by now, you should have received invitations to both. The first is a Rowing Celebration Dinner for 7.30pm, Wed 21st May, in Hall for which the cost is £25 per head (including wine). The second is a buffet lunch for 1pm, Sat 24th May, in the Boathouse, for which the cost is £10 per head (including a glass of wine). In both cases, tickets are handled by Franca Potts in the Development Office, tel: 01865 281596.

Coming Up ...

In the next newsletter there will be the Eights reports, the winner of this year's Ben Sylvester Award, results from our Internationals and a look at the Boat Club of 60 years ago. I'll also be soliciting items for the News from Alumni section, rather more forcefully this time!

Anu Dudhia

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

Diary

10 May 2008	Bedford Regatta
21 May 2008	Rowing Celebration Dinner
21–24 May 2008	Summer Eights
24 May 2008	Boathouse Lunch
28 June 2008	Gaudy Paddle