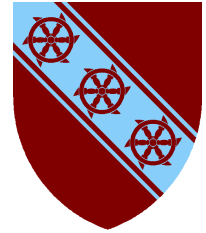




St Catherine's College Rowing Society
St Catherine's College
Oxford OX1 3UJ



13th July, 2012

In this issue ...

Summer was finally delivered to Oxford the day before Eights started. But apparently it came to the wrong address and they took it away again a week later. Anyway, at least we had glorious weather for the racing, now in a slightly enlarged format with 14-boat divisions. In this edition we have the reports, results and photos (ah — blue skies!). Also a brief look towards the (probably rain-soaked) Olympics.

Results

Rowing On, 17th May

Top 33 Men's crews to qualify				
Men's III	3:02.0	10th/40	Qualified	
Top 31 Women's crews to qualify				
Women's II	3:52.5	23rd/32	Qualified	

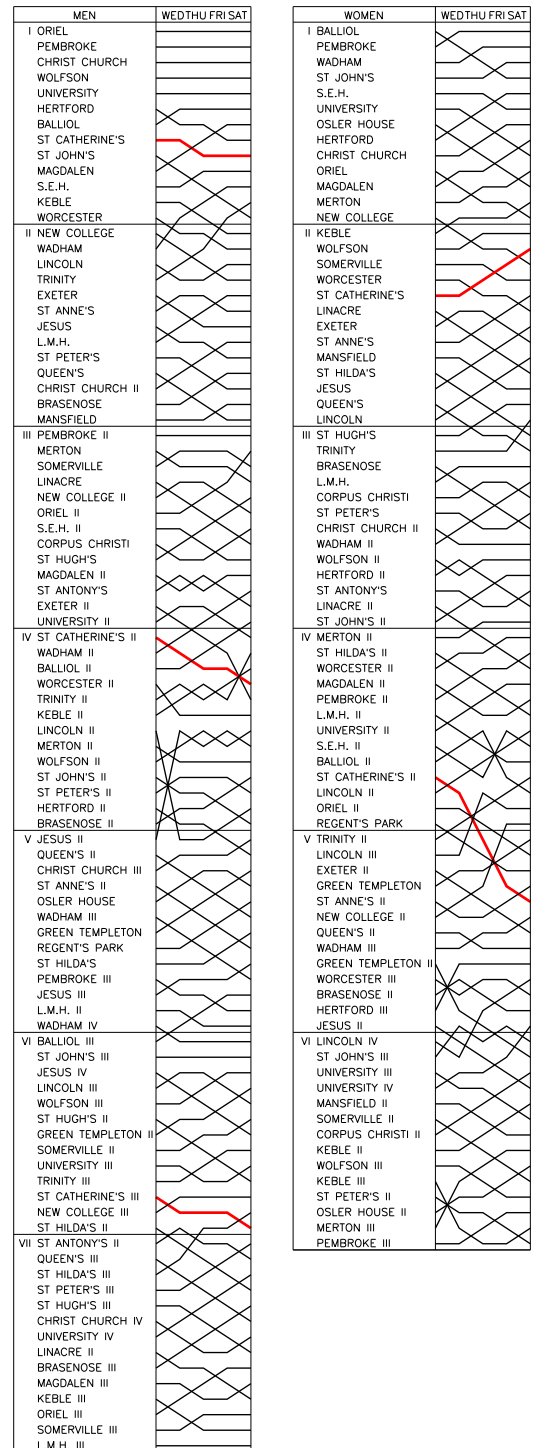
Eights 23rd-26th May

	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Finish
Men's I	=	-1	=	=	9th Div I
Women's I	=	+1	+1	+1	2nd Div II
Men's II	-1	-1	=	-1	4th Div IV
Women's II	-1	-3	-3	-1	6th Div V
Men's III	-1	=	=	-1	13th Div VI



The Women's 1st Eight finding some shade before boating for their last race. I finally worked out the significance of two stripes on the arms ...

Eights 2012 Bumps Charts



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



The Men's 1st Eight chasing Hertford on the Thursday

2012 St Catherine's Eights

Men's 1st Eight

B Malcolm Spencer
 2 Richard Higgins
 3 George Shankar
 4 Robert Hamlet
 5 Hugh Taylor
 6 David Zimmer
 7 Ben Trigg
 S Alex Sanders
 C Dorothy Hallberg

Women's 1st Eight

B Hege Larsen
 2 Emily Risness
 3 Linda Geaves
 4 Katherine Pears
 5 Inge Hertzog
 6 Charlotte Marshall
 7 Isobel Renton
 S Joanna Harrall
 C Joshua Morgan

Men's 2nd Eight

B Rasmus Wissmann
 2 Patrick Tesh
 3 Aron Cheung
 4 Mike Humphries
 5 Alex Gorney
 6 Edward Nutt
 7 Owen Leyshon
 S Peter Morgan
 C Henry Renninson

Women's 2nd Eight

B Katherine Ember
 2 Rosemary Lang
 3 Hillary Saviello
 4 Adenais Vachon
 5 Carlie Arbaugh
 6 Georgina Colquhoun
 7 Roberta Fisher
 S Christina Hookham
 C Joanna Harrall

Men's 3rd Eight

B Joshua Morgan
 2 John Risness
 3 Robin Lucas
 4 Henry Renninson
 5 James Anderson
 6 Daniel Rebnord
 7 Christoph Haase
 S Matt McGilvray
 C Zoe de Toledo

Crew lists for the Women's 2nd and Men's 3rd Eights are only 'representative': actual composition varied daily !

Men's Boat Club Report

Ben Trigg, Men's Captain

The men's first boat was left with something to prove after our drop in Torpids, and the majority of the

crew arrived back in Oxford early to take part in an Easter training camp. We were in the unfortunate position of having lost three finalists from the Torpids crew due to exams, although the damage was limited by the return of two previous M1 rowers: David Zimmer, who returned after competing for the Lightweights reserve crew over the past year, and Hugh Taylor. The third place was filled by George Shankar, a new rower this year promoted from the 2nd Torpid.

Following the training camp we had two weeks of good training until the rains hit us. Within a day or two we had the red flag, preventing any water sessions on the Isis. Believing it would soon pass over, the first few days were spent land training while we waited for the river calm down, but it soon became apparent that this wouldn't happen any time soon. However, alternative venues were also unavailable to us due to EA red boards or wind. As a result we continued with land training and we were certainly fitter than we were in Torpids, however we lacked the time on the water to complement it. Time in the OUBC tank only went so far to compensate, and by the time that we were able to return to the water in 4th week, we had it all to do. However, we rose to the occasion and made huge improvements in the final run-up to Summer Eights.

On the first day of Eights we found ourselves in no-man's land, with both boats ahead and behind bumping out. This left us chasing a slower Hertford on the next day, but we were also being chased by a very fast Magdalen crew. Unfortunately, although we got within 1/4 of a length of Hertford, Magdalen (who narrowly missed out on blades on the final day) managed to catch us before we could clinch the deal. After rowing over on the next day, Magdalen handed Hertford down for us to have another crack at, but they had a better row than last time and we couldn't bridge the gap.

The lower boats were just as badly affected by the adverse conditions. M2 lost even more people due to exams, and the extended red flag left a relatively new crew with little time to cohere. Unfortunately they didn't manage to continue with their success in Torpids and were bumped three times. Nevertheless, given their short time able to train as a crew, they should be proud of the level that they reached, and I have high hopes for the crew next year.

The men's third boat was another affair altogether, and after qualifying in Rowing On, the crew changed daily. The highlight for many of the rowers was un-

doubtedly the opportunity to row with Zoe de Toledo, the 2012 OUBC cox. Although they lost two places overall, they came close to bumping many times, and arguably should have been awarded one, but were unfortunate to be awarded a technical row over after it was decided that New College were impeded by another crew.

As it is my last opportunity to address you all, I would like to thank everyone for making this year so enjoyable. Although I won't have space to thank everyone deserving a mention, there are a few I would especially like to highlight, both for this term, and for this year as a whole. Thanks to Rory, for his unending enthusiasm, to Josh for his unbelievably hard work with the lower boats, to Henry and Inge for their unrivalled work behind the scenes and to David for his support and leadership with M1 this term. Finally, I would like to wish the new committee the best of luck for the coming year, I have every faith that you will help the Boat Club move from strength to strength.



The Men's 2nd Eight 'relaxing' after their last race

Women's Boat Club Report

Emily Risness, Women's Captain

Following some very bad luck in Torpids, the girls were determined to come back with a bang this term, and we were all very happy with the result! The 1st boat was quickly set as everyone arrived back in Oxford. The majority of our 1st Torpid returned undeterred, bolstered by Charlotte and Inge, fresh from their victory over Cambridge. We settled into our training schedule from 1st week, but a high river forced us to turn to ergs, team runs and extra circuits for 2nd and 3rd week. The river opened in 4th week, giving us just one week to pull it together with as

many outings as we could fit in.

Due to this lack of river time, Eights began with everyone unsure how the week would turn out. However, with most of us in the boat being used to having boats behind chasing us hard, the sight of the two boats behind fading away very quickly on the first day gave us a great confidence boost! Closing in fast on Worcester, a klaxon forced us to wait until the next day to catch them. Day 2 brought the first ever bump for everyone in the boat (except for Josh!), so we were all pretty excited. We started day 3 with confidence, and caught Somerville by the top end of the Green Bank. On the final day, despite a strong push from Somerville to bump us back, we bumped New in front of all the crowds on Boathouse Island — a perfect end to the week. I'm really proud of everyone in the boat, and glad all their hard work was finally rewarded with a result they all deserved!

The river closures had a large effect on our 2nd boat, leaving them to enter Rowing On having never rowed together as a boat, nevertheless they qualified easily. We had a struggle to get a full crew out every day, so I am very grateful to everyone who helped by subbing in. Unfortunately the start order placed us at the top of all the Rowing On boats, leaving us to chase boats from fixed divisions, and be followed by boats who had qualified with faster times. This led to us being bumped on two days, and overbumped on the other two. I am really proud of the girls for rowing well and remaining in high spirits throughout. I hope they enjoyed what was, for some of them, their first taste of bumps racing, and will be motivated to continue into next year.

Despite shortage of time, there has also been the opportunity for some novice rowers to try out rowing, and we hope they will also want to continue next year!

I would like to thank Jo and Josh, not only as enthusiastic and committed members of the crew, but also for being a great support throughout. Thanks must go to Rory and Mal for their coaching. I'd like to wish Izzy and the rest of the new committee the best of luck for next year.

Ben Sylvester Award

The 2012 award for the 'member of the Boat Club who has most significantly contributed to enhancing the rowing life of St Catherine's College, Oxford' was presented to Joanna Harrall.

Jo is the stroke of the Women's 1st Eight and cox of the Women's 2nd Eight.

Although her 'official' role is Women's Captain of Lower Boats, it is a measure of her contribution to the 'rowing life' of St Catherine's that the many people

who nominated came from all sections of the Boat Club.

They described her as ‘a dynamic force in the Boat Club all year, working wonders with the novice women and generally leading by example among every one of its senior members’ and known for her catch phrase ‘Let’s do this, Girls!’ yet still ‘the friendliest person in the Boat Club’. The word ‘legend’ also came up a couple of times.



Jo Harrall receiving the 2012 Ben Sylvester medal

Swimmers!

On the Saturday of Eights, just before Men’s Div I, someone decided to go for a swim across the exit of the Gut while proclaiming to onlookers, loudly and in no uncertain terms, why he felt he had every right to do so. OURCs had two safety boats on the water: one driven by a large male and the other by a diminutive female. Someone decides that experience is what is required. Zoe de Toledo takes it up on Twitter:

Driving the safety launch:
Race desk over the radio
”Zoe can you please go
and deal with that swimmer
in the water?”. Me:
”really, REALLY!?”

Olympics

The rowing part of the 2012 Olympics will be held at Dorney Lake from 28th July – 4th Sunday, with gold medals being decided from 1st August (I’m one of the lucky ones and got myself a ticket for the 3rd August).

Catz’ one representative on the water is Andy Triggs Hodge (M.04), in the GB coxless four. They’ll be hoping to reverse the result of their last competitive race, in Munich, where they were beaten by the Australians. But, as I recall, they went into the Beijing Olympics in a similar situation and that didn’t turn out so badly. And similarly in 2004. And 2000.

Coming Up . . .

In the next newsletter there will be the results of various rowing competitions involving our alumni, and a look at the events of 40 years ago. News or other items from alumni always welcome. In the meantime, if anyone’s coming up for the Catz Anniversary weekend and is keen to get out on the water, contact me.

Anu Dudhia

email: dudhia@atm.ox.ac.uk

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

www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=93221115264

Diary

28 Jul – 4 Aug 2012 Olympic Rowing

7 Sep – 9 Sep 2012 Catz Anniversary Weekend



The Women’s 1st Eight, having added another stripe, celebrate their best result since 1996. Left to right: Josh Morgan, Katherine Pears, Linda Geaves, Emily Risness, Jo Harrall, Charlotte Marshall, Hege Larsen, Inge Hertzog, Izzy Renton, Rory Copus (coach).