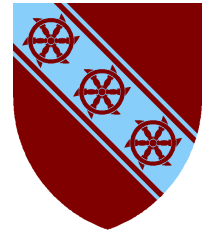




St Catherine's College Rowing Society
St Catherine's College
Oxford OX1 3UJ



22nd March, 2014

In this issue ...

So Torpids didn't happen. The first complete wash-out since 2007. After 79 consecutive days of river closure (21st December until 9th March) the river finally become rowable in 8th week.

However, that isn't to say that the Boat Club has been inactive; we have the Captains' Reports and acknowledge the names of those who have been in training.

In other news, the College has announced the first recipient of the new Rowing Society Foundation Scholarship and I've been crunching the numbers on Boat Club results in last year's Finals. One of our alumni has been appointed to a senior, if temporary, position within British Rowing and there is a look at Oxford's prospects in the Boat Races that will take place over the next couple of weeks. Finally, our Secretary, Darren Chadwick, has planned some social events.

Women's Boat Club Report

Poppy Lambert, Women's Captain

A week in the life of a lady who rows (Catz, Hilary Term 2014):

- Monday morning, 7am: Gym.
- Tuesday morning, 7am: Gym.
- Wednesday, any time you please: Gym.
- Thursday morning, 7am: Gym.

On the weekends it got a bit more exciting;

- Saturday: Morrell Avenue and hill sprints.
- Sunday: Uni parks and circuits.

If we were really pushing the boat out, as it were, we treated ourselves to a tank session as well. W1 had relief from this (productive) monotony in the form of a trip to Dorney, where our technical work on the ergs definitely showed its worth.



Catz rowers in the car park at Dorney Lake the weekend before Torpids, having loaded up the trailer after their only rowing of the term.

However, W2 were yet again deprived of their chance of water time during 8th week, as the morning on which we assembled at the boathouse saw the presence of thick fog and a return to red flag for the hour.

This has been a frustrating term, but nonetheless a very positive one. We have seen impressive gains in strength in all of our members, technical improvement by a clever use of our land-based resources, and the creation of a squad that is more than set for success come Summer Eights. I wish good luck and enjoyment to those rowing, and good luck and fortitude to all of those leaving to take on Finals — we've managed the first, so the latter should be a walk in the park!

Men's Boat Club Report

Robin Muir, Men's Captain

Hilary 2014 will be remembered for many things, perhaps most for the vast amounts of rainfall that preceded and pervaded it. As a result of the flooding and the effect it had on the Isis river levels, there can be no denying that this was a deeply frustrating term. Plans were made to take a freshly selected M1 to Bedford Head, only for it to be cancelled with days to spare.

President: Bruce Mitchell

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

Despite the appalling river conditions, the Men's squad hit the gym. Hard. Erg scores steadily improved at a rate that reflected the impressive commitment of the squad to the increased volume of land training. Several of the Boat Club's new recruits from the Christ Church campaign joined the Senior Squad, and made especially impressive progress in the gym, and it's a fitting testament to the atmosphere fostered in the Michaelmas Novice programme by our Lower Boats Captains, that two novices made it into the St Catherine's M1 for Torpids.

The term's rowing culminated in a productive trip down to Dorney in some fantastic conditions, and the fitness work we had done all term paid off, as we were able to cover a healthily large distance over the weekend's four sessions.

Off the water, as always, the annual Rowing Society dinner was a fantastic event, and very well enjoyed by the Men's squad, and it was great to see some of our alumni come back for the occasion. The Boat Club Hustings also took place, with an enthusiastic and capable committee elected to take over after Summer Eights.

Now the squads attention turns to what will be, as always, a challenging Summer Eights campaign, kicking off with a training camp on the Isis in -1st Week.

2014 St Catherine's Torpids

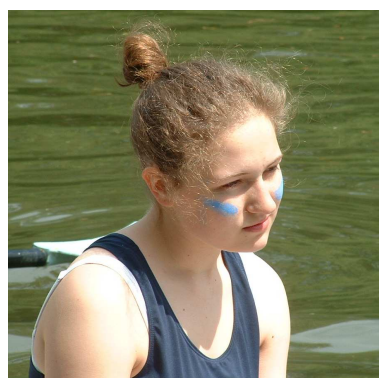
Men's 1st Torpid	Women's 1st Torpid
B Malcolm Spencer	B Katie Power
2 Ryan Kahn	2 Poppy Lambert
3 Christopher Elsby	3 Miriam Mahmoud
4 Matthias Steiner	4 Alice Pickthall
5 Cole Robertson	5 Lucy Roberts
6 Jure Jeric	6 Bonnie Nortz
7 Benjamin Baron	7 Laura Gerrard
S Robin Muir	S Katie Ember
C Fleur Nash	C Dolf Diemont
Coach Carlos Dastis	Coach Malcolm Spencer
Men's 2nd Torpid	Women's 2nd Torpid
B Mike Humphries	B Chloe Rutland
2 Calvin Lai	2 Frances Wang
3 Jack Slone	3 Padmini Gopal
4 Andrew van Paridon	4 Anneke Kramm
5 Alpha Lee	5 Elena Watson
6 Matthew McGilvray	6 Katia Mattis
7 Alexander Barbaro	7 Jenny Lange
S Peter Morgan	S Rosemary Bridson
C Joshua Morgan	C Malcolm Spencer

Rowing Society Foundation Scholarship

The College announces the award of the first Rowing Society Foundation Scholarship.

The St Catherine's College, Oxford, Rowing Society's 21st Anniversary Foundation Scholarship has been awarded to Katie Power (2012, History). Katie is a member of the Boat Club and is Captain of the Women's Lower Boats. Commenting on the Scholarship, Katie said:

'Receiving a Scholarship has prevented stress that I may have had about finances and has enabled me to purchase essential copies of some of the often expensive key texts for my course. It has also enhanced my university experience by allowing me to enjoy the broad range of activities that are on offer, especially the rowing team.



Katie Power

It has been brilliant training with the Women's 1st VIII this term (despite the lack of bumps racing!) and being on the Boat Club Committee as Lower Boats Captain. A big thank you to the Rowing Society who have established this

scholarship! It was truly very much appreciated and I hope to be able to donate towards a scholarship myself in years to come.'

Tony Hancox (1949, English), a Founder Member of the Rowing Society and its immediate Past-President, commented:

'In this academic year (2013-2014), the Rowing Society, celebrating its 30th year and the Boat Club its 140th, endowed its first Foundation Scholarship. It is for any undergraduate — not necessarily one who rows: it was awarded to Katie Power who, as the first Scholar, already looks to the circumstances of others. She may reflect with some satisfaction that her contribution to St Catherine's is not only reserved for future years. Katie — well done, many thanks, and best wishes!'

Since 2000, the Foundation Scholarship Scheme has already benefited over 140 students and the College thanks all its Donors now, including the Rowing Society, for making the scheme such a resounding success and for all that they do to sustain and enrich the St Catherine's student experience.

Norrington Boat Club

Glancing through the finals results listed in the latest issue of *St Catherine's Year*, I noticed that a number of familiar names (*viz.* active Boat Club members) had gained 'firsts'. This prompted a more formal analysis.

I've divided up all the results into 4 categories: those who've appeared in the 1st VIIIs, those who've appeared in 2nd VIIIs but no higher, those who've only appeared in lower boats, and those who don't feature at all in our records. Following the Norrington Table system — the mostly widely-used method for rating Colleges by finals results — I've also assigned a score of 5 points for a first, 3 for an upper second, 2 for a lower second and 1 for a third. The total score is then expressed as a percentage of the maximum number of point possible, *i.e.*, $5 \times$ (number of candidates).

2013 St Catherine's Finals Results

Number of students and Norrington score

Category	I	II(i)	II(ii)	III	Score
1st VIII	7	4	1	0	81.7 %
2nd VIII	1	6	0	0	65.7 %
Lower Boats	3	9	1	0	67.7 %
All Boat Club	11	19	2	0	72.5 %
Non Rowers	25	64	8	1	68.2 %
All College	36	83	10	1	69.2 %

The 'official' 2013 Norrington Table shows an extra 5 St Catherine's results (3 upper and 2 lower seconds) but the overall score (68.6 %) is not too different. This places St Catherine's 21st out of 30 colleges, with scores ranging from 77.1 % (New College) to 64.6 % (L.M.H.).

Of course one can read many things into statistics, particularly the statistics of small samples, and it was after all only the fact that I'd noticed our ex-1st VIII members doing so well that prompted the analysis. Nevertheless I'll just quietly draw attention to the fact that the Boat Club on its own (72.5 %) would have ranked among the top 10 Colleges. Moreover, this is largely due to the results of ex-1st VIII members who, on *their* own, would have headed the Norrington table by a comfortable margin (81.7 %). And which, perhaps, allows the very last part of the Women's Captain's report to be read in a new light.

New CEO for British Rowing

On the 11th February, British Rowing (as the ARA has been known since 2009 — do try to keep up!) announced that Neil Chugani (M.87) has been appointed

as their interim CEO. Neil coxed both Catz men's and women's 1st VIIIs and was men's Captain 1988/89. I mention these facts because, inexplicably, they seem to have been omitted from the otherwise extensive list of his qualifications in the following statement issued by British Rowing:

British Rowing is pleased to announce the appointment of an interim Chief Executive Officer, following Kate Burt's decision to leave British Rowing last month. Neil Chugani has stepped into the role on a part-time basis, with immediate effect.

Neil has been actively involved in rowing for over 25 years, both as an athlete and a senior volunteer. He was a member of the Organising Committee for the Samsung World Rowing Cup held at Eton Dorney in 2013, and is a serving British Rowing Umpire and Steward of Henley Royal Regatta.

In the past Chugani has represented Great Britain as both an Under-23 and senior international, winning a World Championship gold medal in the coxed pair with Matthew Pinsent and James Cracknell in 2001. He has also represented Oxford University Boat Club, Leander Club and Molesey Boat Club, where he is still an active member

Neil brings considerable business experience to the CEO role, having spent over 20 years in the media and technology industries in senior executive and advisory leadership roles. He currently works with private equity investors and their portfolio companies, most recently having advised CVC Capital Partners on its bid for IMG Worldwide — a leading global business in sports and media.

Prior to this, Neil held senior executive roles including Chief Financial Officer and Executive Director at BBC Worldwide, the commercial arm of the BBC, Deputy Chief Financial Officer at BSkyB Group plc, and was also a banker at Goldman Sachs. He was selected as a member of the Forum of Young Global Leaders at the World Economic Forum in 2009.

Annamarie Phelps, Chairman of British Rowing, said: 'Neil Chugani brings an invaluable combination of commercial and sporting experience to British Rowing, as well as an intense passion for our sport. I am delighted that he is able to join us at this important time for rowing.'

From British Rowing HQ, Neil said today: 'I am looking forward to an exciting and challenging start to 2014. I have a great love for the sport of rowing, so I am energised by the opportunity to lead forward the '2020 Vision' that is being developed for the future of the sport.'

University Crews

The Thames flooding has undoubtedly had an adverse effect on Oxford crews this term. Even if they have managed to get on the water at Dorney Lake or on the Tideway, it has meant more time spent travelling and therefore less time for actual training. Cambridge on the other hand have had no such problems; indeed their Lent's bumps races went ahead as normal.

Our sole triallist for University selection this year is David Zimmer in the men's lightweight squad. There's been no official crew announcement yet, but he was in the winning crew in their trials race last December and was more recently spotted in the OULRC bow-seat at Dorney Lake, so there's a good chance he'll be lining up against Cambridge at Henley on March 30th. The women's lightweights *have* announced their crew and it includes, at no.7, former Catz oarswoman Emma Clifton (now at Magdalen).

This will be the last year that the women's Blue boats race at Henley (next year they'll be on the Tideway). CUWBC have weighed in 4 kg heavier per woman than Oxford, but that's been as regular a feature of recent years as a Dark Blue victory, so nobody will be reading too much into that weight difference.

The men's Blue boats were officially announced on 10th March, although Oxford have subsequently made a further change. Oxford are on average 2 years older than Cambridge but 5 kg (9 lbs) lighter and 7 cm (3") shorter. The bookies certainly favour Oxford at the moment, which might reflect their surplus in Olympic medallists (3-0) or returning Blues (3-1), or just that Cambridge were fairly comprehensively thrashed by Molesey last weekend. Oxford themselves have a stern test against Leander this weekend, which will almost certainly change the odds one way or another. However, since the end of the long Cambridge winning streak in 2000, the bookies have been notoriously poor at predicting the winning crew.

Social Events

Darren Chadwick and other members of the Rowing Society Committee have been discussing social events and proposed the following:

Boat Race, 6th April Watch the Boat Race this year with other alumni at the Oxford and Cambridge Club. The race starts at 6pm so join us for drinks for 5pm and cheer on Oxford to victory.

Summer Eights Dinner, 31st May An informal dinner will be held in Oxford to mark the end of

Summer Eights and to allow alumni and current Boat Club members to keep in touch. Details of venues will follow when numbers are more certain, but it is likely to be in a central Oxford restaurant.

London Drinks, 19th July 2014 After a notable absence, the London drinks are back. This time we'll be in the Founders Arms on the bank of the Thames. With excellent views of St Paul's and a fine selection of Young's Ales, The Founders Arms is set to be an excellent location to meet up with fellow alums!

You are encouraged to book (free) places for these events using www.eventbrite.co.uk so we know how many we are expecting (the full web-addresses are listed in the Diary section at the foot of the RS web-page). You can optionally make a donation to the Rowing Society as part of the booking process. Alternatively, contact Darren Chadwick on 07916 127085.

Coming Up ...

In the next issue there will be a round-up of the Oxford-Cambridge Boat Races, prospects for Eights week and a couple of items which, surprisingly given the lack of actual rowing, couldn't be squeezed into this issue: the events of 15 years ago and a summary of the major points arising from this year's AGM. Contributions from alumni always welcome.

Anu Dudhia

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Row.Soc: <http://www.atm.ox.ac.uk/rowing/rs.html>
www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=93221115264

Diary

30 Mar 2014	Henley Boat Races
6 Apr 2014	Tideway Boat Races
6 Apr 2014	Drinks at the Oxf & Cam Club
28-31 May 2014	Eights
31 May 2014	Eights Dinner (Oxford)
19 Jul 2014	London Drinks, Founders Arms

Trevor Brown (1923-2014)

One of our oldest alumni, Trevor Brown, died on 14th March aged 90. Trevor came up to Oxford in 1941 (rowing in the 1942 1st Eight) and went on to a career in local government and at Aldermaston Atomic Weapons Research Establishment, the latter ending in some controversy. There will be an obituary in the next newsletter.