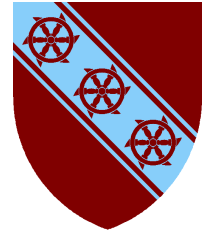




*St Catherine's College Rowing Society*  
*St Catherine's College, Oxford OX1 3UJ*



President: Prof. Ceri Peach  
 Vice-Presidents: Don Barton, Neil Chugani, Richard Peters,  
 Andrew Triggs Hodge MBE, Sir Matthew Pinsent CBE,  
 Ben Sylvester

17th December, 2016

**In this issue ...**

The senior men have continued their summer momentum, picking up a couple of wins in this term's Isis Winter League time-trials. The women: not so much. We have reports on the term's rowing.

A couple of issues ago I included a photo of Catz men boating in Hammersmith, incidentally (or so I thought) displaying some distinctive leggings. However an alumnus decided that these were just what he needed for inspiration and has been sporting a pair around the European regatta circuit. He sends a report, and photo.

The Fours Head results provide some early indicators for the Boat Races and finally, as we reach the end of the year, we review the current standing of the Boat Club.



Catz women racing in IWL-A

**Results**

**Isis Winter League A, 30th October**

*56 crews were timed*

|      |      |                       |           |
|------|------|-----------------------|-----------|
| 1st  | 4:17 | <b>St Catherine's</b> | 1st/12 M8 |
| 2nd  | 4:24 | Corpus Christi        | 2nd/12 M8 |
| 29th | 5:19 | University            | 1st/6 W4  |
| 43rd | 6:00 | <b>St Catherine's</b> | 4th/6 W4  |



Icy Isis. Fortunately, only for one day, in 9th week, after everyone had gone home.

**Christ Church Regatta, 23–26 November**

*Men's Novice VIIIs (c.64 entries)*

|       |                                 |          |
|-------|---------------------------------|----------|
| Rnd 1 | <b>St Catz A</b> bt St Hugh's B | 6 L      |
| Rnd 2 | St John's A bt <b>St Catz A</b> | Row Over |

*Women's Novice VIIIs (c.54 entries)*

|       |                                  |          |
|-------|----------------------------------|----------|
| Rnd 1 | St Hugh's B bt <b>St Catz B</b>  | Easily   |
|       | Pembroke A bt <b>St Catz A</b>   | Easily   |
| Rep   | St Anne's A* bt <b>St Catz A</b> | Easily   |
|       | <b>St Catz B</b> bt St Benet's A | Row Over |
| Rnd 3 | New A bt <b>St Catz A</b>        | Easily   |
|       | Balliol A bt <b>St Catz B</b>    | Row Over |

\*'Friendly crew' — ineligible to proceed

**Isis Winter League B, 27th November**

*73 crews were timed*

|       |        |                         |           |
|-------|--------|-------------------------|-----------|
| 1st   | 4:23.5 | <b>St Catherine's A</b> | 1st/14 M8 |
| 2nd   | 4:26.5 | Wolfson                 | 2nd/14 M8 |
| 4th   | 4:32.0 | <b>St Catherine's B</b> | 4th/14 M8 |
| 30th  | 5:44.0 | Wolfson                 | 1st/10 W4 |
| =39th | 6:00.0 | <b>St Catherine's</b>   | 5th/10 W4 |

## Wallingford Head, 4th December

| 236 crews were timed |         |                         | Oxf.Coll |
|----------------------|---------|-------------------------|----------|
| 1st                  | 13:403  | Oxford Brookes ELI.8+   |          |
| 13th                 | 14:57.8 | Oriel IM1.8+            | 1st/6 M8 |
| 57th                 | 16:05.9 | <b>St Catz</b> IM1.8+   | 3rd/6 M8 |
| 199th                | 19:37.6 | Wolfson W.IM3.4+        | 1st/9 W4 |
| 233rd                | 21:35.4 | <b>St Catz</b> W.IM2.4+ | 9th/9 W4 |

## Men's Boat Club Report

### James Winder, Men's Captain

This term began with a lot to live up to. Following on from a highly successful summer including a strong Eights' campaign, regatta wins and racing in other continents(!) it is fair to say that the bar set for the mens squad this year is a high one.

So far tests have come in the form of two IWLs and the longer Wallingford Head race. IWL-A and IWL-B both produced overall wins and so coming into Wallingford we were confident, but starting two boats ahead of the University Lightweights proved a slight overestimation of the progress we had made. Despite a solid time the mens appetite for more speed was only enthused by the experience and we look on towards next term with ambition and excitement.



James Winder, Men's Captain



Catz Women's IV racing in IWL-B

## Women's Boat Club Report

I've not received a report from the Women's Captain, so here are my impressions.

It seems that once again they have struggled to persuade rowers to return for a second year on the water. Fortunately a couple of freshers with previous rowing experience *have* turned up, allowing Catz senior women to race as a coxed four this term. However, even with the seemingly acceptable flexibility of today's 'post-truth' environment, I think I can only go so far as to say that they achieved 'mixed results'.

So then one looks to the novices. Two VIIIs raced at total of 6 times in Christ Church Regatta. Unfortunately, the only time they crossed the finish line first was when their opposition failed to show up. But, to put that in context, in the past 5 years Catz women have had 20 races in Christ Church Regatta and only once (in 2013) did a Catz women's novice VIII actually beat their opposition fair and square. More of the same next year, or is it perhaps time to try something different?



Catz senior men racing in IWL-A

## Rowing in the Afterlife

Tony Mitchell (M.78)

Just thought you might be interested in a couple of Catz rowing-related things involving and old person.

Well, in September I popped over to the beautiful Lake Bagsvaerd near Copenhagen to compete in the World Masters Rowing Championships. Got pretty well smushed in the C1x and D1x but managed a win in the E1x (55 years and over) which was great fun and then got another win in the mixed E1x with Sarah Payne (ex-New College). It's a great friendly regatta but once the green light goes then it always gets serious.

Feeling a little low after being munched by big Germans in the single I decided to cheer myself (and the regatta) up a little and inspire myself to greater things by wearing the full Catz kit. What a triumph! Every where I went, old, fit boaties were smiling, pointing and laughing at me in a mostly friendly and frankly heartwarming way that made one feel good to be part of the rowing fraternity and proud to be a Catzman. I often race in Catz kit even though I have to enter as Wycliffe College.



Tony Mitchell, dressed to impress

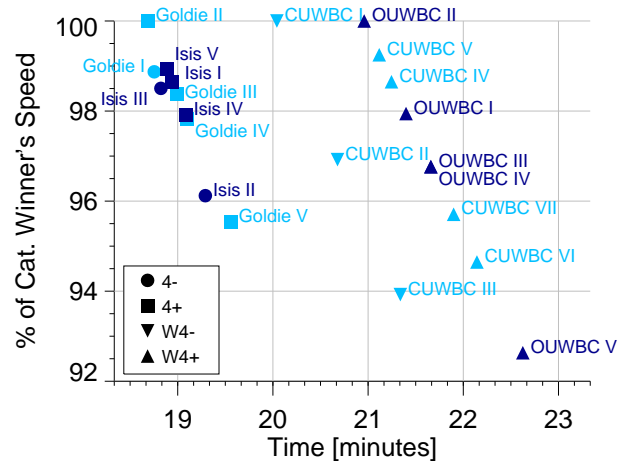
And then, would you believe it, I bump into Duncan Spencer, (Oxford Blue 1963–65, Christ Church and

Yale) who I raced the Vets Boat Race with a couple of times. Well, we start to chat and then as he notices the fine leggings he shrieks “Gad Tony, what are you wearing!?”. I explain that this is clearly the kit of St Catherine’s to which he responds “Hell, Tony, wasn’t she *tortured* in those!”

And then last weekend I was lucky enough to have a go at the fabulous Silver Skiff head race on the River Po on Turin. This involves a 5.5 km row out, spin turn and 5.5 km row back, so is quite a testing event. I had entered as Catz and, realising that I would be up against the Olympic champion Sinkovic brothers and also the Cuban Olympic single sculls finalist, Angel Fournier Rodriguez, I felt it would be appropriate to deploy the full Catz kit again. Well it should have done the trick, but I think the Italians must have given me a sartorial time penalty as a Sinkovic won for the second year running.

## University Crews

The Fours Head of the River Race was held on 12th November and, with both Oxford and Cambridge squads out in force, this presented the first opportunity to assess the strength of the two squads, even if they do tend to spread themselves between coxed and coxless boats. Their results are plotted below, both in time order (left to right) and as a percentage of the winning speed of their boat class (top to bottom).



Oxford & Cambridge results in the 2016 Fours Head

To my mind there’s an uncomfortable amount of light blue towards the top of this graph, particularly in the women’s boats. Oxford women have a new Head Coach and no returning Blues — could 2017 be Cambridge’s first Women’s Boat Race win on the Tideway?

Things seem a little closer on the men's side: both Oxford and Cambridge have 5 returning Blues. Cambridge do rather better with returning reserve boat oarsmen but Oxford have also recruited a former Cambridge Blue, whose rowing CV rather quaintly lists winning a 'Silver' in the 2015 Boat Race. Perhaps surprisingly for a post-Olympic year there hasn't been a huge influx of rowers from Rio: just two, both in the Oxford squad: former Blue (and now OUBC President) Mike DiSanto was in the US VIII (4th in Rio), joined by newcomer Olivier Siegelaar who won a bronze medal in the Dutch VIII. Interestingly, the OUWBC squad also includes paralympian Grace Clough with a gold medal from the GB LTA Mix 4+.

The only Catz representative in the University squads is a new German post-graduate Matthias Mergenthaler, but very much at the lightweight end of the spectrum. He rowed in Isis II in the Fours Head but wasn't selected for the Trial Eights race on Nov 30th.

## 2016 Review

Time for a look back at what's been achieved this past year and, in the bumps racing, it was definitely better than last year. First of all, here's a summary of our crews' current position, together with the highs and lows of the past 10 years and, in comparison with last year, the main point is that none of our crews are at their lowest positions (last year it was 4 crews). On the other hand, and for the first time since 1993, there was no women's 2nd Eight (which partly explains the problems the senior women have had this term).

### Catz Crews: Current Positions (& highest-lowest positions, 2007-2016)

|            | Men  |         | Women |         |
|------------|------|---------|-------|---------|
|            | 2016 | Range   | 2016  | Range   |
| 1st Torpid | 8th  | (4-9)   | 17th  | (1-18)  |
| 2nd Torpid | 46th | (41-61) | 55th  | (47-57) |
| 3rd Torpid | —    | (62-68) | —     | (50-55) |
| 1st Eight  | 14th | (5-15)  | 21st  | (13-24) |
| 2nd Eight  | 46th | (38-49) | —     | (44-57) |
| 3rd Eight  | 84th | (73-89) | —     | (75-79) |

Moving to the rowing equivalent of the 'Norrington Table', with points assigned according to the finishing positions in Torpids and Eights, we've moved up 1 place to 16th, at the expense of Worcester (3 of our bumps this year were on Worcester crews), and closed on Lincoln. At the top Pembroke extend their lead while Oriol overtake Wadham to move up to 2nd. Keble rose furthest, moving from 14th up to 8th.

## College Boat Clubs: Total Points

|    |                       | 2015       | 2016                  |            |
|----|-----------------------|------------|-----------------------|------------|
| 1  | Pembroke              | 373        | Pembroke              | 390        |
| 2  | Wadham                | 323        | Oriel                 | 316        |
| 3  | Oriel                 | 314        | Wadham                | 314        |
| 4  | Magdalen              | 308        | Wolfson               | 308        |
| 5  | Christ Church         | 303        | Christ Church         | 303        |
| 6  | Wolfson               | 278        | Magdalen              | 296        |
| 7  | University            | 243        | University            | 266        |
| 8  | St John's             | 234        | Keble                 | 227        |
| 9  | Balliol               | 223        | New College           | 227        |
| 10 | S.E.H.                | 213        | Hertford              | 224        |
| 11 | New College           | 212        | Balliol               | 222        |
| 12 | Hertford              | 207        | S.E.H                 | 193        |
| 13 | Trinity               | 206        | St John's             | 188        |
| 14 | Keble                 | 195        | Trinity               | 179        |
| 15 | Worcester             | 191        | Lincoln               | 167        |
| 16 | Lincoln               | 161        | <b>St Catherine's</b> | <b>164</b> |
| 17 | <b>St Catherine's</b> | <b>155</b> | Jesus                 | 159        |
| 18 | Jesus                 | 153        | Worcester             | 144        |
| 19 | Brasenose             | 123        | Mansfield             | 120        |
| 20 | L.M.H.                | 116        | L.M.H.                | 114        |
| 21 | St Anne's             | 111        | St Anne's             | 106        |
| 22 | Somerville            | 106        | Brasenose             | 105        |
| 23 | Mansfield             | 103        | Somerville            | 101        |
| 24 | Merton                | 98         | St Hugh's             | 96         |
| 25 | Queen's               | 86         | Merton                | 94         |
| 26 | St Hugh's             | 83         | Linacre               | 84         |
| 27 | Exeter                | 78         | Exeter                | 80         |
| 28 | Linacre               | 77         | Queen's               | 77         |
| 29 | Corpus Christi        | 73         | Corpus Christi        | 67         |
| 30 | St Peter's            | 68         | St Peter's            | 66         |
| 31 | Green Templeton       | 52         | St Antony's           | 58         |
| 32 | St Antony's           | 46         | Green Templeton       | 55         |
| 33 | Osler House           | 44         | St Hilda's            | 41         |
| 34 | St Hilda's            | 36         | Osler House           | 35         |
| 35 | Regent's Park         | 17         | Regent's Park         | 21         |
| 36 | St Benet's Hall       | 6          | St Benet's Hall       | 5          |

## Coming Up ...

In the next newsletter we'll have the prospects for Torpids, details of the AGM & Dinner, updates on the University crews, and more information on the early years of the Boat Club.

Anu Dudhia

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## Diary

|                |                    |
|----------------|--------------------|
| 1-4 Mar 2017   | Torpids            |
| 4 Mar 2017     | AGM & Dinner       |
| 26 Mar 2017    | Henley Boat Races  |
| 2 Apr 2017     | Tideway Boat Races |
| 24-27 May 2017 | Summer Eights      |