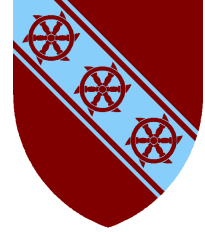




*St Catherine's College Rowing Society*  
*St Catherine's College, Oxford OX1 3UJ*

Vice-Presidents: Don Barton, Neil Chugani, Richard Peters,  
 Andrew Triggs Hodge OBE, Sir Matthew Pinsent CBE,  
 Ben Sylvester



15th December, 2018

**In this issue . . .**

Christ Church Regatta is the main event of Michaelmas term, attracting over 100 novice VIII's and requiring 7 rounds of racing (plus repêchage) spread over 4 days to decide the winners (is there a larger knock-out rowing competition anywhere in the world?). In 1980 a Catz crew lost in the final of the men's event. One wouldn't have expected an VIII which lost their first three races this term to do better.

Catz women's recent record in side-by-side racing has not been good. In fact, their last win — when faced with an opposition who actually turned up — was in 2014, and their last win in Christ Church Regatta was even further back. But this term, with 5 wins from 8 races, they seem to have put that behind them, and the senior VIII even picked up some silverware of their own in Nephthys Regatta.

In news of the Blues, the Oxford and Cambridge squads have been competing in the Fours Head and we have an analysis of the results, plus updates on our own triallists.

Finally, there is the end-of-year report on the current state of the Boat Club.

**Results**

**Isis Winter League A, 4th November**

*29 crews raced*

1st	4:23	Corpus Christi	1st/11 M8
=2nd	4:28	<b>*St Catherine's A</b>	=2nd/11 M8
4th	4:36	<b>*St Catherine's B</b>	4th/11 M8

\*Men's senior VIII, racing twice

**Nephthys Regatta, 16–17th November**

*Women's Sen VIII's (4 entries)*

Semi/F	<b>St Catz</b>	bt	New College	2/3 L
Final	<b>St Catz</b>	bt	Ch. Ch.	1/4 L

*Women's Nov VIII's (27 entries)*

Rnd 2	Univ. A	bt	<b>St Catz</b>	2 L
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*Men's Nov VIII's (32 entries)*

Rnd 1	Queen's*	bt	<b>St Catz</b>	Easily
Rnd 2	Ch.Ch. B	bt	<b>St Catz</b>	Dqd

\*'Friendly' crew — ineligible to proceed



Winners of the Women's Senior VIII's in Nephthys Regatta



The women's novice VIII in Nephthys Regatta

### Fairbairns, 29–30th November

Women's Sen IVs (21 crews)

1st	12:16	C.U.W.B.C.
10th	14:15	<b>St Catherine's</b>

### Women's Boat Club

Clare Leckie, Co-Captain

Building on the success of our Autumn Fours crew's semi-final finish earlier in the term, Catz women went from strength to strength in Michaelmas this year. We entered both senior and novice VIIIs into Nephthys Regatta, where our senior crew beat a strong field comprised of entirely Division 1 crews to win the senior competition.

### Christ Church Regatta, 21–24th November

Women's Nov VIIIs (50 entries)

Rnd 1	<b>St Catz</b> bt S.E.H. A	1 L
Rnd 2	Wolfson A bt <b>St Catz</b>	1 L

Men's Nov VIIIs (56 entries)

Rnd 1	Balliol B bt <b>St Catz B</b>	1 1/2 L
	St Hugh's A bt <b>St Catz A</b>	Cvs
Rep	Pembroke A bt <b>St Catz B</b>	5 L
	<b>St Catz A</b> bt Brasenose B	Easily
Rnd 3	<b>St Catz A</b> bt St Antony's A	2 L
Rnd 4	<b>St Catz A</b> bt Linacre A	2 L
Q/F	<b>St Catz A</b> bt Mansfield A	2 L
S/F	<b>St Catz A</b> bt New College A	1 L
Final	<b>St Catz A</b> bt Christ Church A	1/2 L

### Wallingford Head, 25th November

Div 1 (136 crews) — Oxford College results

92nd	17:50	Oriel	1st/6 W8-3
116th	18:57	<b>St Catherine's</b>	2nd/6 W8-3
130th	20:12	Queen's	4th/6 W8-3

Div 2 (132 crews) — Oxford College results

14th	14:48	Oriel	6th/13 M8-1
18th	14:59	Pembroke	6th/18 M8-2
42nd	15:55	Wolfson	3rd/8 M8-3
43rd	15:58	L.M.H.	16th/18 M8-2
46th	16:04	<b>St Catherine's</b>	4th/8 M8-3
48th	16:13	Brasenose	5th/8 M8-3
74th	17:12	Queen's	7th/8 M8-3
87th	17:45	L.M.H.	6th/6 U23 W8
101st	18:27	University	8th/8 M8-3

Christ Church Regatta saw our novice women win their first round race against Teddy Hall, becoming the first novice women's crew from Catz to win a side-by-side race in half a decade. This allowed them to progress straight through to third round where they found themselves facing a strong Wolfson crew, and despite giving it their all, our crew unfortunately lost out to the future runners-up by just under a length.



Clare Leckie, Women's Co-Captain

In Eighth Week our senior squad managed to squeeze in not one but two external races. Beaten only by Oriel, we placed second in our division at Wallingford Head — a huge accomplishment for a relatively inexperienced crew.

Later that week, we sent a IV over to Cambridge where we placed 7th (with a time just 11 seconds behind third-place) in The Fairbairn Cup.

Looking ahead, we're confident that the strength and depth of the Catz women's squad will pay dividends next term and we're incredibly excited by the prospect of having three women's crews in Torpids.

Thanks to Alex Nevin of Worcester College for coxing our senior crew at Wallingford, and to Alex Bowmer for volunteering his time and expertise to run strength and conditioning workshops for the entire squad and providing invaluable treatment for our injured athletes.





Winners of Men's Novice VIIIIs in Christ Church Regatta

## Men's Boat Club

### Alexander Herkert, Co-Captain

The Catz men's squad has had an excellent start to the year. Most notable was the performance of our first novice eight in Christ Church Regatta, where our crew emerged as the sole victor out of almost 60 competing teams over the course of the 4 day regatta. This is a historic achievement for St Catherine's, and the final race between Catz and Christ Church was particularly exciting, coming down to just a number of seats.



Alex Herkert, Men's Co-Captain

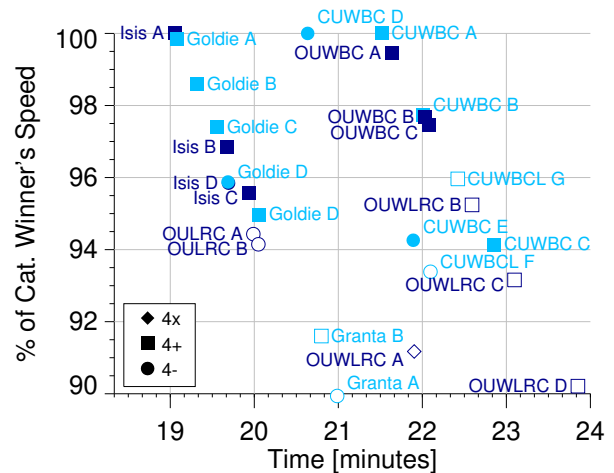
The senior men have also had a very successful fall, competing in IWL A, where we placed second, and travelling to Wallingford Head, which we completed in 16:04. We are looking forward to the next term, and integrating our strong novice members into the senior squad.

## University Crews

On November 3rd the Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race squads completed in the Fours Head of the River Race on the Tideway course. The results are shown on the right, plotted both as time and, to allow comparisons across different boat classes, as a percentage of the speed of the fastest boat in each category.

The main competition was in coxed fours, with Oxford taking the men's title and Cambridge the women's, but only by a handful of seconds. Cambridge also had the fastest women's coxless four.

Oxford's lightweight men, rowing in two coxless fours, finished well ahead of Cambridge (rowing as Granta). There was also a third Oxford coxed four, rather ominously listed as 'did not finish'. The women's lightweights raced in a variety of boats which makes comparison difficult. The fastest of these were the Oxford quad scull followed by the Cambridge coxless four, but that would be expected. Oxford women's lightweights certainly aren't short of triallists, managing to fill five crews.



Oxford & Cambridge results in the 2018 Fours Head.

Of our own triallists, Augustin Wambersie was in the fastest coxed four on the day, the Isis A, while Oriane Grant sculled in the women's lightweight quad. Heather Tong is trialling for OUWBC but I don't know if she raced.

## 2018 Review

Torpids 2018 was dominated by the weather. Not the usual problem — flooding — but the ‘Beast from the East’: the associated wind-chill and loss of visibility during snow flurries. The full event was only run on the first day. The Race Committee spent Thursday and Friday clearing snow and procuring patio heaters, which allowed racing on Saturday, albeit restricted to senior crews rowing in half-divisions.

On the whole that probably worked out well for our men, who’ve struggled to replace the many experienced oarsmen who’ve left since last year, but the women, with a freshly reinstated 2nd Torpid, would have much preferred a full four days of racing.

Come summer, the weather wasn’t going to provide any hiding place, and the men’s 1st and 2nd Eights lost some, but not all, of the gains they made last year. But they had more success with the lower boats; a men’s 4th Eight making their first appearance in 25 years, while the ‘gentlemen’s’ 3rd Eight finished off a rumbunctiously successful week with a spectacular double overbump.

The women’s 1st Eight had a frustrating time, particularly on the Friday when, closing on Trinity, both crews were obstructed in the Gut. The following day, leaving nothing to chance, they bumped Trinity in just 24 strokes. The women’s 2nd Eight went even better, finishing the week with the first overbump ever achieved by a Catz women’s crew.

### Catz Crews: Current Positions (& highest–lowest positions, 2009–2018)

	Men		Women	
	2018	Range	2018	Range
1st Torpid	5th	(4–9)	25th	(1–27)
2nd Torpid	42nd	(41–61)	61st	(47–61)
3rd Torpid	—	(62–68)	—	(50–55)
1st Eight	11th	(6–15)	20th	(13–24)
2nd Eight	45th	(40–49)	63rd	(44–74)
3rd Eight	68th	(68–89)	—	(75–79)
4th Eight	91st	(88–91)		

The table on the right shows the standing of the various College Boat Clubs based on positions of all their crews in Torpids and Eights. Catz move up from 15th to 14th, continuing our steady rise of one place a year since 2015, but this year’s improvement in position was entirely due to the misfortunes of St John’s, while the gap to S.E.H. widens. Pembroke remain well out in front and, although Wadham retain 2nd place, both Oriel and Wolfson are closing in as they move up to 3rd and 4th.

## College Boat Clubs: Total Points

		2017	2018	
1	Pembroke	373	Pembroke	375
2	Wadham	340	Wadham	333
3	Christ Church	320	Oriel	325
4	Oriel	305	Wolfson	320
5	Wolfson	295	Christ Church	314
6	Keble	263	Keble	271
7	University	242	University	233
8	Hertford	227	Balliol	214
9	Balliol	219	New College	210
10	Magdalen	219	Magdalen	209
11	St John’s	197	Jesus	208
12	New College	194	Hertford	205
13	Jesus	192	S.E.H.	203
14	S.E.H.	188	<b>St Catherine’s</b>	180
15	<b>St Catherine’s</b>	180	St John’s	175
16	Trinity	170	Trinity	170
17	Lincoln	163	Lincoln	144
18	Mansfield	134	L.M.H.	127
19	L.M.H.	124	Mansfield	113
20	Somerville	122	Worcester	111
21	St Anne’s	114	Somerville	107
22	Worcester	110	Exeter	102
23	Brasenose	94	Merton	101
24	Merton	94	St Anne’s	99
25	Exeter	92	St Hugh’s	94
26	Linacre	88	Brasenose	92
27	St Hugh’s	81	Linacre	88
28	Queen’s	80	Queen’s	84
29	Corpus Christi	72	Corpus Christi	83
30	St Antony’s	69	G.T.C.	82
31	G.T.C.	66	St Antony’s	64
32	St Peter’s	59	St Peter’s	55
33	St Hilda’s	45	St Hilda’s	48
34	Osler House	27	Osler House	22
35	Regent’s Park	21	Regent’s Park	22
36	St Benet’s Hall	7	St Benet’s Hall	9

## Coming Up ...

The next newsletter will include the prospects for Torpids and updates on the University crews.

## Diary

27 Feb – 2 Mar 2019	Torpids
2 March 2019	RS AGM & Dinner
7 April 2019	Tideway Boat Races
29 May – 1 June 2019	Summer Eights

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