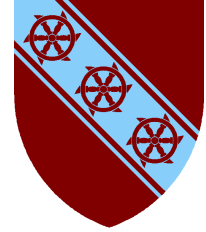




St Catherine's College Rowing Society
St Catherine's College, Oxford OX1 3UJ



President: Colin Smith
 Vice-Presidents: Neil Chugani, Richard Peters,
 Sir Matthew Pinsent CBE, Zoe de Toledo,
 Andrew Triggs Hodge OBE, Ben Sylvester

10th November, 2019

In this issue . . .

Lectures started on 14th October and the same day the river went to 'Blue Flag': the first level of restrictions. I speak of the *virtual* flag, of course; there has been no actual piece of cloth on a flagpole for many years. The rain continued, resulting in the loss of the first of the IWL races and Autumn Fours while the 'Red Flag' — signifying full river closure, and last seen in April 2018 — has had a good airing (and continues to flap in the internet breeze as I write this).

But let us return to sunnier times. We have reports of a Catz men's eight heading out to race in China and an women's four heading, erm, just out of their boathouse to race in Oxford City Regatta.

I've also been looking through the records to identify the Catz woman who has the most bumps starts to her name. Any guesses before I tell you the result?

Finally, sadly, we note the recent death of Rowing Society Vice-President, Don Barton. A man who would have heartily approved of Catz students seizing any opportunity to venture to distant lands.



Different continent, different culture — same old message. The Catz crew warming up before racing in Nanchang, China.

Results

Oxford City Regatta, 17–18th August

<i>Women's 4+ Band 1 (5 entries)</i>			
Heat	Wolfson	bt St Catz	1/2 L
<i>Women's 4+ Band 1 Sprint (4 entries)</i>			
S/F	St Catz	bt Vesta	2 L
Final	St Catz	bt Barnes Bridge	2 L

China Trip

Last year three Catz oarsmen formed part of a composite crew organised by St Peter's in response to an invitation to send an Oxford University 'representative' eight to compete, all expenses paid, in a series of races in China. This year the invitation was repeated but with St Catherine's taking the lead role. Reading the reports on the internet, it seems that some of the distinction between Oxford University and Oxford College may have been lost in translation (I've had a similar experience myself in Devon).

Shane McCarthy, Men's Co-Captain

On the 26th of June Catz men's rowing club sent off a crew of eleven on a nine day rowing trip to China to compete against both local and international teams in two major regattas, the first being the 'World Leading Universities Regatta' in Nanchang and the second being the 'Second Head of the Grand Canal' in Yangzhou, on the Grand Canal at the Deep Dive centre.

Initially the team, composed of David Zimmer (coach), Clare Leckie (cox), Niels Wicke (captain), Bryce Starr, Rob Kilgour, Rudy Bunel (sub from L.M.H.), Lukas Lohove (sub from G.T.C.), Shane McCarthy, Nantas Nardelli, Rowan Nicholls (the women's coach) and George Newton, arrived in Shanghai, before taking an in-country flight to Nanchang.

In Nanchang we competed in two events: in the early morning was a four-lane 1 km sprint event with heats and then an A, B and C final, where the team, whilst initially struggling in the heats (and the heat!), was able to come out on top in the B final with a time of 3:17:18, beating teams like Cambridge (3:28:40) and MIT (3:24:91).



Nanchang: Catz boating for the 1 km heats.

Between Nanchang and Yangzhou the team enjoyed visiting multiple museums and tourist sites, such as Nanchang People's Square or the Pavilion of Prince Teng, to learn more about Chinese culture. We were also afforded the opportunity to present what life is like rowing and studying at Oxford to school children at a local school in Nanchang, whilst also getting them to compete in a friendly erg competition in mixed crews of the school children and university students. Not only was the trip educational but it was also thoroughly enjoyable and we hope to be invited back soon.

In the afternoon a 5 km head race took place. Interestingly, due to the size of the lake, half way through the course there was a required spin around a buoy, which was difficult to spot from the starting line. As a result, some unlucky crews did end up rowing more than 5 km in search for this notorious buoy, however the Catz men were spared the extra mileage thanks to the coxing prowess of Clare Leckie. This meant we took fourth place, over Harvard.

In Yangzhou the team were faced with a 6 km head race, which also featured spinning at the halfway point, on the Grand Canal. We came third overall with a time of 21:49, only losing to Harvard University and the University of Otago from New Zealand.

Aside from rowing in the regattas in Nanchang and Yangzhou, the Catz men also took part in multiple indoor erg competitions, most notably one in the centre of a shopping mall in Nanchang, where there was a 500 m sprint and two 8×250 m relays, one with the public involved and one without.



Just your average bunch of tourists taking in the sights in the People's Square in Nanchang. Wait — I hope those aren't *dark* blue t-shirts?

Oxford City Regatta

We took delivery of a couple of new fours over the summer. The official launch will be next term but the women couldn't resist having a look under the wraps. And having done that, might as well rig it. And maybe take it for a paddle? What's that? Oxford City Regatta coming up soon? Well, now . . .

Saturday's racing is over 850 m from the Head of the River down to the Gut. Catz were drawn against Wolfson in the first round and certainly gained valuable experience as they battled it out side-by-side down the whole course, losing out by just half a length (Wolfson went on to win the event).

Returning the next day for the 500 m sprint event, slightly older but considerably wiser, Catz won both their races comfortably to take the Women's Band 1 coxed fours title.

For those not familiar with the current classifications, the 'bands' are determined once entries have been received, based on totting up the racing points of each crew member, Band 1 being for the top crews.

Anyway, a couple of minutes after the women won their final, that Catz hardy perennial Tony Mitchell (M.78) came storming down the course to win the veteran mixed doubles.



Catz women's IV, having just won their final at Oxford City Sprint Regatta: Clare Leckie (bow), Kaja Fenn (Hertford), Rachel Craig-McFeely, Holly Smith and Niels Wicke (cox). Nonchalant, I'd say.

Total Bumps Starts — Women

In the last issue we noted that Mal Spencer had now registered his 100th bumps start in a Catz boat, well ahead of the next person (who I think is probably me, on 64). However, who holds the women's record?

We're counting up how many times someone has sat in a Catz boat when the start gun is fired. Of course it helps if you've both coxed and rowed in the same event, and if you've rowed as Sandwich Boat that counts as twice in one day. Also if you've stayed on to continue rowing as a post-grad. I've done my best to come up with totals for some of the more likely candidates and listed those on 30 or more.

	Years	Starts
1. Katharine Pierce	2003–2007	43
2. Emily Dana	1992–1996	36
3. Sarah Boddy	1999–2008	33
4. Jane Golley	1995–2002	32
5. Emily Thomas	1993–1998	30

An honourable mention for Holly Smith (see photo above), top of the currently active women, who just fails to make the list with 29.



Sarah Talbot and Tony Mitchell (M.78), definitely pleased with themselves after taking the veterans' mixed double sculls at OxCity Sprints.



A rare photo of Katharine Pierce, Women's Captain 2004, getting a chance to put her feet up

Coming Up ...

In the next issue we'll have the Captains' reports on the term's rowing (or land-based alternatives), news of our Triallists (one of whom, Augustin Wamberse, is this year's OUBC President), and the annual review.

Diary

27–30 Nov 2019 Christ Church Regatta
 26–29 Feb 2020 Torpids
 29 Feb 2020 RS AGM & Dinner

Anu Dudhia

Don Barton (1927–2019)

Donald Barton died on 25th September 2019, aged 92. He arrived at St Catherine's in 1948 and rowed in the 1st VIII until 1952. When the Rowing Society was founded in 1984 he was appointed as one of the original Vice-Presidents and, until recently, was an active member of the committee.

The Chairman, Kevin Skinner, writes: I always found Don to be a very wise and insightful contributor to the Rowing Society and I shall miss his support. His memoir on his time working with the Colonial Service in Africa in the 1950s (*An Affair with Africa*) speaks of a full life, well-lived.

Kevin and I attended the memorial service in Basingstoke on 11th October.



Members of the 1949 St Catherine's 1st VIII. Don Barton is seated, 2nd from the right.