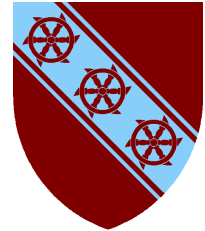




St Catherine's College Rowing Society
St Catherine's College, Oxford OX1 3UJ



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

5th November, 2023

In this issue . . .

There was a time when a marquee on college grounds had only pleasant connotations: summer balls, garden parties, that sort of thing. Covid rather spoiled that so when Catz students turned up at the start of term to find a marquee squeezed between the Master's lodge and the moat they probably realised that something was amiss. In this case, the RAAC scare (Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete) has meant closing the Dining Hall and the marquee is its replacement.

After a break of five years we finally managed to get a boatful of Gaudy attendees ('90s vintage) afloat. We'd planned to do the same again for those invited to the later Gaudy in September, but RAAC put paid to their event.

I've received an email concerning the discovery a 'St Catherine's Torpid Fours' tankard dating from 1906 which, somewhat improbably, was the starting point of a couple of divergent trails, one leading to Assam, India and the other to Fargo, North Dakota.

With some trepidation, it is also time to formally review the Boat Club performances from the past academic year. Having made steady progress from 17th to 9th place since 2015, St Catherine's is now down to 14th again. Time for another dead Catz bounce?



New boathouse, new blades, new kit. Bluebell Martin (M.94), Anna-Marie Ullmann (M.94), Laura Rose (M.96) and Louise Herring (M.97) at the Gaudy Paddle.

Gaudy Paddle

On the pleasant afternoon of Saturday, 24th June, 11 alumni back in Oxford for the Gaudy took an VIII out for a couple of laps of the Isis to see if, after a quarter of a century or more, there lingered any trace of muscle memory.

Considering that some of these people rowed in the day when we boated from the old OUBC boathouse (site of the present Univ boathouse), it was pleasantly surprising to see that there was indeed sufficient residual technique, and physique, to get the boat both sat and moving. I think we would even have managed to Row On, at least for the women's divisions.

Also rowing were Mike Bull (M.99), Peter Murphy (M.95), Dilveer Panesar (M.99), Ben Parry (M.96), Jen Rees (M.98), Emmy Skinner (M.93) and Aisha Sowky (M.98). I coxed these youngsters.



Michaelmas term started with the unwelcome sight of tents once again parked on our lawn.



As you were. The 1995 Women's 2nd Eight, in front of the old OUBC boathouse. Anna-Marie Ullmann is 4th from left and Bluebell Martin kneeling.

Torpid Fours Trophy

I received an email from V Savery who had acquired a 1906 pewter tankard inscribed 'St Catherine's Torpid Fours', along with the names of the crew: W N Carter (cox), A E Minard (Str), J H Spear (3), E A Mannheimer (2) and N G A Edgely (Bow).



The 1906 St Catherine's Torpid Fours trophy. Photo: V Savery.

Searching the internet, Edgely is probably the Justice N G A Edgely who, in 1929, was the District and Sessions Judge of Sylhet and Cachar (Assam, India) and in 1946 was President of the Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal, but I could find no other details.

A similar search for A E Minard proved rather more successful . . .



A E Minard (centre) from the 1907 St Catherine's Torpid

A E Minard (1878–1950)

I found this on a web-site associated with North Dakota State University. The dates seem to suggest it could well be the same person who rowed for St Catherine's in 1906–07. I'll leave you to judge from the photos.



A E Minard at the North Dakota Agricultural College. Photo from NDSU.

Archibald Ellsworth Minard was born in King's County, Nova Scotia, Jan. 18, 1878. He moved to the United States with his parents in 1889. Minard earned both bachelor's and master's degrees from Harvard University. He also studied at the University of Chicago, University of Wisconsin and Oxford University in England.

Minard became an instructor of English and philosophy at North Dakota Agricultural College (NDAC) in 1904. He was head of the English Department and later served as Dean of the School of Applied Arts and Sciences from 1919 to 1949. Minard also served as acting president of NDAC from July to September 1929, after President Coulter resigned.

Minard resigned from his position as dean in 1949, but remained in the school as a professor of philosophy. Minard was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, American Association for the Advancement of Science, National Education Association, and the North Dakota Education Association. In addition, he was author of NDAC's school song, 'The Yellow and the Green'.

Minard married twice, first to Gladys May Pease on September 2, 1908. She died December 23, 1939. On August 6, 1941, he married Mrs Elita Olson McArdle.

Minard died May 9, 1950, in Bethesda, Md. In his memory, friends and colleagues provided a memorial shelf of philosophy and science books in the NDAC library. The science building, which housed the School of Applied Arts and Sciences, was rededicated as Minard Hall on June 4, 1951.

2022–23 Review

There were three side-by-side regattas in Michaelmas Term: Autumn Fours, Nephthys and the new (formerly Christ Church) 'Michaelmas Novice Regatta'. The number of Catz entries in these events was down compared to the previous year, as was the number of races won. The best performance was from the Men's Senior VIII who came within 3/4 of a length of defending their Nephthys title.

Apart from their winning three rounds to make the final, Catz' only other 'wins' were in the MNR: the men's novice VIII won their race but, racing as a 'friendly' crew (i.e., couldn't find enough 'legally' novice rowers) they could progress no further; and the women's only win came when their novices rowed over in their repêchage.

Michaelmas Term Regattas

	Men		Women	
	2022	2023	2022	2023
Entries	8	5	5	2
Races	17	8	8	3
Wins	10	4	2	1
Win%	59%	50%	25%	33%

Best results shown in bold

In a flood-affected season, only two Isis Winter League races could be run, and a supplementary 'Isis Spring League' event was therefore held at the start of Trinity Term. Catz had men's and women's VI-IIs racing in every event. The best results were from the first IWL, with the men finishing 2nd while the women, although 7th, were only 6.5 s off the winning time.

Fastest Catz VIIIs in IWL Races

Date	Event	Men		Women	
		Pos	Time	Pos	Time
30-10-22	IWL-A	2nd	+12.0 s	7th	+6.5 s
05-02-23	IWL-D	9th	+33.0 s	5th	+19.5 s
30-04-23	ISL-A	3rd	+16.5 s	8th	+21.5 s

'Time' is difference from winning time

Four crews were entered for Torpids, one fewer than last year, but with the Women's 2nd Torpid succeeding in Rowing On we ended up with more crews actually racing. The women's 2nd Torpid also proved our most successful crew, getting Catz' only bump of the week and dropping just one place overall. Our other three boats dropped an average of 6 places a day over the 4 days, with the women's 1st Torpid finishing 29th on the river, their lowest ever position.

There were five Catz students in the December Trial VIIIs races, our largest contingent since 2005. Of these, three were selected (in the OULRC, Osiris and OUBC crews) to race Cambridge but, as with all Oxford crews last year, they lost.

A late Easter training camp was once again held at Lago di Monate in northern Italy, and straight after that the men put together a scratch crew to compete in the City Bumps, raced this time in VIIIs rather than the usual IVs.

Four crews were entered for Eights, one fewer than last year in the absence of a Men's 3rd Eight. The best result, once again defined by being the only Catz crew to get a bump (albeit a penalty bump), was from the Men's 2nd Eight, who were also the only Catz boat not to get bumped this year. The Men's 1st and Women's 2nd Eights lost three places each, the men just managing to row over on the last day to keep themselves in Division I, while the women's 1st Eight lost 5 places through an additional penalty bump.

Catz Crews: Current Positions (& highest–lowest positions, 2014–2023)

	Men		Women	
	2023	Range	2023	Range
1st Torpid	9th	(3–9)	29th	(8–29)
2nd Torpid	42nd	(33–47)	64th	(48–64)
3rd Torpid			—	(60–63)
1st Eight	12th	(7–14)	19th	(14–24)
2nd Eight	44th	(42–49)	62nd	(51–74)
3rd Eight	—	(56–89)	—	(75–79)
4th Eight	—	(88–91)		

College Standings

The table below shows the change in positions of the college boat clubs since last year based on assigning points for each crew according to their positions on the river in Eights and Torpids. It's an exponential scale so more points are gained for moving up places in the top division than the bottom.

Since there was an extra women's division in Torpids, and also more women's crews in Eights, the number of points available for women's crews has increased this year.

College Standings and Points

2022		2023		
1	Wolfson	364	Christ Church	394
2	Christ Church	343	Oriel	382
3	Oriel	334	Wolfson	380
4	University	291	University	346
5	Pembroke	284	Pembroke	335
6	Wadham	284	Keble	305
7	Keble	253	Wadham	266
8	S.E.H.	224	S.E.H.	260
9	St Catherine's	209	Magdalen	250
10	Balliol	203	Balliol	240
11	Magdalen	202	New College	224
12	New College	198	Jesus	201
13	Jesus	183	Lincoln	193
14	Trinity	175	St Catherine's	182
15	Hertford	162	Hertford	179
16	Lincoln	138	L.M.H.	167
17	L.M.H.	132	Trinity	165
18	Merton	121	G.T.C.	145
19	Brasenose	104	Exeter	140
20	Linacre	103	Merton	137
21	St John's	100	Brasenose	134
22	Exeter	100	St John's	125
23	G.T.C.	99	St Hugh's	123
24	St Hugh's	99	Linacre	122
25	Somerville	99	St Peter's	113
26	Queen's	97	Worcester	111
27	Mansfield	93	Queen's	110
28	St Anne's	89	Mansfield	110
29	St Peter's	78	Somerville	99
30	Worcester	76	St Anne's	96
31	Corpus Christi	70	Corpus Christi	77
32	St Antony's	55	St Antony's	75
33	St Hilda's	41	St Hilda's	58
34	Osler House	25	Osler House	31
35	Regent's Park	23	Regent's Park	27
36	St Benet's Hall	16	St Benet's Hall	15

St Catherine's dropped this year from 9th down to 14th. The last time we had such a drop, from 11th to

17th in 2015, it was immediately turned around and Catz rose every subsequent year until last year. The trick will be to repeat that turnaround.

At the top, Wolfson drop from 1st to 3rd, mainly due to losses from their women's crews, and Christ Church are now the leading college, having taken Headships in both the Men's Torpids and Women's Eights this year.

St Benet's Hall officially closed a year ago but the boat club lives on. They haven't actually raced since then but, had they raced, I think they might have officially been 'Blackfriars'. But from this term they, and presumably their places in the bumps finishing order, will be inherited by Reuben College, a new graduate college based on Parks Rd, on the site of the former Radcliffe Science Library.

Coming up ...

The river is currently on Red Flag and Autumn Fours, due to be raced this weekend, has been cancelled (as indeed has the Tideway Fours Head). But last weekend we had the first round of IWL and hopefully there will be more results for the next newsletter, along with reports from the new captains.

There will also be news of the University crews. I believe there is at least one Catz triallist but I'm waiting until they publish the squad lists to see if there are any others.



The Women's Senior VIII, after racing in last weekend's Isis Winter League A.

Diary

22–25 Nov 2023	Michaelmas Novice Regatta
28 Feb – 2 Mar 2024	Torpids
2 Mar 2024	RS AGM & Dinner [tbc]
22–25 May 2024	Eights

Anu Dudhia