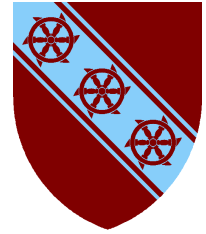




St Catherine's College Rowing Society
St Catherine's College
Oxford OX1 3UJ



20th May, 2014

In this issue . . .

We have the results and reports on the University Boat Races which, once again, mostly went Oxford's way. The unfortunate exception was the race which featured one of our current undergraduates, but he provides his reflections on rowing with the men's lightweights. One of our oldest members, Trevor Brown, died in March and, by way of an obituary, we reproduce a citation he received last September in recognition of his lifetime's work. For our younger readers we have a job-advert from a former Captain of Boats. Finally there are details of Summer Eights (28-31st May) and a rowing opportunity for alumni.

Results

Intercollegiate Races, 30th March

Men:	Downing	bt	Oriel	1/2 L
Women:	Wadham	bt	1st & 3rd Trinity	2 1/2 L

Henley Boat Races, 30th March

Women's Reserves	Oxford	1/2 L	6:01.5
Women's Lightweights†	Oxford	3 1/2 L	6:08
Women's Blue Boat	Oxford	4 L	5:50
Men's Lightweights‡	Cambridge	3 1/2 L	5:30

† Emma Clifton (M.08) (7)

‡ David Zimmer (2)



The Osiris cox counting off Blondie oarswomen in the only one of this year's University Boat Races where both crews were still in the same frame approaching the finish.

Veterans' Boat Race, 5th April

Cambridge	bt	Oxford	1 1/4 L	7:30
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Tideway Boat Races, 6th April

Men's Reserves	Oxford	13 L	18:39
Men's Blue Boat	Oxford	11 L	18:36

Oxford City Bumps, 26th April

St Catz IV racing in Men's Div 2

Race	Start	Result	
1	10th	-1	Bumped by Pangbourne B
2	11th	=	Rowed Over
3	11th	+1	Bumped Wadham
4	10th	+1	Bumped CORC T2 A



St Catz men closing on Wadham in City Bumps at the start of term (Photo: Peter Morgan).

Bedford Regatta, 10th May

Women's Novice VIII's (8 entries)

King's Sch. Chester	bt	Catz II	Easily	ntt
Univ. Coll. (Oxf)	bt	Catz I	5 L	4:06

Women's College VIII's (4 entries)

Univ. Coll. (Oxf)	bt	Catz I	Easily	4:06
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Isis Spring League, 11th May
68 crews raced, 31 Men's VIII's

1st	4:09.5	Magdalen A	1st M8
7th*	4:32	St Catz	7th M8

*Unofficially — Catz were not timed

The Henley Boat Races

A very ‘corporate’ feel for this, the last of the Henley Boat Races featuring the Women’s Blue Boats (they’ll be racing on the Tideway next year). Not being one of the honoured guests of the high-profile sponsor, whose name escapes me, I was ushered around the side of the welcoming marquee and ended up on the river bank, er . . . along with everyone else.

The programme opened with the intercollegiate races and, for only the second time since these started in 2010, an Oxford College (Wadham) beat its Cambridge opposition & 3rd Trinity). Wadham’s coach, Rod Andrews (who’ll be well-known to Catz rowers from the 1980s), was looking quite pleased, especially since he’ll have essentially the same crew starting 2nd on the river in Eights. Oxford have yet to win the men’s race but Oriel were at least close enough to Downing to clash blades just short of the finish line.

And so, on to the ‘real’ Boat Races. Osiris and Blondie were closely matched and although Osiris took an early lead they never managed to get clear, finishing just half a length up. In the women’s lightweights’ race it was Cambridge who took the early lead but not for long as Oxford just rowed through them. The Cambridge women’s Blue Boat had a 4 kg per person weight advantage, but Oxford seemed unimpressed as they left Cambridge at the start and continued to extend their lead all the way to the finish line (the BBC will be hoping for a more even match-up next year). Just when everything seemed to be going the way of the Dark Blues, the Cambridge supporters finally had something to cheer as their men’s lightweights proved equally dominant in the last race of the day. But still, an excellent day for Oxford’s women’s crews.

Current Catz student David Zimmer was rowing in the Oxford men’s lightweight crew (see his report) and former student Emma Clifton (now at Magdalen) was rowing for the women’s lightweights.

Tideway Boat Races

This year was the 50th running of the reserves Boat Race and the Oxford supporters watching the BBC coverage were treated to the welcome, if slightly puzzling, spectacle of Isis cruising over the finish line with Goldie a long, long way behind. It seems that there were no mishaps, Oxford were just a lot faster. Isis, now with 4 consecutive wins, maintain the longest current winning streak in any of the 6 University Boat Races.

In the men’s Blue Boat race, Oxford won the toss and opted for the Surrey station, giving Cambridge the advantage of the first bend. Cambridge worked

hard to make the most of it but once the course had straightened out they only a couple of seats to show for their effort. With the crews rowing stroke-for-stroke, it was evident that Oxford had the higher base speed. Having reversed the deficit Oxford then put in a big push for clear water. With his crew spent and Oxford about to get away the Cambridge cox had only one card left to play, which was to ‘lean’ on Oxford in the hope that they’d either cede the stream to avoid any entanglement, or at least that a blade clash would disrupt their rhythm. Oxford didn’t budge, the Cambridge no.2 clipped the Oxford no.7 blade, his oar flipped over and the resulting crab very nearly caused an ejection from the Boat (I believe he had his head dunked in the Thames at one point). By the time Cambridge had recovered Oxford had half a length of clear water, a margin which just increased every stroke.

At the end of the race the Cambridge cox raised his hand in appeal — for which the umpire had, understandably, little sympathy since just before the collision he had been warning Cambridge not to encroach on Oxford’s water. Cambridge also subsequently claimed that they were slowed down by the damaged rigger caused by the crab although, watching the replay, once they restarted their no.2 seemed to be pulling just as effectively as everyone else.

But Cambridge did, once again, win the Veterans’ Boat Race. We’ll let them have that one. We’ve given them precious little else these past 10 years.

Boat Race Wins: Oxf-Cam	2005–14	Overall
Men’s Blue Boat	7-3	78-81
Men’s Reserves	6-4	21-29
Men’s Lightweights	6-4	15-23
Women’s Blue Boat	7-3	27-40
Women’s Reserves	8-2	17-23
Women’s Lightweights	7-3	12-16

Oxford Men’s Lightweights

David Zimmer, no.2 in OULRC

My journey from racing in the 2010 Christ Church Regatta to competing in the Lightweight Men’s Boat Race this year has certainly been an interesting one. This has been my third consecutive year of rowing for OUL, and undoubtedly the most exciting. An extensive new year training camp in north western France was a great distraction from the rigours of academic life. The endless river Loire, coupled with wet and wild conditions led to some of the most challenging but rewarding rowing I’ve ever experienced. Due to the extensive flooding, we were forced to relocate from Wallingford to Dorney Lake for a lengthy

period, resulting in some rather early starts to get back for lectures etc. The squad then travelled to Holland early in March to attend a highly competitive international regatta racing through the centre of Amsterdam. 250m, 750m, 2500m and 5000m time trials over the weekend produced some incredible racing, and both crews achieved impressive results. An intensive training programme saw us train twice a day, every day, and allowed the squad and I to smash PB's in all aspects of our training. Whilst our result this year was somewhat disappointing, we were simply beaten by the better crew on the day, and the experience of trialling is one that I'll never forget. Rowing for OUL has been one of the greatest decisions of my life, and has taught me far more than how to row. Thanks to SCCBC and the Rowing Society for all the support along the journey.

Trevor Brown (1923–2014)

Trevor Brown (M.41) died on 14th March, at the age of 90. He was one of the Rowing Society's oldest members (along with Jim Walker, who tells me they were also in the same class at school). Tony Hancox will provide an obituary in the next St Catherine's Year, but here we reproduce the citation he received from David Rendle MP (himself a former Oxford rowing Blue) upon receipt of the Lib Dem's President's Award last September.

Trevor is the only person I have ever known who sacrificed his whole career for his political principles and for our party. His life has been a shining example of Liberal Democracy in action.

As a senior Scientific Officer at the Aldermaston Atomic Weapons Research Establishment, Trevor was given permission to stand for the County Council in 1973. During his second term on the Council, he was invited to take part in a TV programme. His employers refused permission for this on the grounds that it would be a contempt of court. However he then received advice from the County Solicitor that no contempt of court could be involved, since no proceedings had been entered concerning the matters he was to discuss.

During the programme he expressed the view which he had arrived at some time earlier (and which he had long been expressing within the organisation) that the culture of secrecy at Aldermaston had led to a lowering of safety standards. He did so as a County Councillor, speaking on behalf of his constituents, some of whom also worked on the site.

An independent official inquiry (led by Sir Edward Pochin) later confirmed that Trevor's concerns had indeed been fully justified and that several employees at Aldermaston had been subjected to levels of

radiation well above accepted safety limits, leading to a cessation of the work involved until new buildings were available.

In spite of this, Trevor was first severely reprimanded, and eventually forced out of his job. He was never given the right to an independent appeal, and this whole case preceded, of course, the 'Whistle-blower' legislation now in place.

Having first served as a Borough Councillor, Trevor served with distinction as a County Councillor for four terms, during which amongst other achievements, he helped to ensure that Greenham Common was returned to Council ownership and opened up to the public. He has also been an officer of the local party, and a frequent attendee, not only at local party functions, but also at regional and national conferences.

Trevor has never received any Government acknowledgement of the gross injustice done to him, nor any compensation for the financial loss and distress which he has suffered. He is now an elderly man and increasingly frail. If the party is to show its appreciation of the example he has set us all of what it means to be prepared to suffer personally for your political beliefs, the time to show that appreciation has surely come.

Moreover the issues on which he made his stand have been highlighted recently, with the safety of the nuclear industry (in terms of both defence and power production) being highly topical, and freedom of information, the rights of the media and the rights of local councillors all being currently under discussion.



The 1942 St Catherine's 1st Eight. Back row, left to right: G. A. Morrison (4), J. H. Kahle (3), A. Green (2), T. J. Brown (bow). Middle row, left to right: S. Solomon (6), R. N. Giles (str), J. Marsh (coach), J. H. Walker (7), W. G. Timms (5). Front: G. Knight (cox).

Coach Wanted at Bryanston School

From Graham Elliot (M.80), and former Catz Men's Captain, nowadays master i/c rowing at Bryanston School

Bryanston School in Dorset is a co-educational boarding school for 13 to 18 year olds. We train on a small stretch of the River Stour in the school grounds. We have a busy club offering rowing and sculling to boys and girls throughout the school. We are looking for a coach for one year from September 2014. The position also involves assisting the boatman, and duties and responsibilities in a boarding house. The salary is modest because the position includes accommodation in a boarding house and meals. The position is most likely to suit a recent graduate looking to start building their coaching experience, but all applications will be considered. We look for energy and enthusiasm. Coaching qualifications and the ability to drive minibuses and trailers would be an advantage, but are not essential. For information please e mail the head of rowing, Graham Elliot, at gse@bryanston.co.uk. Further details will be on the school website www.bryanston.co.uk

Eights 2014

Eights will be from 28–31 May. St Catherine's have entered four crews, of which the women's 2nd Eight will have to qualify in Rowing On this coming Friday.

Eights 2014: Wednesday Start Times

Crew	Div	Bunghline	Time
Men's 1st Eight	I	7	6.45pm
Women's 1st Eight	II	3	5.15pm
Men's 2nd Eight	IV	3	3.40pm
Women's 2nd Eight*	V	3	1.45pm

*subject to Rowing On

NB: on Sat. all divisions race 1 hour earlier

The women's 1st Eight will be chasing Worcester (who bumped them last year) and chased by Jesus (who got close), although so far neither of these crews looks to be up to last year's standard. The men face a bigger challenge: starting ahead of Trinity, who won blades last year and — on paper at least — containing two of this year's Blue Boat and one from Isis. Ahead of Catz are Magdalen, who won the ISL head race earlier in the term.

You can find some videos of our crews in training last weekend on the 'News' page of the RS web-site.

Eights 2014

Positions of Catz 1st Eights and last year's change

Men's Div I		Women's Div II	
1 Pembroke	+1	1 Somerville	+3
2 Christ Church	+1	2 Worcester	+3
3 Oriol	-2	3 St Catherine's	-2
4 University	+1	4 Jesus	+2
5 Wolfson	-1	5 New College	-3
6 Magdalen	+1	6 Exeter	+1
7 St Catherine's	+2	6 St Anne's	-3
8 Trinity	+4	8 Lincoln	=
9 Balliol	-3	9 Linacre	=
10 Worcester	+5	10 Trinity	+2
11 Hertford	-3	11 Mansfield	-1
12 S.E.H.	-2	12 Wadham II	+4
13 Keble	+1	13 Queen's	+1

No bicycles are allowed on the towpath on the Saturday, which makes for a civilised (and child-friendly) atmosphere, with the Gut proving a popular spot for picnics in fair weather. You can park at the Redbridge Park & Ride, from where it is a short walk to join the towpath at Donnington Bridge.

Gaudy Paddle

The College is holding a Gaudy on Saturday 28th June for those who matriculated between 1962–1972. In conjunction with this, we invite all RS members (not just those attending the Gaudy) to take out some of the College boats for a short (!) mid-afternoon outing. Email me if you think you might join us so we can gauge numbers, and you might also want to start rounding up former crewmates for your own reunion.

Coming Up ...

In the next issue there will be reports and results from Eights, another attempt at squeezing in the the events of 15 years ago before they become the events of 16 years ago. Contributions from alumni always welcome.

Anu Dudhia

email: dudhia@atm.ox.ac.uk

Row.Soc: <http://www.atm.ox.ac.uk/rowing/rs.html>

www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=93221115264

Diary

28–31 May 2014	Eights
31 May 2014	Eights Dinner (Oxford)
28 June 2014	Gaudy Paddle
19 Jul 2014	London Drinks, Founders Arms