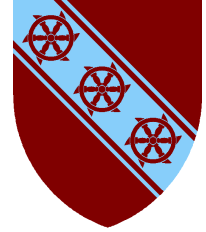




St Catherine's College Rowing Society
St Catherine's College
Oxford OX1 3UJ



28th June, 2014

In this issue . . .

We have the results and reports on Eights, and the announcement of this year's winner of the Ben Sylvester Award. There have also been some distinguished performances from our alumni in the World Cup competition (not *that* one, obviously), but we'll catch up with them in the next newsletter. Sadly, we also note the recent death of Frank Gignac. John Lipscomb, a long-standing friend from their Boat Club days, provides an obituary. Frank had been an avid reader of these newsletters, his last email to me was to say how they always reminded him of happy times rowing in Oxford. I think he would have enjoyed the final OURCs tweet from Summer Eights: "Fine for Catz for throwing the commentator into the river!".

Results

Rowing On, 23rd May

Women's crews, top 29/30 to qualify

3:05.7	1st	Jesus III	Qualified
3:42.7	18th	Catz II	Qualified
5:31.0	29th	Magdalen III	Qualified

Eights, 28–31 May

	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Finish
Men's I	=	-1	=	-1	9th Div I
Women's I	-1	-1	-1	-1	7th Div II
Men's II	-1	-1	-1	-1	7rd Div IV
Women's II	=	+1	=	+1	12th Div IV



Eights 2014 Bumps Charts

MEN	WED THU FRI SAT	WOMEN	WED THU FRI SAT
I PEMBROKE CHRIST CHURCH ORIEL UNIVERSITY WOLFSON MAGDALEN ST CATHERINE'S TRINITY BALLIOL WORCESTER HERTFORD S.E.H. KEBLE		I ST JOHN'S WADHAM S.E.H. PEMBROKE MAGDALEN BALLIOL CHRIST CHURCH UNIVERSITY HERTFORD MERTON KEBLE ORIEL WOLFSON	
II WADHAM LINCOLN ST JOHN'S ST ANNE'S NEW COLLEGE BRASENOSE L.M.H. EXETER MANSFIELD JESUS CHRIST CHURCH II SOMERVILLE ST PETER'S		II SOMERVILLE WORCESTER ST CATHERINE'S JESUS NEW COLLEGE EXETER ST ANNE'S LINCOLN LINACRE TRINITY MANSFIELD WADHAM II QUEEN'S	
III PEMBROKE II ORIEL II CORPUS CHRISTI QUEEN'S MERTON ST HUGH'S NEW COLLEGE II S.E.H. II LINACRE UNIVERSITY II ST ANTONY'S MAGDALEN II TRINITY II		III ST HUGH'S CORPUS CHRISTI ST HILDA'S BRASENOSE L.M.H. ST JOHN'S II WOLFSON II ST ANTONY'S ST PETER'S PEMBROKE II CHRIST CHURCH II LINACRE II WORCESTER II	
IV WADHAM II BALLIOL II ST CATHERINE'S II WORCESTER II KEBLE II WOLFSON II MERTON II JESUS II BRASENOSE II LINCOLN II GREEN TEMPLETON HERTFORD II ST PETER'S II		IV HERTFORD II UNIVERSITY II MERTON II LINCOLN II GREEN TEMPLETON MAGDALEN II TRINITY II L.M.H. II ORIEL II LINCOLN III NEW COLLEGE II S.E.H. II BALLIOL II	
V OSLER HOUSE ST JOHN'S II ST HILDA'S CHRIST CHURCH III PEMBROKE III REGENT'S PARK ST ANNE'S II JESUS III WADHAM III QUEEN'S II ST BENET'S HALL WOLFSON III SOMERVILLE II		V ST CATHERINE'S II REGENT'S PARK WORCESTER III ST ANNE'S II BRASENOSE III ST JOHN'S III QUEEN'S II GREEN TEMPLETON II JESUS II JESUS III UNIVERSITY III SOMERVILLE II PEMBROKE III	
VI L.M.H. II TRINITY III UNIVERSITY III GREEN TEMPLETON II ST HUGH'S II ORIEL III NEW COLLEGE III ST HILDA'S II WOLFSON IV BRASENOSE III ST HUGH'S III MAGDALEN III S.E.H. III		VI ST HUGH'S II ORIEL III GREEN TEMPLETON II KEBLE II CHRIST CHURCH III NEW COLLEGE III MANSFIELD II CORPUS CHRISTI II UNIVERSITY IV KEBLE III ST HUGH'S III UNIVERSITY V ST ANNE'S III ST PETER'S II	
VII ST JOHN'S III PEMBROKE IV MAGDALEN IV CORPUS CHRISTI II HERTFORD III MANSFIELD II KEBLE III LINACRE II UNIVERSITY IV TRINITY IV ST ANNE'S III KEBLE IV MERTON III SOMERVILLE III			

President: Bruce Mitchell
 Vice Presidents: Don Barton,
 Richard Peters,
 Sir Matthew Pinsent CBE,
 Ben Sylvester.

Oriel Regatta, 13–14 June

Mixed VIIIs

1st Round	bt S.E.H. II	rowed over
2nd Round	lost to Jesus	1/2 L
3rd Round	lost to S.E.H. I	1/2 L

Women's VIIIs

1st Round	bt Magdalen II
2nd Round	lost to Green Templeton

European Championships, 30th May–1st June Belgrade, Serbia

Women's VIIIs (9 entries)

2nd	GBR	cox: Zoe de Toledo (M.10)
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Men's IVs (16 entries)

1st	GBR	str: Andy Triggs Hodge (M.04)
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Rowing World Cup II, 19th–22nd June Aiguebelette, France

Women's VIIIs (5 entries)

2nd	GBR	cox: Zoe de Toledo (M.10)
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Men's IVs (10 entries)

1st	GBR1	str: Andy Triggs Hodge (M.04)
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2014 St Catherine's Eights

Men's 1st Eight

B Malcolm Spencer
2 Ryan Kahn
3 Alex Barbaro
4 Matt Steiner
5 Ben Baron
6 Jure Jeric
7 Peter Forsyth
S Robin Muir
C Fleur Nash
Coach Anu Dudhia

Women's 1st Eight

B Lucy Roberts
2 Jennifer Lange
3 Miriam Mahmoud
4 Alice Pickthall
5 Jessica Sutherland
6 Stephanie Bryson
7 Laura Gerrard
S Bonnie Nortz
C Dolf Diemont
Coach Mal Spencer

Men's 2nd Eight

B Calvin Lai
2 Jack Slone
3 Adam Weston
4 Chris Elsby
5 Andrew van Paridon
6 Martin Cusack
7 Mike Humphries
S Peter Morgan
C Anna Corderoy
Coach Ben Baron

Women's 2nd Eight

B Padmini Gopal
2 Chloe Rutland
3 Coral Flanagan
4 Anneke Kramm
5 Katia Mattis
6 Katie Rhodes
7 Linda Geaves
S Elena Watson
C Rebecca Lenihan
Coach Mal Spencer

Women's Boat Club Report

Jessica Sutherland, Women's Captain

Another frustrating term with results that reflected our lack of water time in Hilary. Despite this, we started off the term with a training camp in –1st week with an aim to set crews by 1st week, our first real chance to get back on the water, and for some members of the squad their first real chance to row on the water as seniors.

Having done that we began to train for Bedford Regatta on 10th May, in which W1 raced twice against Univ and W2 raced against King's School Chester. After that training began in earnest for Summer Eights, in which W1 performed relatively poorly, going down four places in total. W2, however, was Catz' most successful boat, moving up into fixed divisions, bumping twice and rowing over twice. The final event of term was Oriel Regatta, in which the women's eight beat Magdalen II in the first round, losing to Green Templeton in the second round.

All in all, the commitment and the fitness training last term really showed in terms of erg scores, but we couldn't quite match up to those crews that had been able to make the most of out-of-Oxford water time last term. Despite that, our second eight has finally made it into fixed divisions, so we can safely say that for them it was a successful term.

However, regardless of success in Summer Eights, every member of the squad has improved immensely over the course of the term, and their unfailing commitment and enthusiasm has meant that rowing has been an incredibly enjoyable experience for us all. Thanks to Poppy Lambert, our outgoing captain who has led us through all of this year's weather-based disappointment without failing in her own enthusiasm and to Mal, who has once again made all of this year's achievements a possibility.



Women's 1st Eight *after* their final race

Men's Boat Club Report

Robin Muir, Men's Captain

Following the frustration of the cancellation of Torpids, the Senior Men's Squad were desperate to get back on the water during the Easter break, and hit the ground running with an excellent training camp in Oxford during –1st Week. To acquaint the members of the squad that were new to Bumps with the unique racing format, a coxed four was entered into the Oxford City Bumps races with encouraging results; the crew were bumped by a Pangbourne College school crew, and in the last two runs managed to bump a crew from Wadham and City of Oxford.

With Undergraduate Collections finished and the full squad back in Oxford, we had to address the issue of selection — some hard fought seat racing and trial outings resulted in Mike Humphries and Chris Elsby missing out on places in M1. With our newly formed crew, M1 began to gear up to the Isis Spring League race, where we put in what we were placed 7th, in what we agreed was a solid performance that showed an encouraging amount of speed to come. With just under three weeks to go until Summer Eights, our sights were set firmly on the big event. With the invaluable assistance of Anu Dudhia and David Zimmer on the bank, I can honestly say that the preparation in those weeks leading up to Eights could not have gone any better; the effort from every crew member was always visible, and the boat was getting faster every time we stepped in it.

By the time Eights came around, we all felt ready. Unfortunately, M2 were out-muscled following last year's success, and were bumped by Worcester II, Jesus II, Keble II and Brasenose II. In M1, we found ourselves lining up in front of a strong Trinity crew with a handful of University oarsmen, and despite a good race, we were bumped in the Gut. Thursday saw a heroic effort to hold off Balliol, a crew we knew would be strong on the back of their Christ Church Regatta victory, and we hoped to do the same on the Friday. Unfortunately a messy start ensured that we were unable to hit a good rhythm, and a clinical Balliol caught us. As has been the case in all my bumps campaigns for Catz, we saved the best until last, putting in a solid row-over behind Balliol that we all felt was a just reflection of the effort we had all put in over the course of the year.

In 7th week, representatives of the Men's Squad joined the women to get through one round of Mixed Eights at Oriel Regatta.



Men's 1st Eight racing on the Friday

When Eights finished it was time for me to conclude what had been a challenging, but deeply rewarding year captaining the Men's Squad, a group of fantastic individuals who have been an absolute pleasure to work with. I'm looking forward to the opportunities that the Presidency holds, and am equally excited to see Ben Baron lead the men next year, his winning of the Benjamin Sylvester award is a testament to his commitment to the Boat Club — we're very lucky to have him!

Ben Sylvester Award

An unusually large number of people were put forward for this year's award, but Ben Baron emerged as the clear winner, not only by the number of people who nominated him but also that they spanned the whole Boat Club.

Ben started as a novice in 2012, progressing through the 2nd VIII in Torpids and Eights, then promoted to the 1st VIII this year. In Michaelmas Term he was jointly responsible for organising the men's novice programme and has taken on primary responsibility for coaching the Men's 2nd Eight this term. He has also been elected as next year's Men's Captain.

Those who nominated him have said:

'He seems the calm and steady 'constant' of SC-CBC ... When others treat minor pitfalls as major catastrophes, Ben approaches all things related to the boat club with calm, confidence, and — most importantly — a sense of humour.'

'Ben is never late for training and always available to bank ride/coach/cox at short notice ... an integral part to the day-to-day functioning of the boat club'

'I believe that the boat clubs is in very safe hands with him as captain next year'

Also nominated were: Rosie Bridson, Dolf Diemont, Katherine Ember, Mike Humphries, Miriam Mahmoud, Katie Power, Lucy Roberts, Imogen Sharkey-Ochoa, Matthias Steiner.



Ben Baron receiving the Ben Sylvester Award from RS Chairman, Kevin Skinner (left)

Rev Francis Gignac, S.J. (1933–2014)

John Lipscomb (M.56) writes

Jesuit Father Francis T. Gignac was born, in Detroit, Michigan on Feb. 2, 1933, the son of a doctor. He died on June 4, 2014.

Graduating from the University of Detroit High School in 1950, Frank entered the Society of Jesus on Sept. 8, 1950, in Milford, Ohio. He obtained a bachelor's degree in Latin (1955), a master's degree in classics (1957) and also a licentiate degree in philosophy (1957) through Loyola University Chicago as part of his preparation for the priesthood.

In 1958, Frank became a graduate student at Campion Hall. A fitness enthusiast, although he had never rowed before he came up, he became an active member of St Catherine's Boat Club. With an ideal build for the 'engine room' of a crew, he made rapid progress culminating in an Isis seat in 1961 and Blades with the Catz 1st Eight the following year. He also gave time generously to coaching Catz crews up to 1964, when he was awarded his D. Phil. in Greek and Philology. By then he had also become an authority on the early Greek language and one of the world's few papyrologists.

He returned to the USA to complete his training to become a full member of the Jesuit Order. He was ordained on June 14, 1967, at Colombiere College in Clarkston, Michigan.

In 1968, he was appointed professor of Biblical Theology at Fordham University (in New York) and then in 1974 became a professor of Biblical Greek and Biblical Studies at Catholic University in Washington, D.C. where he remained for the rest of his professional career. His enthusiasm for rowing continued, coaching at Fordham and, in Washington, finding a fresh outlet in the annual 'Camsis' Boat Race on the Potomac. To ensure he kept fully fit, he took up long distance running. He completed 25 Marine Corps

marathons, ran the Boston Marathon four times and finished the Cherry Blossom 10-mile race in D.C. each year for 30 years.

From 1981 to 2003 he served as Chairman of the Biblical Studies Department. His classical skills were also put to use with his appointment as one of the Board of Editors of the New American Catholic Bible published in 1986. Over a period of forty years, outside his faculty work, Frank also assisted in parish work at St. Nicholas Catholic Church in Laurel, Maryland.

In May 2013, at the age of 80, failing health led to his resignation from the faculty and he moved to Colombiere Center in Clarkston, Michigan.

From his first lessons in rowing in Autumn 1958, Frank and I kept in close and regular contact meeting in the New York and Washington and sometimes on occasional visits to the UK. We last met to have a coffee together on Union Station in Washington where I was catching a train for New York. He sent me a cheerful email in May saying he had been very happy in the Jesuit retirement community at Colombiere and asking me to keep in touch. Sadly he died only four weeks later, from congestive heart and renal failure. He was 81 years old.

Google 'Frank Gignac youtube' and you'll find a tribute including photos from his Oxford days.

Coming Up ...

In the next issue there will be reports of summer racing and yet another attempt at squeezing in the the events of 15 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

19 Jul 2014 London Drinks, Founders Arms



The Women's 2nd Eight, Catz' most successful crew of 2014