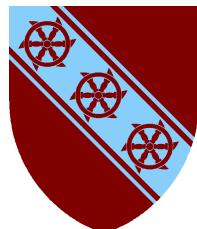


St Catherine's College Rowing Society
St Catherine's College, Oxford OX1 3UJ



President: Colin Smith

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

29th June, 2025

In this issue ...

The fine weather at the start of term has continued, resulting in one of those classic Summer Eights that everyone seems to remember, even if they never actually experienced one during their time in Oxford. I think we're still OK to describe the weather as 'enjoyable' — the transition to 'disturbing' will no doubt come later.

The Boat Club performance, however, was memorable for very different reasons; three of the four boats getting 'spoons' and not one of those making it out of the Gut. The Women's 2nd Eight also never made it out of the Gut, although most days that was because they actually got bumps. Indeed they were Catz' first bumps in Eights since the opening day of Eights 2023. Nevertheless, Catz finished bottom of the table with a net loss of 12 places over the 4 days.

In this issue we have results (yes, we shall go through them) photos, crew lists and the Captains reports.

On the Saturday evening after Eights I attended the Boat Club dinner (held at Brown's) where the winner of this year's Ben Sylvester Award was announced, Mal Spencer gave an encouraging speech on behalf of the alumni, and spirits were remarkably high. What was that Kipling quote again? Ah yes; time for some exceedingly good cake.



The Boathouse Balcony on the Saturday. The bar prices displayed on the banner were probably accurate. The sign saying 'Can't Catz Us', maybe less so.



The Women's 2nd Eight boating on the Saturday.

Results

Rowing On, 24th May

Women's crews, 38 from 43 qualified

1st	3:03.0	Reuben I
14th	3:24.5	St Catherine's II
38th	3:52.0	Keble III

Men's crews, 37 from 56 qualified

1st	2:33.0	Balliol IV
37th	3:15.5	Oriel IV

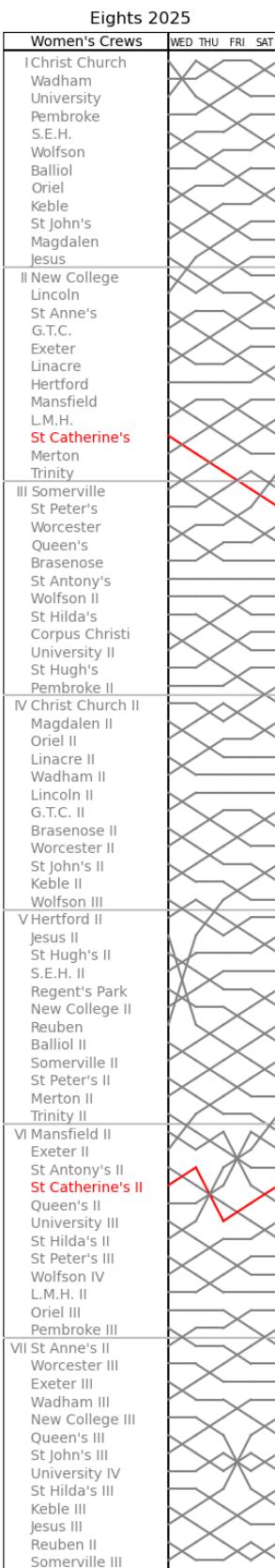
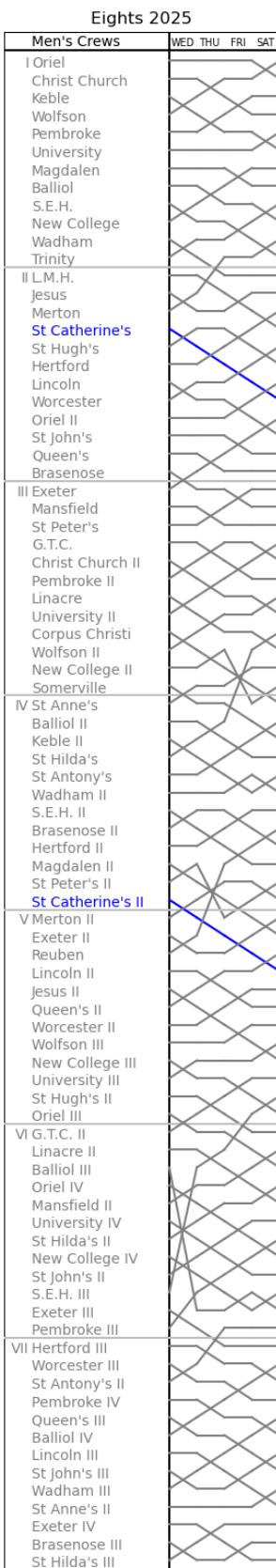
Eights, 28–31st May

	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Finish
Men's I	–1	–1	–1	–1	8th Div II
Women's I	–1	–1	–1	–1	2nd Div III
Men's II	–1	–1	–1	–1	4th Div V
Women's II	+1	–3	+1	+1	4th Div VI

Colleges Ranked by Net Gain

	Net	Crews	Avg
1 Reuben	+15	3	+5.00
2 St Hilda's	+15	6	+2.50
3 Merton	+12	4	+3.00
4 Wolfson	+10	7	+1.43
⋮			
34 Oriel	–11	7	–1.57
35 St Catherine's	–12	4	–3.00

Bumps Charts



2025 St Catherine's Eights

Men's 1st Eight

B James Knight
2 Hugo Cooper
3 Jan Jurgens¹
4 Timothy Bage
5 Robert Lennon
6 Charlie Knight
7 Benjamin Sholten
S Laurentius Heucamp
C Juan-Pablo Cajiga-Pena

Men's 2nd Eight

B Stefan Domunco
2 Herbie Ince
3 Ishwor Paudyal²
4 Joseph Hewson³
5 Constantin Schuchardt
6 Romain Gadioux
7 Thomas Jenner⁴
S Finlay Thomas
C Katie Maybin

Substitutes
¹Lucas Samson (Wed)
²Paul Houricq (Wed,Sat)
³James Farmborough (Wed) & Alasdair MacLeod (Fri)
⁴Lucas Samson (Fri)

Men's Coach

Sydney Rose

Women's 1st Eight

B Matilda Stephen
2 Emma Coakley
3 Valentina Antonaccio¹
4 Teresa Wood
5 Ophelia Lanfranchi
6 Claire Morrison
7 Emma Halliday
S Lucia Pyne
C Cecilia Schultz

Women's 2nd Eight

B Wanruo Zhang
2 Christina Bamesberger
3 Suet Lam Hon
4 Ingrid Habrekke
5 Sapphire Johnson
6 Astrid Syvertsenn
7 Sophie Simpson
S Amelia Hodge
C Emma Coakley

Substitutes
¹Astrid Syvertsenn (Thu)

Men's Boat Club

Hugo Cooper, Men's Co-Captain

It was a much better term of rowing this Trinity with river conditions allowing for lots of outings on the river and less time in the erg room. Coming off the back of a successful training camp we were keen to translate our improvements over to the Isis.



Hugo Cooper



The Men's 1st Eight (Photo: Nikola Boysova)

crew selections for Eights and once these were decided we squeezed in as many outings as possible around revision and exams.

In the run up to Eights M1 built a strong platform and had some good pieces in open water and against some other college crews. When racing came M1 found themselves in a highly competitive division II with fast crews around aiming for blades. Getting bumped by St Hugh's on day one led to Hertford and Worcester behind, who were both aiming to replicate their blades in Torpids. Aiming to avoid spoons on Saturday, there was a hard fought battle with Oriel M2 who found speed across the week with much of their torpids M1 crew now demoted to M2 to make way for the Olympian blues. Unfortunately they had the measure of us leading to a spoons campaign, with M2 also suffering the same fate.

The end of term saw lots of sculling and crews entering for Oriel regatta, with three Catz crews going out to race on a nice summer's day. With lots of returners next year all the boys are keen to turn things around for next season.

Women's Boat Club

Valentina Antonaccio-Guedes, Women's Capt.

This past term was an intense one for the women's side. Many of our rowers participated in the Sculling Camp, gaining valuable experience in smaller boats such as the single and double sculls. We also competed in the ISL, where we placed third overall with a time of 5:14.5 — just behind Lincoln, who finished first with a time of 5:07.5.



The Women's 1st Eight



Valentina Antonaccio-Guedes
Women's Captain

Although we unfortunately received spoons during Summer Eights, the crew stayed positive and showed strong teamwork throughout the campaign.

The women's 2nd Eight had a crazy Summer VIII. They started strong bumping St Antony's II by Donnington bridge in their first race, only to have steering issues in their second race and end up in a tree at the exit of the gut. They recovered from this and came back to bump St Antony's II again and Mansfield II in their last race. All in all it was a super fun bumping campaign for the girls.

Ben Sylvester Award

The winner of the 2025 Ben Sylvester Award for the person 'who has who has most significantly contributed to enhancing the rowing life of St Catherine's' is Juan-Pablo Cajiga-Pena.

From some of those who nominated him ...

'Despite only learning to cox at the beginning of the year, JP has done a lot in his role as captain of coxes, offering an invaluable support to the many novice coxes at Catz. Always eager to improve, JP has jumped in to cox a large number of outings on both the women's and the men's sides. In addition to this, JP has always been a friendly and welcoming face, significantly contributing to the atmosphere of the entire boat club'

'JP has put a huge amount of effort into learning to cox this year and generally supporting the boat club. Considering how rough the weather/river has been this year, the number of outings he's managed to get under his belt as a novice is something of a miracle. On the Bled training camp, he coxed all day every day, and essentially became a coach.'



JP Cajiga-Pena, after receiving his medal at the Boat Club Dinner

Coming up ...

I'm not anticipating much Boat Club activity over the summer. I see from the College web-site that they're not expecting to resume Gaudies until next summer (presumably once the Dining Hall and JCR/SCR are back in use) so I expect we'll also pick up the pre-Gaudy outings for rowing alumni to coincide with those.

I assume that the Catz Boat Club has a plan to turn around around their fortunes. But then again, that's what I wrote this time last year.

Anu Dudhia



The Women's 2nd Eight