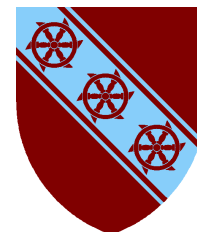




St Catherine's College Rowing Society

St Catherine's College, Oxford OX1 3UJ



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

19th July, 2026

In this issue ...

My apologies for a rather delayed newsletter.

Rowing on went well, with all our three regular VI-
IIs among the fastest crews, and the composite also
qualifying with plenty to spare. (OURCs rules allow
for 2-college combinations for women's crews in Row-
ing On, so our spares teamed up with our Longbridges
neighbours', Green Templeton.)

In Eights our 5 crews finished with a net gain of
... 0 places (+1 if we include the composite) but since
we've been in negative double figures for the past 3
Eights, i.e., as far back as most undergraduates will
remember, they're be happy with that. For now.

Saturday's racing was immediately followed by the
150th Anniversary dinner, and a welcome return to
the College Hall, at which the winner of the 2026 Ben
Sylvester Award was announced.

It's also the 50th anniversary of the women's boat
club and, with the women's 1st Eight gaining promo-
tion to Div II coupled with the sequencing alternating
each year, this was the first time that the *women's* 1st
Eight were the last Catz crew racing in the day.

To my knowledge no Catz alumni are currently ac-
tive Internationals but I've spotted a couple of their
offspring in GB crews.

I'm afraid I completely failed to organise any row-
ing for the June Gaudy but I will try to do better for
the 5th September event.



Erm ... let's just move on.

Results

Rowing On, 23rd May

Women's crews, 37 from 51 qualified

1st	3:10.5	University II
4th	3:11.5	St Catherine's II
26th	3:33.5	GTC/Catz
37th	3:42.0	St Peter's II

Men's crews, 37 from 54 qualified

1st	2:40.5	University III
7th	2:50.5	St Catherine's II
10th	2:53.5	St Catherine's III
37th	3:11.5	St Anne's III

Eights, 27-30th May

	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Finish
Men's I	-1	=	=	-1	10th Div II
Women's I	+2	+1	=	=	11th Div II
Men's II	-1	=	=	+1	4th Div V
Women's II	+1	=	-1	=	3rd Div VI
GTC/Catz	+1	=	=	=	11th Div VII
Men's III	=	-1	=	=	12th Div VII

Colleges Ranked by Net Gain in Eights

		Net	Crews	Avg
1	University	+21	9	+2.33
2	New College	+18	6	+3.00
3	Somerville	+17	5	+3.40
=13	St Catherine's*	0	5	0.00
35	St Peter's	-18	4	-4.50

*Not including GTC/Catz composite

Henley Women's Regatta, 19-21 June

Development 4+, Time Trials

Fastest 16 from 39 qualified

1st	5:36.7	OUBC A
13th	6:02.9	St Hugh's Coll
14th	6:04.4	OUBC B
16th	6:06.4	Vesta RC
19th	6:08.7	Univ Coll
20th	6:10.1	City of Oxford RC
26th	6:18.9	Lincoln Coll
28th	6:25.7	St Catherine's
32nd	6:43.1	Merton Coll A
36th	6:48.9	Merton Coll B

Bumps Charts

Eights 2026

Men's Crews	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
I Wolfson Oriol Pembroke Christ Church University Keble New College Magdalen Trinity Balliol Merton S.E.H.				
II Wadham Jesus Hertford L.M.H. Worcester St Hugh's Oriol II St Catherine's Exeter Lincoln St John's Queen's				
III St Peter's Brasenose Mansfield University II Pembroke II G.T.C. Wolfson II Christ Church II St Hilda's Linacre St Anne's New College II				
IV Corpus Christi St Antony's Somerville Balliol II Keble II Wadham II Hertford II Reuben Brasenose II S.E.H. II St Peter's II Merton II				
V Exeter II Magdalen II Queen's II St Catherine's II Worcester II Regent's Park Lincoln II Wolfson III University III Jesus II G.T.C. II S.E.H. III				
VI New College III Keble III Mansfield II Oriol III St Hilda's II Linacre II Christ Church III St John's II Pembroke III University IV New College IV Somerville II				
VII Exeter III Wolfson IV Worcester III Pembroke IV Queen's III St Anne's II St Hilda's III Brasenose III L.M.H. II University V St Catherine's III St Anne's III Christ Church IV				

Eights 2026

Women's Crews	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
I Pembroke Wadham University Wolfson Balliol Christ Church Keble Magdalen S.E.H. Lincoln Oriol New College				
II St John's Linacre Jesus G.T.C. Exeter Hertford St Anne's Merton Somerville L.M.H. Mansfield Queen's				
III St Peter's St Catherine's Brasenose Trinity Worcester St Antony's University II Wolfson II St Hugh's St Hilda's Pembroke II Christ Church II				
IV Corpus Christi Wadham II Oriol II Magdalen II Linacre II G.T.C. II Keble II Worcester II Lincoln II Reuben Brasenose II St John's II				
V Wolfson III S.E.H. II Hertford II New College II Somerville II St Hugh's II Merton II Regent's Park Exeter II Jesus II Balliol II St Hilda's II				
VI St Peter's II Queen's II St Catherine's II Mansfield II L.M.H. II University III St Anne's II Wadham III Oriol III Pembroke III Worcester III St John's III				
VII Exeter III University IV S.E.H. III Somerville III St Hilda's III Brasenose III L.M.H. III Wadham IV Magdalen III St Anne's III Magdalen IV GTC/Catz Worcester IV				

2026 St Catherine's Eights

Men's 1st Eight

B Phillip Siller
2 Fin Thomas
3 Benji Scholten
4 Sam Lennon
5 James Knight
6 Pat Moore
7 Hugo Cooper
S Harry Forbes
C Katie Maybin

Men's 2nd Eight

B Albee Wilson
2 Milo Halton
3 Julian Tilney
4 Tim Bage
5 Nick Clarke
6 Lewis Holmes
7 Lucas Samson
S Charlie Knight
C JP Cajiga-Pena

Men's 3rd Eight

B Seth Fisher
2 Martin Kononov
3 Seb Pedder
4 Tadeo Bonnet-Gonnet
5 Hyunmin Koo
6 Tejas Gadkari
7 Crispin Storey
S Will Molloy
C Hugo Cooper

Substitutes

¹Emma Coakley (Wed)
²Lucia Pyne (Wed)
³Valentina Antonaccio (W)
⁴Hugo Cooper (Fri)
⁵Edith Darin (Wed,Thu)

Men's Coaches

Nigel Smith
Orlando Williams

Women's 1st Eight

B Teresa Wood
2 Lucia Pyne¹
3 Julia Gartold
4 Lara Botha
5 Sophia Waterson
6 Emma O'Donnell
7 Emma Halliday
S Ophelia Lanfranchi²
C Madeleine Price

Women's 2nd Eight

B Isabella Howarth
2 Alice Mangin-Griffiths
3 Hannah Grove³
4 Sophie Wallace
5 Mary Oehler
6 Ella Nijkamp
7 Isabel Rafalin
S Jane Platt
C Rowan Nicholls

GTC/Catz Women

B Edith Leedham
2 Matilde Girolami^{†5}
3 Amy Katz⁶
4 Georgia Love[†]
5 Jadwiga Supryn[†]
6 Sophie Simpson
7 Edith Darin⁷
S Rosemary Ellis
C Fergus Maclean^{†8}

[†]GTC rowers

⁶Catrina Carswell[†] (Wed)
⁶Maya Swift (Fri)
⁷Hilary Hoyt[†] (Wed)
⁷Catrina Carswell[†] (Thu)
⁸Steve Woodhouse[†] (Sat)

Women's Coach

Rowan Nicholls





The Men's 1st Eight boating on the Saturday

Men's Boat Club

Sam Harvey, incoming Men's Vice-Captain

The M1 boat had both a disappointing, yet promising experience during summer VIIIs. The boat was bumped once across the four days of racing, and unfortunately due to rudder issues, crashed on both the Friday and Saturday. Unfortunately this was a disappointing end to collegiate rowing to some members of the boat who have now left Oxford. Despite these downsides, the boat rowed over for the first time since 2023. Hopefully this upwards trajectory is maintained coming into next year, helped by a new racing shell.

Despite a net gain of zero positions on the river this year, M2 put up a strong performance. The crew placed 7th out of 54 crews in rowing on, starting 4th in division V. The crew was initially bumped by Worcester M2 on the first day but managed to holdout Lincoln M2 on the Thursday in a tight race to row over. Confusion caused by a concession from an already disqualified Magdalen M2 led to a bump by Wolfson M3, which was later overturned. On Saturday a very quick acceleration out of the start sequence resulted in bumping S.E.H. M2. This was the first bump by a Catz men's boat since 2023 and is promising for the performance of future years.

This year saw the first competitive M3 boat entered into Summer Eights since 2022; a testament to the new recruitment programme and the devotion of the novices. The crew rowed an excellent piece in rowing on, placing 10th out of 54 and beating numerous M2 boats from other colleges.

Due to a three-boat sandwich, the crew unwittingly rowed past a live Pembroke, converting a row over into an overbump. However, this decision was appealed by Pembroke, resulting in a technical row over for both Pembroke and Catz. Thursday was a disappointing race for the crew, due to a crab in the start sequence causing a collision with the bank, resulting in a bump by Christ Church. Thursday ended up with another row over pursuing Christ Church, finishing with a gap of just over a boat length. Saturday resulted in an anticlimactic end to the campaign, with the division being klaxoned less than a minute after the start of the race. Despite the result not doing the promising crew

justice, the boat club is still very proud of the efforts of the novices, with 2026 being the most successful season for novices in years.

Women's Boat Club

Lucia Pyne, Women's Co-Captain

After a lovely week in Lake Bled with lots of rowing, racing (and maybe a few beers) the women began the 5½ weeks of training for Summer Eights. With a huge amount of buy in from our squad, W1 and W2 were training 5 to 6 times a week, both in our new home in Godstow as well as on the Isis. With the help of Green Templeton College (GTC) we even managed to put out a W3 composite! With the excitement building and training becoming more intense, we did our final race practices, and fuelled our big week with a pasta party.

Day one of Eights was our most successful day, with both W3 and W2 getting a bump and W1 bumping twice, up into division 2 (despite some dramatic appeals and 3 boats attempting to get on a singular bungline as sandwich boat!). The rest of the week absolutely flew by, ending in +1 for the GTC/Catz composite, 0 for W2 and +3 for W1. The success of our crews, as well as 150 years of rowing, and 50 years of women's rowing, was celebrated with a fantastic dinner in the newly reopened hall.

After the fun of VIIIs everyone was keen for more and so we entered some mixed crews into one of the only side-by-side races Oxford offers — Oriel regatta, where the premise is to dress in silly costumes and rig your boat disastrously. We may not have won the tournament but we definitely won best dressed ...



The Women's 1st Eight boating on the Saturday

Not satisfied with ending the rowing year there we entered a development 4+ into Henley Women's Regatta and trained on an almost completely empty Isis. Our crew did not qualify but we placed 28th of 39, beating many university teams. The experience was an amazing one, and was the final race representing Catz for 3 of our athletes, including myself. With that the year came to an end, and we handed over to our lovely new captain Teresa, and vice captain Jane, I look forward to seeing what they bring to the boat club. It's been an absolute pleasure being a captain this year, I have enjoyed every minute of it, and I wish the women next year all the best!



Charlie Knight, with the BFS medal

Ben Sylvester Award

Charlie Knight is the winner of the 2026 Ben Sylvester Award for the person 'who has who has most significantly contributed to enhancing the rowing life of St Catherine's'.

From some of those who nominated him ...

His commitment to the club since he joined, especially this year as both novice captain and secretary has been unmatched. The novice recruitment this year was huge (more than we have seen in many years), and largely maintained throughout the year despite

the lack of water time which can be attributed partly to Charlie.

Also

From coxing (and for a large part coaching) the Men's novice boat for the Tamesis regatta, to accompanying the beginners to BUCS, to organising/coaching/coxing M2 and M3 in the eights campaign, Charlie has been unstoppable.

I have found that he consistently ensures a welcome, positive and excited atmosphere at the boathouse and at Catz, which has certainly inspired my commitment over the year.

Coming up ...

I completely missed the 27 June Gaudy but, now that the College Hall is back in use, I note that there are a couple more scheduled for the summer: on 5th Sep for those matriculating from 2013–2019 and on 26th Sep for pre-1969. I shall attempt to revive the pre-Gaudy paddle for the afternoon of the 5th but I'm going to assume that we'd struggle to fill an VIII, let alone get it off the rack, from those attending the latter event.

Finally, this year's Rowing World Championships will be held in Amsterdam from 24–30 August. Crews have not yet been announced but Gabriel, son of Rupert Obholzer (M.88) is likely to feature in the GB VIII and Holly, daughter of David Youd (M.78), may be in the women's 4–, on the basis of having won a bronze medal in that boat at Lucerne a couple of weeks back.

Anu Dudhia