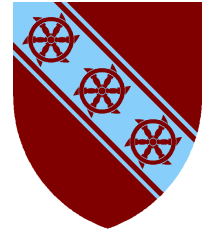




St Catherine's College Rowing Society
St Catherine's College
Oxford OX1 3UJ



28th March, 2008

In this issue . . .

A full Torpids was run this year, for which our women's 1st Torpid, in particular, will be grateful. Some members of the 2001 Torpids Head crew have contributed News from Alumni and a couple of our more recent alumni have had a successful GB Trials weekend. Peter Miller's contribution to *The History* is used to describe the events of 40 years ago, which strikes some appropriate resonances with current events: five Catz men, including the OUBC cox, feature in the crews selected for the Oxford-Cambridge Boat Races.

Results

GB Trials, Hazewinkel, 9-10th March

Men's Heavyweight Pairs

- 1st Andrew Triggs Hodge (M.04) (& Peter Reed)
- 2nd Colin Smith (M.03) (& Tom James)

Isis Winter League E, 16th February

Total: 63 Entries

38th 5:37 St Catz 3rd/22 Women's VIII's

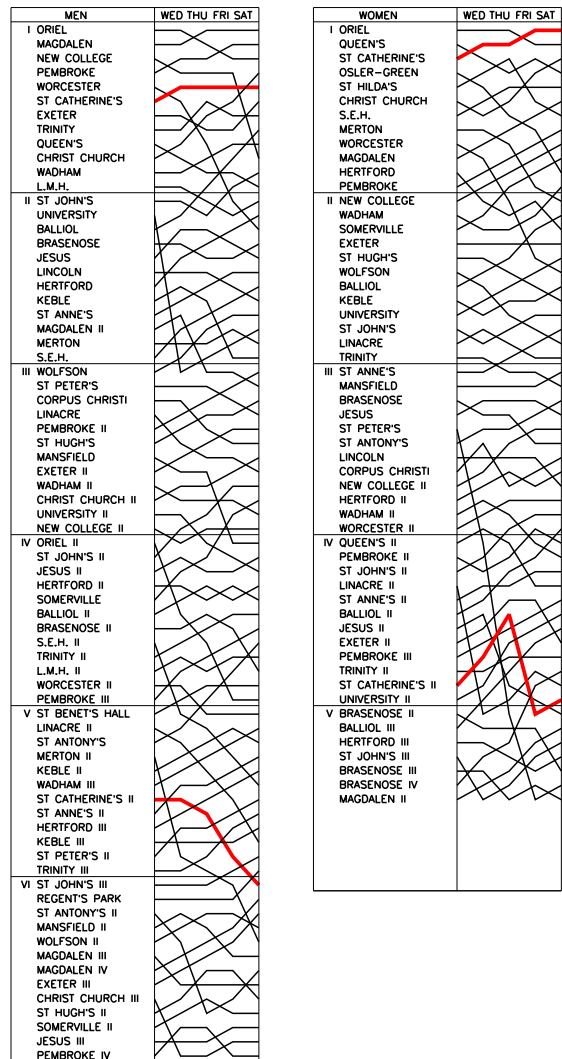


Are you sitting comfortably? Then we'll begin. Tim, the man who fires the guns, getting ready for the 'off' during this year's Torpids.

Torpids 20th-23rd February

	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Finish
Men's I	+1	=	=	=	5th Div I
Women's I	+1	=	+1	=	Head
Women's II	+2	+3	-7	+1	12th Div IV
Men's II	=	-1	-3	-2	1st Div VI

Torpids 2008 Bumps Charts



President: Bruce Mitchell

Vice Presidents: Don Barton, Rev. Joseph Bell,
 Sir Matthew Pinsent CBE,
 Richard Peters, Ben Sylvester.

Men's Boat Club Report

Tim Monger-Godfrey, Men's Captain

The term started with a training camp in 0th week, with combined water sessions with the women's squad, which was a great success. However, by the time the weekend came, the weather took a turn for the worse, and the river status went up to red flag. Unfortunately, it was to stay like this for several weeks, resulting in the training for the men's squads moving to a land-based timetable.

We had organised a weekend training camp in London, which proved to be very beneficial for both the men and women's first squads, allowing us to get the water time that had been so sorely lacking up until that point. After that weekend, we were able to get out onto the Isis, and water-based training began (albeit still controlled by the rather erratic flag status) and both the men's squads were able to gain the water experience needed to compete in Torpids.



The Men's 2nd Torpid racing on the Wednesday.

By the time Torpids arrived, we were able to field two strong boats. The men's second boat consisted of several novices and, combined with the very little water time, had an uphill battle. However, as soon as the racing started, the boat came together and put in an outstanding performance over the four days, which the results unfortunately do not reflect. The men's first boat had been hit by injuries throughout the term, but we were able to field a very strong side when Torpids started. After four very hard days of racing, in which the crew improved throughout, we had climbed one place in the first division, finishing 5th overall, an absolutely outstanding performance among very tough competition from the other crews.

Torpids this year was one of the most successful in the Boat Club's history which was a testament to the

ability that the rowing squads possess, with novice and senior rowers alike showing great commitment, development and skill throughout the term. With the rapid improvements shown by the crews as well as the extra depth which will join us over Trinity term, I am expecting the same success for Summer Eights. I have no doubt that we will be able to claim back the positions that were taken from us last year.



The Men's 1st Torpid after Thursday's racing.

Women's Boat Club Report

Lucy Rowland, Women's Captain

This term started well with a number of the women's 1st VIII attending a training camp at Oxford the week before term started. Unfortunately things went downhill from here; it started to rain and did not stop. The Isis flooded and several weeks of water time were lost. However the W1 did not lose their determination: we kept up land training with relentless erg and gym sessions. At one point the squad even waded down the flooded towpath to reach the erg room for a session! It wasn't till the start of February that the flood waters subsided and the Isis opened again allowing W1 to continue training and W2 to start training. That same weekend the W1 and M1 had been lucky enough to go down to the Tideway to train, courtesy of Darren Chadwick and Imperial College Boat Club. This really kick-started our water sessions; the opportunity to row such a continuous stretch of river really gave the girls some invaluable experience. Following this, W1 came back to Oxford and got back on the Isis. We entered the Isis Winter League and got the third fastest time out of all women's crews entered. This gave us and our coach Rob Hollis a new found boost as the whole squad shifted their focus to the possibility of taking the Torpids Headship from Oriel.



The Women's 2nd Torpid starting as Sandwich Boat on Saturday.

Alongside W1's training, Alex Zdravkovic and Caz Woffindale had been making sure the women's second boat got as much experience as possible in the couple of weeks leading up to Torpids. Finally Torpids arrived and we were ready for it. W1 bumped Queen's on the first day and rowed over on the second. By the third we were ready to take Oriel, as we knew we were the faster boat. After a shaky start the crew managed to catch Oriel half way down the course, helped by the fact they took a racing line a little too close to the bank. On the last day Catz women were nervous; they knew they were one race away from achieving the ultimate goal in college rowing. At the start of the race Oriel pushed up on Catz but coming out of the Gut Catz extended the gap to 1, followed by 2, then 3 until finally they finished the race nearly 4 boat lengths ahead of Oriel to take the title of Head of the River. W2 also had much to celebrate as, despite an unfortunate crash resulting in a dramatic fall down the division, they still managed to achieve a total of six bumps.

With Torpids over all eyes and training turned to Summer Eights and the possibility of crossed blades! The Women are hoping to enter 3 crews for Eights and continue the successful path we have started on.



The Women's 1st Torpid after rowing over as Head of the River on Saturday.

2008 St Catherine's Torpids

Men's 1st Torpid

B Tim Monger-Godfrey
2 James Dunbar
3 Rhodri James
4 Rob Gerlach
5 Sam Boaden
6 Christian Toennesen
7 Nick Szmigin
S Malcolm Spencer
C Ed Beake

Women's 1st Torpid

B Clare Wilcockson
2 Maria Palacios
3 Alex Winstanley
4 Kate Stuart
5 Kathryn Hernandez
6 Catherine Wherity
7 Laura Newton
S Lucy Rowland
C Kim Harley

Men's 2nd Torpid

B Dan Nicolae
2 Evan Wang
3 Alex Kissinger
4 Sharif Shawki
5 Dan Hudson
6 Toby Smyth
7 Andrew Gorang
S Jameson Williams
C Zoe Thomas

Women's 2nd Torpid

B Amy Carr
2 Claire Carpenter
3 Hannah Buckley
4 Helena Moore
5 Laura Kilbride
6 Helene Almas
7 Jenny Caswell
S Holly Jones
C Viki Sena

News from Alumni

Carla Crifó (M.98)

Still teaching Law at the University of Leicester. Not doing much sport apart from the occasional half-hearted run. I've done the Great Gorilla Run twice. By the way, and would welcome sponsorship to do it again! But not much else of note since the Sheffield Half Marathon last year.

Liz Beetem (M.00)

I'm teaching in California this semester after a trip around the world, mostly in Asia. I also taught English last year in Costa Rica and traveled around South and Central America and studied Spanish. I was lucky enough to row with a Harvard club crew team a few years ago during my master's degree and back at Middlebury College's reunion row.

Helen Bray (M.00)

Thrilled to hear the girls are back on top; my blade from '01 now takes pride of place on the landing! By way of a quick update, I am now living in Worcester with Nick Wain (Catz M.00) and we are getting married in September. I am working as a Detective Sergeant with West Mercia Police, which I love, although shift work provides little opportunity for getting back into rowing. I'm still trying to stay in shape though and am hoping to emulate The Boddy's success in this year's London Triathlon.

40 Years Ago

In 1968 the Catz 1st VIII was in the middle of Div II, falling one place to 18th in Torpids but rising three to 15th in Eights (compared to 6th and 8th at the start of 2008).

Peter Miller had coxed the winning 1967 Oxford crew, becoming Catz' first Blue. The following is an extract from his contribution to The History.

In my third year, 1967/68, I was Secretary of the OUBC and was heavily involved with organising college rowing throughout the University, particularly with trying to persuade the senior oarsmen to do some coaching.

I was still the Blue Boat cox until a fortnight before the 1968 Boat Race, but I was around 10 stone, really too heavy to cox, and I was definitely not coxing as well as I had been in the past. After a defeat by the University of London in the Reading Head of the River Race, I was replaced by a lighter cox, so I did not steer in the 1968 Boat Race defeat.

That was not quite the end of my rowing career at Oxford, as I pulled an oar in a scratch St Catherine's eight in the bumps, full of stars of yesteryear, which made four bumps somewhere down in the lower divisions. As OUBC Secretary I was also responsible for organising the Summer Eights, although frankly that was not much of a burden. I remember worrying about whether the man with the starting gun would fail to turn up, never having met him, and being relieved that the College Watermen somehow secured his attendance. He had probably had it in his diary since the previous year.

Looking back, I think the main differences between then and now are first the equipment, both the type and the quality of materials used and particularly the very lightweight oars and cleaver blades, which I find make rowing so much easier; the use of ergometers and better weight training equipment. Secondly the standard of rowing, as in all other sports, has improved. The Boat Race crews in recent years have been quite outstanding, treating Putney to Mortlake, which we regarded as an endurance test, as a 17 minute dash. The young men, especially at Blue Boat level, are just larger than we were. Thirdly, there are far more women rowing. St Catherine's was single-sex in the 1960's, as were all the Colleges, and women's crews were rare on the Isis.

I cycle over one of the Cam bridges every day of my life and see college crews throughout term time. I still enjoy listening to the coaches and coxes shouting fairly meaningless commands at oarsmen taking very little notice, and I think back with pleasure to the days when it meant such a lot.



The 1968 St Catherine's 1st Torpid, on the College Barge. Back row: Aiden Dunn, Mark Stevens, Steve Church, Chris Little, Andrew Forbes, Morley Hollenberg. Front row: Stephen Jepps, Simon Clark, Tom Rollason.

University Crews

The OUBC and Isis crews were announced on 6th March. OUBC included Nick Brodie (cox, and President) and Jan Herzog (bow) while Isis included Anthony Mullin (3) and Martin Walsh (4). Colin Groshong, having coxed a US crew that raced Oxford in one of their training pieces, was recently selected to cox the Oxford men's lightweight boat.

Boathouse Lunch

There will a Boathouse Buffet Lunch, as last year, on the Saturday of Eights (24th May), 12.30 for 1pm. The cost, including a glass of wine, will be £10, and Franca Potts, from the Development Office, will be handling tickets (01865 281596).

Coming Up ...

In the next newsletter there will be news of the Boat Races, plans and prospects for Eights, and a piece on the Boat Club of 50 years ago. Contributions for the News from Alumni section are always welcome — those of you on the RS email list will receive a prompt a few days before publication.

Anu Dudhia
email: dudhia@atm.ox.ac.uk

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

Diary

23 Mar 2008	The Henley Boat Races
29 Mar 2008	The Boat Race
21–24 May 2008	Summer Eights
24 May 2008	Boathouse Lunch