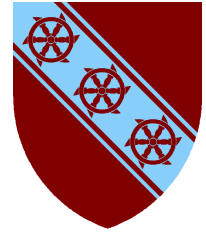




St Catherine's College Rowing Society
St Catherine's College
Oxford OX1 3UJ



28th March, 2009

In this issue ...

Did I say it was cold in the last newsletter? That wasn't cold, *this* was cold. And after the snow, inevitably, came the floods. But following the floods, much to everyone's surprise, came Torpids. For most Catz crews, it proved a successful week: taking lessons from the banking industry, they managed to repackage all their toxic luck into a single boat. We have the Captains reports on the term's rowing. With the news from alumni (including a photo I couldn't resist) and the emergence of another of the *Torpids Fours* trophies, I'm afraid the events of 35 years ago will have to wait until the next newsletter.

Results

Isis Winter League D, 8th February

Total: 55 Entries

| | | | |
|------|------|-----------|--------------------|
| 3rd | 4:53 | Men's 1B | 3rd/34 Men's 8s |
| 4th | 4:55 | Men's 1A | 4th/34 Men's 8s |
| 22nd | 5:34 | Men's 2B | 21st/34 Men's 8s |
| 25th | 5:38 | Women's 1 | 1st/17 Women's 8s |
| 29th | 5:43 | Men's 2A | 26th/34 Men's 8s |
| 42nd | 6:23 | Men's 2x | |
| 45th | 6:32 | Women's 2 | 10th/17 Women's 8s |
| 54th | 7:04 | Women's 3 | 16th/17 Women's 8s |



What were you doing at 7am on Friday, 6th Feb 2009? I bet you weren't having as much fun as this.

Rowing On, 22nd February

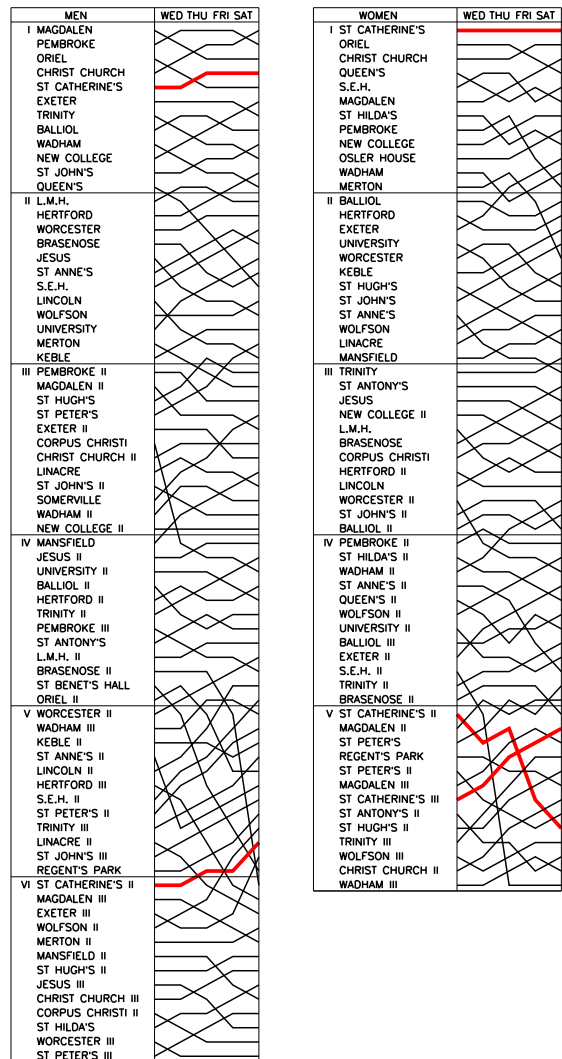
Fastest 13 from 30 Men's crews (cut-off: 3:30)

7th 3:24 M2 Qualified
 25th 3:53 M3 did not qualify

Fastest 13 from 24 Women's crews (cut-off: 4:19)

4th 3:58 W2 Qualified
 13th 4:19 W3 Qualified

Torpids 2009 Bumps Charts



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

Torpids 20th–23rd February

| | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | Finish |
|-------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------------|
| Men's I | = | +1 | = | = | 4th Div I |
| Women's I | = | = | = | = | Head |
| Men's II | = | +1 | = | +2 | 10th Div V |
| Women's II | -2 | +1 | -5 | -2 | 9th Div V |
| Women's III | +1 | +2 | +1 | +1 | 2nd Div V |



Men's 1st Torpid closing for the bump on the Thursday

2009 St Catherine's Torpids

Men's 1st Torpid

B Tim Monger-Godfrey
 2 Rob Gerlach
 3 Will Stockdale
 4 Alister Mathie
 5 Sam Boaden
 6 James Dunbar
 7 Nick Szmigin
 S Malcolm Spencer
 C Jack Plummer

Women's 1st Torpid

B Ilsa Haeusler
 2 Kate Stuart
 3 Clare Wilcockson
 4 Caroline Woffindale
 5 Kathryn Hernandez
 6 Alex Winstanley
 7 Emma Clifton
 S Catherine Wherity
 C Kim Harley

Men's 2nd Torpid

B Hugo Garcia-Rueda
 2 Phillip McCullough
 3 Tarik Saif*
 4 Kenneth Garrett
 5 Harry Forman Hardy
 6 Adam Kemal
 7 Nick Moss
 S Toby Smyth
 C Ruoxi Wu

Women's 2nd Torpid

B Alice Higgins
 2 Alice Pooley
 3 Rebecca Argall
 4 Stephanie Newton
 5 Eleanor Hafner
 6 Sarah Hodgson
 7 Roberta Fisher
 S Christina Hookham
 C Zoe Thomas

* Fri & Sat: Felix van Litsenburg

Men's 3rd Torpid

B Timothy Chu
 2 Duncan Reek
 3 Rhys Danino
 4 James Baker
 5 Shilan Mistry
 6 Travis Parker
 7 John Risness
 S Dustin Arp
 C Felicity Bedford

Women's 3rd Torpid

B Amy Carr
 2 Fiona Pitt
 3 Helena Moore
 4 Claire Carpenter
 5 Amanda Boyce
 6 Emma Holmes
 7 Jenny Casswell
 S Hannah Buckley
 C Tim Monger-Godfrey

Men's Boat Club Report

Toby Smyth, Men's Captain

The weather can make a big difference to the rowing in Hilary, and this term it seemed content to make our life as difficult as possible: snow transforming the towpath into a riverside icerink and then making the river unrowable for several weeks. Not even the 1st VIII's hot air was enough to melt the 6" of ice we found when we arrived for a weekend trip to Dorney.

Despite these setbacks we managed to train hard on and off the water, with seasoned veterans alongside promising novices under Anu's integrated senior squad plan. We entered IWL D with multiple versions of each boat as a form of seat racing. Our 1st VIIIs came 3rd and 4th overall and our 2nd boats also achieved some solid results.

The weather cleared just in time for Torpids, into which the men entered three boats. M3, having had almost no water time due to the weather, put in a brave effort but unfortunately failed to row on.

The 2nd boat, being the top of Div 6, were tasked with reclaiming Catz' position in the fixed divisions above. On the first day they were able to outpace the Magdalen crew behind them, but unfortunately were hit with a case of the crabs in the second race so failed to catch Regent's. Spurred on by the thought of having to row twice three days running (and feeling fresher after their first race was klaxoned midway through) M2 proceeded to overbump Linacre on Thursday, followed by Hertford on Friday, after being bumped by a rapid Wolfson crew, and finally overbumping St Benet's and Brasenose after some mid-Gut carnage!



The Men's 2nd Torpid starting on the Saturday.

The 1st boat were chasing Christ Church on the first day (the boats behind on each day were of no consequence), who went on to win Headship, and they managed to keep pace with them, finishing about a

length behind Oriel after Christ Church bumped out. After this strong start they were able to seal the deal with Oriel on the Thursday, moving up to 4th. Friday saw them pitted against former head crew Magdalen. In a day of few bumps in Div 1 they managed to close to about a half a length but failed to catch them. Coming into Saturday with fresh determination it was a nail-biting race as Catz got closer at the crossover but Magdalen just managed to pull away, crossing the line before we could finish them off.

Still, good results all round; M2 are comfortably back in Div 5 and M1 made history by finishing in the highest position a Catz men's crew has ever achieved. I suppose the women did alright too.

Whilst I'm on the subject, I'd also like to thank Catherine for putting up with me for another term, Mal for all his help coaching and of course Anu, who not only is a brilliant coach but also allows us to go out in Amber Flag conditions and must have managed to cox everyone in the Boat Club over just the course of a single weekend (and, despite what Donnington bridge may say, Anu is not omnipresent).

I'd like to take this moment to say goodbye to everyone for whom this has been their last term of rowing (although I'm still not sold on this 'Finals and Summer Eights are in the same week' excuse, and I'm sure you will be back in a boat one way or another). I look forward to next term when the sun will be out and the Blues will be back.

Women's Boat Club Report

Catherine Wherity, Women's Captain

Term began well with many girls from both the first and second boats attending a training camp in 0th week. It was great to have 12 girls competing for seats in the 1st VIII. Crews were finally decided and, for the first time in a long while [1996], Catz women had 3 boats set to enter Torpids. Unfortunately, though, the onset of snow meant we were forced to turn to ergs, circuits, weights and more ergs along with some giant snowman building. Despite the weather and limited water time one Isis Winter League race went ahead which all three crews took advantage of. The 2nd and 3rd VIIIs recorded some respectable times whilst the 1st VIII continued their winning streak! With the flag continuing to limit training and Torpids less than two weeks away the 1st VIII went to a completely deserted Dorney Lake for a hard but successful day of training. We all had to make the most of the water time on the Isis with the flag only dropping to Amber less than a week before Torpids. Despite this both the 2nd and 3rd VIIIs set some



The Women's 3rd Torpid (centre) in the thick of it on the Saturday . . .

strong qualifying times in Rowing On with the 2nd VIII the fourth fastest crew.

Following a huge build up, Torpids finally got under way with W3 proving their strength to overbump on each of the first three days and bump up on the final day to win blades! Huge congratulations must go to them. Unfortunately it wasn't meant to be for W2 who suffered a tough draw and a few crabs. Despite this they have still shown themselves to be a good crew who I expect to come through strongly next term in Eights now they have some bumps experience behind them. Finally I am very pleased to be able to say that W1 rowed over every day to retain the title of Head of the River. A klaxon on the first day meant that racing stopped after the first minute but on both the second and third days we rowed over comfortably. On the final day we were chased by Christ Church instead of Oriel but this didn't change anything, all the girls put in a tremendous effort to once again row over well ahead of all the chasing crews reflecting all the hard work that had been put in by everyone both during term time and the holidays.

With Torpids over we're now focussing on training for Summer Eights and the chance to finally bump some crews and the possibility of more blades! I'm expecting the women to be entering three VIIIs and we very much hope to build on the successes that we enjoyed this term!



. . . while the Women's 1st Torpid had a slightly more relaxed time rowing over Head of Div I each day.

News from Alumni

Jana Bakunina (M.99)

2009 by any estimate is looking to be a tough year; we all know someone who lost a job; the atmosphere in the City is rather apprehensive. Perhaps to defy it all or to set myself a personal lifetime goal, I have signed up to run a Flora London Marathon at the end of April. I



have also teamed up with two remarkable charities, hoping that you, my friends and colleagues, can donate whatever amount you see fair to those who, despite the current financial turmoil, are still far more disadvantaged than you and me. To donate money electronically to either (or both!) charities, please visit the following sites I've set up.

Children in Crisis works to improve the lives of children around the world affected by conflict, deprivation, poverty or other crises www.justgiving.com/janabakunina

The second charity, ALERT, became very personal to me after my two week volunteering in Africa over Christmas supporting lion rehabilitation programme. www.help.co.uk/fundraisers/jana

Peter Goult (M.04)

I'm living in Dubai now, and I'm actually doing a spot of sculling — the weather is always warm, and I live next to about 3 km of perfectly flat, 200 m wide, still water that is completely unused, so I think I've gone to rowing heaven. I hope I'll be back next year to watch Torpids and go to the dinner, and maybe even this summer — who knows?

St Catherine's Torpid Fours Trophies

Another of these mysterious trophies has turned up, although about 20 years more recent than the others. I received the following from Lisa Webster (née Mason), LMH, 1998.

This tankard belongs to my grandfather and was won by his father, E(dward) E(ltringham) Milner, who was in the bow in 1903. My grandfather and I would be really interested to know more about the event.

I know that my great-grandfather was at Keble and then trained as a minister at Wycliffe Hall, so clearly the Torpid Fours were open to different colleges, but we don't know any more than that.

The other names on the tankard are: 2, J F Penson (could be I J); 3, A F Corney (again, could A J); Str., G W Tyndale-Biscoe; Cox, D Morgan.



The 1903 Torpids Four tankard

Google reveals that Rev G W Tyndale-Biscoe was born in 1869 and although he graduated from Trinity in 1913, in 1903 my suspicion is that he may also have been at Wycliffe or some other theological institution included in the 'non-Collegiate' students category represented by St Catherine's Society.

Boathouse Lunch

On the Saturday of Eights (30th May), the College will again be organising a lunch with wine at around 1.00 pm in the Boathouse. The cost of a ticket will be £10, obtainable in advance from Franca Potts in the Development Office (franca.potts@stcatz.ox.ac.uk, or phone 01865 271705).

Coming Up ...

In the next newsletter there will be results and reports on the University Boat Races, any early Trinity Term action, preparations for Summer Eights and the postponed article on the Boat Club of 35 years ago. Contributions to the News from Alumni section always welcome (including any London Marathon results).

Anu Dudhia

email: dudhia@atm.ox.ac.uk

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

Diary

| | |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| 27-30 May 2009 | Eights |
| 30 May 2009 | Boathouse Lunch |
| 30 May 2009 | '49ers Reunion Dinner |