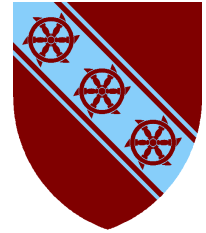




St Catherine's College Rowing Society
St Catherine's College
Oxford OX1 3UJ



23rd March, 2013

In this issue ...

Well, Torpids happened and, for our crews, went rather well. The Captains provide their reports. The Henley Boat Races are tomorrow, but relocated to Dorney Lake. Given their Torpids success, our top crews competed, for the first time, for the right to represent Oxford in the inter-college races which now form part of the Henley Boat Race programme — they missed out, but not by much. For the men's Boat Race, next weekend, Oxford seem to be showing the better form. It's also an early start for the International season, with two of our alumni competing in the Rowing World Cup in Sydney this weekend.

Results

Bedford Head, 10th February

Women's IM2 Vllls (6 entries)

- 7:04 1st Star
- 7:37 5th **St Catherine's I**

Women's IM3 Vllls (19 entries)

- 7:11 1st Star
- 8:31* 17th **St Catherine's I**

Women's Nov Vllls (7 entries)

- 7:44 1st Queens' Cambridge
- 8:37 6th **St Catherine's II**

*broken rudder string



It looks like somebody's expecting a happy landing.

Rowing On, 22nd February

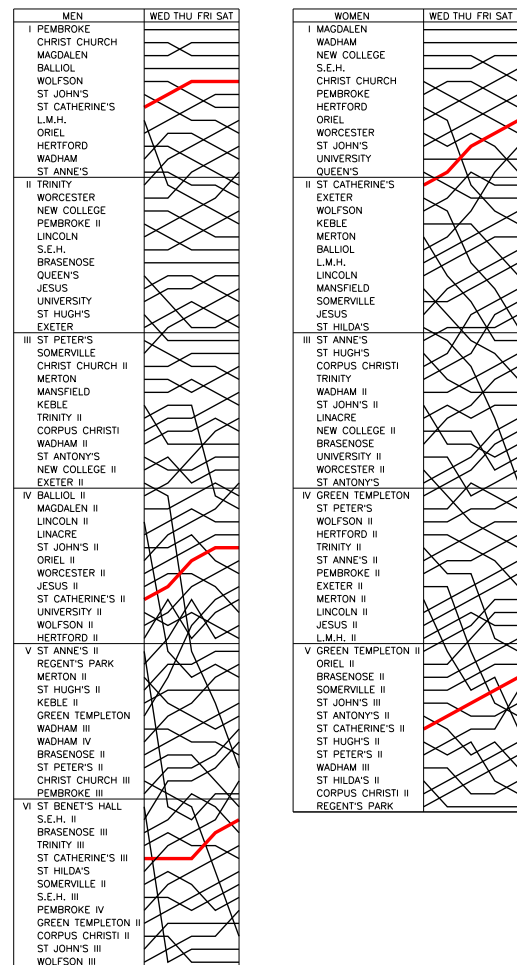
Men's crews, top 13/27 to qualify

- 3:04.8 1st S.E.H. II Qualified
- 3:11.0 4th **Catz III** Qualified
- 3:31.0 13th Corpus II Qualified

Women's crews, top 13/23 to qualify

- 3:41.3 1st Regent's Park Qualified
- 3:48.7 4th **Catz II** Qualified
- 4:20.0 13th St Hilda's II Qualified
- 4:42.0 19th **Catz III** Failed to Qualify

Torpids 2013 Bumps Charts



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

Torpids, 27 Feb – 2nd Mar

	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Finish
Men's I	+1	+1	=	=	5th Div I
Women's I	+1	+2	+1	+1	8th Div I
Men's II	+1	+2	+1	=	5th Div IV
Women's II	+1	+1	+1	+1	3rd Div V
Men's III	=	=	+2	+1	2nd Div VI

Henley Challenge, 6th March

Men's VIII's (2 entries)

2:37	1st	Balliol
2:38	2nd	St Catherine's

Women's VIII's (5 entries)

3:04	1st	St John's
3:11	2nd	St Catherine's



The Men's 2nd Torpid start their campaign

2013 St Catherine's Torpids

Men's 1st Torpid

B Malcolm Spencer
2 David Ashmore
3 George Shankar
4 David Zimmer
5 Robert Hamlet
6 Alex Sanders
7 Christian McCaffery
S Robin Muir
C Rory Copus

Women's 1st Torpid

B Emily Risness
2 Rosemary Lang
3 Poppy Lambert
4 Isobel Renton
5 Katherine Pears
6 Hege Larsen
7 Inge Hertzog
S Anne de Geus
C Joshua Morgan

Men's 2nd Torpid

B Edward Nutt
2 Erik Fraser
3 Mike Humphries
4 Ben Baron
5 Patrick Tesh
6 Matthias Steiner
7 Owen Leyshon
S Peter Morgan
C Joanna Harrall

Women's 2nd Torpid

B Katie Power
2 Katherine Ember
3 Lena Tietze
4 Jordan Lemons
5 Rosemary Bridson
6 Linda Geaves
7 Jessica Sutherland
S Poppy Simmonds
C Malcolm Spencer

Men's 3rd Torpid*

B Rory Copus
2 Joshua Morgan
3 Aron Cheung
4 Phil McCullough
5 Matthew McGilvray
6 Rasmus Wissmann
7 Ben Trigg
S Richard Higgins
C Joanna Harrall

Women's 3rd Torpid

B Isabel Diez-Sevilla
2 Sam Yarmis
3 Imogen Sharkey Ochoa
4 Carolyn Scott
5 Miriam Mahmoud
6 Melissa Samarin
7 Rosemary Bridson
S Sara Lukic
C Henry Renninson

*Representative line-up only

Men's Boat Club Report

Robert Hamlet, Men's Captain

After a winter of training and feasting to excess, we returned to Oxford to put together our crews for Torpids. Sadly we lost a few people to their degrees for the term, but still managed to create very competent 1st and 2nd VIII's, with each a mixture of old and new members.

Training continued as it did in Michaelmas, with weather conditions confining us to the land. The 1st VIII managed to win IWL C again by a very convincing 11.5 seconds, but we were beaten to the overall trophy by Brasenose because they gave OURCs more entries money.

The weeks before Torpids were a tense time with a series of alarming weather predictions being bandied about by OURCs, though luckily the sky cleared and river dropped just a week before the event, allowing us to get some much-needed water time.

I am sure you will all be familiar with Anu's excellent reports on the racing, and hearty congratulations to our ladies for such a fine performance. In future we would ask you to stop being so predictable and give us some exciting racing to watch from the boathouse. On the men's side, we had some incredible performances over the week. Our 1st VIII managed to bump St John's and Wolfson in or before the Gut, and 2 solid row-overs to break the Oriel 'man-stallions' run for blades. The 2nd VIII bumped Lincoln II, Jesus II (overbumping the infamous Exeter II) and St John's II, continuing their annual rise through the ranks. Although they missed out on blades, I hope that fantastic crop of bumps at least consoles them somewhat. Our illustrious 'Mach 3' 3rd VIII took to the waters to bump Trinity III (overbumping Christ Church III) and Brasenose III. Congratulations go to the ragtag band of rowers busy studying that made up this crew.

With Torpids now behind us, it's time for us to look forward to Summer VIII's. Although we have

no returning Blues there are still lots of talent in our squad ready to step up and we expect to have strong 1st and 2nd VIII's. Perhaps Trinity term will see a return to water-based training, which would be very pleasant indeed. In any case we can look forward to a promising Summer Eights campaign.

Women's Boat Club Report

Isobel Renton, Women's Captain

The first Captains' Meeting of this term was dominated by rumours of a Torpids cancellation due to the continuing rubbish weather. This was a frustrating threat to the 26 members of the Women's squad who had continued to do land-training over the Christmas vac in any way they could: all building up towards trials at the start of term. Due to the nature of the river this year's W1 was dominated by those who had rowed before 2012 but we were left with a fit 2nd boat and a potential W3 (should the river provide enough water time).

As had become the norm, it didn't, and the W3 that rolled over the starting line on rowing-on had never been in a boat together before. They did not make it into Torpids, but put on a solid performance and showed a promising pool for Summer Eights and future top boat selections. I must congratulate them on their perseverance and commitment even at these early stages of their rowing careers.

W1 and W2 had been lucky enough to get around a week's water time, and even managed to get some race experience at Bedford Head thanks to the support of the Rowing Society and the College. Bedford Head was another wet experience, but it ran, and the excitement of actually getting water time seemed to drown out the bad weather. Both VIII's stepped up and rowed well and W1, with the imminent and still scheduled Torpids in mind, managed to bump the boat ahead in their second race. We were also pleased to come in 20 seconds faster than the Balliol W1: the only other Oxford women's VIII competing.

Thankfully Torpids went ahead and even saw some sunny afternoons. The first day was a nerve-racking event: hopes high, but everyone wondering if the other colleges had actually been matching or even surpassing our rigorous land-training. It soon became evident that, at least for the boats sandwiching our two VIII's, they had not.

W2 were fourth fastest in Rowing On, and with this evidence that the boats ahead of them were catchable, continued to dominate Div V. The first day saw them

bump St Antony's II after about 1 minute of racing; the next day took down St Johns III; Friday saw them over-bump Exeter II who had begun four bung-lines ahead of them; and on Saturday they clinched blades with a bump on Merton II. I was very impressed to see the girls maintain level heads and listen to their



The Women's 2nd Torpid bearing down on St John's III cox (women's coach Malcolm Spencer) when they encountered inexperienced and under-practised crews taking bizarre courses. Indeed this was the only division that was klaxoned throughout the whole week.

W1 decided on their goal early on this year: blades. Between informing our new stroke, Anne de Geus, not to be surprised when the race was started by a cannon firing and praying we could regain the dignity we mislaid in the tree opposite Longbridges during the Saturday of last year's Torpids, the crew was tense for our first row which was at the head of Division 2. However the nerves served us well and we rowed over easily, leaving Exeter five or six lengths behind and even easing off to a technical row along Christ Church meadow. An hour later we were on the sandwich bung-line for Div 1, and with an injection of confidence bumped Queen's before we had even finished our start, following our cox Josh Morgan's warning: 'Concede or we will smash you!'. We were pushed up two spots the next day when Hertford were bumped by Univ whom we had already caught before Donny Bridge. We bumped Worcester on Friday and achieved our goal on Saturday with Christ Church. The last start was neat, the rowing was strong, and although Christ Church tried to push off just after Donny Bridge (making it our longest bump) we were only incentivised by the horde of Catz spectators running alongside and the smell of blades.

W1 took part in the time-trial the following Wednesday to see which college would race against Cambridge's equivalent VIII. We came in second to a very strong St John's, however now we know who our

competition are we're all feeling positive for Summer VIIIIs and are already knee deep in our Easter vac training.

Torpids 2013: Statistics

St Catz' five crews finished with a net gain of 18 places (beaten only by Green Templeton with 23 from just 4 crews!). This makes it St Catherine's most successful Torpids since we started competing in 1876, beating previous the previous best of 12 (2006) and 14 (1971, but under different rules). Headship blades aside, it is also the first time that Catz women's 1st or 2nd Torpids have won blades, although the 3rd Torpid managed it in 2009. The Men's 1st Torpid (5th) are just one place below their highest ever position on the river, the 2nd Torpid (41st) at their highest position since 1993 and the 3rd Torpid (62nd) their highest since 1982.

International Rowing

The 2013 international season starts this weekend — rather earlier than usual — with the first round of the World Cup series being held in Sydney, Australia (I'm guessing wind-chill won't be a factor over there).

The post-Olympic year is traditionally a time for experimentation and, in that spirit, Andy Triggs Hodge (M.04) and the two other continuing members of the Olympic gold medal IV now find themselves racing in the GB VIII. He is joined in Sydney by Zoe de Toledo (M.10), coxing the GB women's VIII.

By the way, the second round takes place at Dorney Lake, 21–23 June and tickets are available now.

University Crews

The 'Henley' Boat Races (women and lightweights) have been relocated at late notice to Dorney Lake 'in view of the strong stream conditions at Henley and the forecast direction and strength of wind'. Now, while moving the location due to a high stream is understandable, I'm not convinced that a windy Dorney Lake is better than a windy Henley. Certainly not for the spectators.

As for the men's Boat Race, Oxford has generally looked more convincing in their private Tideway

fixtures than Cambridge. Last weekend, while Cambridge were being put under pressure by Molesey RC, Oxford got the better of a high-quality German crew containing 5 of the Olympic gold medal VIII. The Oxford stroke (Malcolm Howard) and seven (Constantine Louloudis), who won silver and bronze in the Canadian and GB VIIIIs respectively, would probably have enjoyed that. The bookies took note and Oxford are now favourites, but it should be said that anyone systematically betting against the odds over the past 10 years would have made a tidy profit by now. Umpire Matthew Pinsent (M.89) will just be hoping for something less eventful than last year.

Coming Up ...

In the next issue there will reports on the Oxford-Cambridge Boat Races and any early-season racing, details for Eights and a look at the events of 75 years ago (which couldn't fit into this issue). News items or other 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

24 Mar 2013	Henley Boat Races
31 Mar 2013	The Boat Race
21–24 May 2013	Eights
21–23 Jun 2013	World Cup II (Dorney)



The Men's and Women's 1st Torpids

