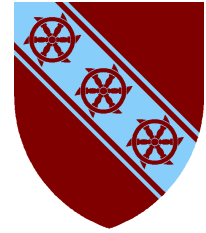




St Catherine's College Rowing Society
St Catherine's College,
Oxford OX1 3UJ



5th November, 2005

In this issue ...

There is an update on the boathouse & boats, a round-up of what our students and alumni have been up to over summer, a look back at the successes of 5 years ago and news of our triallists including some impressive new arrivals.

Boathouse Fire

Following July's fire it has taken a little longer than hoped to get the boathouse back in working order. Fortunately, Balliol generously provided us with free racking for the first two of our new eights which had arrived at the start of term.



Above, the inside of the boathouse the day after the fire and, below, as it is now. Just needs a few more boats ...



However, we did finally move back into our own boathouse earlier this week and, with replacement boats continuing to arrive, we should reach a total of 6 brand new eights by the end of term, plus an old wooden eight bought from St Anne's (for the princely sum of £100) for the sole purpose of allowing the complete novices to work off some of their more destructive habits. Most of the cost has been covered by the insurance with the College and the Rowing Society funding the remainder.

So, despite the initial concerns, Catz rowing will not have been seriously affected by the fire. Reducing a potential disaster to mere nuisance value has actually involved a great deal of work by many people, but two in particular should be singled out for their efforts over the summer: Peter Goult, the men's Captain, and James Bennett, the Domestic Bursar.

Which leads us on to the tricky subject of ...

Boat Names

The Boat Club has chosen names for the top four boats, the RS Committee has named another boat and there is a yet-to-be-announced plan to give the RS membership the opportunity to name the remaining boat (my idea of asking the RS members to vote on it having been deemed too trivial an approach for such an important issue). Only the Men's 1st Boat continues the A A Milne theme.

M1	Hostile Intent (Sims)
W1	Alan Bullock (Sims)
M2	Catz 22 (Janousek)
W2	Catz Me If You Can (Janousek)
M3	Tony Hancox (Janousek)
W3	? (Janousek)

Summer Racing

A Catz women's four was entered for Henley Women's Regatta, but were comfortably beaten in the first round by Mortlake Anglian and Alpha. In Henley Royal Regatta various Catz students and alumni were racing in different club colours but also failed to get past their first race. The exception was Andrew Triggs Hodge who, as stroke of the GB coxless four (the seat previously occupied by Matt Pinsent) won the Stewards and completed an unbeaten season by

President: Bruce Mitchell

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

also winning the World Championships. Colin Smith had a hit and miss season in a double scull, but was entered for the World Championships as the GB single sculler and did well to make the semifinals.



The Gaudy Paddle on 2nd July. Liz Talbot (Bow), Mike Day (M.63), Nigel Abbott (M.63), Chris Talbot (M.62), Nigel Lloyd (M.67), Chris Little (M.67), Graham Williams (M.65), Darren Chadwick (Str, M.03) and Fleur-Estelle Shaw (Cox, M.04). The last crew to use the boathouse before the fire (no, it wasn't their fault).

Results

Henley Women's Regatta (17th–19th June)

Intermediate 4+

Round 1 MAA bt St Catherine's Easily

Henley Royal Regatta (29th June–3rd July)

Temple Challenge Cup (Academic 8s)

Wed Colby College, USA
bt Isis (Peter Goult) 1/2 L

Thames Challenge Cup (Club 8s)

Wed Peterborough City
bt Wallingford (Mike Bull, M.99) 1 1/4 L

Grand Challenge Cup (International 8s)

Semi Dortmund Rowing Centre, Germany
bt Oxford U. (Chris Liwski) 1/2 L

Stewards Challenge Cup (International 4-)

Semi Leander & Oxf U. (Andy Triggs Hodge)
bt Dukla Praha, Czech. 3 1/2 L

Final Leander & Oxford U.
bt Victoria City, Canada Easily

U23 World Championships (Amsterdam, 21st–24th July)

Colin Smith 2x (GBR) 4th

World Championships

(Gifu, Japan, 28th Aug – 4th Sep)

Andy Hodge	4– (GBR)	1st
Bastien Ripoll	8 (FRA)	9th
Colin Smith	1x (GBR)	12th

Cambridge Mays (15th–18th June)

Sarah Askew (M.94)

I'm still rowing for St Edmund's in Cambridge and (despite my best efforts to return to bow pair) still in the stroke seat. May bumps didn't go quite as well as Lents — I actually got bumped for the first time ever on Wednesday! Fortunately this was just a minor blip — a combination of 3 of our crew being absent (U2 concert in Manchester) and being replaced by rookie novices, and FaT [1st & 3rd Trinity] III being a reasonably fast schools VIII (meanwhile FaT II were in free-fall in the division above).

On Thursday we were back to full strength, with the novices safely confined to the tow path. The 4 crews ahead of us and the 4 crews behind us all bumped out, leaving us with a comfortable row-over. By Friday things were beginning to get interesting. Pembroke III needed to bump us in order to keep their hopes of blades alive, sadly (for them at least) we bumped Sidney Sussex II while they were still a length behind us, leaving them with a long, painful row-over.

By Saturday it was 31C and certainly too hot to row the whole course. Our objective was to bump Selwyn II ahead of us while keeping an eye on Newnham III who needed to over-bump us for blades. In the end Newnham were so far behind us we could barely see them (the Cam has considerably more bends than the Isis). Selwyn, on the other hand, put up quite a fight — we finally caught them at the top of the reach while pushing for the bump for the third time. Still, we bumped them right in front of the crowd and it was definitely a satisfying way to end the week.

FISA World Masters' Regatta (Strathclyde, 8–11th September)

Tony Mitchell (M.78)

I had complete control of my VetC 1x race but allowed a determined Italian to slip past me in the last metre of the race. I have no idea how or why I had another gear or two in me but decided not to use them or the length to two lengths extra boat speed that was available. I decided to play safe and paid the price and misjudged the boat speed. I was really hurt by my stupidity.

The following day I raced against a bunch of 38 year olds and was going well and in a good challenging position then just let rip in the last 250, got the commentator very excited but ran out of water with half a length to go.

So I made one man from Tuscany deliriously happy and gave one youngster from Poland a fright.



Tony Mitchell in action at this summer's City of Oxford Royal Regatta.

On the Sunday I got a chance to race with Sarah Payne (ex-New College) in the 2x and rowed down a good German and very strong Russian crew so we got a gold and we were also the fastest in the world so guess I am a World Champion. I was able to row in Catz kit in the 2x, which always pleases me.

5 Years Ago ...

After the success of the coxless four in the Sydney Olympics, rowing clubs all over the country benefitted from a huge surge in interest. Unfortunately then followed one of the wettest Autumns on record resulting in most inland waterways becoming unrowable. However, having participated in that summer's Gaudy paddle, Tony Mitchell (M.78) was one of those who was inspired to return to the sport and stuck with it.

In Oxford, the flooding continued to disrupt training in Hilary Term. This was the year many College crews discovered the delights of weekend commuting to the newly-opened Dorney Lake. Torpids, much to everyone's surprise, did actually take place (unlike the preceding and following years), and ran for all four days, albeit restricted to senior divisions. Catz were fortunate to have the combination of an inspirational coach, Bobby Gibson, and experienced crews so Torpids 2001 turned out to be something of a high point in our rowing history. The men won blades, equalling their highest ever position of 6th on the river and the women, of course, took the Headship in

convincing fashion.



Members of the successful 2001 Catz 1st Torpids

The upward progress of the 1st boats continued in Eights, although in less spectacular fashion. Even so the women's 1st Eight gained a couple of places to finish 2nd on the river, equalling their highest ever position while the men also gained a couple of places to finish 10th in Div 1, their highest summer position since 1883. But while all was going well at the top end, the lower crews fared less well; an ominous sign, perhaps, of things to come.

News from Alumni

For reasons of space, opening statements along the lines of 'I can't believe it's been 5 years since ...', have been omitted from many of the following accounts.

Richard Law (M.95)

I'm currently working near San Francisco for the Lawrence Livermore National Lab — I've been here about 6 months now. It's certainly a different environment to academia or industry and takes some getting used to. I'm still racing my bike, during the season, and have joined a new team up here having been forced to leave my San Diego team. In November I'm getting married to my fiancée, Oksana, in Hawaii. We'll be having a bigger ceremony and party in England next summer. I was really sorry to hear about the boathouse fire and I hope Catz comes through it even stronger and better than before!

Florence Williams (M.97)

I've not been in a boat for about 18 months after I realised that I couldn't afford the time I wanted to spend rowing and decided that I wouldn't carry on half-heartedly; you never know — it may lure me back at some point! I'm now the proud owner of a

house in Faringdon and very happy teaching at Burford School. I may try to go off travelling in a few years time once I can get a better deal on my mortgage! I've lost touch with far too many people so if anyone is in the area and would like to meet up, drop me an email: florence.williams@stcatz-oxford.com

James Darbyshire (M.98)

I see that some of my not so wisely chosen words have managed to survive on the Boat Club website, which has a certain degree of irony as I now have to choose my words far more carefully as a lawyer . . .

I went to law school in London after Catz, where the Thames was nowhere as appealing as the Isis, and I left my blade hanging on the wall. I returned to playing badminton, and now play twice a week and in matches in the area.

Having studied and trained in London, I've just qualified as a solicitor and have moved to Bristol to work as a corporate lawyer, and am enjoying life in a new city, although it's taking a while to get used to the west country accent. I'm looking forward to hearing what everyone is up to now!

Carla Crifó (M.98)

I finished my DPhil in 2004 and moved to Leicester to teach law at the University of Leicester. I'm trying not to lose the fitness, so I go for long runs (I jogged the Great North Run this year) and I am a member of a gym that I visit irregularly and usually just to lounge in the sauna. As I pass the cardio area, the Concept 2 stares reproachfully at me but I manage to avoid the guilt and keep going . . .

Matt Denmark (M.99)

I have been working for PwC since leaving Oxford, in corporate finance specialising in the infrastructure sector. Rowed in London for a year after graduating and then for a while with Wallingford — pressure of work has meant that I haven't had time to row for 18 months or so but trying to stay fit with running. Currently living in Oxford with Sarah (ex New College 1st VIII), but we are looking to move back to London in the summer and then I may even make a rowing comeback!

Tim Joseph (M.99)

I'm still in Oxford, working on a DPhil in the Materials department. It's on 'Materials for Fusion Reactors', which sounds quite exciting but is mostly polishing and breaking little bits of metal. I've not done any rowing since I left Catz for Oriel unfortunately. I took up cycling when I started my DPhil but as my project gets further behind schedule I'm having to cut down on the amount of time I spend on my

bike. I'm getting married in May and will probably stay on in academia for a bit longer to avoid getting a real job.

Raph Schapiro (M.99)

Since leaving Oxford, I've been working as a consultant with McKinsey in Canada. Rowing was good preparation for consulting: early mornings, smelly team-mates, and long periods of pain, all the while convincing myself that this was the best thing in the world. Haven't done any real rowing since Catz, and feel a deep sense of loss every May. The rest of the year I function just fine.

OUBC Triallists

We have a number of people trialling for OUBC this term, although not for any of the other squads. Colin Smith and Nick Brodie (last year's Isis cox) are joined by three new arrivals on 1-year MSc courses: Bruce Magee from New Zealand, Bastien Ripoll and Stephan Moelvig. Bastien Ripoll has been a regular in the French national squad for a few years now, including a 6th place in the eight in Athens. Stephan Moelvig was been a member of the Danish Lightweight four from 2002–2004 which, as those of you familiar with the current international rowing scene will realise, means that he has a couple of World Championship gold medals to keep his Olympic gold medal company. Not really much more one can say after that.

Coming Up . . .

In the next newsletter there will reports on this term's rowing (although given the amount of rain recently . . .), a piece from Graham Kaye on the barges of 50 years ago, further news of our new boats and OUBC triallists, and a look at the Boat Club of 15 years ago when Matt Wood and Jen Atkinson were captains. If you rowed that year, you are particularly invited to contribute something for the 'News from Alumni' section.

Anu Dudhia

email: dudhia@atm.ox.ac.uk

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

Diary

1–4 March 2006	Torpids
4th March 2006	RS AGM & Dinner
1st April 2006	Henley Boat Races
2nd April 2006	The Boat Race
24–27 May 2006	Eights