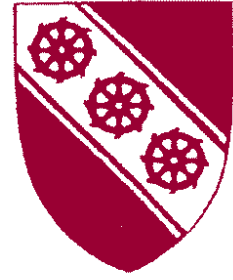


*St Catherine's College Rowing Society*  
*St Catherine's College*  
*Oxford OX1 3UJ*



4th November, 2006

### In this issue ...

Reports of summer rowing from our alumni — from World Champions to Gaudy paddlers, all life is here — Leslie Singleton calls for a return of the traditional blazer, and we take a look back at the Boat Club of 10 years ago, which is also the year that the stroke seat of the GB four came under Catz ownership.

### Results

#### Henley Royal Regatta 28th June–2nd July

##### Visitors (4-)

Crabtree & Bosporos (Matt Smith, M.99)

Rnd 1 Lost to Shannon RC (IRL)

##### Ladies Plate (8)

Oxford U & Oxf. Brookes U (Nick Brodie, M.04)

SemiF Lost to Leander & Molesey

Leander & Molesey (Stephan Moelvig, M.05,  
 Bruce Magee, M.05)

Final Lost to Princeton (USA)

#### World U23 Champ. Hazewinkel 20–23rd July

M4+ GBR 5th Nick Brodie (M.04)



Andrew Triggs Hodge, stroke of the GB Coxless Four.

#### World Championships, Dorney 20–27th August

M4–	GBR 1st	Andy Triggs Hodge (M.04)
M8	USA 3rd	Chris Liwski (M.04)
M2–	GBR 6th	Colin Smith (M.03)
M8	FRA 8th	Bastien Ripoll (M.05)

### World Rowing Championships

This year's World Rowing Championships were held at Dorney Lake, near Eton. Apart from being the first time the event had been held in Britain for 20 years, it had special significance for St Catherine's with 4 of our alumni competing. I sneaked off work for a couple of mornings to go and watch, and spotted at least another 14 current or ex boat club members with the same idea.

Andrew Triggs Hodge (M.04) made the headlines with his gold in the coxless fours event, extending their unbeaten run to 24 races. They also made a lot of fans afterwards by pulling into the bank by the public enclosures and wading ashore to mix with the crowds.



Chris Liwski, no.5 in the US Eight.

Chris Liwski (M.04), rowing at no.5 in the US Eight, won a bronze but possibly took some extra satisfaction in knowing that he had already beaten a couple of the winning German crew in the 2005 Boat Race.

Bastien Ripoll (M.05), after stroking the victorious 2006 OUBC and St Catz crews, stroked the French VIII here but couldn't quite continue his winning run as they finished 2nd in the B final, i.e., 8th in the overall rankings.

**President: Bruce Mitchell**

Vice Presidents: Don Barton, Rev. Joseph Bell,

Lord Garden KCB, Richard Peters,

Sir Matthew Pinsent CBE, Ben Sylvester



Bastien Ripoll, stroke of the French Eight.



Colin Smith, bow of the GB Coxless Pair.

Colin Smith (M.03), partnering this year's CUBC President Tom James, achieved their target of making the 'A' final — his first in a Senior World Championships — but was probably disappointed not to have managed better than 6th.

The Catz contingent helped ensure that it was also a good Championships for the Oxford-Cambridge Boat Race: a total of 21 Men's Blues were taking part, 13 Oxford and 8 Cambridge.

At the Under-23 World Championships, held a month earlier in Hazewinkel, Nick Brodie (M.05) coxed the GB 4+ which finished 5th. Rowing in that boat was Rob Hollis, who is now Catz' senior coach.

## Summer Rowing

At the beginning of July, Paul Halfpenny (M.97) took a bronze in the elite VIII's event at the Swiss National Championships held on Lake Lucerne. A week later, Lucerne hosted the 3rd Round of the Rowing World Cup, regarded as a useful form-guide for the coming World Championships. Andy Triggs Hodge continued his winning ways in the GB 4-, an event in which Bastien Ripoll's French crew finished 10th. And in their first race of the season, Colin Smith's GB pair came a suprisingly close 2nd.

Meanwhile, apart from Smith & Ripoll, three other members of the summer 1st Eight were racing at Henley Royal Regatta: Bruce Magee and Stephan Moelvig rowing in the Leander & Molesey crew which defeated Oxford University & Oxford Brookes, coxed

by Nick Brodie, in the semifinals of the Ladies Plate. Matt Smith (M.99) also made a come-back, rowing for Crabtree & Bosporos (essentially the CUBC and OUBC alumni clubs) in the Vistors'.

Tony Mitchell (M.78), teaming up again with Sarah Payne, won the Mixed VetC double scull at Henley Vets and, racing as 'St Catherine's', took the Mixed Vet doubles title in the recent Pairs Head.

Tony also raced at City of Oxford Regatta, as did Jim Usherwood (M.92), sculling for Falcon, and Charlotte Alldritt (M.04) in a Wallingford VIII, but none of our alumni had much success here.

There were a couple of less competitive summer outings on the Isis: Sarah Boddy rounded up a bunch of old girls on the Sunday after Eights (although the rowing was only a minor part of a weekend of 'social' activities), and a rather more venerable group of gentlemen went out in the afternoon before the Gaudy. It was a hot day and perhaps letting the women's Captain, Amy, stroke was a bit of a mistake.



Fiona Howarth (M.00) and Laura Goodsir (M.99) adjusting to rowing in a Catz boat once more.



Stroke wondering just what she has to do to get the Gaudy crew to resemble the French Eight in the earlier picture: C Graham Purcocks (M.72), S Amy Banham-Hall (M.04), 7 Steve Thompson (M.72), 6 Colin Please (M.74), 5 Rowland Hill (M.72), 4 Tony Reiss (M.71), 3 Alan Grant (M.72), 2 John Ibison (M.73), B Chiara Piccolo (randomly recruited from my lab).

## Boat Club Blazers

### Leslie Singleton (M.65)

White Blazers are a perfectly splendid way to dress up for Henley or any other Regatta one is lucky enough to have a reason to go to in the Summer, not to mention Boat Club Dinners. Ours is more attractive than most in that the Magenta Wheel on the pocket proclaims who we are.

As is well known, though, there are problems. They are expensive, especially so with the proper dual coloured piping — Magenta and French Grey. Because of this, such few Blazers as have been bought in last few decades tended to be made up on a basis once described to me as ‘an economy drive’, using single off-the-shelf red (nobody has ever explained why red) ribbon.

A year or two after going down, Mark Stevens and I were at Henley and wondered what was stopping us obtaining pukka Blazers. Mark went off to Darkest Africa — where I think he still is — and I undertook to obtain the best Blazers I could for both of us. I went in to Castells — this was before the merger with Walters — and made it clear that, come what may, Mark and I wanted the proper colours. These were simply the Society’s colours (not the original but that’s another story) and there wasn’t too much doubt about what the colours should be, as a glance at the Boater Ribbons, any tie, the First Eight wrap, the Society scarf or best of all Simon Clark’s father’s Blazer. Simon is now a Fellow of the College but coxed the First Eight in my time wearing his father’s Blazer — none of the present Health and Safety nonsense. His father, also an alumnus, coxed the First Eight in 1922. Simon’s father’s Blazer was unquestionably dual piping, Magenta and French Grey. Simon also has one of his father’s ties. Unfortunately Simon’s mother without thinking threw out her husband’s Blazer when he died. Sob!

Back to my visit to Castells, they gathered I meant business but said they didn’t have anything like a full roll of woven dual Magenta and French Grey piping (they like to think in terms of whole boats at once buying Blazers). Might I see what they did have, I asked? I was privileged to be taken down in to the brick vaults below the shop and we found a roll with nearly two Blazers’ worth of piping on it. Being the super chap I am we did the best we could and made up two identical Blazers, one for me, one for Mark. The piping on the sleeves had to be boded in both cases.

Recently I learnt in Walters that another alumnus — it turned out to be Graham (“Danny”) Kaye — had recently fought and won his own fight on the same

subject. He too had no time for the ‘single red’ and came away with correct piping on a new Blazer and very nice it looked too at the last Boat Club Dinner!

The reason I had gone in to Walters was to enquire how easy it would be to have my Blazer increased in size. By report I had expected it to be difficult and expensive (various senior members of the Rowing Society having told me that ‘girth’ is the reason they no longer wear their Blazers) but in fact it was VERY easy and inexpensive. To be precise, having it taken apart, new gussets (I think they are called) inserted, including on the sleeves, and the piping gaps filled and the piping bodge as above corrected cost £50. Douglas is the man to ask for at Walters.

Walters now have a new technique for dual piping which consists simply of very finely stitching together the two colours. This new method is cheaper than the old with less of a minimum order size.

I write

- a) to encourage all Blazer owners with the single red piping to upgrade as above and
- b) to ask that Walters be officially notified that red is dead.

My and Mark’s, and I’ll bet now Graham’s, Blazer never meet anything other than admiration from alumni. As I say in a hundred resultant conversations over the years I have never heard anything said against what I see as the full proper Catz Blazer. It’s beautiful and would add to our esprit de corps. I should like to hope that more people, even after going down (once they become income-producing!), would be willing to buy the proper thing than the incomprehensible red. At Middle Age buying such a Blazer is a gr8 way to re-connect (at the same time bringing one’s Rowing Society’s dues up to date!).

PS I am as aware as the next man, perhaps more than most, that there are still loose ends of the ‘how many spokes turning in which direction’ variety — Simon’s father’s Blazer for instance had the French Grey on the inside, mine is on the outside, and there is the question how light or dark the Magenta should be — but perhaps we can let those pass for now.

## News from Alumni

**Roger Noël Smith (M.71).** On 15 June 2006 Miranda Ellen Smith, daughter of Roger Noël Smith and Aila Sirén was born in Jyväskylä, Finland (photos on the web).

**Bluebell Martin (M.94)** No rowing news (apart from ‘optical rowing’ whenever I drive past the Tide-way), but I’m getting increasingly into another watersport — windsurfing. This could possibly be the

diametric opposite of rowing — you can only go out if the conditions are exactly right, wind and waves are a good thing, it's all about individual style ... but I suppose you still get the bad shorts tan in the summer.

I'm living in Angel with my boyfriend and have just changed jobs and now work for Brand Genetics which is a small, specialised brand consultancy in Southwark.

**Daljit Bamford (née Gill) (M.95)** I unfortunately did not continue my rowing career after University ... am living and working in London, happily married and hoping that you/Catz organise a rowing reunion sometime soon! Would certainly wake our brains and encourage donations back into the club that gave me so much enjoyment in my University years.

**Caroline Trotter (M.95)** I'm living in Bristol now, working as a Research Fellow at the University. I still manage to row & scull occasionally, and even spotted Liz Smith (M.96) rowing for Trafford RC at the Head of the Avon Gorge back in February (just in case she doesn't admit it herself!).

**Helen Barnes (M.96)** I've just moved to Johannesburg for a new job working with human rights groups in Southern Africa (mostly Zimbabwe) and I'm expecting to be here for at least a couple of years if not longer. Visitors welcome, of course — the 'Big 5' can be found just 2 hours from my doorstep (not that I've seen any of them yet).

Seems there's rowing here but I'm travelling too much to commit to a crew — yet another convenient excuse to justify not getting up early in the mornings:) I'm playing capoeira<sup>1</sup> instead, and still throwing a frisbee around from time to time.

Being told it's 10 years since starting all this rowing business has triggered a whole load of nostalgic reminiscence — good memories for the most part:)

## 10 Years Ago ...

The Men's Boat Club had suffered a major turnover and had to build a 1st VIII around the previous summer's 3rd Eight. Under the circumstances, rowing near the top of Div 2, they did well to limit their losses to down 1 place in both Torpids and Eights.

The Women's Boat Club, on the other hand, had been on their way up for several years, benefitting from the coaching of Susan Erb with occasional guest appearances by Matt Pinsent. They were now 2nd on the river, behind Osler-Green, in both Torpids

<sup>1</sup>Which cursory research suggests is a form of unarmed combat, but with musical accompaniment.

and Eights. Their best performance came in Torpids when they pressed Osler hard all four days, but never quite cracking them. The 2nd Torpid also managed to establish themselves in the fixed divisions, winning blades in the process. Eights didn't go so well: they ended up struggling to hold off New College, who finally caught them on the last day.

On the Saturday of Torpids the College laid on a memorable 'Rowing Celebration Dinner' to mark the opening of Long Bridges Boathouse, with guests of honour Rupert Obholzer (ex Catz oarsman and Olympic bronze medallist), Matthew Pinsent and Steven Redgrave. I think the photo sums it up nicely.



The 1997 Women's 1st Torpid, and guests. *From left to right, back row:* Jane Golley, Em Thomas, Becky Killick, Bluebell Martin; *middle:* Caroline Trotter, Catherine Snook, Sinead Costello, Sarah Jones, Adrienne Gumm; *front:* Matthew Pinsent, Susan Erb, Steven Redgrave.

## Coming Up ...

Reports on this term's rowing, news of our University Triallists, and a look at the Boat Club of 20 years ago (under the captaincy of Charles Courquin and Rachel McKay). And advanced notice that for next year's Rowing Society Dinner we'll be hassling all those of you who rowed in 1982 and 1957 to come along to see who's still standing, and what sort of shape they are in, 25 and 50 years on.

Anu Dudhia

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

## Diary

28 Feb – 3 Mar 2007	Torpids
3 Mar 2007	RS AGM & Dinner
1 Apr 2007	Henley Boat Races
7 Apr 2007	The Boat Race
23–26 May 2007	Eights
26 May 2007	Boathouse lunch