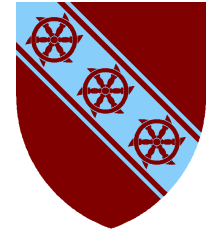




*St Catherine's College Rowing Society*  
*St Catherine's College,*  
*Oxford OX1 3UJ*



*25th Anniversary Year 1984–2004*

27th June, 2004

**In this issue . . .**

There was some modest success in Eights with three of our four crews going up — certainly an improvement on Torpids. The boathouse buffet lunch on the Saturday of Eights seems to be increasingly popular and included the presentation of this year's Ben Sylvester Award. The man himself appears in the events of 55 years ago and there's a look ahead to another of our Vice-Presidents' holiday plans for the summer.



Anxious moments on the Friday of Eights as members of the Women's 2nd Eight watch their male counterparts fighting to hold off Worcester II (see under 'Results').

**Results**

**Eights (26th–29th May)**

	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Finish
Men's I	=	=	=	+1	10th Div I
Women's I	-1	-1	-1	-1	11th Div I
Men's II	+1	=	=	=	4th Div IV
Women's II	=	+1	+1	=	4th Div IV

**Rowing On (21st May)**

Crew	Time	Position	Cut-off
Men's IV	3:09	36th/48	3:00
Men's III	3:25	44th/48	"
Women's III	3:46	32nd/39	3:37

Top 25 Men's and 25 Women's crews qualified

**Oriel Regatta (10th–12th June)**

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<i>Men's Sculls</i> (Justin Puleo)	
Quarter-Final	St Catz bt Univ
Semi-Final	St Catz bt Oriel
Final	St Catz bt L.M.H.

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<i>Women's IVs</i> (Henley IV)	
Quarter-Final	St Catz bt Merton
Semi-Final	Magdalen bt St Catz

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<i>Men's Novice VIIIs</i> (Rugby VIII)	
Semi-Final	St Catz bt Osler-Green
Final	Templeton bt St Catz

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**Women's Boat Club Report**

**Katharine Pierce, Women's Captain**

This term saw a better performance from the Catz women's squad than last, though we have mostly our 2nd Eight to thank for that. With crews selected early on in the term, they trained hard, and stretched their novice legs to row over twice and bump twice. Our 1st Eight kicked the term off with City Bumps, where we learned that our start was awful but that once we recovered from it we were able to row down some good crews, chasing St Hugh's for an overbump 10 meters before the finish, our crew's favourite race to date. Eights was a bit of a disappointment for us. With a small crew we didn't have the power we needed to avoid early bumps. Well tried to our 3rd Eight, mostly novices, who didn't manage to qualify, but show potential for next year. We then took a IV, selected from our 1st Eight, to compete in Women's Henley. We had a good row but some bad luck and didn't manage to qualify.

I would like to thank the Boat Club and Rowing Society for making this such a wonderful year for me. Your dedication to the sport of rowing and personal commitment to each other makes the ups and downs of captainship entirely worthwhile. To the 1st VIII, you have become my best friends. Rowing with you this year was a privilege. I look forward to building on the hidden accomplishments of the Catz Women's Boat Club next year, and moving on to deserved success.

**President: Tony Hancox**

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



The Men's 1st Eight warming up on Thursday (no, that's just the way the boat's rigged!).

### 2004 St Catherine's Eights

#### Men's 1st Eight

- B James McInerney
- 2 Will Mulholland
- 3 Dan Blakey
- 4 Evan Burfield
- 5 Justin Puleo
- 6 James Woodrow
- 7 Paul Holland
- S Colin Smith
- C Alastair Ross

#### Men's 2nd Eight

- B Jonas Oetken
- 2 Joe Wilson
- 3 Erik Vincent
- 4 Theo Bruening
- 5 Steve Wicks
- 6 Darren Chadwick
- 7 Dan Gallagher
- S Richard Hinwood
- C Katharine Pierce

#### Men's 3rd Eight

- B Paul Beynon
- 2 Cesar Ramirez-Montes
- 3 Mark Gibbon
- 4 Simon Hunter
- 5 Jack Sky
- 6 Laurence Witherington
- 7 Hanna Sykulska
- S Ed Peacock
- C Rozelle Kane (St Hilda's)

#### Men's 4th (Rugby) Eight

- B Michael Howe
- 2 Stephen Attree
- 3 Zain Richardson
- 4 Christopher Carter
- 5 Fraser Gemmell
- 6 Douglas Jordan
- 7 Robert Gauldie
- S Peter Brown
- C Raja Nadarajan

#### Women's 1st Eight

- B Kassy Long
- 2 Emma Willis
- 3 Carrie Shuckerow
- 4 Lydia Hutchinson
- 5 Hanna Sykulska
- 6 Jennifer May Lee
- 7 Carolyn Aler
- S Katharine Pierce
- C Ben Gander

#### Women's 2nd Eight

- B Jen Ryan
- 2 Lily Tajima
- 3 Jinghua Fan
- 4 Monica Herald
- 5 Sarah Killingsworth
- 6 Lauren McGuirl
- 7 Nivedita Mani
- S Kate Waldeck
- C Marc Coutanche

#### Women's 3rd Eight

- B Rachel Williamson
- 2 Laura Mackinnin
- 3 Amma Ntiriwaa
- 4 Florence Granatt
- 5 Branwyn Poleykett
- 6 Pia Talbot
- 7 Rebecca Hugg
- S Susanna Fisher
- C Michael Coppelov

## Eights 2004 Bumps Charts

MEN		WED THU FRI SAT	WOMEN		WED THU FRI SAT
I	PEMBROKE ORIEL EXETER MAGDALEN CHRIST CHURCH S.E.H. LINCOLN NEW COLLEGE BALLIOL HERTFORD ST CATHERINE'S JESUS		I	PEMBROKE NEW COLLEGE MERTON SOMERVILLE WADHAM ST HILDA'S ST CATHERINE'S CHRIST CHURCH S.E.H. OSLER-GREEN KEBLE UNIVERSITY	
II	WADHAM UNIVERSITY TRINITY BRASENOSE KEBLE QUEEN'S ST PETER'S ST ANNE'S MERTON ST JOHN'S WOLFSON MANSFIELD		II	HERTFORD BRASENOSE QUEEN'S LINCOLN MAGDALEN L.M.H. WOLFSON ORIEL WORCESTER BALLIOL LINACRE ST JOHN'S	
III	PEMBROKE II WORCESTER ORIEL II L.M.H. CORPUS CHRISTI LINACRE CHRIST CHURCH II SOMERVILLE ST HUGH'S EXETER II LINCOLN II MAGDALEN II		III	TRINITY ST ANNE'S CORPUS CHRISTI JESUS MERTON II EXETER ST HUGH'S MANSFIELD ST ANTONY'S ST PETER'S WADHAM II LINACRE II	
IV	NEW COLLEGE II KEBLE II S.E.H. II QUEEN'S II ST CATHERINE'S II UNIVERSITY II WORCESTER II BRASENOSE II BALLIOL II OSLER-GREEN MERTON II JESUS II		IV	CHRIST CHURCH II L.M.H. II KEBLE II MAGDALEN II PEMBROKE II ST CATHERINE'S II ORIEL II WORCESTER II ST HILDA'S II S.E.H. II WOLFSON II REGENT'S PARK	
V	WADHAM II ST JOHN'S II HERTFORD II TRINITY II PEMBROKE III ORIEL III ST BENET'S HALL MAGDALEN III ST ANTONY'S LINACRE II KEBLE III ST PETER'S II		V	ST JOHN'S II LINCOLN II CORPUS CHRISTI II HERTFORD II NEW COLLEGE II QUEEN'S II WORCESTER III LINCOLN III NEW COLLEGE III BRASENOSE II ORIEL III BALLIOL II	
VI	ST ANNE'S II PEMBROKE IV WOLFSON II JESUS III BRASENOSE III REGENT'S PARK WADHAM III CHRIST CHURCH IV UNIVERSITY III S.E.H. III QUEEN'S III ST HUGH'S II		VI	WORCESTER IV QUEEN'S IV PEMBROKE III ST PETER'S II BALLIOL III ST HUGH'S II EXETER II QUEEN'S III S.E.H. III MAGDALEN III UNIVERSITY II TRINITY II ST JOHN'S III	
VII	EXETER II PEMBROKE V UNIVERSITY IV MERTON III BALLIOL III ST ANNE'S III ST PETER'S III ST JOHN'S III NEW COLLEGE III LINCOLN III CHRIST CHURCH III UNIVERSITY V L.M.H. II				



Dominique Bouchard (Lincoln), coach of the Women's 2nd Eight.



The Women's 2nd Eight who gained two places making them not only Catz most successful crew of the week but the most successful crew of the past two years.

## Men's Boat Club Report

The Men's 1st Eight spent most of the week chasing Hertford, closing rapidly off the start but, frustratingly, unable to make the bump. Eventually Lincoln fell into place on the last day. The 2nd Eight, containing half of the 1st Torpid, bumped Queen's II on the first day but could make no further progress and spent the last two days fighting to hold off Worcester II. The 3rd Eight, due to various organisational problems, didn't have an outing until the week of Rowing On, so no surprise when they failed to qualify. There was also a 4th (Rugby) Eight, who *seemed* to be fast enough to qualify, but fluffed it on the day.

In Oriel Regatta, the Rugby VIII made the final of Novice VIIIs but obviously lacked that big match temperament. In the Men's Sculls, Justin Puleo showed how it should be done and registered Catz' first win of the year.

## 55 Years Ago ...

Since the end of WWII the 1st Eight's only movement had been to drop one place to 29th on the river. Even the '49 1st Torpid had dropped one place. So, while success had been long awaited, it seems to have arrived rather suddenly in the summer of '49 which is arguably the most successful term of St Catherine's rowing in its 130-odd year history. In those days bumps were run over 6 days (Thursday to Wednesday, with Sunday a rest day, naturally), so blades were harder to come by.



The 1949 St Catherine's VIII which won the Junior Eights event at Marlow Regatta. *From left to right, back row:* Victor Bunting, Robert Wedderburn, Ben Sylvester, Arthur Simpson, *front:* Ian Barker, Geoffrey Sworder, Graham Kaye (cox), Donald Barton, Trevor Coulson. This crew contained members of the 1st and 2nd Eights, both of which attained 6 bumps, as did the 3rd Eight.

## 1949 St Catherine's Association News Sheet

An extraordinary year in the history of St Catherine's demands for once that the Society take precedence of the Association in the starting of this 'News Sheet'. We quite seriously challenge any Oxford man to produce evidence that ever before in the history of the University has any Boat Club achieved the marvellous record of eighteen bumps in the Eights, six by each of the three boats. Bump suppers, too, are rare in our annals, and yet this is not all. Though Henley exceeds in glamour in the rowing world, we rightly rejoice that at Marlow Regatta our boat won the Junior Eights Challenge Cup.

We may not all have been rowing men, but we should admit that prestige is popularly enhanced by success on the River. Reputation in Oxford seems to be decided either by a lengthy list of Firsts in Honour Schools or a goodly series of bumps in Eights Week. This year we have one but not the other, and we are more than content. The graduate members of the Association plainly cannot make bumps on the River. They cannot get Firsts in Honour Schools. There is but little they can actively do to help their younger brethren, save put their hands in their pockets and give.



Members of the 1949 Boat Club at their 50-year reunion. Kenneth Hack (cox), Geoffrey Sworder (str), Peter Thallon, Derek Pollon, Don Barton, Ben Sylvester, Derek Bullivant, Norman Fost, Tony Hancox (bow).

## The Benjamin F. Sylvester Jr. Award

The Benjamin F. Sylvester Jr medal is given annually to the member of the Boat Club who has most significantly contributed to enhancing the rowing life of St Catherine's College, Oxford. The 2004 medal has been awarded to Dan Robson.

Starting as a novice in 2001, Dan has both coxed and rowed in the 1st VIII. He was Men's Captain last year and is this year's President. Normally just an honorary title for ex-captains, Dan's Presidency has been a little more active than most. As one nominator put it:



Dan Robson receiving the award from Bruce Mitchell, Chairman of the Rowing Society.

'Whenever the captains or vice-captain have questions about anything, we go to Dan. Whenever we need a substitute rower, a coach, or a cox for an outing, we know we can count on Dan to be there. Before Trinity term, Dan said he didn't have time to cox since he had exams. A couple of days later I saw him at the boathouse in a lifejacket holding a cox box.'

Dan sincerely hopes that none of his tutors reads this.

## News from Alumni

**Don Barton (M.48)** Married shortly after going down in 1952, and promptly appointed District Officer in Tanganyika, in the Colonial Service. Left at independence in 1961, and after a brief foray into industry joined the British Council, with postings to Nigeria, Malaysia, Afghanistan, and London HQ. Now long-retired, and living with the same wife, Sylvia, in rural Hampshire. Daughter writes and son teaches.

**Geoffrey Sworder (M.48)** Can only say that I am in good health and looking forward to the 60th anniversary of the 1949 successes in 2009. Secretary 1948/49 season, Captain 1949/50 season.

**Tony Mitchell (M.78)** Managed a win in VetC 1x at Monmouth and Marlow Spring and also wins in the Mxd 2x with Sarah at Marlow Spring (3rd year running). Won one heat by 1ft had to come from behind in the last 4 strokes against some speedy nippers.

Had a go at Nat Vets in Nottingham, won my heat in the fastest time but came 4th in the final after the closest blanket finish I have yet encountered. Very hard racing and got beaten by Mike Edge and last year's winner, so am a bit disappointed as hoped I might be able to do the biz. But it was practically the fastest men's 1x race of the day and the first 5 would have medalled in almost any other category. Men's Vetc 1x is very tough. However Sarah got a silver in the WVetB1x and we got gold in the Mxd 2x so that was good.

## 2004 Olympic Games

Great Britain's crews for the Olympic Games in Athens were announced last week. Matthew Pinsent (M.89) and James Cracknell, who until this season had looked likely to enter the pairs, will be joined by Alex Partridge and Steve Williams in the coxless four. So far they've had a fairly uneven season, which may at least lighten the burden of expectation as Matt pursues his 4th Olympic Gold. Incidentally, Steve Williams was the coach of Catz women's 1st VIII back in '98, a few years after Matt used to coach them, although I suspect the present state of Catz women's rowing doesn't feature too often in their discussions.

## Coming Up ...

In the next newsletter I expect there will be something to say about the Olympics, Don Barton has sent a short tale of a rather long outing down to Reading in the summer of 1950 and there will be a review of the Boat Club of 10 years ago (1994/5, when Hassan Ahari and Cheryl Hardy were Captains). News from alumni from that time and other '49ers would be particularly welcome.

Anu Dudhia

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

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## Emilie Harris

*Katharine Pierce, Women's Captain, writes:*

Eights this year was a more somber occasion than in the past. Emilie Harris, a good friend to all and rower in the women's 3rds, died in a bike accident Wednesday, the 26th of May. A minute of silence was held along the Isis for her, following women's Division 1 the next day. She will be sorely missed by the Boat Club and the whole Catz community.