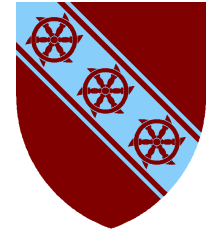




*St Catherine's College Rowing Society*  
*St Catherine's College,*  
*Oxford OX1 3UJ*



24th June, 2007

**In this issue . . .**

Despite some promising results early in the term, Eights proved a bit of a disappointment, to put it mildly — see the Captains' reports for details. In good years or bad, there have always individuals within the Boat Club whose efforts behind the scenes deserve recognition, for which we have the Ben Sylvester Award. The weather held off until the Saturday evening, but then rained through the Boat Club's evening river cruise, the following day's get-together of recent alumni, the Boat Club Garden Party a few weeks later and, having just returned from spectating at women's Henley, can confirm its description as being 'just like Glastonbury, but without the music and drugs'.

Sixty years ago when, no doubt, we had proper summers, the post-war resurgence of student numbers led to Catz boating their first ever 3rd Eight, although it is unlikely that those pioneers would have anticipated the colourful appearance of their modern-day successors. Delving still further back into our history, we were contacted by the great-niece of a former St Catherine's oarsman who suggested he might be one of the 'missing' captains from the mid-1930s and she has responded to my request for more information on this character.



The Eights finish line — only crossed by 5 Catz crews in 20 starts. That's not necessarily a bad statistic, except that this year it was.

**Results**

**Bedford Amateur Regatta 12th May**

*Novice Coxed Fours*

Round 1	beat Bedford RC	6'
Round 2	beat Oundle School	3L
Semifinal	beat Eton A	1½ L
Final	beat Eton B	2 L

*Senior 4 Coxed Fours*

Round 1	lost to Clare Coll	4 L
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*Women's College Eights*

Round 2	lost to Trinity Hall	easily
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*Women's Senior 4 Eights*

Round 2	beat Trinity Hall	3 L
Semifinal	lost to Bedford HS	½ L

**Eights 23-26th May**

	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Finish
Men's I	-1	-1	=	-1	8th Div I
Women's I	-1	-1	-1	=	5th Div II
Men's II	-1	=	-1	=	4th Div IV
Women's II	-1	-1	-1	-1	12th Div IV
Men's III	=	-1	+1	-1	7th Div VII

**The Ben Sylvester Award**

The 2007 Ben Sylvester medal for the person who has 'most significantly contributed to enhancing the rowing life of St Catherine's College, Oxford' has been awarded to Michael Tran, with a special mention for Katherine Pierce, *proxime accessit*.

Having come close to winning last year's award, Mike has continued to make a valuable contribution at many levels throughout this year and the judges were particularly impressed that those nominating him covered the full range of Boat Club membership from committee to novices, with comments such as 'Mike Tran is the person to go to for any of my rowing questions, his sincere love of the Boat Club means he knows what, where and how everything works, and is able to offer great advice on whatever the situation is', and 'He put an awful lot of effort into getting freshers involved in Michaelmas term and has been very active all year with not only arranging outings but coxing, subbing and coaching. He was very much a 'face' of the rowing club when I first started rowing'.

**President: Bruce Mitchell**

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



Michael Tran, left, receiving this year's Ben Sylvester Award from RS Chairman Kevin Skinner.

## 2007 St Catherine's Eights

### Men's 1st Eight

- B Jamie Bolton
- 2 Tim Monger-Godfrey
- 3 Nick Powell
- 4 James Dunbar
- 5 Nick Szmigin
- 6 Malcolm Spencer
- 7 Anthony Mullin
- S Alex Zdravkovic
- C Dane van den Akker

### Women's 1st Eight

- B Caitlin Fitzpatrick
- 2 Lucy Rowland
- 3 Nicola Squire
- 4 Alice Kelly
- 5 Katharine Pierce
- 6 Sarah Boddy
- 7 Sam Clarkson
- S Bianca Rautenbach
- C Timothy Rooney

### Men's 2nd Eight

- B David Longworth
- 2 Admas Haile
- 3 Rajan Jandoo
- 4 Marcus Wilson
- 5 Knut Hustad
- 6 Robert Gerlach
- 7 Mike Kuzmin
- S Chris Chan
- C Katharine Pierce

### Women's 2nd Eight

- B Jennifer Sofen
- 2 Sarah Manning
- 3 Winnie Yeung
- 4 Katie Murphy
- 5 Joelle Abrahams
- 6 Helene Almas
- 7 Juliet Raine
- S Caroline Woffindale
- C Kim Harley

### Men's 3rd Eight

- B Leo Masson
- 2 Alexander Lazare
- 3 John Stote
- 4 James DeMellow
- 5 James Menzies
- 6 Thomas Ward
- 7 Simon Christian-Edwards
- S Michael Tran
- C Sophie Kasiri



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

## Men's Boat Club Report

### Malcolm Spencer, Men's Captain

After two terms of disruption the hope was for clear skies and green flags! We achieved both, though still found the problem of finding enough bodies for the boats a difficulty at times. Nevertheless whether training in Eights, Fours or Doubles any water time was put to use.

In the few weeks available before Summer Eights the squad enjoyed notable success in both City of Oxford Bumps and Bedford Regatta.

It was in the final week before Eights when both M1 and M2 could come together to undertake an intense week of training as a crew. Last minute lineup changes brought two boats of rowers with potential but untested, while M3, the returning Rugby Boat would again been a vocal presence at the boathouse making up for any lack of experience with great dress sense and a dogged enthusiasm.



The Men's 1st Eight on Thursday.

It was an eventful week of bumps in the end. Comparisons with last year were unavoidable before racing kicked off, but each crew knew they would be rowing on their own terms after the difficulties faced all year. In the end it became a process of consolidation for most of the boats, M1 and M2 placed high in their respective divisions faced a lot of strong boats between them, while M3 having qualified with relative ease, would still enjoy a battle with Keble through the week.

All that's left to say is congratulations to all crews and my thanks to the committee and coaches. It has been a challenging but incredibly rewarding year and having handed over the Captaincy to my successor I wish Tim and next year's committee the best of luck.

## Women's Boat Club Report

### Bianca Rautenbach, Women's Captain

After the disappointment of not being able to compete in Torpids, the women's squad was eager to get our training for this term started as soon as possible. The term commenced with a training camp, joint with Pembroke College, a week before term started. With newfound determination we settled into a jam-packed training regime.

Following City Bumps, where we raced as two fours, we rejoined as an eight and continued our training preparing for Bedford regatta where we entered into both the College and S4 divisions. Due to a crash off the start in the College event were out after the first race. In the S4 division we beat Trinity Hall Cambridge, but subsequently lost to Bedford High School in a very exciting race. It was a great day of racing and we all enjoyed the excitement of competing outside of Oxford.

Summer eights came quickly, and both our 1st and 2nd VIII, were eager to get on the water. The 2nd VIII, composed of mostly novice rowers truly put up a valiant effort, despite moving down four places. They succeeded in experiencing rowing at its most fun, and

all had a memorable time. Vast amounts of enthusiasm and determination were simply not enough to propel our first boat to success. We moved down three places over the first three days, but on Saturday managed to easily fend off University College and passed the finish line.

This term has been a great success, despite the results. The team spirit and drive from the girls was admirable, and I thank them for making my last term as captain such a pleasure. I would also like to thank the committee, Rob Hollis and Anu for their time and eagerness in running the club. Being a part of SC-CBC has been an absolute joy and I thank everyone for that opportunity.



The Women's 1st Eight on Thursday.

## News from Alumni

**Paul Halfpenny (M.97)** Still hanging on to my seat in the Geneva elite VIII and still rowing a vet's double with a guy from Lausanne. We are organising a 'Sprint Cup' in Geneva for the 4th August over 400m — don't suppose the college will get an VIII up for that though, but just in case accommodation is (almost) free and the Fêtes de Genève are on (big party).

**Darren Chadwick (M.03)** Having graduated last summer, I have moved to Birmingham and work in the property department of Severn Trent Water. I've continued to row with the Black Sheep, sponsored by the Yorkshire Brewery with the same name! We're taking on the Thames Cup at Henley this year so if anyone is around, please feel free to come down and join me for a glass of our fine sponsor's product!

## 60 Years Ago...

Bumping races had resumed in 1946. At that time, and for some years thereafter, most freshmen were ex-servicemen and, with few exceptions, members of the Boat Club were in their early to mid-twenties. In

1947 the 1st Torpid dropped from 20th to 25th on the river, but stayed level in Eights at 29th. That year was also notable for the first ever appearance of a Catz 3rd VIII which then participated every year up to 2000, returning to the river only last year. The following extracts are from the Boat Club minute book.

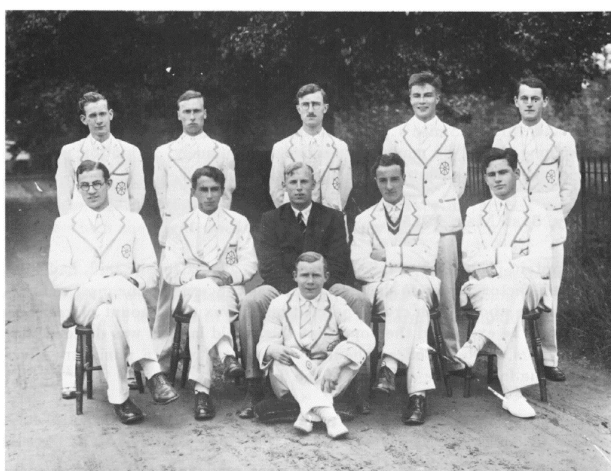
*15th October, 1946* At the outset the Captain was pleased to welcome no less than twenty four new members of the Club. Men with no rowing experience were to be trained by the Captain, on the fixed tub, until such time that they were sufficiently advanced to go out in tub pairs — with of course the ultimate aim of rowing in Clinkers; the change over from fixed seats to slides being not unduly hurried.

*29th April, 1947* On a motion by Mr. Kelsey, and in recognition that wartime austerity had receded, it was agreed that refreshments should be provided on the Barge during Eights Week [A proposition heavily reliant on the wives and girl-friends of ex-service members of the Club]. The Captain then recounted how, aided and abetted by Mr. Bayliss and Charlie (the waterman), he had purchased 18 oars from Talboys on a Sunday morning, forestalling Reading University's intention of doing so on the Monday.

## Ronald Charles Easterbrook (1915–53)

### Emma Easterbrook, 1st & 3rd Trinity 1995–98

Charismatic, good looking, successful, enthusiastic, and happy are some memories of Ronald Charles Easterbrook (Ronnie or Ron). He was in the Intelligence Corps, an amateur dramatist, linguist, and most importantly a rower. He won scholarships to the City of Oxford School, and to St Catherine's. He matriculated in 1934, and joined the Boat Club.



The 1935 St Catherine's 1st VIII. R. C. Easterbrook is seated second from the left in the front row.

At the time the Club boated from a barge and used pencil blades. Unfortunately, the Club also suffered from a lack of numbers. This did not deter Ron and he went on to become Stroke of the 1st VIII and won his College colours.

On graduation he taught languages at the Crypt School, Gloucester. He re-started the Rowing Club and immediately won back the inter-school Cup from Sir Thomas Rich. Meanwhile, the school magazine introduced Ron as having been captain of the College Boat. Is he the missing Boat Club captain of 1935–36? Do you have any memories of St Catherine's 1934–37, or of Ron?

## Garden Party

### Darren Chadwick

The second annual Boat Club Garden Party took place on the 16th June. Distinguished guests and old boys alike braved the elements to the Henley Style Marquee on the banks of the Isis for a BBQ and few beers. In between the downpours the sun was very pleasant, and the array of old zephyrs, flags and blazer badges only proved to further confuse any discussion about what colour magenta actually is, as if it needed any further confusion! The rain prevented any rowing this year, but it didn't put the BBQ out and definitely helped keep the beers cold! Thank you to all those who managed to attend. I look forward to seeing many more of you at the next event.

*Darren sends special thanks to his parents, Dee and Colin, who manned the bar and the BBQ all day to keep a certain John Anderson with a burger and a Grolsch in each hand at all times!*

## Coming Up ...

In the next newsletter there will be reports on the summer's rowing, a look at the Boat Club of 6 years ago (under the captaincy of Matt Hilton and Fiona Howarth) — I will be soliciting contributions for the 'News from Alumni' section from those of you of that era — and there will also be an article on W.G. Kendrew, variously St Catherine's student, coach and Dean between 1902–1950.

Anu Dudhia

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

## Diary

30 Jun 2007 Gaudy (M.62,76,92–95)

14–16 Sep 2007 Oxford University Alumni Weekend