



From the President

Dear Friends,

Now that Summer has gifted us those long and lyrical evenings on the Isis, it is hard to remember the dank misery of those early weeks of Hilary. Although we were not forced to make desperate trips to Dorney in search of rowable water, the commitment displayed by our members in the unpleasant weather was still impressive. Please find detailed reports from all our captains on the term's progress.

The results of the Torpids racing did not reflect the quality of the crews we fielded. W1 and W2 were thwarted by gamesmanship from Christchurch and the bank respectively and M1 suffered tactically in the way unique to bumps racing. M2, however, with characteristic aplomb, overcame a bump-denying klaxon on the second day with an overbump on the final day to finish up four places. Nonetheless, we all celebrated the term's hard work with sporting dignity at the Torpid's dinner.

Univ also set out to enter the annual Heads of the River down on the championship course in London. The women competed and came a very respectable 123rd out of 320. Sadly the men's event had to be canceled due to a pernicious wind, and to the great dismay of M1, we were unable to perform.



This term also saw second-year Univite Rebecca te Water Naudé race in the third seat of the Blue Boat. This is a remarkable achievement and, even though, as those of you who watched the race will have seen, the race did not go Oxford's way, the manner in which Rebecca and her fellow oarswomen maintained composure was admirable and inspiring. She shall be joining W1 for Summer Vllls and we look forward to the speed she shall bring with her.

Sadly, this Torpids and the women's excellent performance at the Head of the River marked the end of John Ewan's five years of coaching at UCBC. His technical expertise and motivational voice have brought Univ W1 to match the record position of third VIII on the river. In addition, his fatherly personality and

From the Captains

wit have been a constant positive presence for all members of the club and will be sorely missed. On behalf of UCBC, I wish him great success with whatever he does next.

With a new coach, and an even newer-found determination, all our crews are out training in earnest for VIII's week glory. Will we see headship for W1? Can M1 bump the fiends at Wolfson? Does our band of plucky novices in W3 face lower-division glory? With excited verve, the whole club aims to answer all of those questions with a proud "Yes!"

In light of this, and following on from a very enjoyable Dinosaurs and Cassandrians dinner, I would like to invite all of you to come and join us this Summer. The Saturday of Vllls (27th May) promises to be an exciting and festive occasion, with food, drink, and watery revelry in abundance. I look forward to seeing old UCBC blazers cheering Univ boats on the sunny riverbank and in our hall later for dinner.

Best wishes,

Ben Norbury
UCBC President

Perhaps the best way to describe this term would be as a bit of a mixed bag. Whilst the weather was a lot better compared to last year and we posted some good results in head races, Torpids did not quite go as planned.

Term began with a training camp in Oxford in 0th week, after which we selected a very experienced crew. In order to give ourselves the best chance in Torpids we decided to get as much race experience as possible. We continued to enter the Isis Winter League head races, and we ended up coming 3rd overall. We also competed in Henley IVs & Vllls and posted a good time there.

Torpids began with us chasing Worcester, who we had comfortably beaten in Henley IVs & Vllls a couple of weeks prior. This gave us a lot of confidence, which had us rowing well and bumping them just out of the gut. Day two saw us chasing St Edmund Hall and being chased by a very strong Jesus crew. As such, we decided to go for it off the start. Along Greenbanks we had overlap on SEH, but Jesus also had overlap on us and unfortunately they were able to get the bump on us before we could get to SEH. Even worse, this allowed SEH to get away from us and, despite a big push past Univ boathouse, we were unable to catch up with them before the finish. On day three we knew we would be in for a long race, and went off with that in

mind and trying to get the overbump on SEH. We managed to catch up a lot of ground, getting to within a canvas by the finish but didn't quite have enough river to catch them. On the Saturday we were desperate to catch SEH but in a cruel twist of fate they were able to catch New just before we were about to bump them, and then as we steered around them Mansfield bumped us. Overall we ended Torpids down one, but I feel with just a little bit of luck it could have been very different.

We had hoped to cap the term off by competing in Head of the River, but unfortunately that was canceled due to weather conditions. We've had a number of rowers stay in Oxford over the Easter vacation, and so have managed to keep up water training. Together with our new coach and some returning rowers I am confident that Summer Eights will go better than Torpids did.

Joseph Page
UCBC Men's Captain



The Women's 1st VIII trained hard during Hilary term. Several novices trialled for W1, showing potential, with one making the cut the week before Torpids.

After several weeks of training, we entered an Eight and a Four into Henley Fours and Eights. The eight had 3 novices to give them some good racing experience before Torpids. The four contained a more experienced crew and performed particularly well, beating Corpus Christi, the only other Oxford College in their category.

Term flew by and before long Torpids was upon us. Wednesday of Torpids saw an unfortunate result for W1. After conceding to Wolfson before the gut, the crew were forced to steer around Christ Church W1, who blocked the racing line, sitting perpendicular in the gut. This resulted in a collision with a tree on exiting the gut, allowing Hertford to row past us. Univ recovered quickly, with confident calls from the cox, avoiding further bumps. Despite appeals, Hertford were awarded the bump, taking us down 2 after day 1.

On day 2, St. John's came out strong from the start, bumping us early. Then we set our eyes on the falling Magdalen crew, which required a double overbump. By Greenbanks we gained quickly on Magdalen and got the bump.

The crew rowed over solidly on the Friday, with no threat from Magdalen behind. On Saturday, we were very aware of the strong Keble crew behind us, who were on for blades. They bumped Univ early but the crew didn't give up, exploiting an opportunity to bump Wolfson as they emerged from the bank without a rudder.

Attention turned to Women's Head of the River after Torpids; 6km on the Tideway. With half the boat having never competed in WEHoRR before, there was a lot of anticipation for the pain and endurance to come. The women put in a strong performance, overtaking University College Durham, and placing 123rd out of over 300 crews.

We are now looking forward to Summer Eights and all that Trinity term rowing has to bring us!

Many thanks to John Ewans, our dedicated coach, who is unfortunately leaving us after many years of incredible commitment to Univ Rowing. He has made great improvements in the crew and will be dearly missed.

Katie Hammond
UCBC Women's Captain



From the Vice-Captains

Not plagued by the terrible weather of 2016, the men's lower crews were in a good position to put in a strong performance in Torpids, and were all in high spirits during the weeks building up to the event. M3 are not in fixed divisions for Torpids and thus had to qualify the week before in rowing on. Despite their best efforts and a very strong time, M3 failed to qualify, and the dream was over before it had begun.

With a bloodlust fueled by their performance last year (resulting in spoons), M2 were favourites for blades. Starting at the top of division V on Wednesday, they put in a solid row over, followed by a bump on Trinity, securing their place in div IV. Thursday of Torpids brought unwelcome chaos for M2, as they were pulled into mayhem at the gut. After an appeal, they were only awarded a row over; hopes of blades were shattered. They came back fighting on the Friday, bumping John's faster than you can say "Concede!". Saturday yielded yet another bump, against Hertford at bungline 5.

All the men's lower crew's rowers ended Hilary term with high spirits, and are hoping to continue their performance in Summer Eights. With M3 in fixed divisions and M2 on the way up, it's looking like it'll be a good one.

James Tilden
UCBC Men's Vice-Captain



Hilary was an exciting and tense time for W2. It was essentially an all novice crew with participants only just learnt to row in Michaelmas. Despite the lack of experience, they performed well at IWL-D, and quickly became more proficient rowers as they got stronger and received more coaching.

They had an unfortunate first day of Torpids involving a crab which caused an injury with a lot of blood. This meant they had to stop rowing and ask for first aid but unfortunately they lost an appeal and they got bumped down a division. The second day they had a tough race, rowing with an injury, and got bumped by Lincoln III. The third day came with a quick bump on

Magdalen II which gave the crew confidence coming into the last day. They got bumped off the start by Trinity II but rowed a grueling race defending against another bump from St Anne's II. They pulled away from St Anne's along Greenbanks after a close call and managed to finish strong.

Unfortunately this means that W2 are no longer in fixed divisions for Torpids and will have to qualify next year. W2 are confident with more training and people hopefully coming back for Trinity, they can defend their position in Eights. There was no W3 this term.

Sophie Wicken
UCBC Women's Vice-Captain