



From the President

Dear Friends,

Here we are in Trinity term again. The sun is shining and we are already enjoying longer days and warmer outings. After a Hilary of strong training and an Easter training camp in Abingdon, we look ahead to Trinity with confidence.

Our congratulations go to Alex Rowe-Jones who once again gained a place in the OULRC Blue Boat, Holly Metcalf who coxed the OULRC Reserve Boat, and Linda van Bijsterveldt for making the OUWBC squad.

I hope you will be able to join us at the boathouse to enjoy the racing at Summer Eights, and at Eights dinner on the evening of May 26th. Follow us on

Facebook, Instagram or Twitter (@Univbc for all) for the latest updates. We are extremely grateful for the ongoing support from friends and old members.

As usual, read on for reports from our captains and vice-captains on Torpids, Head of the River Races, and the other regattas entered over Hilary and the Easter vacation.

Best wishes,

Joe Dolphin

President 2017-18

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From the Captains

M1's training began purely land based as the flag prevented M1 from having its usual Hilary 0th week training camp. Going into Hilary term we knew we had work to do with only three previous M1 rowers trialling for the boat. At the end of 0th week we rowed the boat down to Abingdon where M1 now has a rack permanently at Abingdon Rowing Club thanks to the generosity of foUCBC. We took full advantage of this quiet stretch of river to get lots of mileage done during the weekends. As a result of this, the boat came together nicely and we developed into a competent M1.

On the Saturday of 5th week M1 raced at Henley 4s and 8s which was our first racing experience of the term. This proved very valuable race experience for bumps as we went down the course with a very evenly matched Hertford crew to push off from.

The day after Henley 4s and 8s M1 raced in two divisions of IWL to get some racing experience back on the Isis. M1 produced two consistent performances with a second between the two times. After this race filled weekend we returned to Abingdon for one final week of training before Torpids.

We began Torpids chasing Mansfield and with Keble behind us. We knew that Keble were going to be quick but we were also confident that we had the ability to bump Mansfield. On the first day we went hard off the start and quickly put pressure on Mansfield and eventually they conceded to us just as we were

coming out of the gut. We were hoping that Mansfield would then act as a buffer the next day but unfortunately Keble managed to over bump them.

On the Thursday and Friday the "Beast from the East" unfortunately caused racing to be cancelled as it was unsafe to run Torpids in such conditions.

Thankfully M1 raced on the Saturday as half divisions were ran. We knew that Keble were going to push us and we were prepared for a tough race. We had a strong start but Keble gained on us below Donnington Bridge and as we were coming out the gut they was just a canvas clear water between us. We rowed well down Greenbanks to hold them off. About half way down Greenbanks their bows were dancing with our stern when suddenly a member of their bucket caught a huge crab which completely stopped their boat and dragged them into the stream. By the time they had recovered and moving again we were safely away and finished with a comfortable row over. Overall M1 finished Torpids one up, fourth in division 2.

M1 ended the term by taking part in the Head of the River Race. We were fortunate enough to have a paddle on the tideway the day before the race which allowed the boat to gain valuable race preparation. We posted a respectable time similar to those of other Oxford and Cambridge colleges. The crew much enjoyed racing on the tideway and we are thankful for the generosity of the foUCBC who made us racing possible.



M1 charging out of the gut during Torpids.

Many thanks to Ben Moule who has been an enthusiastic and very dedicated coach throughout both Michaelmas and Hilary terms.

Our congratulations go to Alex Rowe-Jones who once again gained a place in the OULRC Blue Boat and Holly Metcalf who coxed the OULRC Reserve Boat. After a successful Hilary term and a much bigger M1 squad than we had at the start of the term we look forward to welcoming back some Dinos and highly experienced new Univ PhD rowers to strengthen our squad. I am hopeful that the next newsletter will also report M1 moving up the river.

Angus Menzies

Men's Captain 2017-18



The Isis from Donny bridge, during heavy snowfall.

W1 kicked off Hilary term with a 0th week training camp on the Isis, continuing to merge our promising Christ Church Regatta novice squad with our experienced senior rowers. The squad made amazing progress in the first few weeks, making crew selection a tough job, but finally settled on a boat of four returning W1/W2 rowers, four new members and super-cox, Emma, who coxed at Wallingford Head last term just seven weeks after first getting into a boat!

We got to work on water sessions in the eight and in small boats to hone technique, as well as land training and the odd bit of yoga thrown in to improve flexibility. Univ women put in a strong showing at all the IWL races on the Isis



W1 on Saturday of Torpids. Photo by Yee Kwan Law.

this term, posting steadily faster and faster times as the term went on. We left the Oxford bubble in 5th week to race at Henley 4s and 8s in brilliant sunshine - a welcome change after the cold and wet of the rest of training!

Then, it was on to bumps practice with other colleges, including a trip to Wallingford to test ourselves against Oriel - and a hailstorm! Sadly, the weather got even worse for Torpids, where the "Beast from the East" caused havoc. Despite this, Torpids was able to run safely on Wednesday and Saturday of 7th week. W1 put in some strong rows, but unfortunately were caught by Wolfson, Magdalen and New College, leaving us down three places at eleventh in Division One.

Most of our members were then able to enjoy a great race at the Women's Head of the River on the tideway at the end of 8th week, with some help from friends at St Anne's Boat Club and the Queen's College Boat Club. It's been a great term of rowing and racing and we are looking forward to our Easter training camp and to getting back out on the water in Trinity term!

We would like to extend a big thank you to our coach, Max Lau, and to everyone who has supported us this term.

Lara Drew

Women's Captain 2017-18

From the Vice-Captains

Hilary term was an exciting time for the lower boats at Univ. There was a large novice intake, and a fair few returners. M2 were being coached by Ben Moule, in the hope that the whole club would inculcate the same rowing philosophy, while M3 were coached by Univ's own Hannah Farley.

With a lot of potential M2 started training in earnest. With the crew set in 2nd week m they were looking forward to gel together as a crew. Unfortunately, poor weather and the fast stream meant they couldn't train as often as they would have liked to. An injury late in term meant the crew had a lot of subs. Despite this, they were one of the faster second crews in IWL. Torpids was very challenging, with M2 racing in blizzard type conditions. A crab and a meeting with the bank meant they went down three places on the first day. With the rest of races being cancelled for their division, the result didn't reflect the effort put in by the crew.

M3 had at their disposal returning M1 and M2 rowers and were indeed a very strong crew. With 10 people trialing for the boat they had a thorough selection process, ensuring the very best made the boat as well as coaching for everyone who wanted to row. The crews looked really good during IWL, and were faster than a few M2 crews as well. They made history by being the first Univ M3 crew to qualify through rowing on in 12 years. Indeed their efforts paid



M2 on the very snowy Wednesday of Torpids. Photo by Yee Kwan Law.

off and they went up two places by getting on the first day itself. With racing cancelled on the other days for lower divs, they were robbed of potential blades. Spirits were sky high amongst the crew, indeed they were the most successful crew during torpid this year.

With better weather and a few more returners for the summer, the Univ lower crews look primed to outdo themselves during Vllls.

Aashraya Jha

Men's Vice-Captain 2017-18



M3 after a very quick bump on Wednesday of Torpids

Hilary term saw the women's second boat putting in some strong and dedicated training, with an almost all-novice boat rapidly improving in technique and fast becoming a competent crew. It has been lovely to see the experienced rowers who have stayed on in the boat developing close friendships with the new novices.

The biggest difficulty for the women's second boat this term has been being just short of having a full crew, therefore training throughout the term has involved a lot of subs, thus not allowing the what could have been very good crew to fully develop and train as a whole. Many of the rowers' other sporting commitments also meant that subs had to often be found for the actual crew members – however the dedication of the rowers and our wonderful coach Argy meant that some decent training was still able to take place.

Unfortunately however, the lack of a full crew and the week's training that was lost due to the dreaded red flag meant that W2 fell just short

of qualifying for Torpids at Rowing On. This year saw a particularly competitive Rowing On contest – usually only a couple of crews fail to qualify yet this term, 30 boats competed for the 14 spaces available in Division 5. Coming in 15th place, Univ were painfully close to qualifying, however the women’s strong performance in IWL E means that there was still something to show for the training that they had done and the women are very excited to be competing in Summer Eights, where, being in Division 3 and one of the highest second boats in the competition, they will not need to qualify through Rowing On. The snowy conditions of Torpids this year also meant that two and half days of the competition were cancelled, therefore W2 were lucky to not actually miss much of Torpids at all!

Overall therefore, despite just falling short of forming a whole crew, the Univ women are proud to have created a strong core of rowers moving forward to Summer Eights, where they look to retain a high place on the river for a second crew. Their commitment through often quite horrible conditions has shone through and their positivity has been something to admire – we look forward to seeing sunnier days and better results soon!

Alisa Musanovic

Women's Vice Captain 2017-18



W2 after narrowly missing qualification in Rowing On.

From the Social Secretary

While unlucky with crewdates due to several last minute cancellations UCBC still managed to find ways to enjoy this term. A couple of crewdates early on were followed by the now much honoured tradition of a UCBC pub crawl. Here each Torpid crew, decked in their respective assigned colours, raced each other around town to get to the most pubs and each of their pint attempts can be seen on the Facebook page. All the crews then met up in the Four Candles where the winners, shockingly this year not M2, received their well deserved rewards. The highlight of the term was of course Torpids Dinner. While all the crews were disappointed by the snow’s limiting of their racing opportunities everyone was in good spirits for what was a brilliant evening with all crews celebrating/commiserating in turn. Our thanks to the hall staff for once again providing an excellent meal and to the bar staff for accommodating all of us. We look forward to our Summer Eights dinner and as many socials as we can fit in before the inevitable drinking ban.

George Russell

Social Secretary 2017-18



Torpids Dinner, 2018. Photo by Yee Kwan Law.