TRINITY GO BOATING ON THE NILE

It really wasn't an expedition just to discover the truth about the Sphinx, the Camel et al, but rather an invitation from the Egyptian Rowing Federation that brought DUBC to the Nile! The official invitation came to the Irish Amateur Rowing Union for a representative Irish University crew to take part in two Regattas in Egypt, now an annual event, between 20th and 28th December last. This was the first time an Irish University crew was to compete, joining crews from Oxford, Harvard, France and Egypt. In a row off between DUBC, Galway and Queens on Blessington Lake on December 4th DUBC came home by two lengths over Queens to win the right to travel. The crew then travelled to London where they joined up with the Harvard and Oxford crews, and the combined party flew from there to Cairo.

The first race was held on December 23rd over a 2000 metres course at Ismailia. Six crews took part, the visiting crews being joined by two local Egyptian crews. The race was close and Oxford won by half a length from Harvard with Trinity third a further length behind. Following this there was a break for some less strenuous activity, Xmas Day being spent sightseeing in Cairo-a far cry from Carols and Xmas Pud!

The second race, in Cairo on December 26th, was again over 2000 metres, with again six crews—a Cairo Police crew replacing a composite crew that had raced in Ismailia. The race was again close with little separating the four visiting crews and the Cairo Police throughout most of the race. The French crew won by a canvas from Oxford, with Harvard third and Trinity fourth followed by the Cairo Police. Four seconds separated the first four crews.

Though in the racing Trinity might have done better, yet on each occasion they showed they were capable of mixing it with some good crews. It was certainly a great opportunity to test their skill so early in the season. All thanks too to their hosts who so generously made it all possible. The Club bar at Islandbridge now proudly sports a bronze medal, presented by the Egyptian Rowing Federation, to mark the memorable occasion.



Watched by crew members and others before their departure to the Nile the Provost Professor Lyons on behalf of Trinity Trust hands over a silver salver to George de Courcy-Wheeler to present to their Egyptian hosts. Left to Right-Brian Dempsey, Jim Murnane, Robin Tamplin (Coach), Dave Weale, Dave Sanfey, Dave Hickey, Jarlath McGee, Ted O'Morchoe, Kieran Mulcahy, Albert Eakins (Boatman), Rory Reilly, Dr. J. Whiston, Professor Lyons, George de Courcy-Wheeler, Mrs. Lyons, Mr. K. F. S. Purcell, Professor Steen, Bill Millar, James Shillington, Nick Tinne (Coach).

CAMBRIDGE RACING BOATS, suppliers of our Fine VIII 'Kingdom of Kerry' and two Coxless Pairs has assisted towards the production of this Newsletter.

word from the Editor

A visitor last summer commented with surprise, and thankfully approval, on the considerable alterations that have recently been made in the Clubhouse. They had no idea so much was going on! Which was a reminder to those of us lucky enough to be in Dublin and in touch with it all-and there is a lot going on-that others might like to

know as well. Out of that has grown the idea of this Newsletter

We hope you find it of interest; your reaction would be welcome, together with comments or suggestions. Please feed these in to the Captain at TCD. With enough encouragement we would aim to produce the same again from time to time. I chatting together at Trinity Regatta, 1976.



23 TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN. MAY 1977.

TRINITY REGATTAgoing strong

Trinity Regatta in the last few years has gone from strength to strength. It has re-established itself as a social 'occasion' in the delightfully heady atmosphere of Trinity Week. In 1975 President O'Dalaigh was welcomed as guest of honour. And last year An Taoiseach, Liam Cosgrave TD accepted an invitation to present the prizes. In each of these years there was a big attendance and with the Garda and Army No. 1 Bands there to entertain us the occasion lacked for nothing.

On the rowing side too the Regatta has been expanded and improved. More Schoolboy races are now included, and more classes of boats at other grades. The number of entries has gone up each year, and last year there were 129 races involving 23 separate events run off over the three days at 5, 7, and 10 minute intervals. And you could set your watch by the timing! Full marks to Alva Brangam, the Regatta Secretary in 1975 and 1976, and his committee of stalwarts, who combined foresight with a lot of hard work to make all of this possible.



Col. W. S. J. Carter and Professor R. E. Steen

CLUB PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENTS

DUBC 1935-1939. Captain 1938. Senior Championship Eight 1936, 1937 and 1938. Senior

Sculls Championship 1938 and 1939. Ladies Plate

semi-finals 1936-beaten by eventual winners 1st

and 3rd Trinity Cambridge. Sixth Putney Head of

M. Horan. Wheatfield, Kilternan, Co. Dublin.

DUBC 1930-1934. Senior Championship Eight

1932 and 1933. Ladies Plate Finals 1934 beaten by

PRESIDENT:

Professor R. E. Steen, M.D., F.R.C.P.I. Mountsandel, Carrickmines, Co. Dublin. DUBC 1920-1925. Captain 1925.

Championship Eight 1922 and 1925.

VICE-PRESIDENTS:

J. A. Shillington. Cloon, Kildalkey, Co. Meath. DUBC 1929-1933. Captain 1933. Senior Championship Eight 1931 and 1933. Ladies Plate Quarter-Finals 1933—beaten by eventual winners Lady Margaret B.C.







James Shillington



Bill Millar

River 1938.



Maurice Horan.



Henry Clark.



Robin Tamplin



Rob van Mesdag

THE CLUBHOUSE GETS A FACELIFT

There have been many changes and developments in DUBC over the last few years but none are more obvious to the eye of the returning oarsman than the changes to the clubhouse itself.

Christy Byrne tells colourful tales of the "pre-loo" days, thankfully now rectified by the installation of showers and "facilities".

The finance for these changes was provided by DUCAC by way of a £500 grant and £1,500 loan, interest free, repayable over three years, and a most generous general renovation, courtesy of Mr. Graham of the Buildings Office in College, was put in hand. The loan has now been repaid within the three year period.

The renovation involved laying new parquet floors throughout the building, installing central heating (at last), painting inside and outside, and most important of all the partitioning of the old changing room to construct a permanent bar. The bar has proved to be a tremendous success, and enables the Boat Club to host functions now on a regular and profitmaking basis helping to finance the club equipment, programme.







The Eight at practice at Henley 1976.

The Henley Fund trustees are now W. N. R. (Curly) Millar and R. W. R. (Robin) Tamplin. Support remains good, with £468 received in 1976 against £321 in 1975. The regular supporters have shown their appreciation of the problems of inflation and there is a steady trickle of new subscribers. An encouraging and heart warming note is the continuing support from other than old DUBC members.

The Henley Fund was of course started by Dermot McGillycuddy in the early '30s, and he and Maurice Horan worked together to build it up over the years. The mantle then descended on Curly Millar, who now administers the Fund from his office, Millars Tea, Wine and Spirits Merchants in 10 Thomas Street. From there he can keep a handy eye on all the liquid assets so to speak!

As the club now regularly takes in Nottingham International Regatta—a good pipe opener on the Saturday and Sunday before Henley, and incidentally a superb 6 lane, 2000 metre international course-the money does not go astray over the two weeks racing.

W. N. R. Millar. Delbrook, Dundrum, Co. Dublin. H. M. Clark. 98 Bell Street, Henley-on-Thames. DUBC 1946-1950. Captain 1950. Senior Championship Eight 1949 and 1950. Unbeaten Senior Four 1950. 3rd equal with Jesus College Cambridge, Putney Head of River, 1950. Ladies Plate Finals 1950, beaten by New College Oxford one third length. Ladies Plate semi-finals with

Trinity Hall Cambridge, 1951.

R. W. R. Tamplin. Millfield, Shankill, Co. Dublin. DUBC 1947-1950. Captain 1949. Senior Championship Eight 1949 and 1950. 3rd equal with Jesus College Cambridge Putney Head of River 1950. Ladies Plate Finals 1950 beaten by New College Oxford, one third length. Irish Olympic Eight 1948

R. H. vanMesdag. 70 Beaufort Mansions, Beaufort Street, London SW3. DUBC 1949-1951. Henley Diamonds Finals July 1950. Fourth in European Championships Sculls, representing Holland, August 1950. Bronze Medalist European Championships Sculls, Gent, Belgium 1955.

The men behind the Crews

The main team of Coaches, to be found any week-end immersed in the indescribable (this year) mud on the towpath at Islandbridge are Robin Tamplin, Nick Tinne, Peter Driscoll, Howard Schotter and Dan Murray. Robin is senior coach and he and Nick concentrate their attentions on the Senior Squad. Peter is looking after the Juniors, and Howard and Dan the Maidens.

Robin and Howard both rowed for DUBC, Robin 1947-1950, Howard 1965-1968. Nick rowed for Keble College, Oxford and got his blue in the Oxford boat in 1964. Peter has rowed just about everywhere! - spanning the years 1960-1965, but principally at St. Catherines, Cambridge and St. Edmonds Hall, Oxford. Also Isis in 1965. Finally Dan. Cut his teeth on a Cappoquin Underage Four in 1964, and subsequently rowed regularly on the Tideway, principally for London R.C. 1972-1975.

THE YEAR'S ACTIVITIES

After a number of years of re-building within DUBC, the efforts began to produce results in the 1975-76 season. For the first time in nine years the club won the Senior Championship trophy. In fact the Senior squad, backed up by a Junior VIII and a strong Maiden squad, won some fifteen trophies. Unfortunately the Junior squad was weakened due to the better Juniors moving up to the Senior crews—but this appears to be the policy in most countries to-day.

The winter training programme started in September and at one stage there were almost thirty members in what was termed the "experienced" squad and an equal number of Maidens. The advice of both Phil Conway (Irish weight lifter and P.E. advisor to the College) and Chris George (U.L. and England) was taken, in drawing up the programme wihich consisted of competitive long-distance running alternating with weights sessions during the week and rowing at the week-ends (double outings). The Maidens followed a slightly tamer programme of land training with week-end rowing. The severity of the training programme, which included a week of rowing at Enniskillen in March, also unfortunately meant that the drop-out rate from the Senior squad was quite high; there were just thirteen left at the end of the season.

Early victories were recorded at the Derry and Enniskillen Head of the river races and of course the Gannon Cup which DUBC won by seven lengths reversing a run of six years. But the real strength of the club was seen at the University Championships in early May which were held on Castlewellan Lake, Co. Down. The overall victory is now decided on a points system which gives equal points for victories at all levels-from Senior VIIIs right down to Maiden Sculls. Trinity won the championships by the greatest margin ever, recording victories at every

level, including ladies novice VIII. This was in fact the first appearance made by the Ladies Boat Club at an Irish regatta.

On the following day Queens University held their regatta on the same course and DUBC took home the trophies for Senior VIIIs, First and Second Senior IVs, Junior Sculls (Jim Jackson) and Maiden VIIIs. Unfortunately DUBC did not fare as well at Trinity Regatta where once again it was shown that the energy expended on running the regatta has a detrimental effect on one's rowing. One victory, at Second Senior IV level was all the club could manage. However, Limerick Regatta at Killaloe was to change much of this. The Maiden VIII championship was held here and the DUBC crew was in fact beaten, but by just a single length, by Garda and Queens who dead-heated. But this was to be the turning point for the Senior VIII who left the other senior crews at the start and went on to win by two lengths. This was a vital race as it was the last Irish regatta before Nottingham and Henley and it gave the crew the necessary confidence even if Nottingham was to reinforce its limitations. At Nottingham the Seniors raced both in the VIII and in IVs. One victory was recorded-in the Senior A Coxless IVs event on the Saturday. On Sunday the individuals in the crew raced four times at Elite level in temperatures of 105 F.-needless to remark

there were no victories. However, this proved a very useful run up to Henley and after two days of gentle paddling on the Thames the crew were eager and ready to meet the opposition in the Ladies Plate.

During the racing at Henley the crew dealt with Newcastle, Fitzwilliam and Pembroke in similar fashion; a victory of approximately 3 lengths in each case. The crunch came in the semi-final when the opposition was the heavyweight Trinity College Hartford (U.S.A.) crew. This crew had already broken the course record by some six seconds but DUBC gave them the fright of their lives by sprinting at Remenham and drawing back from 1½ lengths to ½ length but the Americans finally won by a length on the run in. However, far from being despondent the crew realized that it had performed well above its former best, but had been beaten fairly by a better crew. Time for the race was 6 mins. 26 secs.

On their return to Dublin the crew spent two weeks before the Championships training at Blessington and the year's efforts were justly rewarded on July 17th when the VIII won the six-boat race by two lengths from a Neptune/Galway composite crew and Queens University.

Four of the crew later came second in the Blue Riband, while the others won the Second Senior IVs race. The VIII then went on to represent Ireland in the Home International Regatta on Iniscarra Lake, Co. Cork, where they were defeated by Thames Tradesmen (Grand winners at Henley and British Champions). However, this did not put a damper on the well deserved end of season celebration which the Metropole Hotel should remember for some time.

ALVA BRANGAM, Captain, Lady Elizabeth Boat Club reports— Over the last few years Dublin 'Lizzie' has been fanning itself into life encouraged by the gravitation of an ever increasing number of

fanning itself into life encouraged by the gravitation of an ever increasing number of members towards their alma mater. Under the captaincy of Noel Graham 'Lizzie' organised a fund raising draw and a Wine and Cheese Party in 1976, and this year it is hoped to expand our operation further. It has often been remarked that Lady Liz does not take the water quite as often as she might. But even this is changing and already in the sporting year 1976-77 we have taken to the water once! It might be mentioned however that in the days when we did no training at all we always beat Lady Victoria. We now have the situation that training appears to actually impede our progress, evidenced by the recent meeting between these two Clubs at the Trinity At Home in December when we only managed to hold Lady Viccy to a dead heat!

But seriously, we **are** taking the water much more now than in recent times. Moreover the view into the future reveals a picture of an ever greater pool of active oarsmen (Today Fermoy-tomorrow the World!)

Any members wishing to have information on the activities of 'Lizzie' should write to Alva Brangam, at 23.0.1. Trinity College.



Senior Eight with 'The Pot' 1976. Left to Right: Richard Scott, Rory Reilly, Jarlath McGee, Jim Mumane, Dave Sanley, Dave Hickey, Kieran Mulcahy, John Macken, Dave Weele.

Albert Eakins

Albert Eakins, the present boatman, came to the Club in 1970. He hails from Shercock, Co. Cavan, is a Carpenter by trade, and Cabinet maker, so well equipped to keep DUBC afloat. He and his wife Anna, his grown up daughter Philomena and son Albert live in the refurbished Clubhouse flat. Not to be overlooked is their Alsatian 'Lanza'.

Young Albert, 'Albie' for short, is currently on the Commercial Junior Eight. In 1975 he was on their very good Maiden Eight, and unfortunate to be beaten only once in the season—in the Championship at Cork—by Lee.

There is, of course, a rival account

Come all you young ladies, and list if you will, and I'll tell you a story of Mary and Jill. Who saw a big notice saying "Get up and go" Come down to the river and learn how to row. The sport it is great and the social life's grand, and learn the nice feel of an oar in your hand.

Say's Mary to Jill "girl-Now this is for us never mind if we look like the back of a bus. I've heard of these oarsmen they're beefy and strong and after the ladles this many year long. And they're gentlemen too. Good looking, well bred just the thing for to keep us all cosy in bed." So off they did wander to old Twenty Three to enquire of the captain what the story might be. But alas and alack they found there a queue for the rest of the women had thought of it too. Say's Jill now to Mary, "I don't give a I'll get me an oarsman to cuddle at night."

To the Boathouse on Sunday They came in their droves like the multitudes feeding on fishes and loaves.

To learn the mechanics of rowing they tried of riggers and stretchers and buttons and slides. They thought that a "catch" was a marrying bloke and crabs a disease that you got of the stroke.

When the time came to change they all had to wait while they covered their faces in powder and paint.

Down at the slip they heard the coach say "Drive it in hard" "Then down and Away". "Open up at the catch" but they cried in dispair my jeans are too tight and my zip it will tear.

"Draw it up at the finish" is easy to say, But how do you get it down and away. When the basic design Both before and behind has an awful lot more than rowing in mind. So they set off up river in an eight and a four waved the Boathouse "Good-Bye' and were heard of no more.

Women's Rowing has arrived!...

"What! Women in the Boat Club-Never."
"The Boat Club will never be the same
again."

Such was the reaction of many a past and present member of DUBC when the decision was taken in 1975 to allow women to row for Trinity—at last! At the time of writing, eighteen months later, Dublin University Ladies Boat Club seems to be going from strength to strength, contrary to all predictions.

Mindful of the traditions and long history of DUBC the founders opted to start a separate club having its own Constitution and Committee, thus ensuring the autonomy of the two clubs while still enabling them to share facilities. Having administered themselves successfully for one year DULBC was officially recognised by Dublin University Central Athletic Club in 1976 and has since received a grant from central funds for their first very own equipment, a new Four and a set of

The club membership is about 20 and to the surprise of many onlookers, including the members of DUBC the women follow a training schedule similar to that of the men. The emphasis though is on technique and style rather than muscle and power. Members of DULBC intend to be recognised as women first and oars-women afterwards! The club has one full time coach at present, Jane Williams, but with expanding membership it will be increasingly difficult for her to coach the whole club. Securing the services of good coaches is not easy but members of DUBC have been helping out coaching from time to time on a once off basis. The arrival of their new Four will help considerably on the rowing front, but it will not relieve the lack of changing and showering facilities. This is something that will have to be tackled soon.

Trinity won the University Championships last season with the aid of a win and two seconds from DULBC; and a Trinity ladies boat finished in the first two across the line in all the races entered last year. This year they aim to develop the club further with an eye to competition at senior level.

THE IRISH SCENE

This Newsletter would not be complete without general. There has been intense activity over the last few years. The sport is experiencing a boom, with Clubs that had literally ceased to function coming to life it a few thoughts on Irish Rowing in experiencing a coom, with claus that had hierarly ceased to function coming to the again, and coaches working and crews training in a way that would have been unthinkable a few years ago. To get it in perspective any Club's activities must be seen against this backdrop, and against the acumen that has come to the sport through the recent achievements of Irish crews, culminating in the performances of Sean Drea and the Garda Coxed Four at the Montreal Olympics.

The IARU has been working hard, and what we are now seeing are the results of a number of things that have been going on steadily over the

1. The introduction of Seminars in which eminent rowing coaches from Great Britain participated, notably Geoffrey Page and Jim Railton.

2. The application of information so gained by coaches and oarsmen anxious to get crews going faster.

3. The development of multi-lane courses on which crews could train and race.

4. The greater participation by Irish crews at overseas Regattas, principally Nottingham International and Henly Royal Regatta.

Rounding off all of this has been the actual performances of crews beginning with Sean Drea's great win in the Diamonds in 1973, followed closely by UCD's victory in the Ladies Plate in 1974, with Sean Drea taking the Diamonds again. Then followed the Garda Eight's win in the Thames Cup in 1975 with Sean showing the world that he had a long lease on the

Diamonds by winning it yet again! In short a series or performances that made everyone sit up and

look at Irish rowing with new eyes.

Throughout all of this an increasing number of Irish crews have been competing not only at Henley but at Nottingham and other Regattas on the Continent. DUBC added their own bit to the story by winning the Senior Eights at Nottingham in 1975, and the Senior Coxless Fours last year complementing the win by Neptune of the Coxed Fours the previous year. And back at Henley again last year Queens kept Irish interest alive in the Ladies Plate till the last moment going down in the finals to the strong Trinity, Hartford crew.

Though Club identity remains strong a National Squad comprised of oarsmen from Garda, UCD and Lady Victoria trained last year, and from these came the Coxed and Coxless Fours Olympic entries. So the ice has been broken on an approach which took some time to jell in England but which came into its own last year producing the Silver Medal winning Eight. The future is bound to see a lot more thinking along these lines



Club group with some of the trophies won in 1976.

D.U.C.A.C. PAVES THE WAY

The unfortunate thing about Rowing is that it is a very capital intensive sport. To do well at the top levels you need good equipment. But to get that you need money. To get the money you need support. And to get the support you need to be winning races and doing well. Yet without the equipment in the first place it is hard to do just that! It is a vicious circle from which it is difficult to break

About six years ago DUBC's fortunes were at a pretty low ebb, both from the financial and rowing points of view. An effort was made to rebuild the club firstly by concentrating on Maidens, so that in the following years a Senior Eight might emerge, and secondly by restocking the boat racks so that when this boat began to move it would not be hampered by poor equipment. Much of the money for this equipment was raised by DUBC, through the Equipment Fund, raffles and other functions, but the club is particularly indebted to DUCAC (Dublin University Central Athletic Club) for their help especially in the lean years.

The crunch came about three years ago when a Senior Eight was ready to go on the water. DUCAC shewed their faith in

the future by loaning the Boat Club the money to build a bar in the clubhouse, and later by assisting in the purchase of an Eight and two matched Fours. The Fours, made by Sims of Putney, have proved invaluable in the training and selection of crews. They are the only matched Fours owned by one club in the country. The Eight, built by Cambridge Racing Boats and named the Kingdom of Kerry in memory of our late president Dermot McGillycuddy, was the boat in which the crew competed at Henley last

DUCAC takes the view that it is willing to help clubs that show evidence of helping themselves, and the Boat Club is working to that criterion. To put things on a firmer footing the club is preparing a five year equipment plan, and hopefully the time is not far ahead when some of the current outlay can be repaid by more successes at home and abroad.

LATE NEWS

• The Club takes delivery of a new carbon fibre reinforced VIII on May 7th. Built in London by Carbocraft, it is similar to the boat used by Oxford in the Boat Race. Its construction makes it lighter and stiffer than conventional boats.

Results of Portora Head of the River on March 19th, the first six crews: -DUBC | 22.39 QUB | 22.59 St. Josephs 23.44 DUBC || 23.47 MCB | 24.04 PRS | 24.06



"Easy lads there's a speed trap ahead!"

OUT AND ABOUT-

The lonliness of the long distance sculler is known to very few, but is well known to JIM JACKSON who was awarded the Fox's Cup by the Captain last year. This is the first time that this trophy-the Diamonds Challenge Cup, won by James Fox in 1910, and presented to the most outstanding sculler in the Club, has been presented in many years.

A sad loss to the comforts of the Seniors and others going to Henley is the fact that HENRY CLARK is moving with the family to Salisbury to take up a position as Assistant Controller on the Council for Small Industries. We have it on good authority though that he and Penelope, and no doubt Camilla and Cristabel, will continue to grace the occasion. With the ending of the prolonged invasion of their Bell Street premises there are high hopes that they may now even see some of the Regatta!

ROBERT NORTHRIDGE, who has helped us through many an Erne Head, is teaching in Portora Royal School and actively involved in the coaching there. His sister, the lovely Jean, is married to another D.U.B.C. man, BRIAN PERSSON, who is coaching Kings Hospital School B.C. I wonder how that happened?

JOHN MACKEN, stroke of the Senior Eight

1975 and 1976 and still going strong, was married at the end of 1975. The lucky girl-Mary Black from Dundalk, who has helped in many ways at a

few successful Trinity Regattas.

BILLY BASS, boatman to U.C.D. and friend to hundreds of oarsmen over the years, has retired, and a fund has been set up as a mark of appreciation of his services. Billy's father was of course boatman to D.U.B.C.-he retired in 1936-and Billy was in fact born in the Clubhouse at Islandbridge.

CHRIS GEORGE, D.U.B.C. and British International oarsman, is one of the key factors in Trinity's improving fortunes. Based in London, his occasional flying visits to Islandbridge have provided a few timely injections. With Chris around D.U.B.C. are unlikely to suffer dry rot in

their equipment!

All Good Luck to JOHN HILL, and his wife Lynn, who were married early last year. DESMOND, his brother and batchelor gay, continues the sterling work of auditing the Club Accounts and unusual financial factoring. Accounts, and unpaid financial father confessor to all. DES and JOHN are, incidentally, the only brothers to have both Captained D.U.B.C.-in 1969 and 1974 respectively.

And news of another man who has just taken the plunge-TOM NOBLE, Captain in 1973. He and Mary Cafferty, an Enniskillen girl were married on Easter Tuesday. Good Luck and

Happiness to them both.

Did you know NICK TINNE is a Great Grand Nephew of J. C. TINNE who rowed at three on the famous 'perfect four' which beat Harvard over the Boat Race course in 1869? Nick, an Oxford Blue himself, is one of the senior coaches, and accompanied the crew on their recent well

publicised trip to Egypt.
CHRISTY and ANNIE BYRNE continue to give a warm welcome to DUBC members old and new at 44 Islandbridge Court. Christy does'nt look a day older than when he first mended the leaks for DUBC back in 1936. The fund raised at his retirement is still being put to good use to meet the odd unusual expense, and to provide a small addition to the monthly income.