

GREAT WIN AT TRINITY REGATTA

In size of entries, Trinity Regatta has in the last few years gone from strength to strength. 1979 was no exception and entries were 25% up on the previous year. This gave the regatta Secretary and committee a most demanding task and at times strained the organisation to the limits. However despite the occasional scheduling problem the racing over the three days was of the highest standard and a feature of the regatta was the number of hard fought races and close finishes.

Supreme among these for DUBC supporters was without doubt the final of the Elite VIIIs between Neptune and DUBC with DUBC rowing through Neptune from behind along the enclosure to win for the first time in ten years the University Grand Challenge Cup by $\frac{3}{4}$ length.

One man who must have especially enjoyed that race was Mr. James Tunney, T.D. Minister of State for Education, who had kindly con-

sented to present the prizes and whose son Sean was rowing in the No. 4 seat!

Other wins for DUBC on the day were the Sen. A IVs, and Lightweight IVs; and LEBC produced an impressive crew to win the Arthur Ball invitation event.

Plans are already in hand for this year's regatta, and spectators will be glad to hear that attention is being given to improving the social side of things to make them fitting to the occasion.



The Trinity Eight pulls away from Neptune as they approach the finish.

CLUB EQUIPMENT. A note from Fred Clarke, Club Captain

The Club's sincere thanks must go to Lord Iveagh for his most generous donation of £1000 at the end of last year towards the purchase of our new Coxless IV. The Club has been working hard to improve and update equipment at all levels, and this was a most welcome contribution towards this objective. I must put on record too our thanks to the Trinity College Trust for their co-operation and help on this occasion.

Money has been coming in too in response

to the Equipment Fund Appeal, and the total received to date stands at £470. This is being put towards the purchase of a new Fine Scull, and our thanks to everyone concerned. Other items being bought this year are two sets of double scull riggers, to allow our matched Pairs to be convertible, and scull oars—all of which have already arrived, and on order and yet to be delivered a set of 14 oars for the senior squad.



Watching the racing at Metre Regatta. Left to right: Prof. Bobbie Steen (back to camera), Elizabeth Steen, Bill Millar, James Shillington, Hazel Tamplin, Dr. Alan Browne and Pamela Browne.

DUBC



NEWS

23 TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN

MARCH 1980

CLUB HOUSE EXTENSION

In the last few years the lack of space in the Clubhouse has been a constant problem and has been discussed repeatedly. Both The Boat Club and the Ladies Boat Club have expanded in numbers and equipment to the point where the boathouse has neither enough changing space nor enough storage space. The immediate priority is to provide adequate changing facilities, especially for the ladies, and more storage space.

The College Architect has visited Islandbridge and various plans are being considered with DUCAC's blessing and financial support. A small committee of past Captains has been meeting reviewing the plans, and hopes to proceed this year.

IN CAMERA . . .

Pulse rates quickened and adrenalin flowed in cascades when RTE, who are making a documentary on Trinity as one of a number of Irish Institutions sought out the Boat Club in November last year for some shots of one of the major sports clubs in action. A Senior VIII took to the water, unrecognisable in pristine gear, and paddled decorously up and down the river under the all-seeing eye of the camera. All systems go . . . and running impeccably . . . until . . . an unscheduled event disturbed the serenity, and another crew in a series of unrehearsed but spectacular manoeuvres proceeded to row their VIII over the weir! Unbeatable action film one must admit and as all attention including cameras swung in their direction every vestige of the saving of the crew from the brink was relentlessly recorded. The film is due for release in October and is awaited with baited breath to see what editorial licence will make of the historic scene!

SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

March 8	Portora Head of the River.
March 22	Putney Head of the River.
March 30	Gannon Cup.
April 19	Dublin Head of the River.
May 2, 3	University Championships, Castlewellan, Queens Regatta, Castlewellan.
May 16, 17, 18	Trinity Regatta.
June 7	Metropolitan Regatta, Blessington.
June 14, 15	Athlone Regatta.
June 28, 29	Nottingham Regatta.
July 3-6	Henley Royal Regatta.
July 18, 19	IARU Championship Regatta. (All Championships) Inniscarra.
July 26	Home Countries International, Athlone.

CHRISTY BYRNE...

An appreciation published in the Irish Times on 9th August '79.

Friends and members past and present of Dublin University Boat Club will have been greatly saddened by the death of Christy Byrne on July 13th.

Christy had been boatman at Islandbridge for almost 35 years and after retirement some ten years ago had lived at Islandbridge Court, where he was able to continue his contact with the river.

With his passing, the club and rowing in Ireland have lost a real friend and one of the great characters associated with the sport.

His skills with racing boats of all sizes and types were well recognised and appreciated and often called upon. He took great pride in his work with timber of all types, going to infinite trouble and pains, and indeed would have found himself somewhat less in tune with this modern era of fibreglass and plastic shells.

More than just a boatman, he was a friend and confidant to a countless succession of oarsmen, even stretching across two generations of one family in some cases. His presence at every



Christy. A photograph taken a few years ago in the kitchen at the Clubhouse.

regatta at which the club competed and at every club function at Islandbridge became a tradition.

He died peacefully and quickly without any prior illness, the way, I am sure, he would have wished to have gone; and to his wife and family are extended the kindest thoughts of deepest sympathy from all D.U.B.C. oarsmen from all over the world.

W.N.R.M.



The Home International IV. Gerry Macken (stk), David Browne (3), Kevin Lynch (2), Brendan Flynn (bow), and Dave Hickey (coach).

TRINITY FOUR REPRESENT IRELAND AT THE HOME COUNTRIES INTERNATIONAL

Once again Trinity had a crew representing Ireland in the Home Countries International, this time staged at Strathclyde in Scotland on July 28th.

The crew, a four, selected after Limerick Regatta, and comprised of the stern four of the VIII had raced well throughout the year and especially in the Blue Riband at Metro, where they came in behind the Garda Prince Philip Four.

In a very exciting race in Strathclyde they lost to the English crew by just three quarters of a length, and well ahead of the rest of the field.

This was a very good performance against a strong Tideway Scullers School IV which had dead-heated with the Garda IV in Nottingham and had just missed selection for the World Championships the previous week.

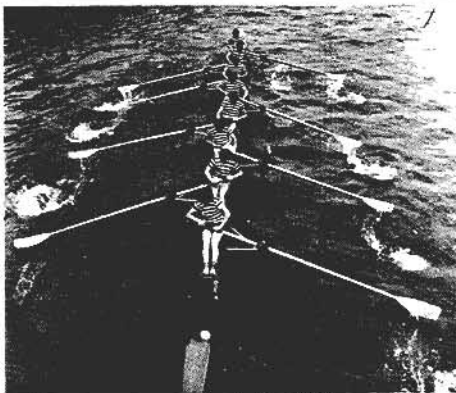
Congratulations to the crew and their coach David Hickey. Congratulations too to the three members of the crew, Gerry Macken, Kevin Lynch and David Browne who were subsequently awarded pinks.

GANNON CUP 1979

Trinity continued its run of successes in the University Boat Race by beating UCD convincingly at Senior, Junior and Maiden levels.

The first race away was the Maiden VIIIs and this race was never in doubt. The Trinity Maidens led from the start and finished some 30 seconds ahead of their rivals. The next race away was the Junior VIIIs and this followed a similar pattern with Trinity coming home 18 seconds clear.

The race for the Gannon Cup between the Senior VIIIs was closer. Off the start, UCD on the South Station took a slight lead. But by Watling Street bridge Trinity had pulled back and the crews were level. Trinity then moved ahead and settled down in the rough conditions to win by about three lengths.



The Senior VIII passing under the Halfpenny Bridge in the Gannon Cup.

THIRD TIME LUCKY IN EGYPT

At Xmas, for the third time, Trinity travelled out to Egypt and took part in the International Festival of Oars on the Nile. Two separate DUBC crews, an VIII and a IV travelled this time, and the contingent was completed by a Coxed Pair and Sculler from UCD. David Hickey travelled as coach and team manager.

Conscious of the privilege of having been invited to compete in this event once again the crews put in a lot of hard work before their departure, and the VIII produced some fine rowing in the main Regatta in Cairo to come in second place, to Washington, and bring home a silver medal. The VIII was putting on pace all the time, and this showing in Cairo, the last regatta was an improvement by two places on their showing at Luxor a few days earlier. The IV, though in good heart and going well before their departure, suffered through the illness of their Stroke and were only able to get into fourth place in their race.

Once again the whole team had a thoroughly enjoyable time, with a most generous programme of sightseeing and entertainment laid on by our hosts, the Egyptian Rowing Federation. At the final dinner in Cairo General Hassan el Kordy announced that next years festival will be longer by two days. Lets hope that DUBC will be there again to enjoy it. But meanwhile we have some very nice souvenirs to remind us of it all, ... those silver medals brought home by the VIII.

For the record the results in Cairo were:

VIII's: 1. Washington 11; 2. Trinity 1½; 3. Leander 1½; 4. Arab Contractors; 5. El Masri, Egypt; 6. Canada (British Columbia).

IV's: 1. Leander; 2. Washington; 3. Arab Contractors; 4. Trinity; 5. Canada.



The Silver medal won in Egypt.

RELAX, RELAX...

If there is an impression that the competitiveness of to-days rowing is undermining the art of the relaxed approach this would be quickly dispelled by a visit to Carrick-on-Shannon on August bank holiday week-end for the traditional wind up of the regatta season. If last year is anything to go by you will readily recapture the halcyon days of your ill-spent youth, and may even row as well! Members of DUBC/LEBC were well represented in the Elite VIIIs final having qualified with other aspirants under the stringent new F.I.S.A. regulation pertaining to liquid ratios, i.e. Volume X Time, immediately prior to the race. The race was won by an Athlone Composite crew, but official results apart, the members of one crew, keeping an eye on their priorities, abandoned ship at the finish and swam ashore to a local tavern ... to save time!

The 1978-79 Rowing Season

Rowing commenced at the beginning of Michaelmas Term with nearly all of the previous years oarsmen back again, and an intensive programme of winter training began immediately. A boost to this was provided when the VIII was selected to travel to Egypt for racing over Xmas, and on return training was resumed again in preparation for the Head-of-the-River season.

The Club did well at the New Ross Marathon in February, winning the Elite IVs, Sen. A IVs, and Sen. B VIIIs pennants. But the outcome of the Erne Head-of-the-River in March was disappointing with the Senior VIII coming in third to Neptune and Queens.

As the season progressed good wins were recorded in the Gannon Cup, Wylie Cup, Queens and Trinity Regattas. The Novice VIII had particularly good wins in the Wylie Cup and at Queens Regatta; and the senior crew rowed a great race to win the University Grand Challenge Cup for Elite VIIIs from Neptune at our own Regatta. The Elite VIIIs run of success came to an end though when an exam weary crew were unable to deal with Neptune at Metro, or Athlone Regattas. The Senior A IV continued to win however at each regatta, and at Athlone the club won the best overall award with a win in Elite IVs, Sen. A IVs, Sen. C IVs, and a second in Sen. A VIIIs.

At Nottingham Regatta the Elite VIII recovered form and had a great win in their event from Yale University and Neptune. But a few days later at Henley, Yale turned the tables on us by half a length in our first heat of the Ladies. Yale went on in due course to win. Our Britannia Coxed IV was also knocked out in their first heat by Poplar Blackwell and District, and the Visitors Coxless IV, having beaten Queens in the first heat, went out to a good UL IV in the next round.

Back in Ireland again the VIII competed in the Elite VIIIs Championship but could only manage third place to a composite crew and Neptune. The Elite IV however won again, and were selected to represent Ireland at the Home International in Scotland. A fitting close to a generally very good season.

HALF A MEDAL IS BETTER THAN NONE ...!



A number of people will I am sure recognise this half-medal. It was worn by Mrs. Franks, a great supporter and friend of the Boat Club, on many, many occasions when she chaperoned Boat Club parties about 1945 and onwards. A chaperone was a strict requisite then before any boat club party could proceed. (I wonder what prompted the introduction of that rule!). Mrs. Franks kept up her lively interest in the rowing



The crew receiving their trophy at Nottingham. Left to right: The Lord Mayor, Fred Clarke, Gerry Macken, Brendan Flynn, Kevin Lynch, David Browne, Sean Tunney, Ray Blake, Derek Gordon, and Nick Dunlop.



Supporters at Henley. Left to right: Gay Blake, Hazel Tamplin (back to camera), David Browne, Penelope Clark, Dr. Alan Browne, Henry Clark.

DAVID HICKEY, Senior Coach, writes ...

DUBC coaches are experiencing in 1980 a problem that all too rarely occurs, namely what to do when the club contains more than eight fully qualified Elite oarsmen. Indeed the (happy) problem is exacerbated by the club having sixteen oarsmen almost all of whom would make the first VIII in a more normal year. Further, five of these oarsmen are light-

weight (under 11st 5lbs), physically very fit, and technically very good.

Should DUBC therefore put all its concentration on the Ladies Plate and chase the Irish VIIIs Championships; or go Ladies and Visitors; or even launch an attack on the World Lightweight Championships standard times? My policy to date has been to hold off and wait to see how we develop. Without easing the training we are concentrating on double sculls and IVs with a view to being able to approach any configuration with the minimum disruption.

The difficulty with this approach is that the oarsmen find themselves training in something of a limbo, unsure of their ultimate aims. Suffice it to say we aim to take the Ladies Plate and the Irish VIIIs Championship. If all goes well we may train an Elite IV as well.

With regard to non-Elite rowing, as in the past VIIIs events seem to dominate the thinking. The recent split in status into Senior A, B and C results in more Championships being available. Should our current progress continue I would be surprised not to see DUBC taking one of these events.

Coach-wise David Sanfey and I are receiving considerable help from Donagh McDonagh, Jim Jackson, David Bloomer, and the Captain Fred Clarke. Further, Robin's wealth of experience is proving an invaluable asset (not to say indispensable aid). Should the present trend of graduates remaining to become coaches continue the current crest of the wave could well become the new standard level for DUBC rowing.

up to the time of her death just three years ago, and was very proud of the half medal and a number of other trophies which were won by her husband Thomas William Franks rowing for DUBC between 1900 and 1904.

But why the half medal? The story runs like this. T. W. Franks was a member of a very good DUBC IV in 1903. This was of course the year that Trinity won the Thames Cup at Henley (from Kingston R.C. by 1 lgt, having beaten Newry R.C. by ½ lgt. in the semi-finals), and the standard of rowing at Irish regattas was exceptionally good that year. There was great rivalry between a number of good IVs, in particular Portadown, Commercial, Drogheda and DUBC. At Trinity Regatta DUBC met Portadown in the final of the Isthmian Challenge Cup, and in a tremendous race the crews dead-heated. A re-row was called for, but Portadown had to leave to catch a train and so conceded the race to Trinity. Subsequently Trinity had the medals cut in two and sent a half medal to each of the Portadown crew.

Surely the stuff that history is made of!



The victorious Novice VIII. Back row left to right: David Maddock, Andy Sides, Mark Heaton, Brendan McDónagh, Peter Wheeler, Malachy Mulhall. Front Left to right: Paddy Keown, Neil Atkins and Joe Keeley.

Out and about...

Leander notched up a very nice win in the Thames Cup at Henley last year and the first man over the line, in the bow seat, was RORY REILLY. Nice to see a DUBC man pick up his second Henley medal; the other being the Ladies in 1977. Rory had been working hard on the Tideway with fluctuating fortunes with Thames Tradersmen. But then won his way on to the Leander VIII and never looked back.

Portora Royal School has been a very good friend to DUBC over the last few years when the club has travelled up to Enniskillen in strength to spend a week boating from Portora before the annual Erne Head-of-the-River race. So it is good to see the links growing with the arrival of TOM NOBLE onto the staff there last year. Incidentally the crews habitually stay in the chalets at the Killyhevlin Hotel; though there is absolutely no truth in the rumour that the chalets have about that time of year been slipping a foot or two nearer the lake!

News from London is that CHRIS GEORGE is one of the joint chief coaches of the British Olympic Womens Squad. Well done. The other is Dan Topolski. Chris is to be seen any weekend on the Tideway putting the girls through their paces.

Several bits of news have come our way recently about DERMOT GOGARTY (alias TOMRED YTRAGOG or G. TOMDERRY-GOAT), now living in Derby. Dermot has great and abiding links with DUBC from about 1932 on when he came to us after some great rowing with London Rowing Club, and became deeply involved in the club in coaching and many other ways. He pulled the occasional oar for Lizzie and in recent letters recalls an exciting 'tactical' win over Neptune at Islandbridge with a 'pressganged crew in a state of total and disgusting ill-health'! ... and of coaching University College Galway to bring back the Wylie Cup from Dublin. Memorable occasions all. There is a gem of a postscript to a letter written to Fred Clarke, this year's Captain, while the crew was in Egypt at Xmas. 'Do you get Cleopatra's needle before a race on the Nile?' There is clearly life in the old DOG TOMRAG-ERTY yet!

AND NOW... Congratulations and all the best to:

RORY REILLY and ANNE (BLOWER)—To be married in Birmingham on March 29th.

JIM JACKSON and SARAH (CARROLL)—To be married in Trinity College Chapel also on March 29th.

KIERAN MULCAHY and ROWENA (MARTIN)—Married in September '79 (Jim Jackson was best man and checking out the idea).

NOEL GRAHAM and ERICA (MANNS-BACHER)—Married in Trinity College Chapel on 15th September '79.

And News of an important recent arrival:

To SUSANNA HART and CHRIS GEORGE a son Thomas Charles Penton, born 28th September '79. POIDS LOURDES pas POIDS LEGERE. (Whatever about those weights... well done!).

DUBLIN UNIVERSITY LADIES BOAT CLUB

The highlight of the year for the Ladies Boat Club was undoubtedly the achievement of the DULBC/Commercial Composite Elite IV, which won the Womens Elite IVs Championship and went on to represent Ireland in the Home Countries International at Strathclyde on July 28th.

The IV was formed by Jim Wallis of UCD at a womens training weekend in January and included Clare Morrissey of Commercial at Stroke and four DULBC members, Mary Stuart (3), Shirley Roycroft (2), Mary O'Connor (Bow), and Lorna Siggins (Cox). It improved steadily throughout the year, and after a number of close and ever narrower defeats, at last produced the goods when it really mattered at Craigavon on June 23rd winning the Womens Elite IVs Championship. On this performance the IV was selected to represent Ireland at the Home Countries International, where they did extremely well coming in second to England by one third of a length.

Three members of the crew, Mary O'Connor, Shirley Roycroft, and Mary Stuart were subsequently awarded pinks... the first for the club, and very fitting recognition of their achievements.

THE UNIVERSITY CHAMPIONSHIPS

DUBC did well in the University Championships (Wylie Cup) at Castlewellan on May 4th last, winning the Elite VIII, Novice VIII, and Intermediate Coxed IVs to score three points. But the trophy was taken by QUBBC, who scored an equivalent three points in the mens events, in the Elite Coxed IVs, Elite Coxless Pairs, and Novice Sculls... but romped away with the cup by virtue of an additional four wins in the ladies events (E2-, I2-, I4+, NSc) giving them a total of seven points. Such is the present format of the University Championships! In fact UCG scored highest in the mens events, winning I8, N4+, I2- and N2-, but as with ourselves recorded no wins in the ladies events.

Prompted by the above, and a recent announcement about another well known rowing venue, our correspondent E. N. WORB has been projecting his thoughts...

INTO THE FUTURE!

Men are to row at Henley in 2001! This is the announcement that Patricia Keowni, head of the Stewardesses Committee, made to the press yesterday. Who would have thought back in June that the last bastion of female chauvinism would have been torn down so suddenly and with so little fuss. A section of the river above the present start at The Burning Brassiere will be cleared as far as the end of the Island, and mens races will be started there 2,100 yards from the finish. It seems incredible that the Stewardesses should permit mens rowing on the official programme at Henley. It is evident to all that men, try as they will, can never row like the ladies, or achieve the physical excellence of ladies crews.

But Henley apart we have a similar problem here in Ireland where it is virtually impossible to win the University Championships now without at least one mens crew. The astute club captain now enters crews in all mens events even where there is no opposition in an attempt to pick up points. The Kings University has even bought special boats for their men; indeed they have encouraged mens rowing to such an extent that their ladies boat club has fallen on hard times.

The root of the problem lies in the scoring system. The old system of two points for a win and one for second place was changed to just one point for a win, ... and this for every class and level of boat. Imagine... a Mens Novice Sculler now scores the same for a win as a Ladies Elite VIII! Even more extraordinary is the fact that there are almost as many mens events as ladies even though there are six times more ladies competitors. The message is clear, it has become essential to have a mens boat club of whatever standard to try and pick up points. You could say mens rowing has been foisted upon us in order to remain competitive.

Where will it all stop!

LATE NEWS

Results New Ross Marathon, Feb. 10:

ELITE IVs	1. IARU Squad A; 2. DUBC A; 3. IARU Squad B. DUBC B not rowed out. Broken rigger.
SEN. A IVs	1. DUBC; 2. Carlow. Three other DUBC VIIIs also competed.

LEBC Biennial Dinner, London Rowing Club, Saturday, April 19th at 7 p.m.