

A WYLIE WIN

A clean sweep.

The tension in the Intermediate crew was unreal. What feelings ran through our minds during that long wait at the start? Despair and hope? "As UCC have scratched this will be the straight final. The order will be UCG, DUBC, QUB and UCD.

The Novices had won their race comfortably, the Seniors were not due to row until the afternoon. But if only the Intermediates could come through the Wylie Cup would be ours. UCG were targets, and they had beaten us well in Galway a month earlier: but this time who knew...?

Pain. Pain and apprehension and nausea sweeping over us in waves as the red flag goes up, falls and bursts in a surge of spray and crashing blades, faster and faster in frenzied energy. And we're down. And nineteen, and twenty, and settle. Suddenly there is a rhythm; James Tarpey proves his claim, in his second years rowing, to stroke for Trinity.

We inch back: painfully, slowly. But oh how much more painful for UCG, reigning national and university champions, as we draw level. "They're burning, they're burning, go for it" but they're not moving. We

are at thirty six and still coming through. What's wrong with them? We're not supposed to beat them! Stop thinking and row damn you, row harder. Feel that rhythm.

We crossed the finish and the Wylie was ours. The Senior crew still had to row of course but what hope had they against the National Senior Champions? Standing on the bank we watched as the boats came into view. Who's ahead? Impossible to tell at this angle. It can't be! Tarpey's bringing them through again. Through UCG the fastest crew in the country. And the UCG spares, dropped a fortnight ago, are cheering for us! In the excitement Peter Keenan lets go of his oar as DUBC romp home to victory with a clean sweep in the Wylie Cup.

A.D.

From the President

Four things if I may:

First, all in DUBC have performed in a manner to be proud of. This "DUBC News" proves that. Congratulations, therefore, to all who have won races at standards high or higher still, and thanks to our coaches without whose work these results would not have been attained. Here I am talking not only about such cracks as Martin Breen or Gerry Macken, but also about those who coached Junior, Novice or beginners' crews. Also, I thank all who have helped in other ways, made teas, washed up, took photographs, manned the bar, organised dances - particularly the profitable ones - or assisted at Regattas. It's the totality of all this effort which makes DUBC great.

Second, a warm welcome to Normal Furlong as a Vice President, filling the vacancy left by Maurice Horan's death. Norman rowed for the Club in the 1940s, obtaining his colours, and has always kept well in touch coming regularly to Trinity Regatta, and providing a real pivot for our crews at Athlone. He has also helped in what comes now....

Third, can we all please give more money to the Club? Boats, oars, ergometers, getting to and from

Regattas, all cost a lot of money. Although the Dublin University Central Athletics Committee (DUCAC) gives great help to the Club, they encourage it to engage in fund-raising for itself: and the Club has done remarkable work in this area over the years. To facilitate people's donating procedure only one Appeal was sent out in 1989 combining the previous Henley and Equipment Appeals, with the happy outcome that the Club's income increased. That's good. Nevertheless, I feel that others, like me, occasionally lose their appeal letter or forget to act upon it. For this reason you may well be receiving - during the next few weeks - a gentle reminder from a friendly Lizzy man of your vintage, asking that you remember the Club's needs. I urge that such amicable prods be interpreted positively; after all the cause is such a worthy one.

Fourth, my best wishes to John Caird, this year's Captain. John has been rowing for the Club for a number of years, including Henley in 1988. Last year he was Honorary Secretary.

Finally, good rowing, DUBC, all of you, everywhere!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

May 5	Queens Regatta
May 12-13	Trinity Regatta
May 26	Limerick Regatta
June 2-3	Nottingham Regatta
June 9	Metropolitan Regatta
June 16	Athlone Regatta
June 23	Cork Regatta
June 30	Galway Regatta
July 4-8	Henley Royal Regatta
July 20-21	National Championships
August 4	Bantry Regatta
August 5	Skibbereen International Regatta
October 27-4, 11	World Championships, Tasmania
December 1	St. Michael's Head

DUBC



NEWS

23 TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN
MAY 1990

Gannon Victory

The Gannon Cup was held on Saturday 25th March 1989. It also happened to be the first time that it coincided with the Oxford versus Cambridge Boat Race, and like Oxford, Trinity were expected to win. And of course we did, extending our record of wins to twenty two. The weather conditions were foul but in this forty first Gannon Cup we beat opposition by four and a half lengths. The distance from St. James's Gate to Marlboro Street steps was rowed in six minutes forty five seconds. This is now our tenth victory in fourteen years. Long may this winning streak continue.

K.S.

MAIDEN BLAZERS

At long last it now seems hopeful that these unique blazers might once again be seen gracing the banks of the Liffey and maybe even as far afield as HRR. A tailor has been found in London willing to produce those extraordinary badger-like stripes, and in a relatively small minimum quantity. I hope there will be a healthy interest here as the material must be ordered in one batch. It would be lovely to see this tradition, one of great importance, reinstated, and a terrible loss to see it die. If you are interested, or know of anybody who is, please do not hesitate to contact me: Kieran Smith at the Club or ring me directly at 855087.

DUBC Appeal Fund

Last year's combined approach to the previously separate Henley and Equipment Appeals was well received, to judge by the resulting income. Not an enormous surge it has to be said, but the £3,218 was an increase of some £173 on the total from the separate appeals in 1987/88; and sufficient to justify in the eyes of all concerned a continuation of the combined approach again this year. A separate Appeal Letter, you will be thrilled to hear, will be going out to all in the near future!

A welcome development in last year's appeal was the increase in the number of people subscribing, 74 compared with 35 in 87/88, admittedly a very lean year, due, we believe, to the lateness of the appeal letter. But even 74 must be a very small number compared to the many, many oarsmen who have over the years enjoyed the rowing and/or robust social life of our famous Club. The matter is being given some consideration at the moment by the Appeal committee, so don't say you haven't been warned!

EDITORIAL

Well, it has been a good year, I do not think that anyone could have forecast the levels of excellence which we achieved. We surely must have cause to feel a little bit proud. The fact that we did so well, left us all feeling disappointed that Henley medals were not brought home, but we must look to our successes and not our defeats. After all, for the whole year we were the Club to beat at all levels, and no club could wish for any higher accolade.

And of course there were the lighter moments during the year: at home there was notably one. When at the Galway Head two Novice oarsmen decided to take in one or two hostels the night before the Small-boats Head. The outcome being that one returned home with what he thought to be a full barrel of beer (an action which he lived to regret and was never allowed to forget by his coaches). The other miscreant was brought home by the constabulary, in the small hours, after having been seized while exposing his rigging to a native female. They did not go on to win their race!

Henley also was not to forget the annual invasion of the Trinity. Mr Enda Cahill B.A. was to say the least on good form. He was seen to congratulate everybody on everything, ranging from pregnant women to Steve Redgrave no less. On the Saturday evening as usual Trinity host a barrel of Guinness under a tree in the car park. Not long after broaching said barrel, Mr Enda Cahill and Mr Kieran Smith were sent off, cash in hand, to negotiate the purchasing of another keg. Off they went only to return an hour and a half later. What went wrong? Well the Henley publicans had some difficulty in parting with their beer, they thought the whole escapade was a joke, funny that. Five pubs later a keg was bought for an exorbitant price of one hundred and twenty pounds. It was pushed with loving care and attention the length of Henley, only to be stopped, five more times by the police. Receipts had to be presented, reasons given etc. Bewuthered and bewitched, though much of the excitement of the American competitors, with shouts of "Don't worry we're from Trinity" and "Yes we are from Ireland", the keg crossed the bridge where one last policeman stopped the traffic and waved the beer over. The moral of the story is don't chase kegs because nobody will be there when you return, and in future buy two! The barrel was chained up in the boat tent, and enjoyed by all but two the following evening.

Back to news now, you will be interested to hear that the IARU have introduced a National Rowing League for 1990-1991. It is hoped that this will improve the entries at all regattas. There will be points allocated to clubs with most wins and cash prizes. There is in addition to this Regatta Awards, where cash prizes will be awarded for best run regatta, best course organisation and presentation, best enclosure and entertainment, best programme, and many more aspects of regatta organisation. So good is this system that there is great interest amongst the British ARA to implement something of the same sort.

All that remains to be said is that we would like to see as many old faces at this year's Trinity Regatta, as I think it will boast something different. For one thing the format is slightly changed. On the Sunday there will be Sprint Racing, which should be vibrant and exciting. It also looks as if we will have overseas guests in the form of the Tideway Scullers, Jesus Cambridge, the Cambridge Blue/Goldie crew, and the Cambridge Ladies Lightweight. A lot to look forward to. We trust it will be a great and memorable regatta, and we look to all for support and encouragement. It is definitely the place to be on the 12th-13th of May.

Kieran Smith

Head Report



Hmm, yes, nice brickwork. The Novice VIII.

The first event of the year was the traditional pilgrimage to O'Brien's Bridge for the St. Michael's Head. The Club sent the Novice and Intermediate squads while the Seniors under the guidance of their new coach, Martin Breen, preferred the calmer waters of Islandbridge, and how right they were. The event was called off after the first Head.

The Club's next outing was to be the New Ross Marathon, at which we would enter Vllls at all three levels. Unfortunately the event was to go the same way as Limerick and it too was called off. A slightly disgruntled Club returned home that night certain that they would never get to race during the year.

The Club decided not to send any Seniors to the Erne Head in Enniskillen. But two Novice Vllls and a Novice IV represented the Club. The Novice VIII had a good showing, finishing second in their class behind an experienced Junior VIII from Coleraine, but more importantly both Novice Vllls managed to outpace the UCD Novice Vllls. All returned home happy that at last they had competed.

Early March saw Dublin Head. This was to be the Senior Vllls debut. So with high hopes they set off behind the Neptune VII but the bridge at Heuston Station proved theirs and especially Eddie Sprats

undoing, with the lucky number two man only cracking his oar off the despised structure. The VIII eventually got back together to finish the course but had lost any hope of winning. So it was up to the Intermediate and Novice Vllls to perform, and they didn't let the Club down, winning both the Senior B and Novice pennants. The second Novice crew did so well as to have their photograph published in the Irish Times while testing the soundness of late Georgian Neo-Classical Bridge Architecture.

The final Head of the year was the Galway Head. This was an important event for all the clubs, especially for the Senior VIII, as Martin Breen wanted a good result so he could judge the squad's performance to date. He was not let down, with the Club taking the Senior A, Senior B, and Novice Vllls events as well as Senior and Novice IVs, not to mention Eddie Davis winning the Novice Sculls. It was a great day for the Club, which was duly celebrated that night especially by the novices, with a little help from the Ladies' Boat Club.

So ended the Head season. With the Club winning six Vllls pennants at the three events they had attended, it all boded well for the coming Regatta season. **A.M.**

Norman Furlong — New Vice President

Our congratulations to Norman Furlong, who was elected Vice President of DUBC at the Annual General Meeting in October last.

Norman is a well known GP in Athlone and has lived out at Coosan for many years. His love of the river and boats, shared by his wife Rosemary, has led to close involvement in the Shannon. He has been a member of the Inland Waterways Association Committee since its inception in 1961, never missing a Rally, in their cruiser Francesca, through the years.

Norman's active membership of the Boat Club spanned the years 1942 to 1945. He began his rowing career in 1942, and stroking a strong crew moved up to take the Junior Championship in that year. This was to be repeated in 1943, giving the Club the Junior Championship in two successive years. In 1945, continuing the successful run in the Club at that time, he stroked the Senior Eight to win the Senior Championship in Athlone.

Members of the Boat Club habitually make first acquaintance with Norman and Rosemary at Athlone Regatta, where, with the Finishing Judges

Barge moored in their 'harbour', the 'Open House' approach to the whole event has to be seen to be believed. Their hospitality to countless DUBC crews during the Club's annual pilgrimage to that event is legend.



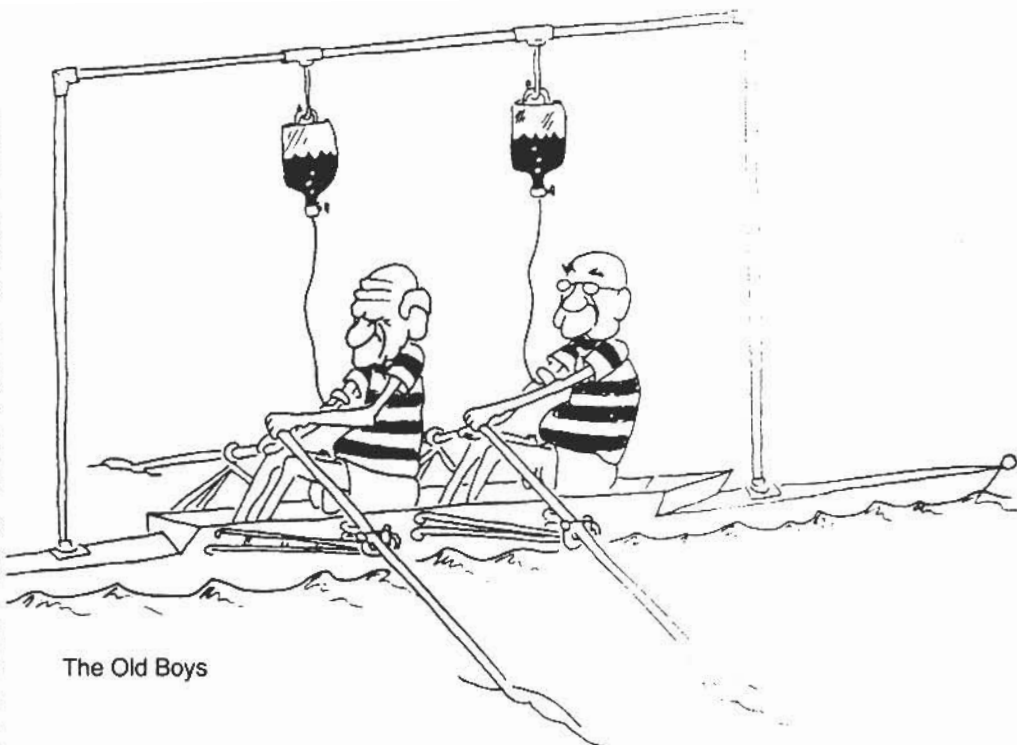
Athlone Regatta 1955 — Norman Furlong and Christy Byrne.

Out and About

TONY WILSON is up to his oxters in Veteran Rowing in Bradford-on-Avon, where, as he says himself, he acts as "whipper-in and off the water organiser". By all accounts doing a good job too as twelve "regulars", from 70 down to a mere 40 years young, turn out regularly of a Sunday. Included are Myles McNulty of the UCD 1952 and '53 crews, and of course Tony himself, who is now planning to buy a Scull.

Twelve miles downstream from Tony, at Bristol Ariel, KEN CLEARY is also actively carrying the flag. He combines activity on the water with being the WAGS (Wiltshire, Avon, Gloucestershire and Somerset) representative on the ARA Committee on Veteran Rowing. WAGS embraces a group of seven small but long-established clubs on the Somerset Avon. It all sounds very congenial.

While on this Veteran "trip" never let it be said that Dublin is going to be undone! For as we write three members of the undefeated 2nd Senior Four of 1976, to wit DONAGH McDONAGH, KIERAN MULCAHY, and JAMES MURNANE, are back in action on the waters at Islandbridge and racing fit. Joining up with some Old Collegians members and with KEVIN TOWEY in the Coxes seat, these Veteran oarsmen have their sights set on the 17th FISA Veteran Regatta in September near Turin in Italy. With enthusiasm running high the squad have recently purchased a Janousek front loader Coxed Four. A number of Regattas are targetted in the build up, and the squad got off to a good start when, teaming up with LUKE JOHNSTON and other ex-Kings Hos. oarsmen, they notched up their first victory at Trinity's At Home last term.



The Old Boys

In the same context DAVID HICKEY is believed to be warming up on the London towpath, so the pressure is on. Is there no end to it I ask!

Great news of success in another age bracket entirely. KATE BROWNLOW daughter of JIMMY and DEIRDRE, is a real hot shot oarswoman these

days. She stroked the British Lightweight Coxless Four in the World Championships in Bled last year. Intense excitement as the crew led to the 1500 metre mark, to be beaten narrowly on the finishing line by the favourite China. But well done indeed.

History in the Making

You may have wondered what became of the idea of a History of the Boat Club, announced with something of a flourish at the time of our Sesqui-centenary. If you did we have good news for you. Since February last year, when Raymond Blake and Robin Tamplin formed themselves into a two man committee, the project has been resuscitated, and is now well under way. Raymond is writing the history, and Robin is looking after the organisation/business end of things. Publication has been agreed for the end of 1991, to line up with the commencement of the College's Quatercentenary Celebrations in 1992.

The history will be a high quality hard back publication of approximately 200 pages, with a good

selection of well reproduced photographs. In addition to a standard publication there will be a limited numbered edition in presentation binding for which pre-subscriptions will be invited. But more about that and other details will be announced later.

Meanwhile a first draft, based almost exclusively on information contained in the Minute Books and other Archives, is nearly complete. This draft is being typed up by Alan Browne, and production details are being discussed with a number of publishers. Trinity Trust are being very supportive in regard to finance and distribution arrangements; and the money raised through our own Sesqui-centenary Appeal, £2000 approximately, has been put to good use in getting the project under way.

Many thanks to all who responded to the earlier appeal for information. It has proved invaluable. To those who may not yet have done so it is **not too late**. Just sit down some night and write down your reminiscences of your time in the Club. Do not leave out what you regard as an insignificant detail; it may

provide the last piece in a jig-saw puzzle, painstakingly assembled over the last few years. The following headings may stimulate the memory:

The Boat House? How was it? How has it changed? The Club Structure. No. of members, crews, committees, functions, etc.?

The structure of the season. Regattas attended, training, coaching?

The rowing itself. Style, equipment?

The old members of your day - what stories were they telling? Were any of them talking of the amalgamation of 1898?

Connections - members who were famous or went on to become famous?

The Club during the Second World War?

Any other information, incidents, etc., however trivial they may seem?

Please send this in direct to: **Raymond Blake, 108 Lower Kimmage Road, Dublin 6W.**

Everyone has something to tell; get it in and the history will be that much the richer!



Yes, there's definitely something in the wind.
Robin Tamplin and Gerry Macken.



Mike Johnston and Enda Cahill at the stewards,

Trinity Regatta '89

Trinity Regatta was held on the Saturday and Sunday preceeding Trinity Week, as is now traditional. The entry was slightly down on last year, but was still substantial, with nearly one hundred races being fought out over the two days. The entry at Elite level especially was exceptional, with nine Vllls competing in the University Grand Challenge Cup, among them being Trinity, Neptune and the Tideway Scullers School, who returned from London to defend their title. The racing promised much and the large crowd were not disappointed. On Saturday, in a hard fought race Trinity beat Neptune (our first victory over the men in green for several years) by three quarters of a length. We were then beaten in the semi-final by Tideway. Although we pushed them hard, and they equalled the course record, they beat us by one length. They then went on to win the event, beating BRC in the final by one and a quarter lengths. They also won the Elite IVs. Our Novices were disappointed not to have won the Senior C Vllls more convincingly against UCD, whom they had beaten in the Gannon Cup. UCD's steering let them down and the Trinity Vlll paddled home, a little frustrated.

Asides from the racing, there was a well stocked marquee bar which was equally well patronised. DUBC Old-boys were to be seen in large numbers throughout the weekend and we are grateful to them for lending a hand with the running of the event, when we were short on personnel. We look forward to seeing even more in 1990, and over the coming



Role Reversal: A unique feature at Trinity Regatta was a race for coxes between arch rivals UCD and Trinity. Coxes from both clubs stepped in to pull oars, while both clubs' heaviest and largest men pulled strings. And there's a prize for who's in bow.

years culminating in a huge Trinity Regatta bash during the Quatercentenary celebrations.

We were fortunate last year to have had considerable sponsorship from Budweiser who looked after the marquee bar and supplied us with a generous amount of product. Sponsorship is always a problem and we would welcome any help in this particular area. Also last year, a new system was introduced,

whereby a company could sponsor an individual event. Many companies took this up and was of great benefit to all concerned.

We hope that the Regatta will go from strength to strength and remain the most exclusive event on the Trinity Week calendar. We look forward to seeing you all this year.

J.T.

Cairo, January 1990

"Next time the Club rows in Egypt, Irish ambassador Eamon O'Toole, a TCD graduate, and myself would like to have advance notice." This is what Lizzy member Raymond Chantler, running an American/Egyptian oil exploration company, said to DUBC President Rob van Mesdag. Elaborating on his plea he added: "That way we will be able to lay on a proper party for them." By way of a foretaste Ray and his American-born wife Mary invited Rob for a 'simple meal' in their spacious apartment in Heliopolis, Cairo. During drinks - there was Irish whiskey on tap - Ray kept disappearing. Each time he returned he told Mary: "I'm almost ready with my most important share of dinner." Mary duly said "Yes dear" every time. It was not until after a delicious three-course feast including meat cooked in beer, an exotic salad, and a creamy dessert, that van

Mesdag discovered that Ray's contribution had been potatoes. Ray then produced an excellent Irish coffee and reminded our President of his years in College. In 1948 he rowed at 3 in the eight in the Ladies' Plate. Ian Secker was captain then. The Irish Championships, soon after, were a failure. Ray and crew mates were consoling themselves in the beer tent when a tannoy voice rang out. "Will Chantler and Tamplin come to the jury tent." There they learnt that they had been selected for the Olympic eight. Several weeks later they were back in Henley. Ray keeps in close, and financial touch with DUBC, occasionally attends Trinity Regatta and treasures his scarf. In Los Angeles, in the seventies he met up with Hugh Wilson who rowed at Henley in 1950 when the crew were beaten by three feet in their final against New College. While in Cairo, van Mesdag visited his old friend Hussein El Alfy who sculled in the Diamonds in 1950 and 1951.



Cairo, January 1990

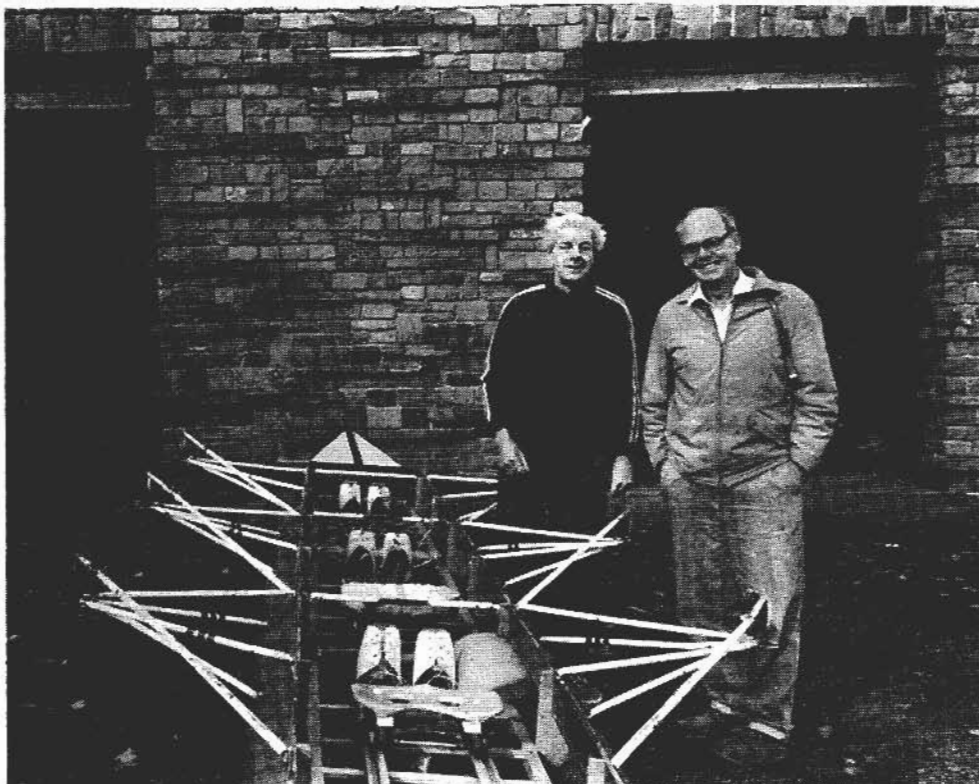
Canada — Johannesburg, via Brussels

Last November, Lizzy member Tom Molyneux, who rowed at Henley in the late 1950s when John Pearson was captain, had lunch with DUBC president Rob Van Mesdag who lives in Brussels.

After visiting his sons in Canada, Tom was returning to his wife Wendy and their daughter Catherine in South Africa and had a stopover in Brussels. Prior to reaching the capital of Europe he had telephoned Rob: "Can lunch be had in Brussels?" It sure could. Excellent Belgian paté and a good glass of wine awaited him. Tom no longer rows but keeps fit through tennis and walking. He is a geologist with De Beers specialising in a highly advanced technique of searching for minerals. He told Rob all about it but wonders how much sank in.

Like most Lizzy men, Tom keeps in regular touch with friends from his days at TCD and the Club. "I still today experience such advantages from rowing as teamwork, discipline and fitness. DUBC taught me a lot," he says.

He was most interested in the "triple", a boat for three, in which Rob was to participate the next day - a 42-kilometer marathon in Liège, on the river Meuse in central Belgium. Through Tom Molyneux's visit, Rob has added yet another name to his list of Lixxy men who have been calling on him: Dr. R.B. McDowell, Cedric Sheppard, Giles Thal Larsen, Edward Holding, Pearse Coyle and Gerry Blanchard. Rob's number, by the way, is Brussels 343 0296.



During his three-hour lunch stop in Brussels, Tom Molyneux, right, was taken to Rob van Mesdag's Cercle des Regattes rowing club to admire the Cercle's triple. Photo: George Vanderhaeghen.

Annie Byrne. In Memory

Annie Byrne, wife of the late Christy Byrne, boatman "extraordinaire" to the Club for some 35 years, died peacefully in her sleep at Islandbridge Court on the 8th of December last. She was looking forward to her 90th birthday, but didn't quite get there. She dearly wished to reach her 100th; "well worth waiting for", with the exciting thought of her centenarian letter and a cheque for £100 from the President of Ireland. But it was not to be.

Annie was a "character". Her zest for a good party quite equalled. Although she had been confined to her bed for many years she was capable of rising, Phoenix like, to participate in some occasion of her choosing, and in so doing could confound the Medics. She was at her best when recalling the memorable, and obviously very happy years, with Christy at the Boat Club. She was not a little critical of the new-fangled innovations at the Boathouse, like the Central Heating, replacing the old range in the kitchen, and quite spoiling the place! The old days were definitely the best.

Gathered at her funeral were her son Christy, living in Dublin and a rock of support to her over the years, and daughters Ann and Pat, over from London. And the gathering would not have been complete without her great friend Angela Duffy, who from her family and home nearby had tended Annie day by day, cajoling, chivvying and encouraging her as occasion demanded; and rescuing her time without number.

For the many who kept in touch with her, visiting her when in Dublin, exchanging greetings with her regularly at Christmas, she will be missed. But above all she will be missed by her children, Christy, Ann and Pat. Our sympathy goes out to them.

And Trinity College were there....

Some recollections of Henley, 1989

Henley, last year, was something to be remembered. Celebrating its 150th Anniversary the Regatta had all the stops out. Everyone wanted to be there and most seemed to have managed it. Newcomers could be forgiven for being slightly overcome by it all, a week with more than its fair share of emotion and drama, from the meticulously planned row-past of the Diamonds winners down the years to the quite unscheduled re-row of the Ladies' Plate finals on the Sunday.

Records fell like ninepins throughout the Regatta. With little stream or wind, conditions were ideal on the Sunday and by the end of the day all records had been broken with the exception of the Prince Philip which was equalled and the Double Sculls, The Diamonds and the Wyfolds both went by 17 seconds; The Ladies, the Stewarts and the Grand each by 12, with the Ladies and the Grand each providing a remarkable final in their own way.

DUBC's particular interests ran much wider than just our crew, with action by extension in the Wyfolds, the Britannia, the Visitors and the Princess Elizabeth. From furthest afield, Zimbabwe, came the Sandawana Four in the Wyfolds with Ian Hunter in the 2 seat. And what a disappointment they had when in their first heat 3s pitch adjuster broke and thus heavily handicapped they went down and out to Stourport B.C. In the same event was Guy Blanchard, Gerry's son, at Bow and steering the Leander 'B' Four and racing strongly through to the semi-finals on the Saturday. Mike Ryder and Mike Clarke also had "offspring" in action, A.M. Ryder rowing for Methodist College Belfast, at 6 in their Eight in the Princess Elizabeth and stroking their Four in the Visitors. And I.B. Clarke coxed the Cheltenham College Eight, also in the Princess Elizabeth.

In the Ladies' Plate, Nick Mahony stroked the Tideway Scullers "C" Eight winning through their first two heats. And Kevin Lynch at 3 on the Lea Rowing Club "A" Four got through to the finals of the Britannia losing in the end to Leander. That same Leander crew had on the way knocked out, by just one length, the very good Cork Boat Club Four with Dan Murray's brothers at Bow and 2, and Dan himself actively supporting from the Bank.

On the bank too was Nick Dunlop watching the Shiplake College Eight coached by him as they made steady progress to the final of the Princess Elizabeth to succumb to Hampton School by just one length.

Finally mention must be made of our own Brendan Flynn who found himself occupying the 2 seat on the UCD Visitors' entry, having originally stepped in to substitute for an injured crewman. He enjoyed two races before succumbing to U.L. on the Friday.

The conditions on the final Sunday were very fast indeed, and so were some of the crews. None more so than the German crew Ruder Club Hansa Dortmund. This crew in the final of the Grand against the Russian crew Dinamo U.S.S.R. produced a magnificent row and in a comfortable win swept up the enclosure rating 42 to complete the course in 5 mins 58 secs, breaking for the first time the 6 minute barrier. Responding to the applause they rowed a "lap of honour" down the enclosure.

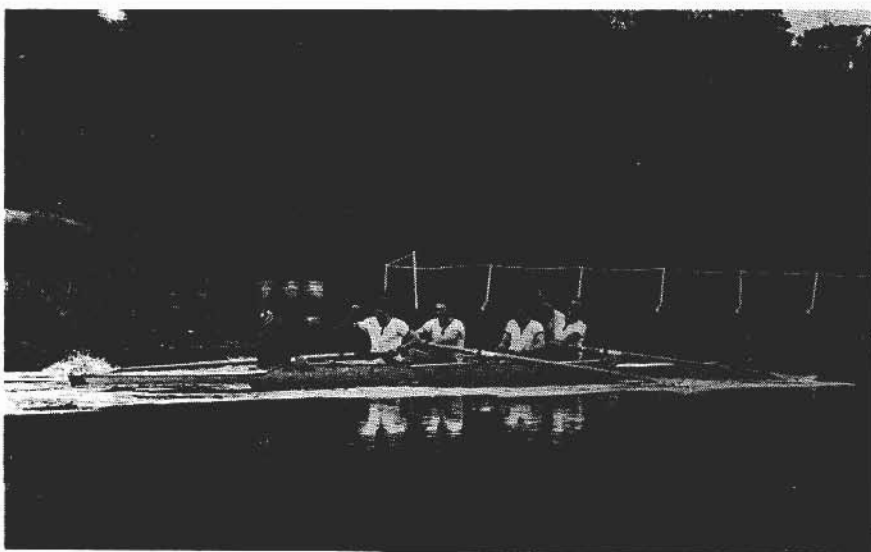
But for sheer excitement honours must go to the final of the Ladies', with Nottinghamshire County lightweight Eight, average weight 11 stone 5 lbs, beating a much vaunted Harvard Heavyweight crew, average weight 13 stone 7 lbs! But it took two rows to do it. In the first encounter Nottinghamshire, rowing beautifully it has to be said, won by a comfortable 5 lengths, from a very sluggish looking Harvard. But Harvard, on lifting out their boat found a piece of wood wedged under water at the stern, and following their protest a re-row was ordered. At the appointed time, 8 p.m., the enclosure was thronged, and we were not disappointed. The race proved to be a classic. The fortunes of the two crews fluctuated marginally



Members of DUBC aboard Brian Williamsons launch outside Leander Club for the annual crew dinner.

as they fought it out stroke by stroke up the course. And nothing really separated them until, at our feet up the enclosure, Nottinghamshire produced a last incredible effort and won by $\frac{3}{4}$ length. In so doing the record for the Ladies' Plate was again bettered.

Rumour had it that the Nottinghamshire crew were already imbibing in celebration when they were informed they had to re-row. Which must give pause for thought to all Coaches as to the effects of a modicum of alcohol before a really critical race!



A definite win here! DUBC Novice IV at Neptune Regatta with great jubilation at breaking status so early in the season.

EMERSON, H. (Sonny) Babington An Appreciation

We were all shocked and saddened to hear of the sudden death of Sonny Babington in April last. It was hard to imagine that this man, with his friendly, sunny, temperament, always good company, was gone from us. It was little wonder that so many, from all works of life, gathered in Londonderry Cathedral on 10th of April to remember and pay tribute to him.

Sonny's active involvement in DUBC covered the years 1931 to 1933. He loved the Boat Club, and throughout his time in the club kept his own detailed scrap book of events, a memorial in its own way now to his happy days there. He had begun his rowing at Portora, and when he came to Trinity made his mark quickly, on a good Junior Eight in 1931, and then on the Senior Eight in 1932 and '33, winning the Senior Championship in both those years. In 1932 they came 5th in the Putney Head of River, one of the finest achievements of a Trinity crew in that event.

Sonny came of a family with a long legal tradition. Following this profession he became senior partner of a distinguished law firm, and Crown Solicitor for Londonderry County and City. Not, however, before there had been a break in his career during the war years, when he served in the City of Londonderry Royal Artillery Regiment in North Africa. He was a man of many parts - the professional, the sportsman, the artist, with his lovely paintings hanging on many walls.

Typical of the man was his involvement in the Ex-servicemen's Club in Londonderry; and his enthusiastic support for the City of Derry Rowing Club. His liberality knew no bounds, and many of us will recall his and his family's great generosity to DUBC when we were up there, following a precedent long established.

The Club has lost a good friend. He will be missed.

RWRT

The Home International Regatta

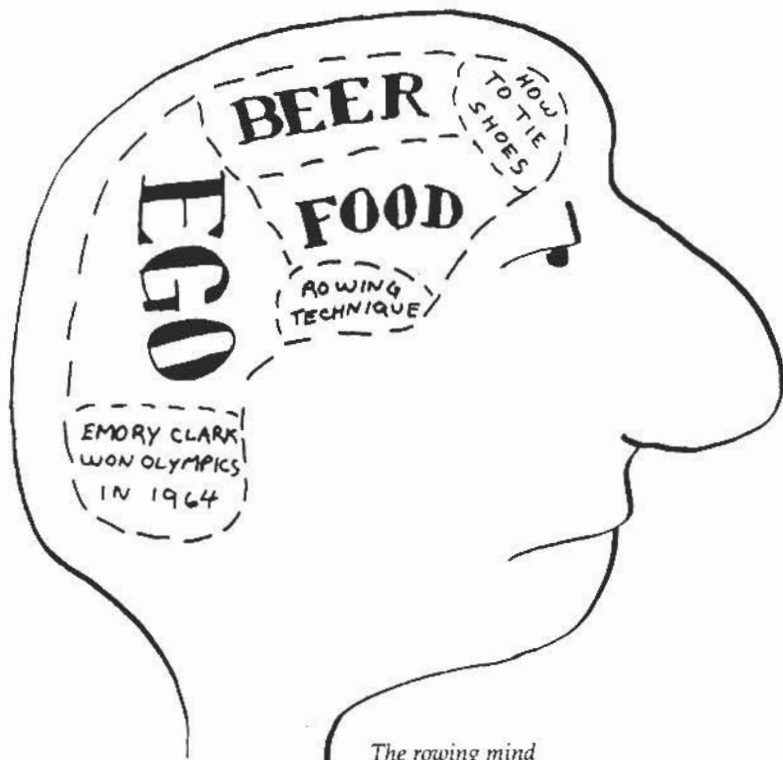
The Traditional end to the rowing year came on the 15th of July, so we wearily returned the VIII to its rack in Blessington Boathouse. But for many of us the rowing was far from over. A crew was sent to Skibereen International Regatta; two Trinity oars joined the Neptune Elite VIII, rowing as Leinster, to win at the Wiggins Teape Liffey Sprint; and three more were on the VIII's squad for the Home International in Strathclyde.

The squad met at Islandbridge on Tuesday morning. Twelve people were trying out for the VIII. Trinity supplied three stroke-siders, Ben Hurley, Donal Hanrahan and myself, Eddie Davis. Various combinations were tried, but sadly Donal was not in the final line up. Ben and I took the six and four seats, in a crew with two Neptune men, four UCG men and BRC cox.

The remainder of the week was spent in Islandbridge doing two outings a day. For the weekend in was decided to go to Galway where a longer stretch of water was available. This culminated in a memorable six minute piece rowed at race pace from a standing start which showed the crews potential. Our weekend in Galway coincided with a "fish festival" which if you can believe came as a welcome break from training. The week leading up to our departure was again spent in Islandbridge.

We travelled to Scotland on the 28th July. Our first setback was when the bus, already half an hour late, was forced to leave to make the connection with the ferry, despite our Bowman, a notorious character from UCG, reported missing. We got some comfort and assurances from the Captain of UCG, that though of dubious parentage, "Mac wants a cap more than anything" and that he would "turn up". Sure enough half way across the North Channel we received news that the prodigal oarsman had reached Larne and would make all haste to be reunited with his crew. He caught the next ferry and like a true oarsman arrived at the hotel just in time for dinner.

The course in Strathclyde is two thousand metres long, and was built for the Commonwealth Games which was held in Edinburgh. It has ample boat space and a very impressive start and finish tower.



The rowing mind

After breakfast the next morning the coaches left for the course. A stiff cross wind had built up. As it happened our race was the very last of the day, so we sat around and watched all the other events during the course of the day. At lunch time we had a crew meeting, where our coach John Luby of BRC gave us our final orders and wished us good luck. We put our boat on the water knowing that for Ireland to win the Men's team event we must finish two places ahead of England.

Our warm up was simple, two minutes steady state, and then practice starts of twenty strokes. However, this took longer than expected and we were penalised with a false start. Safely on the stake boats we got off to a dream start, after twenty strokes we must have been half a length up. We kept our

composure and at a rate of 38 moved to a one length lead by the one thousand metre mark. Scotland were second and England (stroked by former DUBC captain Nick Mahony) third. Our boat felt controlled and powerful but the Scots had forced their way back to half a length down. At the fifteen hundred metre mark we were still one third of a length up and fighting hard. We went for the line as did the Scots. I could see they were catching with every stroke. As the two crews crossed the line a single hooter sounded. The silence was broken by the cheers from the crowd as it was announced that Scotland had won by two feet. My heart sank, how they took half a length off us over the last one thousand metres I will never know.

E.D.

Captain's Report

Freshers week again - a good row up this year, with one hundred and forty eight on the books after a long and busy week. Things were going to be different from the start, what with 23.01 out of order after a kitchen ceiling upstairs fell on Prof. Webb's head, leaving us with a pathetic single bedsit in House 30. But the saga does not end here; due to move back in after Christmas we were shocked to discover that 23.01 was being refurbished as an office. On deeper investigation it was shown that the Quatercentenary Committee had bulldozed through a proposal to usurp the Boat Club's room until 1992. Neither the Junior Dean nor Trevor West were much amused not to mention the Club committee, none of whom were ever approached for permission. Having been in residence in 23.01 since 1957, we were not going to be moved easily.

The AGM in October was a serious affair; mounting bills over the last three to four years had left this year's Treasurer with little choice but to cut down drastically on expenditure. This had a rather unsettling effect on everybody as there was talk of having to sell off our most valuable assets - namely our boats.

The "At Home" in December was greatly enjoyed, with the Kings Hospital crew winning the barrel of beer. Most of which was drunk by DUBC, those at least who had survived the Mick Burgess stew. This is a very important function, not least for the racing, but for breaking the ice with the new Club members and teaching them a few songs and instilling some real DUBC spirit into them.

On a much more serious note, most will have

heard of the wanton destruction of the Boathouse on the night of February the 24th. The function was hosted by the Trinity GAA after the Sigerson Cup. Many windows were smashed, and the changing room facilities destroyed. Several of the old photos were damaged, but the greatest loss and outrage was the complete dismembering of the 1977 Ladies' Plate Commemorative Oar. About twenty square inches of the blade remain and nothing else. The Lady Elizabeth oar also disappeared, though its whereabouts is thought to be known. So serious were these events that they got coverage in the Irish Times four days running in prime position on the sports page. RTE also had a one minute special on the six o'clock news, where the damage was clear for all to see. A DUCAC inquiry headed by Trevor West sent a bill of damages to the GAA at Croke Park for over ten thousand pounds. The cost of repairs has been underwritten by DUCAC, so that we do not get left holding the baby. You will be glad to hear that the Boathouse will be returned to its former glory in time for the Trinity Regatta. We hope many of you will come and see us.

Sadly, our Boatman is no longer in our employ. Bernard and his wife Geraldine have been with us for four years. Due to family circumstances, Bernard felt that he could no longer fulfil his duties as Boatman and tendered his resignation at the end of February. We wish him, Geraldine and little Francis all the best for the future.

John Caird

National Championships

The National Championships 1989 were approached with a degree of optimism rather than over confidence by DUBC. Our Senior VIII, distinguished in Henley, were always going to be counted among those favoured for the Elite prize. Our Intermediates, remarkably similar in appearance to the Elites were highly fancied to triumph in their event as were the unbeaten Novice VIII. And as it happened the Intermediates did live up to expectations and bring home the Intermediate pot.

In the event, however, the Club left the Championships with only the Intermediate pot. Their race was remarkable for a number of reasons; not least being the size of their winning margin and the rather unorthodox route they took to it. The Novice crew, weighed down by age and intellect, were narrowly beaten by arch-rivals UCD in the VIII's event while their IV succumbed to the talent and blistering rate of some army personnel from Carlow.

The senior events too proved a disappointment. While represented in every elite category, barring Sculls, no pots were won despite some close margins. The VIII dived somewhat by the rigours of Henley, came in fourth behind Neptune.

It is testament to the strength and depth of the Club that we were left feeling a little disappointed. Crews in the finals of almost every event, the Intermediate championship and some notable performances would have been the envy of most other clubs. We can only hope that this year's Champs will be as bright a showcase for Trinity talent. Perhaps we spread our talent a little thin by entering too many events, when economy might have been more rewarding.

W.G.

Henley Royal Regatta 1989

The Season was going well. Right from the start we were besieged with talented and committed oarsmen, including three Lizzy men, notably: Len Dunne, Mark "Disco" Pattison and Eddie Sprat. We knew we were going to win, hopefully it would be something big! The Thames Cup at the HRR seemed the obvious "BIG ONE".

Thanks to Martin Breen, a rigorous winter training programme was drawn up, including six weekly Ergo tests. During the run up to the HRR we were coached by both Martin Breen and Gerry Macken. A likely duo.

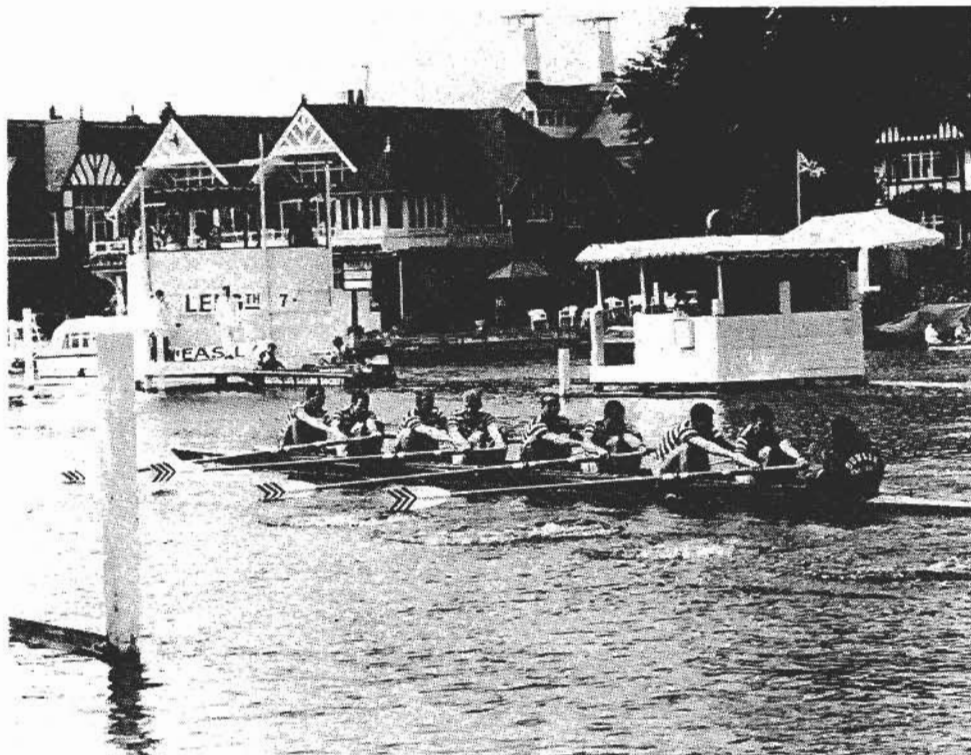
We flew to London on Sunday 24th of June, where we were picked up by Nick Dunlop, who drove us to our now customary abode under the kind auspices of the Dudeney family. As is now tradition we were all invited to dine at the Leander Club. As usual our hosts were the London Lizzy men, and presiding over all was our new Club President, Rob van Mesdag. Brian Williamson spoils us by showing us his fine launch, don't we all wish we had one?!

The week was getting shorter and our outings were going well, we were already one of the seeds, and had a bye to the second round. It was here that we met the City of Oxford Boat Club. We knew they could be good so we went off hard. We only took one third of a length, panicked and strode out to 38 (due to the slight inexperience of the crew). We scraped across the line three quarters of a length up in the fastest time of the day.

The next day we were determined to stride out to 36. Our opposition, Upper Thames Rowing Club, had half a length on us by the Barrier but by Fawley we had reeled them in and came home two and three quarter lengths ahead.

On Saturday we met Williams College from the colonies (USA), these boys had previously beaten the Harvard lightweight in a course record time. This time we took the lead and inched away bit by bit to a one and a quarter length win. It was only afterwards that we found out that our Stroke had had a stomach bug that morning.

We reached Finals Day. UL was the crew to beat. Both crews were extremely nervous, and conditions



Trinity beating Williams.

were fast. We thought they might have a slight lead to start, but they were slick, real slick. I'm sure they had clear water most of the way down the course, our lift coming into the stands had little effect. They won by one and a quarter lengths. The Thames Cup record had been smashed by ten seconds, but this was little consolation. But at least we went out to the eventual winners, who beat Ridley College Canada by three and a quarter lengths. It was a pity not to have got to the finals but that's the luck of the draw.

Our racing being over we withdrew to the Fawley bar, for its splendid view of the remaining events. It

was a sight for sore eyes and aching muscles when Hansa Dortmund, FRD, won the Grand Challenge Cup in five minutes fifty-eight seconds.

After the racing, including the Ladies' Plate re-row, we were treated to a barrel of Arthur's best, as we had missed the Saturday booze up. Eddie Davis, the quiet man of the crew, was seen with his mouth wide open and his ass hanging out of his trousers, staring into the heavens.

Ah yeah, there's nothing quite like the Henley experience.

M.B.

**Dublin
University
Boat Club**

TRINITY REGATTA



Saturday and Sunday
12th and 13th May 1990