

TCD June 1996

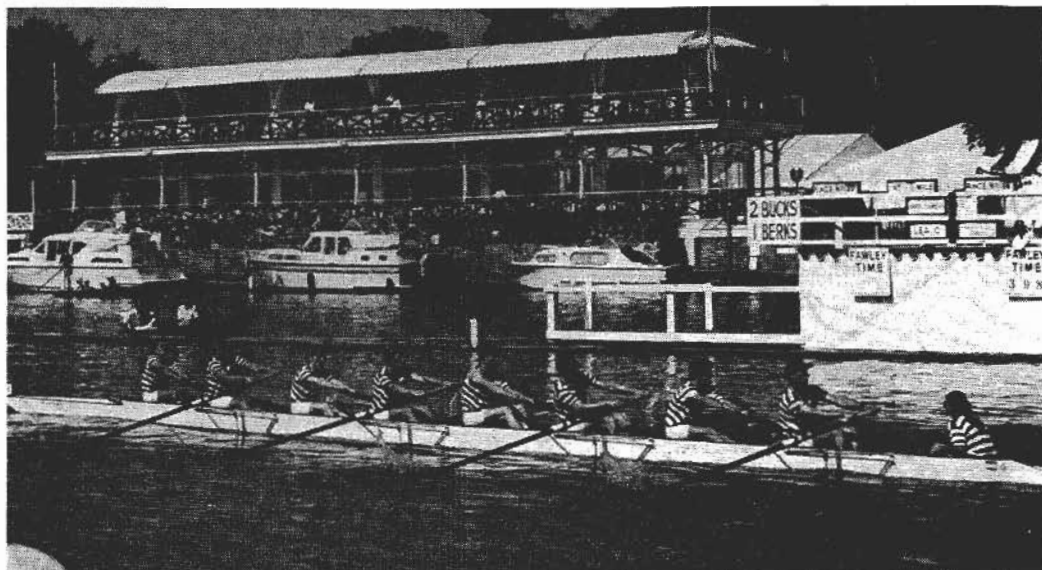
Henley Final, a race too far

THE SPECTRE of lost Henley finals continues as the senior eight again lost the Temple Cup at the last hurdle, this time to Oxford Brookes.

We arrived on the Thames with a new Sims shell and as a seeded crew. Our opponents in the final, however, were never going to be a pushover, and they proved as much from the start.

A boat loaded with U-23 internationals tore off to a length lead by the end of the island and continued to pull away down the course to win by over three lengths.

Earlier, disaster almost struck when cox Bernard Cullen failed to make the minimum weight. Jenny O'Byrne, the novice cox, was flown over the day before



racing to what must be every novice's dream.

Getting used to the new boat turned out to be harder than expected, and a poor start in the first round left us with the job of rowing through Upper Canada College. The second

day brought Cardiff University, who proved mere cannon fodder despite another shaky start.

Averaging 14st 3 to our 12st 4, Newcastle University hardly justified their cox's fighting words at the start and by the Barrier the race was over.

Saturday delivered the United States' finest, Cincinnati.

Fortunately, they turned out to be juniors and we easily disposed of their challenge with what was to be our finest row of the week.

Senior Report on Page Two

Captain's report

John Mohan gives the low down on DUBC's winter.

THIS YEAR'S squad has been fortified by the return of five of the crew to miss out on Henley and the National Championships, two former Captains; Brendan Smyth and Ciaran Lewis, and the timely arrival on the rowing scholarship of William Gilbert who has already won a senior pot. It bodes well for a fruitful season.

The training camp in Cappoquin in January saw the foundations laid for a winning streak in the Head season. We won on our first appearance, at St Michael's, and at Lagan, the first eight beat Neptune by over ten seconds after starting behind some clearly inferior crews. A subsequent win on the Erne readied the crew for the important

Tribesmen Head in Galway. Rumours of an Irish lightweight eight racing were confirmed but on the day the entry was scratched. Never the less seven other open eights had to be beaten, including a reformed Neptune crew, a target that was duly achieved.

The fresh-faced novices found themselves under the guidance of Donal Lunny, James O'Reilly, James Murnane, Mick Doyle and Kevin Lynch with the early events being raced mainly on enthusiasm. The best result to date has been a third place at Erne but a gruelling training camp in mid-March has transformed this motley crew and seeing success elsewhere in the club has heightened their thirst for victory, particularly over UCD.

The club certainly has no shortage of personnel this year, with twelve in contention for the intermediate (or senior 3)

eight. Their coach, Pat Treacy, is one of the oldest rowing members from last year and has decided to retire to the tow-path where he will no doubt while away his remaining years with his fellow coach Peter Wolfe.

While Pat was ahead on the Erne riverbank, pursued by thoroughbred horses, his crew secured intermediate victory and a second place overall. In Galway there was stiffer opposition with eight senior eights and ten intermediates competing but the challenge was taken firmly in hand and resulted in another class win and sixth overall.

There is no doubt that success at the top end filters down through the club and for that we are grateful to Robin Tamplin, Raymond Blake, Dan Murray, Gerry Macken and Sean Tunney who have all given time this year in pursuit of the common goal.

Twin track approach makes for satisfying season

Review of the Senior 1 '95 season

JUST THREE of the previous year's crew - captain Tim Coote, Michael Persson and Aillil O'Reilly - had returned, the rest of the herd being made up of former novices and intermediates, as well as two talented Freshers with junior experience.

Nick Dunlop needed to keep a large squad together until Christmas to allow the top dozen or so to emerge as rival contenders for the VIII.

The rate of development was greatly increased by a progressive winter training camp at Cappoquin and the return of Martin Murphy from the '94 crew.

Lagan HOR was foregone as preparations continued, so our first test was to be Erne head. Unfortunately, a combination of inexperience, fatigue and a venture up the wrong creek put paid to our chances. A few weeks later in Galway we tasted defeat again, this time to Neptune.

Our response was to take a determined approach to the Dublin Head, spending hours on Blessington Lake to iron out the faults. As a result, we won the Head for the first time since 1966, finishing 13 seconds ahead of Neptune.

The Gannon was next on the agenda, and we started with the unsettling tag of

favourites. 'National' played the underdogs, trying to rattle us off the start. However, a push at the third bridge ended their aspirations and we moved through to a two-length win.

The regatta season began with Neptune on April 22, where we entered in both intermediate and senior VIIIs. The enterprise proved to be a bridge too far - a painful defeat at the hands of Neptune was followed by another just 30 minutes later by Queens.

So although we won the senior VIIIs at Commercial Regatta the following day, we approached the University Championships a week later with plenty of motivation. Comprehensive victories in both intermediate and senior levels brought the Wylie Cup back to Trinity and a repeat win at Queen's Regatta confirmed our position as a senior crew to be feared.

The next two weeks were spent in preparation for the inevitable clash with Neptune at Trinity Regatta. Feelings were positive when the day arrived, though the grim determination of UCD made us look a little shaky in the semi-final. The final saw the green and black get off to a cracking start and lead by three quarters of a length by the Boo House.

It seemed like Neptune Regatta all over again, until they stopped pulling away and their pushes weakened. Slowly we began to claw back the inches. The Minute Mark bend in our favour brought us to one-third of a length and tasting the scent of victo-



ry, we pulled through the boathouses to win by a length.

With Henley on the horizon, the only crew change of the season was made as Aillil O'Reilly returned at Paul Coyle's expense. Two weeks later the VIII raced at Athlone Regatta, winning the inter and senior races in convincing fashion.

A few hours study took us through the exams, whereupon we spent another week at the Cappoquin Hilton with Nick Dunlop, Raymond Blake and former Cambridge Blue and Olympic oarsman, John Pritchard. The camp allowed us to put in the vital finishing touches before leaving for Henley.

Back to Blessington to nurse our wounds and prepare for the National Championships. Again taking the "twin-track" approach, we arrived at the Inniscarra course as dead certs for the Intermediate VIII title and fancied outsiders for the Big Pot. The former was duly won - Queens at just over a length adrift provided the only challenge.

The final of the senior pot saw us make the slowest start, but with Neptune and St Michael's fighting it out in front, we made our way through to third.

It was a satisfying result to a satisfying season; we are indebted to head coach Nick Dunlop and to all those who helped out - Raymond Blake, Gerry Macken, Sean Tunney, Phil Browne, Robin Tamplin and others - for making it so.

Appeal fund gets a boost

I am delighted to say that the response to the 1995 Appeal was a vast improvement on the previous year. Up from £2,280 to £4,270, with many more contributing.

A great relief as this annual contribution is of enormous help to the club and the drop-off in '94 did cause us some concern. Above all it prompted the question, why should this have happened?

Feedback from members indicated that a number did not receive the appeal letter at all in '94. And to some extent the same seems to have been the case with the newsletter. It is hard to say exactly how this happened, but there seems to have been a mistake at the dispatch end

of things, which goes a long way to explain the unexpected and sudden drop-off. It is reassuring to observe that we got back on course again last year, but I must apologise to any one who was missed out - I assure you that you were not just arbitrarily dropped off the list - and we do intend to do better. Thank you too to everyone who continued to contribute, and especially to those who resumed again after the hiccup. I must also add a special word of thanks to all those who gathered in Thames Rowing Club in October last, and to Gerry Blanchard and his team who brought it about. The result, in addition no doubt to a fair scattering of sore heads, was a further £220 to the

fund - a splendid effort indeed.

Although we update addresses on an ongoing basis, we do each year get a number of letters returned to us "addressee unknown". This leaves a gap which we would dearly like to fill. Can I therefore ask each and everyone who may know of a change of address to pass that information on to us at 23 TCD.

Finally, we are looking at reintroducing standing orders with this year's appeal. This used to be the practice, but has got very much out of date, and the small number of standing orders still remaining are terribly devalued. I hope we will have a good response to any new scheme. More details with the appeal letter itself, so keep an eye on the post.

Lizzie Dinner Raises Henley funds

Last October, Lady Elizabeth Boat Club, the club within a club, held a dinner in London for members and their guests. It was superbly organised by Gerry Blanchard and due to his partiality to a certain club on the Embankment, the venue was Thames Rowing Club. He was also able to raise £220 for the Henley Fund.

This very successful get-together could not have got off to a better start than with an outing in what must have been the most perfect October day on the Tideway this century. Conditions were brilliant. And of course, it goes without saying, so was the rowing. Gerry, keeping up his personal tradition by preferring to function as a non-rowing captain, sculled alongside and was heard to exclaim, "There's a Lizzy fleet on the Thames today!"

That evening the contented oarsmen were joined by over 100 members and guests amongst whom the captain of Thames RC and members of London and Vesta Rowing Clubs as well as Molesey Boat Club.

We were charmed to see Jennifer Lyons keeping up a

tradition dear to her husband's heart, as the late provost Dr FSL Lyons was renowned for attending not only the official functions but also taking a keen interest in every type of extra-curricular activity at the university.

At dinner, the seating arrangements at half a dozen very large tables reunited eights and fours, contemporary oarsmen and friends, and the revelry of great reunions reverberated around the dining hall.

Rob van Mesdag opened the toasts by underlining the importance of maintaining contacts between new and old members and appealed to all those present to spread the message amongst all involved. He asked everyone to assist today's DUBC in every way possible.

DUBC captain John Mohan entertained us by recounting, pokerfaced, how he had tried to put such benevolent assistance and advice into practice in a literal way. At the same time he managed to convey a bit of the atmosphere we remember so well of parties after a rowing event at Islandbridge and left us with the satisfied feeling that nothing has changed in



Contentment on the Embankment: Standing, left to right, John Pearson, Gilles Thal Larsen, Norman Gillett, Bill Lewis, John Wyatt (Vesta BC), Mike Clarke, Gerry Blanchard, Vic Northwood. Kneeling, Mike Ryder and Rob van Mesdag. Photo, Rosemary Breen

this field and that all is well with the club.

Another memorable toast was offered by Norman Gillett, who in spite of that afternoon's efforts has enough puff to take us (and particularly Rob) on a spectacular sculling trip far afield and in distant climes. With great skill Rob sculled his way over an oasis in the Sahara and even found time in his best Fawley Bar tradition to offer all the by-standers a pint of Pimms. Rob was presented

with a Beerbohm-style caricature of himself, and was greatly looking forward to hanging it between his Dutch Masters at home. Alas for him, his possession of this priceless portrait was short-lived. It is rightfully destined to hang in Islandbridge's "Hall of Fame" (or will it be safer in 23.01?), and John Mohan took it back to Dublin with him the following day. We all prefer to see Rob in London in the flesh than as an effigy on the wall.

Hugh Holroyd

Hugh Holroyd, who died on August 27 last year in New Zealand, was a staunch and loved member of DUBC in the mid-1950's. He stroked the first VIII very ably in Philip Wall Morris' year in 1956, a year in which Trinity won both the Gannon and the University Grand Challenge Cup at Trinity Regatta. The crew, coached by Bill Windham and Pat Bradley, lost at Henley to Peterhouse, Cambridge, who went on to win the Ladies Plate easily.

Hugh qualified in medicine in 1958, married Daphne Gilpin, also a TCD medicine graduate, and they went to live in New Zealand. They had five sons, but sadly one, Tom, was killed in a car accident when he was about 12.

Hugh was a very fine sailor even when at TCD and he later sailed from New Zealand to England and back, demonstrating in full the competence and sense of adventure which also fired his English ancestors.

Unfortunately the loss of his son affected him greatly, and he was divorced from his wife a few years ago.

Hugh's courage and kindness will be missed by his family and all those who were fortunate to have known him.
TGM

Pat Bradley

I was saddened to hear that Pat Bradley passed away early last summer.

Pat first rowed at Henley in the Ladies Plate for Shrewsbury in 1937/38. The war years intervened, but he managed to continue his rowing career in Ceylon while stationed there.

It was 1946 before he returned to row in the winning Stewards IV for Leander and in the victorious Grand Challenge Cup crew. Pat came from a famous rowing family, and his elder brother, Jack, stroked both these crews.

Pat continued to row for Leander in succeeding years and in 1949 he stroked the winning Grand Challenge Cup crew in their colours. In 1950 he rowed in the Stewards and Grand Challenge Cup crews at Henley before going on to stroke the national squad in the Empire Games in New Zealand, in which Britain finished 3rd.

In 1952 he went into a partnership with Dick Burnell and they won the double sculls at Henley.

It was through his friendship with Bill Windham that he became the finishing coach for the Trinity VIII at Henley in the

late Fifties, a role in which I first met him in 1959.

I became captain in 1961 and after various experiments, invited Pat to become Trinity's chief coach, a position he readily accepted.

I was not the first captain to recognise that Pat Bradley was able to take a mediocre crew and give them very substantial pace. All of us who knew him recognised that he was one of the few rowing coaches that could make the best use of the crew as a finishing coach. He became totally involved in Trinity rowing and as a frequent guest at my parents' home, attending many of the DUBC functions in those years.

His generosity was enormous, extending to the purchase of an VIII for the club. The hospitality at his home in Middle Wallop from his wife Erica, a brilliant hostess, was legendary.

He changed the whole style of rowing for DUBC and such was his enthusiasm that at the end of my second year as captain he took both myself and Richard Taylor to the world championships at Rotsee outside Lucerne in 1962.

On the way back, we stayed in an hotel in Le Touquet, the dice fell in his favour and he won back the entire cost of the trip.

He was made an honorary member of the Knights in college, something which I know gave him particular pleasure.

Pat carried on for a number of years in his position as chief coach at DUBC. The club was fortunate in having the services of one of the great post-war British oarsmen, who was able to translate his ability in the boat onto the coach's bike on the bank.

His two sons followed him onto the river - I know that Pat was particularly proud that Nick rowed for Shrewsbury where he was captain, before going on to row for Cambridge. James also rowed in the winning crew for Shrewsbury at Henley.

To Erica, Nick and James, we extend enormous sympathy.

Mike Thomas

Mike Thomas has been a familiar figure at all the major regattas for many years: he took to umpiring for a second rowing career, after his sons Alan (Captain, DUBC, 1983) and Roger had taken up his old sport at King's Hospital. And because Mike never did anything by half, he became a leading umpire, and organiser of the umpiring for the national championships. He took the FISA examination, and became one of the small band of Irish

umpires who have officiated at the world championships.

He rowed for Queen's during their greatest period of success, winning the Emerald Sculls at Trinity Regatta and the Eblana Challenge Cup at Metro in 1956 - then recognised as the sculling championship of Ireland - and rowing in the Queen's eight that raced for Northern Ireland in the Commonwealth Regatta on Lake Padarn in Wales in 1958: a fortuitous meeting at that regatta of England, Scotland and Northern Ireland in one repechage was the inspiration for the inauguration of the Home International. Mike was an inveterate supporter of Alan and Roger's rowing careers at KH, Trinity, Neptune and for Ireland, and when he came back to the sport he never left it again. Offaly Rowing Club's early existence was in his garden on the banks of the Grand Canal just outside Tullamore.



He fought cancer with a marvellous determination that was inspired and inspiring. He umpired through it with gusto: on the start at Trinity Regatta last year, at the University Championships, and totally in charge on the finishing platform at the National Championships in Inniscarra. He was disappointed that he could not fulfil his selection for the Worlds in Tampere, but did that mean he was giving up? No way: he sat the exam, and renewed his Irish umpire's license at the Leinster examinations held shortly before Christmas.

We'll miss you, Mike, as each regatta comes around, and we send our love and best wishes to Heather and the boys.
WMRJ

Nowt for Novices

IT ALL began in October with about 60 innocent freshers of all shapes, sizes and nationalities arriving down at the boathouse at the leisurely hour of 11am. However, as the weeks progressed we gradually lost more and more participants to the rigours of training. When coach Brian Roberts made a 'cut' after a few weeks, we had been reduced to a core of about 20 potential oarsmen. We progressed quickly from the tank (some more quickly than others) and our first test was to be at St Michael's Head. Preparations were going well and rivalry was growing with the 'rowers' of the St Patrick's blue and saffron variety. Unfortunately, weather conditions forced the cancellation of the event (which, upon mature recollection, I feel we would have won). Thus, although many of us caught our first 'crab' during the At Home regatta (the unexpected pace being about 20 strokes higher than what we had been used to) we entered the Christmas break with little racing experience. Lagan Head was to be our first real test and we entered two eights. It was here that we witnessed the strength of Queen's second-year 'novices' for the first time as they comprehensively beat all other crews. Some far from tac-

tical steering from our popular cox (involving a bridge and a crew of veterans) no doubt cost us valuable seconds (perhaps 60 or so?) in our race with National. I hasten to add that this cox left the sport soon after. Erne Head was to prove another disappointment with equipment failures in both boats, but with galway approaching rapidly there was no time to waste. Our dedicated coaching team of Willie Galvin, James O'Reilly and Brian Roberts decided that we should have a training camp in Galway over the Easter break. We were to stay in a hostel and, of course, bring our own food to last for the duration of the camp. However, not satisfied with beans on toast for four days, a number of us caught some Jumbo King Crabs during the race (held in truly Alaskan conditions). And so we returned from our training camp blistered but determined. Dublin Head was our next challenge and (almost) our greatest hour. On target for our first win, a stubborn Defence Forces crew, coupled with a narrow river, cost us dearly. However, our sorrows were drowned at the Trial VIII's meal that night with innumerable pints of boathouse Guinness (a very special brew), with the odd snort of snuff to enliven proceedings. We entered two VIIIs in the Gannon. The B crew won their race above the weir easily when the UCD cox decided to investigate the plant life on the river bank a little too closely. However, the A crew were not as fortunate. National gained an early lead and a determined fight back was not enough to rescue victory. The regatta also proved unfruitful in our search

for that first, elusive victory. Brian was led by wanderlust to South Africa, leaving us at the mercy of Willie and James. The Queens crew continued to dominate, winning the University Championships from ourselves and National, albeit by a reduced margin. We took to the water each evening in the run-up to Trinity Regatta, though James and Willie's work commitments meant that our mid-week training was often conducted without the benefit of a towpath voice. Although we made progress, it was clearly not enough and the much improved Defence Forces crew saw off our challenge as they went on to win the event. A body of around 12 oarsmen remained after the exams, determined to make some mark on the sport. Willie began coaching a IV each morning, with the VIII taking to the water each evening, and finally scored a victory at Enniskillen regatta two weeks before the championships. Finally it was time for the National Championships in Inniscarra, Cork. The plan was to win the races, collect the silver and celebrate in style. Unfortunately even the best laid plans can fail. Both the IV and VIII failed to reproduce their improved form in training and, to rub salt in our wounds, National went on to take the VIII's title. Thus our introduction to rowing met with very little success. However, we were always determined and a large proportion of us returned in October to give it another go. PL



THE intermediate season was confined mainly to a IV, but our efforts made up for the lack of bodies. The first big break of the season came on the towpath, when we secured the services of Peter Wolfe as coach. Sculler, canoer, sailor and now tutor, Peter has traditionally shone at whatever he has turned his hand to, and we were confident that the IV would be no exception. A more imposing figure I have never seen in a boat - sitting bolt upright in the launch, ordering the petrified driver to get closer to the stern of the boat, with the crew doing all they could to get away. A coach who commanded fear and admiration in equal measures - just the man for the job. The less said about Lagan Head the better. Our cox blamed "not taking the racing line" (in other words, taking the worst line possible) on the fact that she lived in America and they drive on the other side, you know?

Fab Four End on Low Note

The Erne made up for the disappointment, however, when we took the intermediate IV pennant, finishing just 11 seconds behind the top senior IV. Next up was the traditional weekend at Castlewellan for the University Championships and Queens. By this stage in the season our work rate had earned us a bit of a reputation and we used it to good effect. Our raw novice cox, Cecilia McCartan, steered us to victory on both days, and the chips on our shoulders from our days as senior squad castoffs began to lighten. After a fine win in the final of the intermediate IVs in Trinity Regatta, captain Tim Coote gave his stamp of approval to our Henley aspirations, though he recommended a tough training camp to steel our resolve and improve our chances. Five days in Enniskillen, under the eye of new coach Conor Fennessy, a member of the 1994 senior VIII, and with the junior championship winning Portora crew as opposition gave us the edge we had been looking for, and we left for Henley in high spirits. Disaster struck the day before our race, however, when the captain elect and two-man, John Mohan, cracked a rib, and was deemed unfit to row. Conor offered to step in as a replacement, but as a bowsider his offer was politely turned down. We lightened the work on John's blade and hoped for the best. Episcopal College, USA, didn't make any allowances for our handicap, however, and they came home over a length in front. We repaired to the Stewards enclosure to find consolation. Back in Ireland for the National Championships, we finished the season on a low note, placed fourth behind Tribesmen, Shannon and Athlone. Three of the four are still with the club - John Mohan is captain, Andrew Coleman is secretary, while Pat Tracey has taken over as intermediate coach. The final member of the Fab Four, Simon Clements, is at large.

Out and About

"It is resolved that any member marrying shall forfeit a dozen of champagne to the club which shall to drunk by the members of the club at such time and place as shall be agreed upon by them."

This resolution was made in 1840 by the Pembroke Club from which DUBC sprung. Lamentably, the tradition has lapsed but perhaps it should be ressurected in the wake of this year's rash of weddings and engagements.

On the centre pages you will see photographs of newly weds Wilma and Mick Doyle and of Barney O'Neill (Senior 8 1991-93) and Lisa Taylor (cox 1987-88). Barney and Lisa are now living in Austin, Texas; while Mick and Wilma now have a baby daughter.



At Henley last year on the Sunday were Hugh Byrne (Intermediate 8 1993) and Pam Whiting (DULBC), recently engaged. Congratulations also to Andy Deano Sides and Andy Jarvey Hogan who have also announced engagements. Back home Michael Burgess has married former UCD cox, Orla. Good luck to them all.

News from London: Dave Cushen and James Somerville join Enda Cahill, Len Dunne, James Tarpey, Ross Hassett and Sean Farrell. Marcel Jaspers has quit the States for sunny Aberdeen. Ceallach Levins has just left for Paris to work for the OECD and Willie Galvin has left for Angola where he will be saving the world for a few months.

We understand that Mr Hassett had a recent near-death experience in his scull on the Tideway and was saved only by the presence of a nearby sewerpipe. His successor as Captain, Tim Coote, is at this moment undergoing a near-death experience of a different sort in his first weeks at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. We say "never give up."

Closer to home and providing opposition to our forces, Kevin Lynch, Aidan McMahon and Brendan

Farrell are all on the Neptune 8 in a very successful year. Dr Nick Mahony is coaching UCDLBC. Mark Pattison captains Commercial for his second year and has a new baby daughter.

Donal Hanrahan is still fighting for a place in the lightweight coxless four seeking Olympic glory. In addition, he and Neptune man Tony O'Connor are planning to take part in the Atlantic Rowing Race in September 1997 along with 60 other two-man boats competing on a 2,900 mile passage between the Canary Islands and Barbados. Offers of homemade biscuits gratefully received- without weivels.

