

DUBC NEWS



TCD March 2000

Captain's Report

This year I think will be one for the history books. Change is in the air and there is little being left unscathed.

Our boathouse, the cornerstone of our club, around which our lives revolve, both physically in pursuit of excellence in our chosen sport, and socially in pursuit of the female form, is this year going to see work commence on its much talked about development. Phase 1, the new changing facilities, is only weeks away from commencement. The project will provide us with what are undoubtedly much needed improvements. On its completion, DUBC will find itself with one of the best boathouses in the country.

Our Club constitution, which was last revised over thirty years ago, is the next pillar of our club to be subject to the current climate of change. I have undertaken to revise it this year and am in the process of forming a committee with this view in mind. Anyone interested in contributing should contact me as soon as possible. An EGM will be called to deal with the matter, hopefully before Easter.

This year we have also set the

precedent of contracting the services of a semi-professional coach. Nicholas Mahony, who has been Senior Coach for the last two years, will receive financial compensation for his efforts this year. It is a move that has been inevitable due to the growing standards in the sport and the commitment demanded at the top level. It will put DUBC in a better competitive position.

From a rowing point of view this year will be an exciting one. It's too early in the season for a progress report and downright dangerous to start speculating, but things are shaping up nicely. We have already won the Lagan HORR, our first race of the year, and our next race is the Gannon Cup shortly after (March the 25th - mark your diaries!). Competition for seats remains high and a cut will be made to 12 men shortly. On the novice frontier we have the O'Reilly father and son team (Aillil and James) moulding and inspiring the young initiates into oarsmen.



Response to my October letter was wonderful. It was great that so many of you took the time to wish both the club, and me personally, all the best for the year. The extra level of contact seems to be appreciated and I hope to follow this up throughout the season. As you can see we have made an extra effort to improve and expand the newsletter, including more photos and even a newspaper clipping! Thanks to all those who contributed to the Appeal; rowing, as you know is a highly equipment based sport, and the ability to compete at the highest level, and attain the standards that Trinity is famous for, requires a financial input greater than either we, or the university, can provide. The

Appeal is becoming even more important, in our attempts to thrive.

With all this talk of change, one might wonder if anything is safe. Well, all of the other clubs in Islandbridge still hate us, as does our "friendly" bank manager. Indeed the club faces financial ruin on a daily basis. We are still the strongest club in college, and lectures still form part of that fanciful hobby commonly known as university education. The walls of 23.01 continue to bear testament to countless victories in head races. Club members still squander their lives away in the timeless void that is rooms, and black and white can still drop knickers at fifty yards.

Some things never change..

Senior Report for 98/99

One of the largest senior and intermediate squad that Trinity has seen in recent years gathered in October of last year with a great deal of anticipation for the year ahead. It was certainly an eclectic bunch; Thomas Ball was surprised to discover that fellow first year (and Brit) Nick Heathcote was in part responsible for his defeat at the Home Internationals a year previously. Manfully putting any hint of prejudice aside, both men joined the rest of the squad in throwing themselves whole-heartedly into the formidable winter training schedule of Dr. Nick Mahony.

An early test was the London Four's Head of the river, which proved a lung opener for all concerned. Sadly there was no superb Trinity performance here, some of the squad had had a year away from the sport and it showed. Two quads finished 30th and 70th with one coxed four finishing 105th and the other one, well; let's just say that the per-

formance was disappointing. The squad was in a position, however, to entertain the Nursing students of Imperial College London later that evening, something that they carried out in the style to which all DUBC men seem to be born.

The first test of the New Year was the IARU long distance trials out in Blessington. These were set at 10 kilometres and were a good test of the endurance developed in the winter training so far. The results were dominated by the Neptune lightweight pairs, the components of Ireland's successful Olympic four, but 3rd and 4th were the Trinity pairs of James Lupton/Kevin Boyle and William Gilbert/Tom Bruxner. Not too far behind them were the pair of Thomas Ball/Stephen Hurley with Andrew Coleman/Ewan Robson also putting in a good performance. The Trinity pairs showed well and were relatively close in their final placing. It might be noted that out of the three

head races over the course that were run that day, DUBC were the only club containing people who raced in more than one of them. The Third head saw many Trinity oarsmen taking to the sculls with some very good performances from James Lupton and John Mehrzad who defeated many who did not already have a race inside them.

The focus upon small boats now shifted slightly and the crews to row in the New Ross marathon on 9th February were two eights and a four. Many of the squad who had not competed at this event before were to be initiated in to a whole new form of racing. The Senior 8 went over at a minimum rate of 32 and defeated the Garda 8 by some minute and a half, their time over the course being a little under 53 minutes. Much of this success must be attributed to the coxswain, Andrew Jackson, whose claim that there was only a mile to go, when there were in fact three, was believed by the crew who were surprised to find that their final charge for the line was longer than anticipated!

Dublin Head was next on the agenda and again the squad was split into two eights

which roughly resembled a 1st and 2nd eight. Both Trinity crews raced well although the presence of the all powerful Neptune 8, with its full quota of Olympic and World Championship oarsmen, again proved too much for the senior 8 who, whilst maintaining their start position of 2nd by some margin, were left bobbing in a green and black wake. Lagan Head produced a similar result although an attempt was made to split the two Trinity 8s into lightweight and heavyweight. This, combined with the extremely windy conditions, made for interesting results as far as Trinity were concerned with the heavy eight coming second and the light one a close third with plenty of time to spare over the rest of the field. The distance between the heavies and the Neptune 8 was, however, embarrassingly close to a minute.

The Tribesmen Galway Head always makes a good final marker to the bleakness of the head season and DUBC's senior squad looked forward to the absence of a Neptune 8 with relish. In the first of the two heads, a heavy coxless four was sent out consisting of William Gilbert, Gary Quinn, Tom Bruxner and Kevin Boyle. James Lupton in the single and a lightweight coxless four of Andrew Coleman, Stephen Hurley, John Mehrzad and Ewan Robson. Despite the successful result of the heavy four, and James Lupton's remarkable split second defeat in the sculls by John Armstrong, Nick Mahoney was far from pleased with the standard of the rowing and a bollocking of mighty proportions could be heard within at least a 500 hundred yard radius of the Trinity trailer.

A determined and mildly enraged senior 8, consisting of the two coxless fours, therefore put to the water for the second head. The start was windy and cold and worst of all delayed for some considerable time, huddled under woolly hats and layers of sub zero material the senior 8 lost none of its motivation and setting off close behind the commercial 8 soon caught the top placed crew. A collision of blades ensued and the Trinity 8 was forced to clip the reeds by 'persistent' Commercial coxing. This incident heightened, if possible, the determination of the senior 8 and after overtaking the commercial 8 they stormed down the long bends and straits of the Galway course to a convincing 15 second win. This was satisfying for all involved and as William Gilbert lifted the trophy aloft in the NUI Galway bar each oarsman knew that it was to be a long night.

The first real racing encountered were the Neptune and Commercial Regatta's on home waters at Islandbridge. Racing from the Boohouse bend to the Wires this was more of a sprint event than anything else and one which the senior 8 found tough. With the club's tame Olympic and World gold medallist Darren Barber sitting in the middle of the boat subbing for James Lupton the 8 had an easy win against Commercial but only a 2ft win over the Garda 8 in the semis. A demolition job by the ever powerful Neptune 8 in the final sealed a day which really highlighted the fact that the senior 8 was not yet ready for sprint racing. A senior four, however, proved that all of Trinity's fighting spirit was not gone by reaching the final and pushing the top Neptune four to a narrow $\frac{1}{2}$ length at the wire.

The following weekend was the University Championships to be held in Castle Wellan and followed on the next day by Queen's Regatta. Early racing went well for Trinity with two fours taking 1st and 2nd in the coxed event. The unfancied 'B' four of Robson/Davis/Lupton/Bowe attacked hard in the first half and opened up a good length lead until the lungs of the 'A' four of Coleman/Boyle/Bruxner/Gilbert opened and rowed through 'B' four with an aggression founded mainly in indignation. Success was also to be had in the double sculls where a scratch double of Boyle/Robson defeated a much fancied UCC composite. The race of the day, however, was the 8's championship. A reportedly capable UCC crew threatened a Trinity 8 that had all but forgotten that other University's actually rowed. The strong UCC men blasted off the start and thumped their boat down the course with all the savagery of Death or Glory men whilst the Trinity 8 foolishly settled into a rhythm that was too comfortable for the short 1500m course. Despite several counter attacks the Trinity boat still finished a third of a length down to the red and black brigade. This was a great shock for all involved and confirmed the squad's worst fear: that the crew was still not ready for racing over the shorter courses. Technically and physically the senior 8 had had the advantage but had been beaten by a crew who had simply rowed their guts out, they had collapsed exhausted over the line whilst many of the Trinity men were still hardly out of breath. Racing was now to be more than looking pretty.

Queen's regatta, which followed the next day, was a more entertaining affair with the senior 8 giving way to fours and pairs. Thomas Ball and Stephen Hurley combined to win intermediate pairs and Trinity's senior four returned with a winners medal. The highlight of the regatta was the last race where a scratch quad of Lupton/Gilbert/Boyle/Robson hurtled down the course to come 2nd in the senior quads beating the Northern Ireland Commonwealth Games quad into third.

The re-vamped Trinity Regatta was the next opportunity for racing and a titanic effort by all involved in it's running ensured that there was plenty to distract any weaker minds from the business in hand. A TV3 camera filmed crews embarking on the slip and a barber shop quartet serenaded crews on the way to the start. The fine weather made for some excellent races with the senior four taking the honours in their event. Various disappointments in the pairs and some poor heats in the 8 created a frustrated atmosphere in the final against the Neptune 8 and once the internationals had got around the boohouse bend it was all over. The easily verdict may have seemed harsh but the sad thing was that it was something the senior 8 was just getting used to. With nothing but under-achievement so far in the regatta season a real anger set into the Senior 8, an anger which was to be vented on UCD the following week in the Gannon.

As with the 1998 race, the UCD camp managed to put up a smokescreen of confidence in the week running up to the event. Trinity, however, were not phased by this familiar banter and the mood in the changing rooms was one of stern determination. With Olympic gold medallist Darren Barber

on board again, the senior 8 was able to take a comfortable victory over the Oiks gaining a length by the first bridge. This win was celebrated in true style and a degree of self-esteem returned to the squad.

Both the senior and intermediate 8's next packed their bags and headed off to Gent to race at their international regatta. Both senior pairs and fours reached the finals of their events on both Saturday and Sunday although there were no medals won. The highlight of the trip for the seniors was the open eights races on both days. Disaster struck on the Saturday in the heats when the rudder fell of the Lady Elizabeth after 750 metres and the 8 veered across to the next hand lane and crashed into a disgruntled University of London crew. This mishap was rectified on the Sunday when the 8 made the final in a very tough heat. It was at this point that the winter training kicked in and far from dying at this point, everyone in the boat suddenly realised that they had more in the tanks than they had believed. Both UL and London made repeated counter attacks but fell back into fourth and fifth by the wire leaving the bronze to a quickening Garda crew. With two Irish eights on the podium there was no shortage of custom in the Wild Geese Genuine Irish Pub that night.

Returning to Dublin, and the exaltations of the Irish Times, it was a case of getting back down to business. Metro regatta lay ahead and with a Neptune 8 without the Olympic lightweight four, things looked hopeful. Several weeks training and a few exams later, the senior 8 sat on the start in Blessington, determined to take down the dark green at last. Sadly Neptune managed to squeeze out to a half length victory after a tough race, Trinity's 8 had been caught napping at just before halfway and their subsequent push was not sufficient to reel back the advantage the old heads had seized from them. The day was to end a happy one, however. James Lupton and Kevin Boyle took the senior pairs, the gears and wheels of the 8 won the coxless fours in fine style whilst the engine room dissected a further Neptune challenge to win the Blue Ribband coxed fours, the first Trinity crew to do so for some time.

The final test before Henley, and the last domestic Regatta before the Championships, was Athlone. What really excited the senior 8 was the presence of UCC who had still not received their disciplining after the Uni-Champs. The tension in the heats was great and due to an extreme cross-wind a clash between the Trinity 8 and UCC occurred about 6 strokes after the start leaving Trinity about a length down after the mess. Fortunately the upstarts were rowed down for a place in the final (about a length at the line) but the umpire gave UCC a place in the final as the clash was deemed to be Trinity's fault. The final of the 8's race was a great success. Racing Guards and a junior squad 8 as well as UCC, the senior 8 stormed away from the field to win by a couple of lengths over a very determined junior 8 who had kept in touch for most of the course. The return of Darren Barber, post exams, made for an interesting coxed four challenge with the winners of the coxless at Metro racing a slightly strengthened middle four crew. The excitement was all

too much for Tom Bruxner who had to withdraw due to bowl problems, an unfortunate affliction considering Trinity's famous white lycra shorts. Some have suggested that two large packets of fig roles were too much even for his gargantuan digestive system. The fours event was duly won by the only Trinity crew left in the competition rounding off a successful day for the senior squad.

Henley was the big one this year. With the Temple Challenge Cup entries comprising Goldie, Oxford Brookes, Imperial London and Princeton, competition looked stiff but not unbeatable. Morale was high in the run up to the Regatta and took a boost when the draw emerged crediting Trinity with a selected crew spot. The demolition of Lady Margaret gave the starting procedure a quick run out on the Thursday and may have contributed to a degree of over-confidence on the Friday when the 8 found themselves a length up on Trinity College, Hartford (USA) at the barrier. The strong Americans refused to give up and with a mixture of their guts, poor Irish rowing and a strong flow they managed to creep back at the end to a 1/3-length defeat. Nick Mahoney was not happy at this; a photograph was taken of the Provost with the Crew who were told that if they were caught smiling in it their guts would be adorning the Anatomy Department's walls.

A quarter final with Goldie on the Saturday was therefore the next step. There was certainly no over-confidence by this stage and the result was unfortunately not in our favour. *In true Trinity spirit, however,* defeat was not a matter to be taken lightly and, as is reported elsewhere in the newsletter, a great night (admittedly to varying degrees) was had by all.

And so we were to arrive at the ultimate event for most: the senior Championships. Unfortunately due to illness on the part of many of the crew, our racing ability was not up to the high standard we expected from ourselves. Impressive performances in the fours events, however, made up in some manner for what might have been a disappointing Championship. All in all, though, happy faces were to return from Insicarra, some with the knowledge of a good night out, others looking slightly more forward knowing this year was to be their last in Black and White.

TRINITY REGATTA 1999



We are delighted to report that the 1999 Regatta was a great success. It was held on the early date of 17 April 1999. Preceded as it was by a week of freezing hail and several years of markedly smaller events, it offered hope that God does indeed reside on the Trinity side of the river! On a sunny, crisp day the Pembroke enclosure on the riverbank rang to the sounds of supporters and spectators, oarsmen and umpires. The DUBC hosted a hugely enjoyable day of racing and spectating at Islandbridge. The centrepiece of the event was the splendid Regatta Luncheon, held in the main marquee and attended by over 220 guests from the DUBC, Lizzie, Trinity and Dublin's business community. The feast commenced with a champagne reception and all agreed that the fare was delicious and that the opportunity to miss the junior-16 novice triple sculls was heaven sent.



Not that the racing lacked excitement. A generous prize fund guaranteed that the Regatta entries were doubled from the previous year and, despite competition from a National Squad Trial in Blessington on the same date, the majority of our Olympic hopefuls represented their respective clubs on the day. Sadly the DUBC's fortunes did not extend to the University Grand and Neptune Rowing Club beat us in the final. The Club was well represented across the board and there were home wins in the intermediate category. In an unprecedented move the Ladies Boat Club held their colours race against UCD during the luncheon interval. The unusual location suited the Trinity girls who took the Corcoran Cup by a resounding margin.

The large effort put into the day by the Regatta Committee was most visible in the revitalised enclosure: A large marquee sheltered the lunch; in turn a string quartet, a barbershop quartet and Miss Roisin O'Reilly serenaded the spectators; painting of rowing scenes were offered for sale; a cafe sold



refreshments to the rowers; and two bars sold refreshment to the spectators! By the afternoon a large body of men was gathered around the second bar as the luncheon wound to its inevitable cigar scented close. Memories were stirred and great races relived, the stories growing taller as the evening drew close.



The Regatta was very well attended and Islandbridge welcomed back many old comrades and crew mates. The riverside has seldom looked better with novice and junior blazers to be seen alongside their black colleagues. The Lunch served as an excellent focus for the reunions and socialising. The food was excellent and the wine was especially good having been chosen by one of the Club's own men, now somewhat of a pundit in that field. The flowers on the each table were decorated with ribbons of black and white and dark blue and old gold representing the colours of the DUBC and Lizzie. There was a good turn out from the Club and the those guests new to the Boat Club were very taken with the friendly, lively atmosphere and easy mix of people. Last year the Regatta may have remained somewhat of a secret from the old boys so we hope to see even more friendly faces this year. Indeed the Committee strongly suggests that the luxury of the **2000 Regatta luncheon on 29 April** is the perfect place for your crew's reunion.



Your regatta is at the brink of staging a great and historic comeback. Preparations are already well underway and of course are operating at our very limit and beyond in terms of funding and manpower. The Committee therefore invites your comment and support for this year's **Trinity Regatta on the 29 April 2000**. We would be delighted to hear from any and all of you. The Regatta Committee can be reached at the DUBC Rooms and via e-mail:

Regatta Committee 23.0.1 Tel: +353+1+6713953
Trinity College E-Mail: Regatta@tcd.ie
Dublin. www.tcd.ie/Regatta

Further proof that God rests on the Trinity bank of life

Support and Excellence

Our tradition of excellence is ours to improve upon or to let fade away. As a past captain, I know that I have a special and personal responsibility to future generations of students. Just as you do. It is through prior and continuing efforts of people like you that we can meet the expectations of future members. They too will want to experience the basic qualities of The Club: a sense of honor and pride in athletic distinction, a feeling of joy, pleasure and exhaustion every time they cross the line wearing black white and blue. These qualities, although partially intangible, can be realized only in a climate of financial security.

Our strength has been the ability to attract students of the highest competence. This we must continue if we are to keep D.U.B.C. what it is today; but the cost will be greater tomorrow.

A recent donation of £1,000 toward the purchase of a coxed four shows the depth and generosity you have. It is heartening to know that there are people sincere enough about helping, to contribute substantial sums to back up their feelings. But even if you haven't £1,000 to contribute, we will appreciate your gift. Last year eighty of a possible 600 people contributed. But, we need more subscribers to contribute regular amounts, if we are to seriously think about strengthening our traditional standards of rowing excellence.

Viewed this way, perhaps your choices for giving are not too difficult. We are asking for those of you who are not regular contributors for a minimum of £50 in annual support and to spread the word. This will help maintain our tradition of excellence and assure its continuation for the benefit of our members.

To our regular contributors, thank you. All appeal correspondence should be directed to:

John Mohan,
2 The Falls,
Lower Dodder Road,
Rathfarnham,
Dublin 14.
Tel: 087-2481479
Fax: 01-4935422
Email: mohanj@tinet.ie

Or:
David Browne,
38 Sycamore Mews,
Clapham,
London SW4 0SY,
England.

Henley Report....He

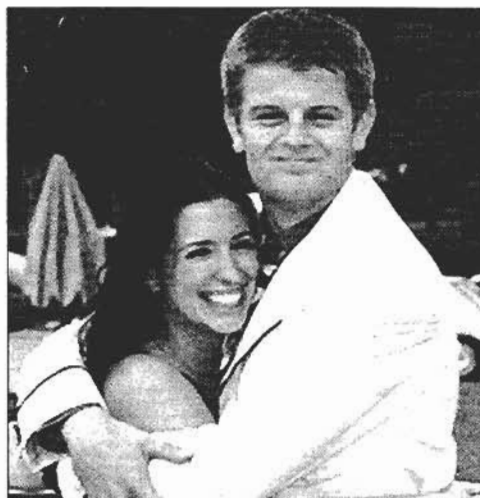
The entry of two VIIIs doubled the fun at Henley '99. Obligated to qualify, the 2nd VIII reached the Duckett household on Thursday and qualified on the following day. A celebratory pint in the 'Bull' was marred slightly by the rapid release of high-energy products from several oarsmen's bodies. A sign of things to come was witnessed that night as an unknown highly excited couple mistook a room of slumbering rowers for some sort of bordello and proceeded to act accordingly much to the distraction of an audience of insomniacs.



The time before racing commences was marked by the bleaching of many heads, arduous preparation, and the arrival of the 1st VIII who relieved the 2nd VIII of the club flag. An occasional cheeky pint in the 'Angel' was also enjoyed.



Wednesday saw the 2nd VIII defeat Radley College in an unnecessarily tight race with Trinity coming through the schoolboys in front of the enclosures. Both VIIIs were in action on



Thursday and both achieved easy wins against Lady Margaret and Abingdon School. On Friday, the 1st crew narrowly defeated Trini College, Hartford in front of the college Provost. The 2nd crew, however, suffered shock 3/4 length defeat at the hands of Oxford Brookes. This saw the crew hit Henley with vengeance that night. A 'lock-in' was attended at the 'Bull' where new friends were made over rousing choruses of the Bibles fine anthems. Back at the Ducketts, other guests after remarking upon the pleasant cadences of the Irish accent were politely told that the crew was not there for their amusement.

As the 2nd crew became men of leisure on Saturday, the 1st VIII lost to a strong Cambridge crew. Problems arose that evening when the barrel of stout was taken out. The absence of a tap made it particularly difficult.



ley Report....Henley



to quench the considerable collective thirst. As reworks lit up the Henley sky, many more reworks were going off amongst the men of Trinity. William Gilbert was to reflect on his life over the course of the weekend as resembling a soap opera. Crossed wires saw another member of the 1st crew obstructing the progress of a police horse and making an impromptu return to Ireland. The three men of the 2nd VIII was to become more acquainted with his coxswain and Gavin Maguire was to

become obscenely drunk in Leander Boathouse.

Sunday bore witness to further revelry. After copious amounts were consumed in the enclosures, Trinity again made their home. Later, the club moved en masse to a private party. Here, Rob Bowe came into his own. Also in attendance were the Danish Lightweight IV who after being subject to Rob's ranting for some time, eventually submitted and escaped through a kitchen window. Undeterred, Rob focussed full attention on British world champion James Cracknell to general amusement. Later, while in conversation with another world champion Ed Coode, Ciaran Whelan and John Martin managed to invite themselves to his mum's house for tea some evening. Tom Bruxner became embroiled in William's soap opera as he took pleasure in the company of a lady friend of Williams. The evening concluded with Rob showing his talent as a human fountain and Justin Davis familiarising himself with the local constabulary. Later that night, Gavin Maguire found himself in somewhere warm and slightly damp as he spent the night in a downstairs WC in the company of the six women from the British VIII.

I am sure Henley is looking forward to the next visit of Trinity as much as we are. Thanks to anyone who bought us pints.



The Provost Visits Henley



Provost Thom Mitchell wanted to get to know the crew that had just beaten Trinity College, Hartford in an extremely tough race.

Surely, Provost Dr. Thom Mitchell will remember his visit as guest of DUBC to the Friday of last year's Henley Royal Regatta with clarity. Not only because of that week's glorious weather, but also because he and Mrs. Apied, Director of the The Trinity Foundation who accompanied him, had an extremely busy day.

No sooner had they been welcomed into the Stewards' Enclosure by DUBC president Rob van Mesdag, or the Provost, on his own, was rushed away to an umpire's launch to see Trinity beat Trinity College, Hartford, USA, in a very close race. Stepping back ashore, he said: "I had no idea racing was as tough as this. Such stamina! What a lot of training this must involve!"

He went straight to the boat tents to congratulate captain Andrew Coleman and his crew and Nick Mahony their coach, and to meet graduates such as Raymond Blake, Henry Clark and David Browne.

Morning racing having finished, it was time for drinks with John Pearson, captain in 1954, on his patch in the car park where the Provost and Mrs. Apied met graduates Tony Wilson, John Kurkjian, Cedric Sheppard and others.

On to lunch in the Stewards' main marquee where the DUBC's guests were introduced to Mike and Elizabeth Ryder and to Trinity Regatta Secretary Micheál O'Connell and his assistants Mark Pollock, Connor Fennessy and Ailill O'Reilly. Main topic, of course, was the Regatta. At the end of lunch the Provost said: "It is wonderful to notice the enthusiasm with which such dedicated and experienced people are putting this important event back on the map."

Between leaving lunch and the tea break there was just enough time to see some races. In the Grandstand the Provost and Mrs. Apied met Gerry Blanchard, captain in 1960, Bill Lewis, Nick Rathbone, Tony Bowen and their contemporaries.

The Provost was most impressed. As he and Mrs. Apied were escorted to their taxi for Heathrow, both said: "The loyalty in the Boat Club is quite remarkable. We just sat with five men from the same crew who every year meet one another at the same time, on the same day, at the same spot!"

Thanking the Club some days later Dr. Mitchell wrote: "Henley was a most memorable experience."

The trappings and the suits of woe

Some score or two of brave souls arrived at Islandbridge on a blustery October morning at the beginning of the Michémas term. They were to leave hours later intoxicated by the yarns spun by Senior Oarsmen, and the "refreshments", courtesy of the renowned establishment at St. James' Gate. In many ways, this introduction set the tone for the Maidens' season; destined to be remembered more for its genial debauchery than for the success of its crews.

Cold Autumnal nights spent trudging around College Park became enlivened by the prospect of evenings in the sultry fleshpots of the Boat Club Bar. Novices participated enthusiastically in the social aspects of the DUBC experience. Thus, chaos was precipitated, when those charged with running the cloakroom at the Halloween Mas-sacre found enthusiasm to be no substitute for sobriety at the end of the night...

St. Michael's Head was to be the eagerly anticipated opening to the Maidens' season. The River Shannon remained stubbornly blanketed in fog, forcing the cessation of racing almost before it had begun. A promising note was sounded by the strong performance of a Trinity novice four, which completed the descent of the course prior to its closure. Unperturbed by the weather, the meeting was adjourned to a local hostelry, and thence to the bus, where an indulgent driver allowed feisty revelry to continue almost to the gates of College themselves.

In the wake of Christmas Commons, few could sympathise with the draconian attitude taken by College authorities towards the after dinner wanderings of the Maidens: For when gentlemen gather to sip sherry in rooms, it is not wholly understandable that they should wish to take the air before bedtime? All passions spent, the squad repaired to Belfast. The highlight of Laganside Head came when a Trinity novice eight decided to thunder down the weir while the red hazard lights were flashing. Fortunately, indefatigable "Widow maker" emerged (almost) unscathed.

At Erne Head, as guests of Portora, 'College recorded a creditable victory over 'National, coming second only to a strong

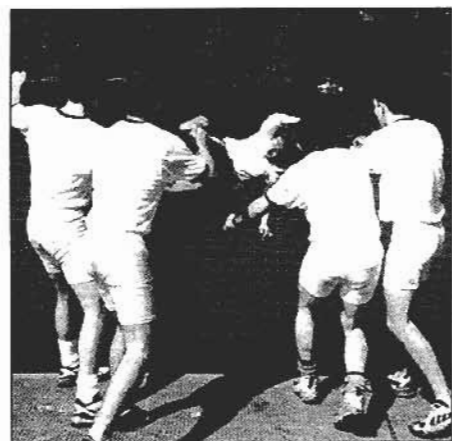
Neptune novice crew. This pattern seemed set to be repeated, until the Head of the Liffey saw a stalwart performance by the 'College Maidens' betrayed by equipment failure. Crestfallen, the Eight limped home with seven oars.

A weekend sojourn in the City of the Tribes proved eventful for College. At Galway Head, the Maiden eight rowed through three crews to finish third in the novice ranks. The Maiden four proved the star attraction when its occupants opted to swim for home. In his haste to dive in, the crowd-pleasing bow man even tore the shoes from his foot stretcher.

It was remarked that he had later contrived to walk home in the same (whether or not he continues to wear them to training is open to conjecture). Having imbibed perhaps more than was prudent, certain novices were overcome by an orgy of kleptomania, and hastened home to 23.1 with their booty. The reaction of Galway motorists' to the acquisitions has never been recorded.

The opening of the regatta season saw a decline in the fortunes of Trinity, not to be revived until the University Championships at Castlewellan. Here, third place in the final of the 'fours went some way to assuage the wounded pride of the first eight, who saw victory slip to 'National in their contest.

The string of mishaps and misadventures served to hone the hunger of the Maidens in the run up to 'Colors. Morale was high among the crew, and spirits were unflagging, even when a broken foot stretcher below the weir obviated a postponement of the Novice race. Access to new (dare I say better?) equipment saw a metamorphosis in the performance of the crew in the week



Nancy Regan, novice cox, celebrates victory in the Colours.

preceding the Gannon, and a powerful start from South Station boded well for the fortunes of 'College. The eight gained water on 'National, until disaster struck. A series of steering errors on Trinity's part saw blades clash twice in the approach to Mellows Bridge, where a poor line moved 'College off station, towards the North arch.

The catastrophe that transpired was almost comical. An oblique collision with the buttress of the bridge buckled the second rigger, and the Novices' two man sustained a nasty gash to his scalp. Bow maintains that only his lightning reflexes saved him from decapitation (although critics would be inclined to add that he was ever wont to lunge at the catch....) At any rate, it was a day (and a season), which saw guts and glory triumph over sound technique. The Trinity Novices came to an ignominious halt, allowing National to row over to victory. A win for the Trinity Four over UCD went some way towards salvaging our pride, but the spectre of the disaster haunted the remainder of the season. The novice squad melted away towards the end of the Trinity Term, to cherish memories of glorious days in the "Maurice".

"The rest is silence" KB

THAT VOGA LONGA CALL

Each May Venice's Voga Longa preys on the minds of various DUBC members who know about this wonderful and beautiful event. It is a 30-kilometer rowing trip through the lagoon surrounding this ancient city.

Taking part last May were Cedric Shep-

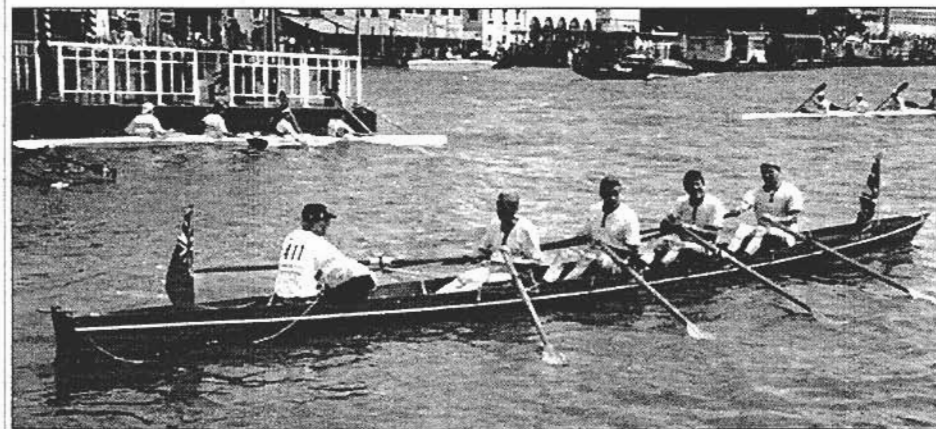
pard, cox, and Rob van Mesdag, stroke, together with two Italian and one British member of the London Rowing Club. All have completed this course many times since the event was first organised in the early 1970s. Its purpose then, as now, is to remind the world at large of the beauty of

this area, which is so much in danger of being polluted by the industrial port of Mestre on the main land.

Early in the morning some 1200 boats, mostly propelled in gondola-fashion, set off from the Guidecca, the canal in front the Doge's Palace. After rounding the islands of Burano and Murano north of the city, the fleet rows up the Canal Grande, through the heart of Venice, to reach the finish in front of the church of Santa Maria della Salute some three hours later.

Sheppard and van Mesdag claim to have rowed 24 voga Longas. They are as fit as ever and fully recommend the event to DUBC members. Finding boats "a l'inglese", the Italian way of describing fours or eights, is difficult. Trailing one's own boat is expensive. But the event is "mag-nifico".

PHOTOGRAPH: Cedric Sheppard, cox, wearing London Rowing Club colours, and Rob Van Mesdag at stroke of a four with two Italians and one Brit completed last year's Voga Longa: their 24th, they claim. Photo: Countess Marianne Von Matushka.



Hugh Strain, DUBC

1946-1950

"We took up old friendships just where we had left off". From left to right: Hugh Wilson, Henry Clark, John Leather, Willie Orr, Hugh Strain, cox Eddy Ward. Also present in this photo is Robin Tamplin.



Many who rowed in Ireland in the 1940s will be saddened to hear of the death in July of Hugh Strain, a very stylish oarsman.

Hugh came from Belfast to Trinity in 1946 and immediately joined the Boat Club as boats had already played a large part in his young life. As a boy he rowed across fierce tides from Donaghadee to the Copeland Islands, commenting afterwards: "It was a long way back."

In his first term he rowed in the winning Usher Cup four and for the next four years in DUBC Junior and Senior crews. Competing twice at Henley and winning the Senior Pot at Galway in 1949 and at New Ross in 1950, he was elected a Knight of the Campanile.

Hugh was the automatic choice to row at 7 in the 1950 crew that finished third in the London HOR and lost the final of the Ladies' Plate at Henley by a bare one third of a length.

Rowing at only 11 stone, Hugh with Robin Tamplin at stroke, provided the stamina and steadiness in the stern that allowed this crew to win with confidence from behind. In the semi-final in 1950, the crew rattled past Pembroke Cambridge with some ease.

There was unfortunately little small-boat racing in Ireland in those days. Hugh with Willie Orr could have been unbeatable in pairs, and there was

no boat in Ireland in which Hugh could double scull with Alan Hanna, as had been his ambition.

All these facts were remembered in 1990 when the 1950 crew reunited to celebrate "forty years on" at Henley. In true DUBC tradition we found that we took up old friendships just where we had left off.

After obtaining his degree in engineering, Hugh gained experience with a number of companies before joining his father in the family engineering firm and foundry in Belfast. He returned to his leisure interest of sailing, adding many trophies to his already considerable collection. He finished 8th in the 505 World Championships at cork in 1964 and was awarded the title of Top Irish Helmsman.

Hugh gave 20 years service to the Royal Navy Voluntary Reserve and Royal Naval Reserve as an officer on H.M.S. Caroline.

We were sad at the sudden death of Hugh's first wife Antoinette, knowing that this had caused him great sadness. Happier times returned when Hugh met Maureen who became his second wife.

She recalls Hugh's claim about Trinity: "While I may only have got a third in engineering, I got a first in rowing!"

We send our deepest sympathy to Maureen and to Hugh's four children and grandchildren.

Congratulations to an ex-captain

James Lindsay-Fynn, captain in 1997-98, has won a bronze medal as a member of the Irish lightweight quad in the 1999 World Rowing Championships in St. Catharines, Canada. First and second were the Italian and German boats.

Thus ended most successfully a season of training and selection which had begun with double sculling trials after Hazewinkel Regatta in Belgium in May. From these trials a lightweight quad was formed with Lindsay-Fynn rowing at 2.

Next in the series of World Cup regattas came

the Lucerne Regatta in July. Here Lindsay-Fynn and his quad finished in third place, earning the crew automatic selection for the World's in Canada.

These trips to European races were not Lindsay-Fynn's first sorties on the Continent. In 1997 he was selected to represent his country in the pairs at the World's in France but because of a sudden illness in the four, the composition of his pair was altered leaving him stranded ashore. In 1998 he and Andrew Coleman, then captain of DUBC, raced in the pairs at Hazewinkel, winning the B Finals.

Considering his current success Lindsay-Fynn continues his training hoping to achieve greater heights which lead to such depths as Sydney.



James Lindsay-Fynn and his lightweight quad won the bronze medal in the World Championships in St. Catharines, Canada in 1999.

In Memoriam

Ken Cleary who rowed for DUBC in the late 1940s died in August 1999 aged 75. He and his wife Trudy lived near Bath.

Ken was one of many ex-service men who after the Second World War were offered places at universities in order to complete their studies. He certainly merited this. At the outbreak of war he was a member of an Auxiliary Unit set up to hamper the German advance through Britain and he later joined the Royal Marines seeing action in the Far East.

Once he was offered a place at Trinity, he went there with Trudy, his girlfriend of many years. They were married soon afterwards and spent four happy years in Dublin.

Much of that happiness derived from his membership of the Boat Club, which he joined almost immediately. He had not rowed before but rose through the ranks to gain a place in the senior eight and raced at Henley. One of his exploits was the seizure, one Henley, of the Leander flag. Being an ex-Royal Marine he was irritated by it being left flying after sunset.

In spite of a travel to Borneo to join the Colonial Service, followed by business appointments at different locations in the U.K., Ken kept up his rowing. During a one-year course in Oxford in the late 50's he rowed at Oriel B.C. In the 60's he rowed with the London Rowing Club and in the 70's he joined the Bradford-on-Avon R.C. and Ariel Rowing Club.

He also remained close to DUBC by contributing regularly to the Henley Fund, now DUBC Appeal, and by his and Trudy's attendance at Henley every year, always recognisable by his DUBC cap of vintage shape and hue.

Ken leaves his wife Trudy and their daughter Deirdre and sons Niall and Aidan. To each one of them the Club expresses its warmest feelings of sympathy.



Ken Cleary... always recognisable by his D.U.B.C. cap of vintage shape and hue.

Lizzie on the Lot

In late April 1999 an extraordinary event took place south east of Bordeaux at Le Temple-sur-Lot, the prune centre of France and once a hostel run by the Knights (Templar not Campanile) for travelers. Two LEBC members, Chris George and Gerry Blanchard, held a meeting (Both recalled that a quorum was two active members!) to elect TCD alumni Anne Blanchard (nee Jones) and Ruth Doyle as temporary Lizzie members for the duration of an outing in a quadruple scull on the beautiful river Lot. They boated with style and great flair, if not much speed, adding an original element to the annual Thames Rowing Club training camp, of which all four former Dublin denizens formed part. Who knows where LEBC will boat next?

(Crew was: Bow Chris George, 2 Anne Blanchard, 3 Gerry Blanchard, Stroke Ruth Doyle.)

The "Long Term" Gets Into Gear

Mike Ryder, centre, chairing a recent meeting of his "long-term committee", reminded its members of the challenges that lie ahead for the 1999-2000 season. "Money required for new equipment and coaches' expenses is one priority", he said, "making Trinity Regatta even better than last year's event is another."

Helping him achieve these goals are, standing from left to right, Robin Tamplin, treasurer of the DUBC Appeal, Micheál

O'Connell, Trinity Regatta Secretary, John Mohan, Appeal Fundraiser and keeper of the Club's database and Rob van Mesdag, "long-term" secretary. Flanking Ryder are captain Meredith Lulling, left, and Conor Fennessy, Assistant Regatta Secretary.

Warned Ryder: "As much hard work lies ahead, members and graduates of the Club are certain to be contacted to give us a hand."

Photo Elizabeth Ryder.



Ever Resourceful

During the recent annual dinner of the Leander Club, Richard Hylton-Smith gave our newsletter columnist Drift Wood this account of his Club's participation in the Dublin Head of the River soon after the war:

"The weather was freezing and rather than first having a warm-up we immediately had to lower our eight down that icy and slippery weir opposite your Boathouse. The inevitable happened: someone slipped and with him the eight dropped a few inches, hit a rock and cracked the hull.

"We thought we had had it, but our DUBC cox instantly had an answer. 'Of course the boat will fill up', he said, 'but if we make a whole in the stern canvass, water coming in will flow out at the stern.'

"To our utter amazement, the cox then picked up a sharp stone and, like a surgeon, made an incision in the aft canvass.

"We soon discovered that as long as we were in motion, this did the trick. Where we did nearly come a cropper was at the start where there was a long wait. But once off, our stern looked like a whale going at full throttle. At Leander we never have such experiences!"

Intermediate Report

If Dickens had been a member of the Intermediate squad of 1998/99 he would doubtless have stated: it was the best of seasons, it was the worst of seasons. Starting out as mixed between senior and intermediate squads there eventually arrived the day when we would have to stand on our own feet, with various consequences. Winning was to characterise the beginning of the season but towards the end of the season the races began getting tighter and tighter.

With convincing wins on home soil at the early regattas of Neptune and, our own, Trinity, the scene was set for what we hoped would be a most successful season culminating in a number of Championship Pots to display with pride in Rooms. As the season wore on, we were faced with such obstacles as Queens (surmounted with ease in the earlier moments of the season) and, of course, that darkest of horses U.C.C. We had only ever had the misfortune of meeting them once before in the University Championships where some of the intermediate crew were involved in an unfortunate

defeat at the hands of what some might consider to be lesser opponents.

It was with some surprise on my behalf anyway that Henley Royal was to be the highlight of the season for us as a crew. Details are to be found elsewhere in the Newsletter, but I must say that it was easily the best crew moment of the year both in terms of racing and pure uncontrolled banter. One theory was the harder we raced the more money we could spend on two or three very intense nights instead of five more drawn out ones. Such was the spirit of our crew, essentially the structure of the intermediate group over the year.

After Henley and some of our best rowing of the season, hopes were high for justifying performances in the all to up-coming National Championships. It was decided to divide our resources proportionally thus giving the squad the best chance to gain some silver. The eight was to be the first to throw down the gauntlet faced with an unfortunate straight final. The main foe was always to be U.C.C. predictions were not to be let down on the day. With a good start, the eight was pushed to fight back but did so in the best manner possible. Unfortunately, a lack of boat coherence due to insufficient boat time was to be the crews Achilles' heel.

Fortunately matters were to improve for DUBC in the guise of the Intermediate Pairs. A heart stopping race punctuated with unnecessary crabs (necessary only as crowd pleasers), Thomas Ball and Stephen Hurley were to emerge victorious thus winning quite an over-sized chunk of metal with the oars form the model boat missing (something to do with a certain Galway man involved now with Trinity).

The two fours entered for the following day were not to be so fortunate with old rivals U.C.C. again taking the laurels, but again not without a considerable fight on our behalf.

And so there the intermediate season almost came to an end. But lucky persons John Mehrzad and Stephen Hurley from the Inter squad teamed with William Gilbert, Andrew Coleman, Tom Bruxner, Kevin Boyle and Andrew Jackson to vie for medals in the Home Internationals. John and Stephen were to make up half of the coxless lightweight four that was to storm to victory, most notably beating the English team. A 'session' worthy of the Home International in the name of international relations was then held in Cork City ending nicely in the resident's bar after an evening of souvenir collecting.

HIST SOC COCK SHOCK



December 10 saw Germaine Greer, author of 'The Female Eunuch' and reknowned feminist appear in the GMB at a meeting of the Hist. She got more than just a round of applause as members of the Boat Club's novice crew did their traditional post-Christmas Commons streak around campus. Greer copped an eyeful of Boatclub Baloney when several young bloods burst into the chamber to 'tackle' her. This came in the context of Greer telling

women that they had no cause to fear the penis, describing the humble todger as a "harmless creature". Greer took the performance as a homage to her, unaware that this shenanigans is par for the course at this time of year. Disruption was caused in previous years to Observr Mace debates that coincided with the Rowers festive roistering. On that occasion the Cadet School were debating: no-one stood to attention for the Rowers, though!

Head of the River & Regatta Calendar for the Year 2000

February 12th (Sat)
March 4th (Sat)
March 11th (Sat)
March 11th (Sat)
March 18th (Sat)
March 25th (Sat)
April 8th (Sat)
April 9th (Sun)
April 14th (Fri)
April 15th (Sat)
April 29th (Sat)
May 6th (Sat)
May 13th (Sat)

Laganside Head of the River (Belfast)
Portora Head of the River (Enniskillen)
Dublin Head of the River (Lower Liffey)
Trial Eights
Tribesmen Head of the River (Galway)
Gannon Cup (UCD v. DUBC)
Neptune Regatta
Commercial Regatta
University Championships, Castlewelling
Queen's Regatta
Trinity Regatta
Cork BC Regatta
Limerick Regatta

May 27th (Sat)
June 3rd (Sat)
June 4th (Sun)
June 5th (Mon)
June 17th (Sat)
June 18th (Sun)
July 14th (Fri)
July 15th (Sat)
July 16th (Sun)

Cork City Regatta
Dublin Metropolitan Regatta, Blessington
Carlow Regatta
Boyne Millennium Regatta, Drogheda
Athlone Regatta
Galway Regatta
IARU Senior & Junior Championship Regatta, Inniscarra
IARU Senior & Junior Championship Regatta, Inniscarra
IARU Senior & Junior Championship Regatta, Inniscarra