

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.

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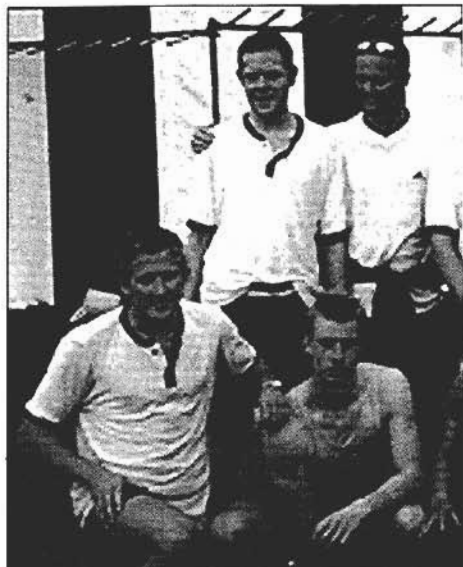
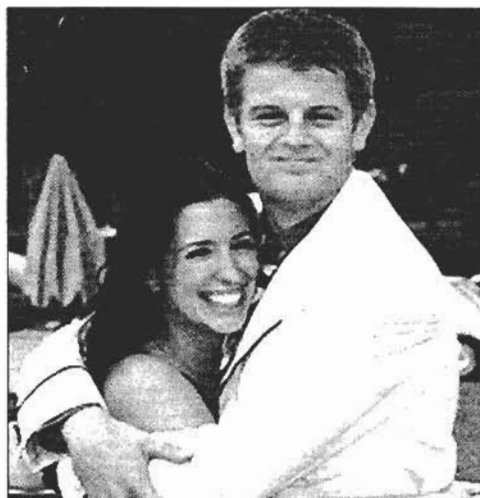
The entry of two VIIIs doubled the fun at Henley '99. Obligated to qualify, the 2nd VIII reached the Duckett household on Thursday and qualified on the following day. A celebratory pint in the 'Bull' was marred slightly by the rapid release of high-energy products from several oarsmen's bodies. A sign 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 feat 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

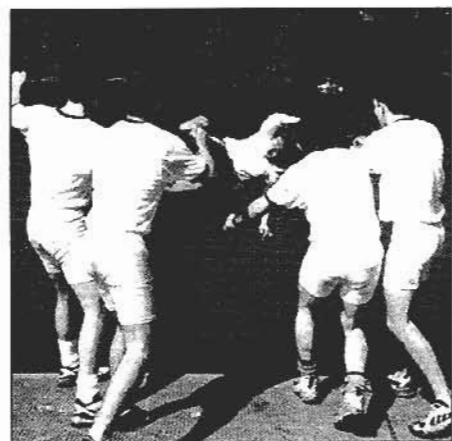
Neptune novice crew. This pattern seemed set to be repeated, until the Head of the Liffey saw a stalwart performance by the 'College Maidens' betrayed by equipment failure. Crestfallen, the Eight limped home with seven oars.

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-

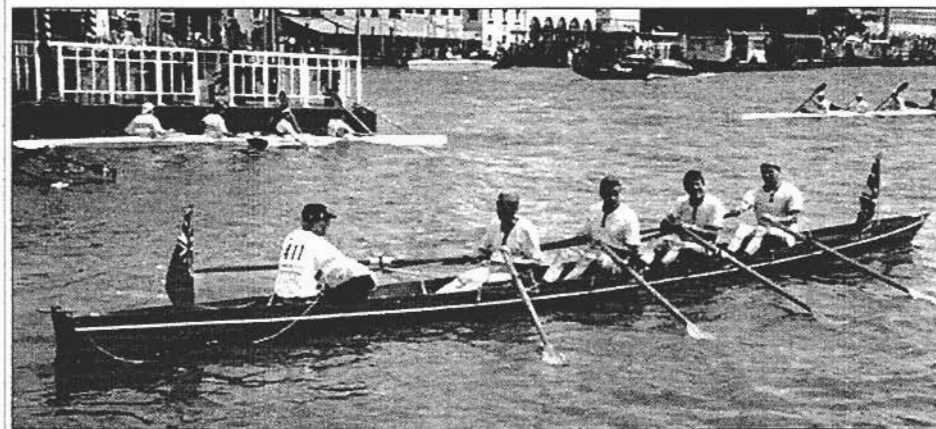
pard, cox, and Rob van Mesdag, stroke, together with two Italian and one British member of the London Rowing Club. All have completed this course many times since the event was first organised in the early 1970s. Its purpose then, as now, is to remind the world at large of the beauty of

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 from 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)	Laganside Head of the River (Belfast)
March 4th (Sat)	Portora Head of the River (Enniskillen)
March 11th (Sat)	Dublin Head of the River (Lower Liffey)
March 11th (Sat)	Trial Eights
March 18th (Sat)	Tribesmen Head of the River (Galway)
March 25th (Sat)	Gannon Cup (UCD v. DUBC)
April 8th (Sat)	Neptune Regatta
April 9th (Sun)	Commercial Regatta
April 14th (Fri)	University Championships, Castlewellan
April 15th (Sat)	Queen's Regatta
April 29th (Sat)	Trinity Regatta
May 6th (Sat)	Cork BC Regatta
May 13th (Sat)	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

DUBC NEWS



TCD March 2001

Captain's Report

Welcome all of you to the new racing season for DUBC. I very much hope that this will be a season where the resurgence of DUBC's fortunes, in more ways than one, will reward those efforts of everyone involved with the club. I don't just mean oarsmen, of course, but hope I include everyone whose has read our letters, watched us from the bank and in some cases supported us financially.

I have recently cast my eye over my predecessors 'captains report'. It was a sobering experience to read that the extension to the Boat House was only 'weeks away' in February 2000. Well, I am sorry to have to report that the beginning of 'Phase 1' of Boat House extension is *still* only weeks away.

Allow me to explain: the dealings with the OPW concerning the lease, of the boathouse and the land on which it stands, took much longer than expected but thanks to Mike Ryder's tireless efforts, have finally been resolved in a satisfactory resolution. Archaeologists, having dug up various areas around the 'Ladies Porto-cabin', have at last confirmed that there are no Viking remains underneath the proposed site. College, mean-

while, are now getting working drawings and contracts prepared which should be ready in two weeks or so. A starting objective has been laid down by the Club as the 21st April 2001. We hope that those who come to watch this years' Regatta might witness the first sod being turned!

As regards the Regatta, I am sure that those of you who have attended over either of the last two years have noticed the vast improvement in the running of the event. There is now a sponsorship deal in place with Alfa Romeo that ensures a more significant financial investment. In the capable hands of the Regatta Committee you may be certain that this will not be wasted and that the banks of the Liffey will host a even more advanced set up this year on 21st April.

Those of us on the water, who must not be wooed by bars and summer dresses (at least not until afterwards), would love as much support as your massed ranks can provide and I sincerely hope that as many of you as possible will make it out for the day, with as many guests as you can muster; to cheer us all on.

Whilst I urge you all to come out and support our own Regatta, I hope that no-one with the opportunity will flinch from braving the weather to support the club at any of the other events, which we shall be attending, and which are detailed later in this letter. Further to this, if any of you would even like to join the coaching launch for a senior training session in Blessington at any weekend, then please don't hesitate to call 23.0.01 and let me know.

Those of you who received my earlier letter in November will have already read of the arrival of Sebastiaan Peeters as chief coach and the retirement of Dr. Nick Mahoney after several years' committed service. Sebastian has had a marked effect on the senior boats already, he is the owner of a large four-

wheel-drive vehicle with a tow hitch and tool boxes in the back comprising every possible implement required for rigging boats. He is what every oarsman thinks that every coach ought to be!

At Novice level, James and Aillil O'Reilly continue their valuable work and are joined this year by another legal man, Willie Galvin, who doing his best to inspire a new generation of oarsmen despite serious problems with boat repairs.

Sadly there have been no results yet this season, mainly due to St. Michael's Head being cancelled, but we have fourteen bodies in the Senior/Intermediate squad and have high hopes that we might do something useful with ourselves this year. We are everyone of us aware that there is a responsibility on our shoulders to go out and perform, but labour under no illusions as to how much work this will involve. We are working hard, and I believe effectively, so although I shall not make any promises or predictions for the year ahead, I feel quietly confident that we will all have something to be very proud of.



DUBC Senior Report 1999-2000

It is difficult to convey properly in a report such as this the real disappointment felt by all of the senior oarsmen of last years' squad. I am sure that everyone reading knows what it is like to under-perform but there was a certain consistency with which the senior squad did so that made for such a frustrating season. It is the harder when rowing for Trinity, I believe, as the knowledge of the reputation of the club is very much in the minds of anyone who wears the stripey vest and there is a sense that it is not only oneself that is let down by lacklustre results.

Disappointment, however, tends to be magnified by the amount of effort put into something. This was certainly case for the year 1999/2000. Faced with the disappearance of all but one of the senior crew from the year before, no experienced oarsmen coming in and only a 3 novices making the step up from the year before as well as couple of intermediates leaving, the senior squad was small. The re-appearance of Owen O'Sullivan and Stephan Nolan, the legend of House and Grounds past, made up a couple of experienced, though slightly tubby, heads.

The year began with a visit to windswept waters of Blessington for the Neptune Head where three fours came away with two wins in the shape of Intermediate and Novice penants.

Following Neptune Head, two fours were sent to the London Fours Head of the River where a poor performance by one four led to it coming 122nd whilst tragedy struck the other which collided losing the guts of a minute in the crash and coming somewhere above the two hundred mark.

St. Michaels' Head in early December was, therefore, the first occasion of the year where an VIII was raced. This came, however, after an opportunity for competition between the club members in pairs where no overall honours were won, but internal rivalries satisfied! The VIII performed fairly beating UCD by a few seconds although coming 3rd overall. A development VIII was also put out at the end of the day mixing the few intermediates of the club with the more senior oarsmen and the result was almost as quick as the senior VIII.

Following Christmas celebrations and the inevitable "who trained most over the holiday" arguments, the first target of the new year was Lagan Head of the River in February. As ever, the event was one fought out in rough conditions for the majority of the course with the final third giving everyone a chance to see if they could row pretty for the crowds. Trinity led off and finished first fighting off a strong challenge from the British club Auriol Kensington by five seconds.

Erne Head followed in early March and produced fantastic conditions for the first four of the four and a quarter mile course but a headwind to make up for every yard of calm at the end! This was another success for the senior VIII which finished top, eleven seconds ahead of a UCD VIII. Tom Bruxner and John Mehrzad also teamed up with two ex-Trinity men Kevin Boyle and James Lupton to win the senior fours, coming sixth overall.

Dublin Head was to be the last Head of the season for Trinity and produced a front-ended race. Having caught the leaders Neptune off

the start, the VIII failed to display the staying power that would have kept it in the running and Neptune drew away to win by some distance. All hearts were not too disconsolate, however, as UCD were still beaten by seven seconds and by this stage the Gannon, on the 22nd March, was the focus of the senior squads entire attentions.

Having seat raced for the last two places in the VIII, the squad numbering ten at this stage, two weeks good training were put into the boat. The Gannon had a new sponsor in the shape of Boru Vodka and it had also been decided, by the Gannon Committee, that if the race were to be turned around, so that the start was from right in front of O'Connell bridge, then it would create a much greater spectacle within the City. This, as well as the desire-inspiring young ladies handing out free but un-touchable vodka (Oh the temptation!) at a "tossing of the coin" ceremony in the Pavilion Bar two days beforehand, added a new dimension to the race.

Trinity lost the toss and started from the south station. The long but gradual bend in favour of the North station off the start took its toll with UCD moving out ahead but Trinity hanging on grimly half a length behind. By the Four Courts the gap had shortened and by Queens' Street bridge the crews were level. The course now turned into Trinity's favour and the favourites seized the opportunity and raced ahead to a _ length lead at the line. This grew to a little over a length when the, admittedly rather over-generous, stagger on the finish was taken into account.

Gannon secured, the senior VIII took a few days off and then headed to Blessington to get a week's training in before the University Championships in Castlewellan. The Senior Championship here was really not the result nor the performance that the crew was looking for. UCG lead right from the start and dropped both Trinity and UCD, the only other two contenders for the pot. Trinity then limped in to finish in a dead heat with UCD, a verdict that did not sit easily in anyone's stomachs considering the result of the Gannon two weeks previously. The retaining of the senior fours was

no more satisfying due to both UCG fours scratching and the race being between two Trinity fours and a clearly sub standard UCD boat.

Queens' Regatta, the following day, produced more interesting racing in the senior pairs where the scratch pair of Ciaran Whelan and Rob Bowe led a final containing a much fancied St. Michaels' pair, not to mention three other Trinity pairs, for nearly the entire race but were pipped at the post and had to settle for a silver and a minor moral booster.

A couple of injuries blighted the build up for Trinity Regatta two weeks later and Tom Bruxner and John Mehrzad were therefore forced to sit out of the senior VIII. The magnificent arrangements made for the days racing on the bank were sadly blighted by one of the low points of the season for Trinity. Disqualified against Neptune Juniors and beaten Easily by Gards in the final of the University Grand Challenge Cup, the VIII sadly disappointed all those of you who so kindly flocked the bank in support.

In an attempt to right the wrongs of Trinity Regatta as well as to cope with the exam period, the squad, which was now reduced to nine with the now permanent loss of John Mehrzad, embarked on several weeks' intensive training. The next competition was therefore Dublin Metropolitan Regatta on June 3rd in Blessington. Here, loss in the intermediate VIII's against UCG and St. Michael's by a good three lengths seemed to confirm that Trinity had not improved at all since the University Championships. There was no further success in the senior fours which saw two Trinity fours come in 5th and 6th. Certainly the number of people in the crew taking finals, four in all, had taken its toll, but everyone involved knew that this was not an excuse for the result.

Exam pressure only allowed four members of the senior squad to represent the club at the rejuvenated Boyne Millenium Regatta. This was not the most well attended event of the regatta season but reports came back of a great day on the river with the Trinity oarsmen putting aside home rivalries for the day to form a composite VIII with assorted other Dublin clubs ("Islandbridge United") and brought back a pot to show for it.



Athlone, as in 1999, proved to be a successful trip. With the order changed and Rob. Bowe now at stroke, the senior VIII turned up in good time for its first race, a heat for the intermediate VIII's final, only to be told that it should return to the raft, the heat having been cancelled. History strangely repeated itself when a heat for the senior VIIIs was also cancelled after Trinity had diligently completed their warm-up. So, fully prepared for racing at last, the VIII put in a half decent performance, only losing to St. Michael's by length. Buoyed up by this success, the VIII attacked the final of the intermediate VIIIs with gusto and managed to get out ahead of St. Michael's and successfully defended their ground to win by a length. In an otherwise fairly dreary racing season so far, Athlone was a rare moment of potential realised.

The racing at Henley is detailed on another page but the disappointment of losing to Exeter University in the opening heat of the Temple, despite being a selected crew, was a desperate blow. Of the two fours entered in the visitors, one made it passed an Oxford Brookes crew to meet a Cambridge University four whilst the other sadly lost its first round heat.

By the time the Championships came around, morale was at an all time low. The senior VIII did their best to pull what they could out of the bag but sadly by this time, so many hopes had been dashed that there was little hope of an amazing performance. This was reflected in the final of the Intermediate VIII's final where both a stronger St. Michael's crew and the ever present UCG left the Trinity VIII for dead on the start. A final fling in the senior VIIIs heats the following day did not produce a place in the final but did produce a final spirited row that would have done more credit to the club the day before when competition was not as stiff. One four managed to come third in the intermediate fours.

Only Niamh O'Dunlaing, senior cox, went on to represent Ireland during the summer but did help to bring success to the Mens VIII at the Home Countries match that was rowed for the first time in Ghent.

And so the season finished. Many felt it had been a poor one on the water but, as ever in rowing, lessons have been learned. This is too late for some oarsmen, however, who sadly leave us: John Martin to start the long road to becoming an accountant, Owen O'Sullivan and Ciaran Whelan to live it up in Australia and Meredith Lulling and John Mehrzad to concentrate on their finals.

Novice Report

A motley looking crew of hopefuls began training in the cold at Islandbridge in October; while their college counterparts nursed their Friday night hangovers in bed.

The initial squad was numerous and remained that way through the first term, due mainly to an exceptional camaraderie that quickly developed.

St. Mick's Head was the setting for our large squad in various combinations, to get their first experience of a soon to be acquired taste for competitive rowing. We also began to develop a distinct dislike for finishing behind UCD (14 seconds); who had a months' training on us at that stage. Despite the 5:00am start, the stone-age facilities at O'Brien's Bend and the 'dry' bus ride home, everyone seemed hungry for more of the same.

Our next outing was Langanside Head, where the problem of dividing one cox into two 8's became acute. Arguments between the crews ensued over which boat Billy O'Gorman would be steering. This ended with the losers of a coin-toss agreeing to ferry him down the river, while the other crew managed to secure a local cox. This time out UCD were beaten by 45 seconds by O'Gorman's boat, while the second 8 finished 5 seconds behind. Post race showers and a 'proper' bus ride home boosted the already happy and relaxed mood of the squad.

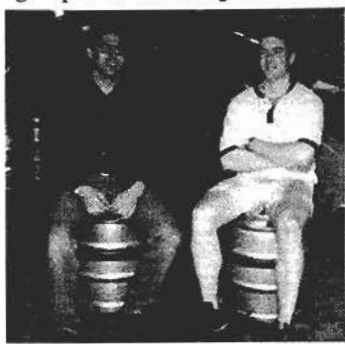
Portora Head next welcomed a confident and well-oiled emerging first N8, at the start of March. The focus was again to make our intentions clear to UCD. We made a strong push off the start and a clever coxing strategy saw us chasing down a UCG N8 in the first 1000m; and then pushing off them into the main part of the course. This strategy was repeated throughout, with targets being selected and power 20's (as well as 30's & 40's) being called as we picked off crews and muscled our way up the field. An mistakenly early call of last 1000m, (later claimed to be a strategic decision by O'Gorman) saw us launch into a 2500m sprint for home. The difficulty with which the Maurice and Franz were returned uphill to the trailers by tired bodies and frozen hands; bore testament to the commitment which both crews brought to their races and which became a hallmark of the squad. Over bowls of Irish Stew in the school canteen, we got the just confirmation that we finished over a minute ahead of UCD; and as a bonus, ahead of all the other N8 crews thus taking our first pennant. Training below the weir began immediately, with Dublin Head the following Saturday and the Gannon Cup 2 weeks later.



We now viewed Dublin Head as a chance to claim another pennant at a home fixture. A great start and good steering saw us 7 seconds up on UCD at the _ stage. However, equipment has to fail sometime, and a derailed seat saw us rowing with six oars for 10 seconds - Just enough as it emerged to allow UCD to steal a 0.67 second victory. Far from being a disappointment, this experience was distilled into liquid motivation for the Gannon; in no small part due to the inspired and inspiring words of one Ailill O'Reilly. The lead-up to the Gannon Cup was suitably intense and focussed. Our main coach being unavoidably abroad for a week, Andrew Coleman stepped into the breach and took over for the long sessions during the Easter Holidays. The lead up to the race was almost ideal; the race however was not. We took a 1 lead off the stakeboats with a trademark professional start. From then on a series of individual errors and over zealous attempts to compensate eroded our boat speed, and we were beaten by a bow-ball as we were drawing level on UCD.

This was a serious disappointment to all concerned; the best we could make of it was to look forward to doing ourselves justice through the regatta season. The Neptune and Commercial regattas were dominated by the appearance of a very strong and slick UL "novice crew." UL's first eight, comprised of second year novices and others, was to dominate the weekend. They also took victories in the fours; coming from 2 lengths behind on a Trinity N4 on the last bend in one final.

We were steeled in our resolve for the University Championships, knowing that a N8 victory could be vital in regaining the Wylie Cup. However the UL "novice crew" again proved too strong in the final;



also we were beaten into third by 1/4 by UCD to make matters worse. Queen's regatta was a repeat performance, this time with us in second and UCD 1/4 behind. The weekend was a disappointment, but revelry was rife nonetheless. It was becoming apparent that our short course fitness was not all it should be; we can see now that no real substitute was made for the long erg pieces we had been doing for the Head season; therefore our competition phase training for the regattas was poor.

Trinity regatta was the last time that two N8s were to compete. Despite having beaten UCD in Queen's Regatta two weeks earlier, the first N8 with one change was defeated by two lengths by UCD in the semi's. (The eventual winners being a J18 crew.) The spirit seemed to leave the squad from that point as exams loomed. Two remaining highpoints of the remaining season were a victory in the N8s at Carlow Regatta and an enjoyable Athlone regatta; due to the wonderful hospitality rather than results. A committed four, obviously keen as mustard, continued training with tremendous coaching support towards the Nationals. Despite a string of late injuries they competed in the N4 event.

I think the season was a success on more important levels however. The fact that there are currently three of last years novices training in the senior boat, and a further four training for intermediate rowing speaks for itself. 7 of last years novice oarsmen committed to rowing for DUBC this season and in the future remain in the club; a product of the O'Reilly coaching and motivation machinery.

As with previous years a kind of vacuum of interest and structure developed for intermediate competitors this year. The situation improved in the new year with great coaching support from past members. Hopefully this season's intermediate squad, will have the opportunity to go on to maintain the legacy of competitiveness and high standards that were set by crews in years gone by.

Ideally should the club rely on a renewed supply of experienced oarsmen coming to the university; or also strive to create a club structure that can make the most of existing members?

Presidents Report

DUBC captain Tom Bruxner is pleased to have Sebastian Peeters as the club's new coach. You can read more about this promising young person – and the progress he is making – on other pages.

I myself am delighted that we are paying the man or at least paying his expenses – as we did Nick Mahony, his very capable predecessor, for the days of reimbursing and indeed remunerating coaches are here.

We see this only too clearly at Henley where each year more crews are being coached by highly professional sports educators earning impressive salaries.

We must prepare ourselves mentally and financially to go the same way.

Also important are the boats we row in and the regattas we wish to attend. Most of the funds needed used to come from the Dublin University Central Athletic Committee. But this source is diminishing. The captain therefore, depends increasingly on funds raised by us, graduates, through each year's DUBC appeal.

This is why John Mohan and Bill Bowder who, as members of the long term committee who run this appeal, have their say on another page.

I hope their plea will be responded to and must confess my disappointment on hearing from John and Bill that many of you with years of glorious rowing behind you and now earning substantial salaries, have never yet contributed one penny to the appeal. Please rectify this.

College's promise of expanding our boathouse is becoming a reality, because in May 2001 the TCD Building Department intends to start on Stage One of the development plan: new changing rooms for oarsmen and women.

Total cost of this project is £2 million. College will finance most of this on condition that oarsmen and women of the college contribute 10%.

Needless to say this is an enormous challenge, the greatest test of loyalty and generosity the club has faced in many years. It will be undertaken by small teams of founder members, one in Dublin and one in London, who by fully explaining the details of the plan, will invite grant-making institutions, the corporate world and all who rowed at Islandbridge to support the forthcoming "Trinity Rowing Boathouse Development Appeal." This is our chance to modernise our boathouse. It must succeed! It's full steam ahead on 21 April when regatta Secretary Micheal O'Connell and his team will run their third Trinity Regatta 'New Style.' Read all about it further on!

Four years ago the then captain and long-term committee were at a cross roads: either to abolish the event which had become unimportant or to rebuild it. I am convinced that the right decision was made, and O'Connell and his committed team is putting the event back on the map of Irish rowing; on the water as well as ashore.

Why not come over to discover what a fine job he is doing, support your club and meet up with your friends. Then...if you think I've said too much, I'll stand you a pint.

Rob van Mesdag



Left: –

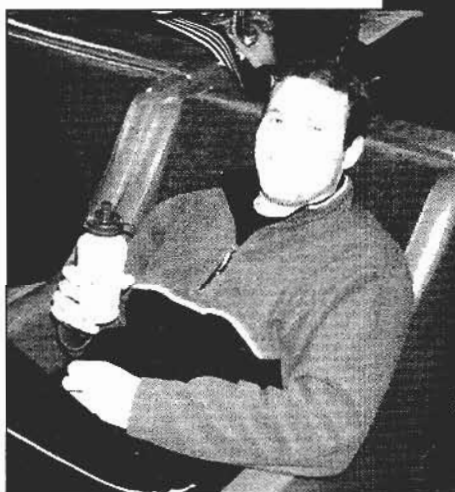
Bill Lewis, senior VIII 62/63 took early retirement from Schroder's Bank last Summer and when not rowing with London RC "Irregulars" at Putney, takes off in his traditional skiff steered by wife Ann. Bill says: "It is pure contentment" referring to their three-day 30-mile round trip of riverside pubs near Henley. He has put a date of 21 April, 2001 in his diary, waiting to be asked by regatta secretary Micheal O'Connell to lend a hand with this event.

Photo: Ann Lewis.

Right –

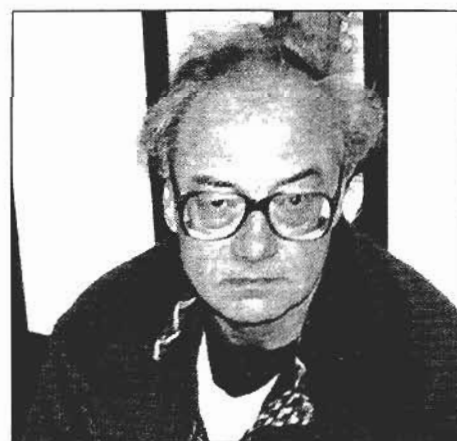
Anne Newman had good reason for looking worried. This picture of her and husband Simon, captain in 1962, was taken days before Armchair, their bus & coach company, had its staff outing. The destination was Calais to buy tax-free booze and Anne was concerned about "Festivites on the coach on the way home."

Photo: Armchair Pictures.



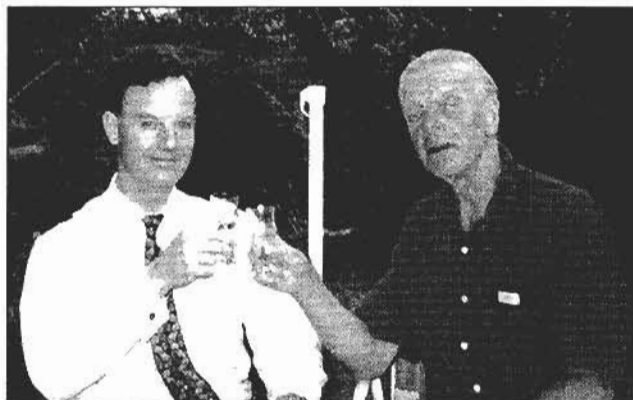
Mick Kerrigan has started his third year of rowing with the London RC; hoping to gain a place in the club's third or even second boat for the London Head. He also sculls, intending to compete in the Scullers' event. Talking about life at LRC he said: "Rowing at a non-university club is different. All of us have day-time jobs and after training sessions there is little time for socialising. As a civil engineer Mick is a site manager helping to build the London Assembly's new headquarters near Tower Bridge. Or in his own words: "Ken Livingston's new palace."

Photo DUBC news.

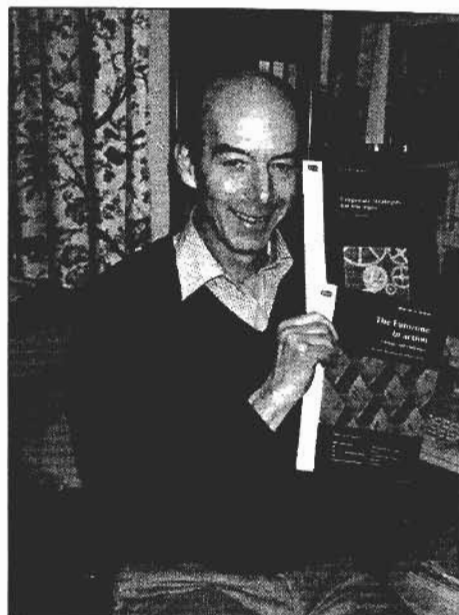


George Hallows Ltd. is the name of George Hallows's new company since establishing himself as an independent chartered engineer specialising in the construction of dams and reservoirs anywhere in the world. Earlier in 2000, he was in Iraq; afterwards he spent some months in Pakistan. Where next? In between assignments he takes a breather, singing in a choir of rowing at the London RC.

Photo: DUBC News.



Left – George de Courcey-Wheeler, left, who was captain when DUBC won the Ladies Plate in 1977, lives with his wife Sylvia and two daughters and a son near Lausanne and is a private banker with JP Morgan in Geneva. On a Summer's evening near his home he told Rod van Mesdag: "I congratulate the club with its various letters and appeals during the year, such correspondence helps me to keep up to date with DUBC affairs."



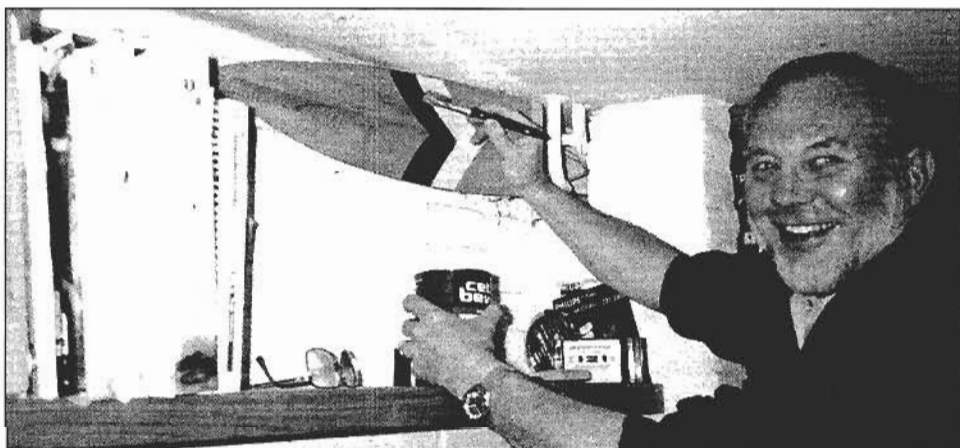
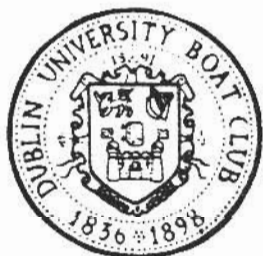
Above – News Bites from graduates. Gerry Blanchard, captain in 1960, has just completed a second publication dealing with Europe's Euro. Entitled "The Eurozone in Action," he and co-author Robert Cottrell were commissioned to produce it by The Economists' Intelligence unit. Earlier, Gerry wrote "Corporate Strategies for the Euro," also for the Economist. At a recent indoor rowing championship in Reading Gerry sculled a 2000m course in 7m 42s.

Photo DUBC News.



Above – Two regatta pictures. "Oooohh what lovely prizes" exclaimed Maureen Lulling, second from right mother of Meredith, the then captain, and she and some of her friends admired the Trinity Regatta Silver.

Photo DUBC News.



Above – "Long ago but not forgotten" were Gilles Thal Larsen's words when a DUBC News reporter visited him in the Netherlands where he lives with his wife Ann, nee Slatery, who was also at Trinity. Gilles undertakes consultancy projects for large organisations operating in the under-developed World and occasionally finds time to work on his Trinity blade. Considering this trophy from the 1960's is only half-completed our reporter suggested Gilles apply some pressure!!



Left – James Lindsay-Fynn, captain in 1998, now lives in London where he works with the financial services group "Euromoney" helping them with the organisation of conferences. He works from 6am to 6pm spending his lunch break on an erg and sculling at the weekends from LRC.



"Which wine, Dad?" asked Coor Fennessy his father Thom, president of the IARU, at the Trinity Regatta Lunch.

ALL ABOARD FOR TRINITY REGATTA

Saturday 21st April 2001

www.trinityregatta.net

Trinity Regatta 2001 takes place on the river Liffey at Islandbridge on 21st April. It promises to be the best ever as the efforts of the Regatta Committee and Corporate Sport & Leisure have resulted in an association with **Alfa Romeo** to commence with this year's event.

Despite the finest mid-week weather heralding last year's Regatta, a four-hour downpour on the morning of the event left the Islandbridge enclosure a little the worse for wear as preliminary heats began. However, by lunchtime the sun had burst out and continued for the rest of the day (and indeed the following two weeks) as top Irish and UK crews strived for superiority on the Liffey.

Life took a gentler pace on the riverbank as the bands played and the wine flowed, and not even the appearance of the Black Sheep Rowing Club (an English crew of exalted origin, if dubious ambitions) could prise those at the Regatta Luncheon from their seats for the semi-finals.

For the finals, on the other hand, excitement was in the air, as Trinity featured in both men's and women's Eights. Dublin University Ladies had shown the way with victory in the women's Novice Eights, however both Senior crews succumbed - to Garda and Neptune respectively (both subsequently National Champions in their classes). But with the effects of the morning rain forgotten, only the die-hards mourned, and all retired to the *Pembroke Bar* for last orders at 8 o'clock.

The involvement of Alfa Romeo this year will ensure that graduates, friends of rowing and indeed anybody looking for a good day out, enjoy the best of entertain-

of *A la Claire Catering* will continue to endow all guests with her finest fare. **Dragon Boat racing**, taking on the mantle of **Club Fours** will feature during the luncheon break, and places are still avail-



ment on and off the water. Alfa Romeo, who are the fastest growing elite brand in the Irish market, are adding an extra twist this year by giving away a car for a year - rumoured to be for the best dressed person! The lucky winner will drive away in an Alfa 147, which is currently European Car of the Year.

The Regatta Luncheon - the centrepiece of the last two regattas - will rise to new heights this year, and *Claire Hanley*

able for teams of 10 representing your company, colleagues or friends.

The tented enclosure will feature an **exhibition** of the past, present and future of rowing in Trinity, and the Committee invites all old boys to use Trinity Regatta 2001 as an opportunity to renew old friendships and taste again the best days of your life in DUBC.

Micheál O'Connell (LL.B.1997)



For racing and spectator information, individual and corporate Luncheon tickets, Dragon Boat entries and further information please contact:

Regatta Secretary,
Room 23.0.1, Trinity College,
Dublin

Tel: +353 1 671 3953,

Fax: +353 1 6790335

Email:

secretary@trinityregatta.net

...or consult the official website: www.trinityregatta.net



Michael McGuirk

(03/10/50 – 16/11/00)

Michael McGuirk, Boatman at Dublin University Boathouse, Islandbridge died suddenly on Thursday 16th November 2000.

Graduate rowers will recall the difficulty in replacing the long term incumbent of that position, Albert Eakins and after a number of unsuccessful appointments, Michael and his partner Olive were charged with looking after the Boathouse in June 1992.

They undertook this task with great enthusiasm and set up their home in the Boathouse itself.

Michael put his previous bar and security training to good effect and set high standards regarding how functions were run and the cleanliness of the house and stores. At the same time, he was always available to open, close and secure the building for rowers and numerous students will remember his efficient and friendly manner.

He was delighted to be part of the new development being planned and he will be sadly missed by everyone involved in sport in College but especially those in DUBC.

We offer our deepest sympathy to his partner and best friend Olive.

DUBC APPEAL

A special note of thanks has been requested both from John Mohan, trustee, as well as from the Captain, to all those who have contributed to the DUBC appeal recently. John allowed for enough funds to be released from the appeal to support the purchase of a new VIII and heavyweight coxless IV for the club. It is now over six years since the Club received a new boat in either of these two classes and their purchase will make a huge difference making nothing unwinable for the sake of equipment. Now we must make ourselves good enough oarsmen to row in them!

The grant from DUCAC was as generous as it could have been but was still unable to finance more than 2/3 thirds of the deal. The understanding was that the DUCAC grant depended on the Appeal being able to raise a specific percentage of the costs, which, as a result of your generous donations, it was able to do.

Of course with such recent generosity, the club cannot expect a large grant from DUCAC for a long time and so alternative funding will remain more important than ever. Those of you who feel the Club to be a worthy cause, and that should be most of you, please keep your contributions flowing in to John's capable hands. We are still short of a couple of good small boats in the club as well as needing another two ergos sometime rather soon!

Please send all appeal correspondence to either John Mohan: 2 The Falls, Lower Dodder Rd, Rathfarnham, Dublin 14. Tel: 087-2481479, Fax- 01-493 5422. email: mohanj@tinet.ie or David Browne: 38 Sycamore Mews, Clapham, London, SW40SY, England.

Doing the rounds...

Two notable omissions from this year's senior squad were Rob Bowe and Tim Persson. Rob has been under the knife for a repair of torn tendons in his lower leg while Tim, son of Brian Persson, has had his own problems. He has recently undergone surgery for a nagging lower back injury incurred in his younger rugby playing days. Both rowed senior last year and were members of the Gannon winning crew. They are expected to be fully fit for next season to bolster the senior squad.

Training injuries were rife early on in the season with Ronan O'Laoire dislocating his shoulder in a painful treadmill accident. The always challenging running machine caught O'Laoire unawares, just at the point where running and maintaining balance simultaneously became too much for the SF BE\$\$ student. A miraculous recovery has seen his return to senior training just 6 weeks after the incident.



Another Christmas injury victim was Cormac Hynes who needed a double relocation over the festive season. Whether these enhancements comply with IARU rules is subject to an investigation. Hynes made sure to thank the committed Trinity physio whose magic hands aided his rapid recovery.

In other news the recurring knee injury which forced him out of the ATP tour, once again kept Luke Conroy from international selection this year in rowing.

Bernard Sellars summed up the early part of the season, stating his view on the current spate of injuries "... the best strategy to make the 1st eight, is to buy a TV and sit in front of it thus avoiding injury." Remarkably this is a training principle practiced by Sellars for the past 2 seasons without success.

Get well soon and best wishes to all recovering oarsmen.

Trial VIII's

Trial VIII's is set for the evening of 24th March this year and, as is normally the case, takes place after the Dublin Head. As this is only a week before the date set for the Gannon Cup on the 31st March, however, there will probably not be much alcohol imbued by members of the racing crews so we would very much appreciate as much help as we can get from past members in clearing out the large supplies of Guinness which will inevitably be bought in.

Please ring 23.0.01 on 0(0353)1 671 3953 if you can make it to Trial VIII's and the Captain will be very happy to give clearer details of times and so on.



Justin Davis has been around this year. Having been a member of the senior VIII in 1998 and 1999, Justin decided that his course wasn't up to his "own high intellectual standards" and headed to Australia for the year where he found "many great minds with whom he thought alike."

Out and About

After working in a bar for a while, coupled with a long period of "loafing about" Justin suddenly found himself landing a job at the Olympic rowing course. This chronicle being of the mildly respectable type, our reporter refuses to credit rumours that the manager who hired Justin was an attractive young lady who he "happened to bump into" one night.

The result of Justin's "fortune" was that he was now in charge of the 40 or so Australian volunteers who manned and stewarded the stands along the final 500m of the lake at Penrith. "The buzz around the place for the big races was amazing," Justin says. "Although it was sad not to see the Irish boat amongst the finalists, the racing was fantastic and it was an amazing experience to witness at first hand the best rowing in the world, not to mention getting paid for it!"

Following the remarkable VIII's final, and faced by hoards of British fans attempting to break through the barriers and swim out to their victorious boat, Justin remained calm. "I clearly could not stop all of them," he mentions defensively, "but yet had to do the best I could. In the split second that I had to make my decision, I realised that I could only pick less physically powerful out of the crowd."

12 males made it out into the water while 7 females and 2 children were halted by the Head Steward. The children were immediately released while at least 3 females detained for "further questioning". We believe addresses and phone numbers were taken.

We all welcome Justin back into the DUBC Senior Squad this year and wish him luck in his one-year sports science course in the Anatomy Department.

Head of the River & Regatta Calendar for the Year 2001

24th February	Lagan Head of the River	Belfast	21st April	Trinity Regatta	Islandbridge
3rd March	Erne Head of the River	Enniskillen	27th April	University Championships	Castlewellan
17th March	Head Of the River Race	London	28th April	Queens Regatta	Castlewellan
18th March	Tribesmen Head of the River	Galway	12th May	Cork City Regatta	Inniscarra
24th March	Dublin Head of the River	Dublin	2nd June	Dublin Metropolitan Regatta	Blessington
31st March	The Gannon Cup	Dublin	23rd June	Athlone Regatta	Coosan Point
7th April	Neptune Regatta	Islandbridge	4th-8th July	Henley Royal Regatta	Henley-on-Thames
8th April	Commercial Regatta	Islandbridge	20th-21st July	Championships of Ireland	Inniscarra