



### CAPTAINS REPORT

On behalf of the Committee I would like to welcome you all once again to this year's DUBC Newsletter.

Firstly, Stuart King was recently awarded a sports scholarship from the Department of Sport. This year's reception took place in the Pavilion Bar and was attended by John Hegarty (Provost), Terry McCauley (Director of Sport) and Prof. T. T. West (D.U.C.A.C.). Stuart was selected on foot of his outstanding achievement at Junior level finishing a close second at last year's IARU Junior National Championships. Scholarships such as these are playing an ever-important role in attracting the right calibre of oarsman into DUBC. Next year, with the added attraction of our new Rowing Manager and new facilities, we expect to attract further sports scholars.

As I'm sure you all know, Tim Levy has been appointed Rowing Manager. This appointment has given D.U.B.C. the boost it needs so as to compete at the highest level with other international Colleges. His own rowing achievement (former Captain Thames Rowing Club, former Captain Upper Thames) and extensive coaching experience will ensure the progression of D.U.B.C. to a leader in Irish Rowing once more. Tim is impressed with our facilities and support networks and is keen to bring us back to the top.

This year's Regatta promises to be one of the best ever. The main emphasis this year will be on attracting overseas crews - already things are shaping up rather well and should make for some excellent duals on race day. See the Regatta Report in this edition for details of last year's Regatta.

The boathouse redevelopment is now well underway. I expect that phase one will be opened at this year's Regatta (20th April). The main structure is now in place and shortly the services will be completed. tyROWbea is going wonderfully well but there is still some work still to be done. Many thanks to all in attendance at this year's Lizzy Dinner, which raised a considerable sum for the boathouse redevelopment. Soon we will have a wonderful rowing facility at Islandbridge that will surely help lead us to many a success in the near future.

We once again migrated south to Cappoquin over the New Year. The Seniors sacrificed the festivities for some quality training and excellent coaching. The trip was a wonderful success with the weather playing into our hands. It is always great to get an outside perspective on things from former Head Coach Nick Dunlop and a current Vice President Robin Tamplin, who were in the launch with us for a few days. Jim Murray an old friend of D.U.B.C. did an excellent job of accommodating our every need. For now though, it is back to the familiar habitat of Blessington for some quality steady state training.

## SENIOR REPORT

The Season began in October with a few old war horses returning to the senior squad. Justin Davis and Andrew Coleman joined Captain Tom Bruxner and long time cox Niamh O'Dunlaing to help with the effort. Robert Bowe, a senior VIII oarsman, also added some experience to the squad.

Tom Bruxner had made a gamble at the beginning of the year by engaging the services of Sebastiaan Peters as Head Coach. Nick Mahoney, under increasing strain in the Anatomy Department, had had to scale down his commitment to the club and so a new 'Guru' had to be found. The gamble with Peters was not due to any possible doubts concerning his ability; his superb record as junior, U23 and senior Irish Rowing Convener left everyone with a clear idea of his qualities. The fact was that Seb was necessarily based in Enniskillen and only able to be in Dublin at the weekends. It was decided, however, that the senior members of the squad could keep everyone's noses sufficiently close to the grindstone during the week and Seb could take over on the weekends for intensive sessions in Blessington.

Despite the presence of some experienced members, the Senior squad otherwise relied on members of the 2000 novice squad to provide the rest of the talent. A promising year had been had by these committed men and the focus of the coach and captain shifted to turning our 'raw recruits' into senior oarsmen in as little time as possible. Eamon Hynes, Cormac Hynes (no relation!) and Ronan O'Laoire soon emerged as the most likely candidates through ergometer tests and trials in the boat.

As a result of these various factors, the squad was not to race until St. Michael's Head in December in order to get some quality training in order to make the races they did attend more successful. This meant that Neptune Head was not attended. Sadly, St. Micks was cancelled due to water conditions and so by the time Christmas had arrived, there had been no racing at all.

The first Big Head of the Spring was Erne Head. The Senior squad had suffered some injuries by this stage, Rob Bowe with a severed ligament in his ankle that was to keep him out until May and Ronan O'Laoire had damaged a shoulder in a treadmill accident. Still, a good deal of training had been done on the Erne in various weekend and the eight was familiar with the course and keen to do some racing at last. And then came foot and mouth....

Erne Head was cancelled along with every other event in Ireland until April. This was a major gutter for everyone in the squad and the club even had major battles with College and the OPW to even get into the Boat House.

In a desperate bid to get some action, the Captain got in touch with Rob Van Mesdag to use his influence and get us the lend of a boat so that we could take part in the Heineken Roivierkamp in Amsterdam. Everyone came up with the goods and De Hoop rowing club kindly lent us a phillipi VIII. Three cheers for Mesdag!

This turned out to be a great racing experience and, despite being entered in the top category by mistake and being a little bit out of their league, the senior VIII raced well in the 5K, 2.5K, 750m and 250m. Had they entered the 2nd Division with all the other universities, the VIII would have come a respectable 4th. Perhaps equally importantly, however, was that good friends were made at the Nereus boathouse after everything had ended and secured some as yet unfulfilled promises of a re-match at Trinity Regatta sometime.

The next race to take place was the Gannon Cup. UCD had a strong crew this year and, to be fair, even if they had taken out their non-student competitors (who seem to be obligatory these days) this would still have been the case. Despite an early lead, following a restart due to a clash, the Trinity VIII proved no match for the superior rhythm and cohesion of the UCD mob and a 5 length verdict in favour of the north-siders was recorded.

Neptune and Commercial Regattas in early April produced some better racing for the VIII who seemed to have got together a better rhythm and confidence for the regatta season. An intermediate win was welcomed at Neptune where the club beat crews from Athlone, Queens and Galway.

The racing at Trinity Regatta was also competent although the VIII lost in the senior VIIIs by \_ to Garda after a spirited row. Other 4's event eluded Trinity and it was a tired VIII that lost to a strong Neptune Intermediate VIII in the final of that event.

The University Championships was the following weekend. Following Trinity Regatta, various further injuries hit the squad. Justin Davis developed a worryingly inconsistent heart-beat which was to put him out for the rest of the season. Jack Harbison, our antipodean import for the year, also became unavailable to row. This added to the injuries to Bowe meant that a senior VIII could not be fielded for the Uni Champs and the squad suffered another blow at a crucial stage of the season.

The Cork City Regatta in three weeks time offered another badly needed chance at racing. Sadly, although injuries had left no selection problems in the squad, the new VIII was now lacking water work and practice together. How far it had got left behind other crews was highlighted in Cork where 4 lengths separated it from UCG and Tribesmen. Metro was a similar story with Garda beating Trinity by over a length and Neptune and UCG being somewhere a long way ahead.

At Athlone, in June, the same result occurred. What was encouraging for the squad as a whole, however, was the performance of an intermediate 4+ which won their event and beat several other competitors who looked to form the bulk of what would be at the championships.

It was at this stage that the most controversial decision of the season was taken. Should a clearly sub-standard VIII, with little chance of improvement due to members of the squad being able to leave Dublin early for academic reasons, march on to Henley and the Championships or should the focus shift to the inter 4+ and attempt to get a championship there? It was decided that the latter would be the way forward and this raised another question, should the VIII, which had already been entered for Henley, still travel? Again, based on the recent performance of the VIII and bearing in mind the aims of the Club at the Championships 2 weeks afterwards, the decision taken was not to send the VIII to Henley Royal. Although somewhat of a precedent, it was generally agreed by those in the squad that this was the best course of action to take in the circumstances.

The season was not to end in fairytale fashion, however. Sadly, despite intensive work in Enniskillen in the two weeks preceding the Championships, the inter 4+ did perform to a high enough level to compete with the Garda and UCG fours. The season therefore ended with more lessons learnt than results gained.

## NOVICE REPORT

A great deal of enthusiasm was generated during the novice rowing season just past. We struggled to find a rhythm early on; time spent on the water was minimised by an array of unfortunate happenings that seemed to plague our season. Despite the destruction of our boat, the untimely death of our boatman and the Foot and Mouth crises, we persevered. Attendance at circuits and the Monday run would remain consistent and it became clear that a crew of dedicated rowers would inevitably emerge. We evolved slowly and a definite improvement was noted between January and April.

As race season approached, the importance of good rowing technique became apparent. We entered an 8+ in Lagside Head of the River in February and rowed relatively well down the 5KM course. However, crews were constantly changing due to lack of availability and so progression was, to some extent, curtailed. This was coupled with the Foot and Mouth scare, which led to the cancellation of Erne Head and Dublin Head. The Gannon Cup then followed on the last day of March. Looking back, we simply lost to a better crew. In the aftermath of defeat, the novices were reminded that 'the Gannon doesn't make a season'. Although this did not appear sufficient consolation at the time, it proved true; there were more races and we intended racing them.

We improved. Disastrous races might have followed at Neptune and Commercial but two weeks of committed training paid dividends. John Mohan took an interest in the squad and temporarily took control of proceedings while Aillil O'Reilly was abroad. Successes followed at Trinity Regatta where we recorded our first victory against Durham University. Despite losing our rudder in the final against Queens, the signs were encouraging and our enthusiasm was immediately recognisable. The week that ensued prepared us for the University Championships in Castlewellan where we surprised ourselves by taking UCD apart in the Novice eights final, as prophesied by John Mohan a week previously.

The first weekend in June reflected the effect of the exam period on training. The 8+ performed poorly at both Metropolitan and Carlow Regatta although the latter brought a surprising victory for the 4+, coxed by Kate Graham.

The remaining highlights of the Novice season were Athlone Regatta and the week-long training camp at Eton College. The former saw the eight regaining the form it showed in Castlewellan. In a somewhat similar race, we finished ahead of UCD and Galway and were within a length and a half of the winners Queens. A series of seat-races took place over the four days that followed leading us to the much-awaited trip to Eton, London. These nine days confirmed our eagerness and intentions and was both a unique and successful experience. Our capabilities as oarsmen increased no end and slowly we began to recognise our potential. It was during this period that the novices established themselves as a unit as well as the enduring days of consistent training, we also competed at Reading Regatta and attended Henley Royal Regatta. Sincere thanks are due to John Mohan for his trojan efforts in the organisation of such a profitable week.

At the National Championship regatta, the eights race was top priority. It is frustrating to attempt to recall exactly why we failed to succeed. July 21st was an anti-climax if there ever was one. It was a major setback, especially for our coaches to whom we feel a lot was owed. Finishing fifth out of six was utterly disappointing and unjustified. The next day, two fours were chosen from the eight. Both D.U.B.C. crews drawn in the same heat, a final showdown! The 'B' four had a most pleasant race, finishing in first position.

## TRINITY ROWING BOATHOUSE EXTENSION APPEAL



Chairpersons Dave Sanfey and Jane Williams (Dublin Founder Members) and Len Dunne (London Founder Members) speak of "a heartening enthusiasm" on the part of those who have contributed to the Appeal. But they also call on those who have not yet donated to do so now. This is the chairpersons' assessment of the results so far.....

Little by little all of us rowing graduates of DUBC and DULBC are approaching a figure of moneys raised in our Trinity Rowing Appeal of about three-quarters of our target of IR £ 250,000. This is to be our rowing graduates' share in College's expenditure of IR£ 2,500,000 for modernising the boating and training facilities at Islandbridge.

While expressing our thanks to those who have already donated - it has been heartening to see such enthusiasm - it is all too evident that we still have a long way to go. Therefore, let us all be aware that we who have spent such wonderful times at Islandbridge, must reach our quarter of a million goal because the future of Trinity Rowing depends on it.

When donating, donors paying income tax in Ireland or in the UK one can enjoy tax breaks by completing forms designed for this purpose. By this means not only the donor but also the Appeal will benefit. Britain provides an additional advantage in the shape of the Employer Matching Scheme whereby an employer matches the gift made by his employee. The Appeal already benefitted from this facility and we, chairpersons, encourage future donors to remember it. Donors in the US are reminded of the charity status which TCD enjoys in their country: also of benefit to both parties.

Translating all this fundraising activity into bricks and mortar, the good news is that Phase I of the IV phases of the Islandbridge project is nearly completed. Please read Mike Ryder's account elsewhere in this bulletin. All of us should be most grateful to Mike who as chairman of the long-term committee has represented the interests of both DUBC and DULBC in working closely with the College Building Office to ensure that all rowing needs are provided for. Long may he continue. He has three more phases to go!

Our intention is to continue during 2002 our fundraising for Stage I. We have three key strategies. First, we intend to continue to canvass our database of Old Members for contributions. This is by far our most effective means of generating cash. Our second strategy will be to focus our fundraising efforts behind Bill Lewis's solo rowing of the length of the Thames. Read about this elsewhere in DUBCNews.

Thirdly, we invite every rowing graduate working in or having contacts with industry or the professions to assist us, chairpersons, in raising donations from these sectors. These approaches will be made in close partnership with The Trinity Foundation, College's professional fundraising body. Through this process we intend to raise the balance required to complete all IV phases of the Islandbridge project.

Finally, may we, chairpersons, urge anyone requiring a new copy of the Appeal brochure or leaflets explaining tax benefits to write to our respective Appeal secretaries:

Mike Johnston, 20 Burdett Avenue, Sandycove, Dun Laoghaire, tel: 00 353 1280 2003 <<emjay@eircom.net>>

..... and.....

Rob van Mesdag, 6 Rigault Road, London SW6 4JL, tel: 00 44 020 7736-3011 <<rob@mesdag.fsnet.co.uk>>

Best wishes to you all,

Dave Sanfey

Jane Williams

Leonard Dunne

### RYDER REPORT



Many of you have already given us fantastic support.....

The first sod was turned by the Presidents of DUBC and DULBC, in the presence of the Provost, the Director of Sport, the Chairman of DUCAC and members of the Boat Clubs, at Trinity Regatta 2001.

This event was, in itself, a recognition of the completion of the necessary consultative, legal, planning and approval processes between the Office of Public Works (Lessor of the site), College (Lessee) and its Buildings Office, the two Boat Clubs and Dublin Corporation. The OPW had a specific input into the design of the new buildings and how they integrated with both the Boathouse, and the Memorial Park which they own and manage.

Building Fabrics Ltd, as the Contractor arrived on August 13th, to build the first stage changing block, east of the Boathouse and south of the rowing tank.

The single storey building, covering an area of just over 1700 sq.ft., will provide male, female and disabled facilities for changing, clothes storage, showering and toilets. Unusually this building has a grass turf as flat roof insulation, and a limestone faced southern elevation. Completion is due by the end of March in plenty of time for Trinity Regatta on 20th April 2002.

Fundraising by Trinity itself and Trinity Rowing remains critical to the completion of this building and the start of the second stage for the new boathouse and apartment for its Superintendent.

.....hoping many more of you, and your crews, can help Enda and Micheal sustain their fundraising.





**GERRY'S SHOW SHONE**  
from our society desk

The Lizzy Fundraising Dinner at Thames Rowing Club on Saturday 24 November helped raise over £ 5000 for the Trinity Rowing: boathouse extension appeal. As Len Dunne, chairman of the London Founder Members of the Appeal, left Thames in the early hours he said: "This just illustrates what enthusiasm and good planning can achieve."

Earlier in the evening in his speech to the ninety Lizzy members and their guests enjoying a delicious dinner, Dunne already had expressed his thanks to Gerry Blanchard who was captain in 1960, and his wife Anne. Dunne told his audience of widely varying age: "Gerry and Anne not only conceived the idea but they also organised it down to last tee. This is the kind of spirit we need in Trnity Rowing."

Dunne went on to underline the need for the new extension at Islandbridge. "We are in a new century now", he said, "while we have a professional coach on the water (referring to Tim Levy, Ed.) we also need proper facilities."

At this stage of the evening neither Dunne or his wife Ruth-Marie nor anyone else present could have foreseen the professionalism with which auctioneer Hume Jones, a friend of the Blanchards, conducted his show. Within minutes a book case made from a clinker four, silver medals from the 1930s, a water colour of Parliament Square and photographs and books of special interest disappeared from the auctioneer's table into the hands of eager buyers. A hard-bound copy of Raymond Blake's "In Black and White" fetched over one hundred pounds.

Then Thames's imposing Club room went pitch black. Not a shimmer of light to be seen. And in comes a youngster in phosphorescent attire, dancing and gesticulating to poltergeist music while producing the most miraculous juggling acts with rings, nine pins and globes.

"Aaahh", the audience went, augmenting its admiration upon hearing the rumour: "It's Gerry's and Anne's son...it's their son, yes, yes, Gerry and Anne.....It's their son!"

## FROM COMMANDER TO KNIGHT

our court correspondent attended the investiture of Sir Brian Williamson CBE

During an investiture at Buckingham Palace on 12 December H.M. The Queen created Lizzy member Brian Williamson, already a Commander in the Order of the British Empire, a Knight Bachelor by administering the accolade. This consists of tapping him lightly on each shoulder with a naked sword. Sir Brian received this honour in recognition of his services to the Financial Services Industry. He is chairman of Liffe, the futures and derivatives exchange in London.

Knights Bachelor differ from other Knights in that they do not belong to any of the Orders of Chivalry such as Knights of the Thistle, the Bath or St. Michael and St. George but the ceremony is always the same and once a Knights one can never be given the accolade again.

Looking smart in his morning coat, Williamson walked up to Her Majesty with almost military precision, placed his right knee on the investiture stool and once invested with his knighthood exchanged a few words with the Sovereign who handed him his badge of Knight Bachelor.

He had withheld from her that he had in his pocket a stout-stained DUBC tie in case this was required during the photographic session in the Palace's quadrangle which followed the ceremony. This gesture was greatly admired by his mother Ruth, wife Diana and brother-in-law Jack de Rosée, also a DUBC graduate, who accompanied him.

Seconds later arrived on the scene Brigadier Miles Hunt-Davis, private secretary to the Duke of Edinburgh and father of Ben, a member of the gold medal-winning eight at the Sydney Olympics. Hereupon Williamson explained to your reporter that he moves in the right circles for he said: "You must excuse us now, Miles is taking us for a drink.....in the Palace!"





SCULL IN MIRA RIO  
by Rob van Mesdag

Shortly after leaving Trinity, Jimmy and Deirdre Brownlow lived in Portugal. That gave them the idea to retire there. Some thirty years and 25 postings later - Jimmy's oil bosses sent him all over the place - they scoured Portugal's beautiful Algarve for a nice house. They found it in the shape of the most ghastly villa in the most scenic spot.

So the villa was demolished and on its foundations a house of dreams was built to Brownlow specifications. Their experience of living in the tropics must have influenced them: walls rise to the roof, floors are of marble and sitting rooms and dining areas merge tastefully.

Name of the house is Mira Rio, Beautiful River, in praise of the river that can be admired from the mansion's terrace. There, with the sun setting over the top of hills opposite, a glass of wine in hand, Jimmy will point to his river and boast: "That's where I do my sculling."

With some imagination a stone building nearby could be considered the Algarve branch of the Lady Elizabeth Boat Club for this is where Jimmy drops his Janouseck single in a muddy creek which leads to the river. Provided he can be spared from house duties.

Deirdre sometimes requires his services as was the case when a snake was discovered, sunning itself by the pool. Jimmy told me: "I told it to eh...go away."

## MCGILLYDUDDYS FOR SALE

our art correspondent reports

Anxious telephone conversations between London Lizzy members took place: "Have you heard...did you see...Christie's, the auctioneers, have portraits of Dermot and Tiggy McGillicuddy in their sale of Irish paintings. Where did these come from? Who's selling?"

The portraits of Dermot, one of the Club's most devoted and enthusiastic supporters from the 1930 until his death in the 1970s, and his wife Tiggy, were auctioned on 17 May and without much bidding were bought for £ 7,500. Boat Club members present were unable in Christie's crowded auction room to spot the buyer, but research undertaken revealed that it was Donough, Dermot's and Tiggy's son living in Northamptonshire, who had submitted these paintings. They were by the Irish society painter Leo Whelan and dated from the late 1930s.

The McGillicuddys in those days led a busy life in and around their glorious country seat Bishop's Court near Kill, Co. Kildare. Dermot was a solicitor in Dublin and with Tiggy participated in Ireland's busy sporting and social life.

Members of the Boat Club were offered an opportunity to share in this light-hearted atmosphere when the couple conceived the idea of inviting senior rowers to appear for Sunday lunch in old clothes in order that afterwards an arduous programme of work in the stables or grounds could be undertaken. Dermot called this "a different kind of fitness training." It sometimes didn't start much before Tiggy's call for tea!

"Dermot" and "Tiggy" were bought by the Kerry solicitor Philip O'Sullivan who with his wife June lives at the Reeks in Beaufort, Co Kerry, the former seat of the McGillicuddy of the Reeks. Commented Donough: "My father is back where he belongs: in the house in which he grew up. It is a fitting resting place for the portraits."



## CLUB RULES CHANGE

President Rob van Mesdag and vice-president Robin Tamplin have invited James O'Reilly, Senior Counsel, and frequent coach of DUBC novices, to review the Club's current rules and regulations. These were first drawn up in 1898 and were last revised in 1988. Today, various changes in the running of the Club make a further revision necessary. Once completed, all additions and alterations will be presented for approval before an Annual or Special General Meeting.



## ROBSON RISES HIGH

Euan Robson, who rowed with the Club until two years ago is now at Cambridge and was last seen stroking the winning crew in the Cambridge Trial VIIIs. It seems that he is a contender for the Blue Boat. Insiders claim that though unlikely, he has more of a chance of this than Leeds United have of winning the Premiership.

"Good, he's in", said Terry McAuley, TCD Director of Sports, as he opened last autumn's Trinity News and noticed it carried an article on Tim Levy, Trinity's first professional rowing coach. Together with Senior Dean Cyril Smyth and Mike Ryder, representing DUBC and DULBC, McAuley had spent months searching the rowing world for the best man for the job. Tim, coaching for ten years at Oxford Brookes, fitted that bill perfectly. Jillian Coffey of the Trinity Foundation shares Terry's joy. Responsible for financing the boathouse extension, she follows rowing developments closely.

picture: DUBC press





# TRINITY REGATTA

SATURDAY 20TH APRIL 2002

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Men's Senior I II	Women's Senior I II
Men's Senior 2 VIII	Women's Novice VIII
Men's Senior 2 IV	Women's Novice IV
Men's Novice VIII	Women's Junior VIII
Men's Novice IV	Women's Junior IV
Men's Novice II	
Men's Junior VIII	Veteran VIII
Men's Junior IV	Invitation VIII

Luncheon, Cafe, Bars, Fun Races, Dragon Boats, Music

For detailed information please contact: www.trinityregatta.net  
For enquiries please use e-mail: racing@trinityregatta.net  
or post to Regatta Secretary, DUBLIN 2, Trinity College, Dublin 2, Ireland  
Telephone: 00 353 1 671 2950 Fax: 00 353 1 671 9335

Trinity Regatta executive MARK FOLLOCK is turning the event into a 'showcase for Trinity rowing'. He explains.....

As most of you know Trinity Regatta ([www.trinityregatta.net](http://www.trinityregatta.net)) is being revitalised. By dint of significant developments - punctual timing and delightful entertainment - the event is once again becoming the most competitive and enjoyable rowing spectacular in Ireland: promoting the sport, DUBC and Trinity.

As always it is the results on the water which count. This calls for assiduous preparation on the part of all rowers and a determination to win. But also important is that the event be organised without a hitch so that races are run fairly and on time. This is where my team of organisers comes in and I appeal here and now for volunteers. Please contact me at No 23. I promise all comers total satisfaction.

My team increasingly sees the Regatta as a vehicle for showcasing Trinity rowing. In effect our aim is to maintain the atmosphere on the bank with old boys and visitors, enclosures, luncheons and entertainment whilst on the water incorporating more junior events in an attempt to target individuals in these crews. The idea, although not rocket science, is to try to use the regatta to initiate contact with schoolboys and girls, hoping this way to attract them to Trinity College, to Trinity rowing - DUBC or DULBC - and to a world of friendships for life.

For the foreseeable future the Regatta will be held in late April. This in view of the 'exam season' starting in early May which in the past has restricted entries from university and school crews. Hence our decision to run the Regatta on Saturday 20th April 2002, the same weekend as last year.

Finally, I hope to see as many of you as possible on April 20th and ask you to contact us early to reserve your places for the Regatta Luncheon. Places are limited. We welcome all comments and are very interested in hearing from anyone in Ireland or elsewhere who would like to get involved in any way. Please check the web site at [www.trinityregatta.net](http://www.trinityregatta.net) for updates.

## BILLS THAMES CHALLENGE

### BILL'S THAMES CHALLENGE

by Enda Cahill, the London Appeal Treasurer

Hot on the heels of the successful Lizzie Dinner on 24 November which raised £5,500 towards the Boathouse Extension Appeal, Bill Lewis, a Gannon Cup winner in 1963, found that his personal ambition to row the length of the Thames had become the appeal's next prime fundraising event! DUBC President Rob van Mesdag, speaking on behalf of the Appeal, enthused: "Let's turn Bill's bell notes into bank notes by obtaining the highest possible sponsorship for each and every one of the 140 miles that he will have to row."

Welcoming this reaction, Bill, who will start his challenge on 16 May, responded by saying: "Some DUBC members have already donated but now it is hoped the remainder will do so as well. And in fact, this marathon row is meant to widen the Appeal and inspire our many non-DUBC friends to subscribe towards the Appeal's £250,000 target. The more money that rides on me, the better!"

Details of Bill's itinerary, sponsorship plans and reception party at Putney on Sunday 26 May will follow.







## IN MEMORIAM

Gilles Thal Larsen

If ever DUBC's fortunes changed from being landed with a mediocre and recalcitrant four to one which won respect on home and foreign waters, it was the crew composed of Gilles with his principal partners-in-crime Jonathan Story, Eddie Holding, Rob Wallace and later Irving Wineman. Strongly opposed to the then current style of rowing and therefore determined to go their own way, this furious foursome was immediately branded "the umbrage four". "Best left to its own devices" was the general view. And it was.

But thanks to their stubbornness and resolve these men raised their level of rowing sufficiently to obtain the captain's permission to race in the Wyfolds in 1962 and the Visitors in 1963, reaching the semis. Also in that year they won the Championship of All Ireland for coxless fours.

Gilles always played a key role in this crew. First, he had a mind very much his own. Once it was made up, it took a lot of changing which was during discussions about rowing policy. Second, Gilles being a Dutchman, introduced a welcome whiff of internationalism to the Boat Club.

A first sign of this was his insistence that the new boat be built in Berlin and not at a more traditional British boatbuilder's. A little later his European mind led him to inveigle his colleagues to learn to row properly in the Netherlands under the watchful eye of the then Dutch Olympic coach. Gilles found the captain of a Dutch coaster in Dublin harbour willing to take the new boat to Amsterdam, tied to the ship's deck, and days later the umbrage four rowed its way up the canals of Amsterdam to the Nereus Student Rowing Club.

Successes in Holland soon gave the "De Ierse Vier" a formidable reputation while this curious-sounding description sent shudders of fear through crews and bar tenders alike.

Gilles was, above all, regarded by his crew and everyone in the Boat Club as a great guy and real friend - serious about his rowing but always ready for a laugh. He met his wife Anne, née Slattery, through Boat Club friends. They were married in Ireland in 1967 after which they used Holland as their base while Gilles undertook consultancies for international organisations, mostly in Africa. Later the couple settled permanently near Eindhoven. They have two sons, Peter whose articles appear in the Financial Times and and Gilles Junior who is with the Netherlands Royal Air Force.

Gilles died at his home suddenly and totally unexpectedly. He was only 62, full of life and ambition.

Editor's Note: At an impressive service on 19 November in the crematorium close to Eindhoven, DUBC was represented by Jan van Blankenstein and Loet Klein-Bog from the Netherlands, Tony Jamison and wife Brita and Jonathan Story and wife Heidi from France and Rob van Mesdag from London. Rob spoke. Jonathan sang "Steal away through Jesus."

## IN MEMORIAM

P.V.L. Darbyshire

Pat rowed with DUBC in the early 1950s after completing his military service during which he was wounded and suffered from shock. He can be best described as loyal, enthusiastic and determined, thereby earning himself a worthy place in any boat irrespective of the standard of rowing achieved. In fact, Pat's rowing was never spectacular but his special qualities of being a real team mate and friend helped each crew he rowed in improve in stages as each rowing season progressed.

During one of his years he was part of a maiden crew that was looked down upon from a great height by superior oarsmen in the Club. But this seemed to have strengthened Pat's resolve and that of his colleagues to try even harder with every outing made and race entered for. So in the end, as Ireland's short rowing season drew to a close, Pat and his maidens won their first race. It could well have been the last on the calendar. Jubilations continued until early morning and personal satisfaction about what had been achieved through sheer guts never waned.

While still in Trinity Pat married Eleanor whose parents lived in Newry. The couple had four children but Pat's health, physical and mental - because of his military experiences - began to deteriorate. After their divorce Pat lived on his own in a flat in Cupar, Fife, from where after a further decline in health he moved to sheltered accommodation. He died three years ago. The news reached DUBCNews only now.



Our President Rob van Mesdag received the following letter from Patricia McQuirk following the boat naming ceremony at Trial VIIs last year. Those present all remember this as a fine occasion. Michael McQuirk [left] was the Club's boatman from June 1992 until his sudden and tragic death in November 2000.

"On behalf of the McQuirk family I would like to thank you and the Club members for your thoughtful gesture of naming a boat after Michael. He greatly admired the tradition of the Club and would be so proud of such a great honour. May the "Michael McQuirk" win many trophies for the Club."

## TRIAL VIIIS EASTER FEASTING



Trial VIII's this year will be held on **Easter Monday, 1st April 2002**. Captain Eamon Hynes and coach/lavatory cleaner Tim Levy very much hope that as many of you as possible can come and make this a good event.

This year the day will have a retrospective atmosphere with Levy promising to select two 'equal eights' which will be racing down the Islandbridge course that afternoon. The novice squad will be racing at 4pm and the seniors at 4.30pm. **The bar will open from 3.30pm** for those who wish to have a drink before watching the racing!

As usual the photograph will be at **5.15pm** and the dinner at **6pm**. Please fill in the enclosed reply slip if you can make it, we would appreciate as many attending as possible!

## DUBC APPEAL REPORT

The principal objective for the 2000 appeal was to encourage as many of you as possible to contribute by standing order. That was a success and I would like to thank everybody for that commitment. The incentive of a new DUBC tie made from the finest silk was well received, and supplies quickly ran dry. For those who signed up and have not yet received one, fear not it will arrive with you in the early part of the New Year.

Last year a new VIII was acquired by equal contributions from The D.U.B.C. Appeal and D.U.C.A.C. At Trial VIII's it was appropriately named 'Robin Tamplin' who has for so many years supported the club, and continues to assist me in the running of the appeal. The outgoing 'The Lady Elizabeth' purchased in 1994 remains in use as a reserve boat.

A five-year equipment plan was put in place in 1996 and it highlighted the need for continued replacing, updating and maintaining of all boats, oars, ergs and sundry items. This plan was of enormous help when it came to the level of support The Appeal was able to lend, and allowed me to balance the years of high expense with those of lower expense.

The latest five-year plan holds no great surprises other than how prices have climbed by 14%. This is as a result of inflation and the fact that most of our expenditure is in Sterling. As you will appreciate contributing by standing order gives me a much clearer approach when deciding on the level of funding available to this type of capital spending.

As many of you are now aware, a senior crew did not race at HRR this year. This facilitated the purchase of two new ergs, which should almost certainly help the men return to form for 2002.

I still meet so many past members at various events who tell me how they keep meaning to support The Appeal. Do not let this moment pass; standing order forms are included with this newsletter. Please fill one in and return it to me at the address shown below, a new DUBC tie will then be forwarded to you. If you have any questions feel free to contact me.

All correspondence to:

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Email: [mohanj@eircom.net](mailto:mohanj@eircom.net)

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## DUBC will be attending the following competitions

March 10<sup>th</sup> Erne Head of the River

March 15<sup>th</sup> Tribesmen Head

March 23<sup>rd</sup> London VIIIs Head

April 6<sup>th</sup> Neptune Regatta

April 7<sup>th</sup> Commercial Regatta

April 12<sup>th</sup> University Championships

April 13<sup>th</sup> Queens Regatta

April 20<sup>th</sup> Trinity Regatta

May 11<sup>th</sup> Gent

May 12<sup>th</sup> Gent

June 1<sup>st</sup> Dublin Metropolitan

June 15<sup>th</sup> Cork City Regatta

June 22<sup>nd</sup> Marlow/Athlone Regatta

July 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> Henley Royal Regatta

August 9-10<sup>th</sup> National Championships