

TRINITY REGAIN GANNON CUP IN STYLE

The year began with a typically strong recruitment drive in an effort to bring fresh talent into the club for the season ahead. The senior college crew had a solid core built from the previous year in the form of Ronan O'Laire, Nick Wolfe, Bernard Quain and Stuart King (Capt) but gained a good deal of new Oarsmen. This came in the form of a number of Junior International's, Richard Northridge, Kevin Devlin and Sean Walshe. Some much valued experience came with the arrival of the Ali G impersonator Ozren Trivic who conveniently happened to be a Croatian World Junior International, who strengthened the crew as both his fitness and the year progressed.

Training started in earnest as College term began with a program combining intensive water work with heavy land training. This involved twice daily workouts with a mere Friday free. This led to an inevitably "hard" Thursday night making it "The" premium student night!

Tradition held with Neptune Head being the first outing for DUBC squad. With near perfect conditions on Blessington lake the morning race provided a win in the Intermediate 8's category, only failing to win the head outright by a mere two seconds. Not to be outdone, the Novice 8 also were also successful, beating all other opposition easily and placing themselves high up the overall rankings. Congratulations must go to Lady Elizabeth who took the overall win on the day.

By the beginning of December the prospect of St Michaels head was very tantalizing! Unfortunately however, the event was postponed, leaving us with a few months without any highly competitive tests, bar Monday nights! A change in scenery was found with the annual visit to Cappoquin where a testing few days, and nights, were greatly enjoyed on the Blackwater. We were delighted to have the President of the Club, Rob Van Mesdag, who made a much appreciated effort to come down to Waterford to see us. Many thanks also goes to Jim Murray who as ever tirelessly worked for nothing but our respect and gratitude.

The day of St Michaels' Head did finally arrive when DUBC could again test its racing ability against the rest of the other clubs, including our main competitors, UCD, NUIG, and the Garda Boat Club. Unfortunately this outing proved to be a little less successful than had been anticipated with the Club finishing 2nd to NUIG in both the Senior and Intermediate categories. A tough result after much training and anticipation of some race wins. The format of the boat was still evolving however and it being still the start of the season, we had many races to look forward to.

Lagan Head followed soon after and DUBC had a very successful trip to Belfast with a win in the Intermediate category; beating the resident QUBC VIII in the process. With the buoyant Pound we could hardly afford to stay out of the North for long, returning to Enniskillen to compete in the Erne Head just a week later. This time the QUBC provided stiffer competition to the intermediate crew, who were hampered by injuries, resulting in a second place.

Tribesmen Head of the river was an important race for DUBC as the crews for the season, and the Gannon!, were beginning to take shape. A magnificent performance was duly delivered with the Intermediate VIII winning its event in style, easily beating the UCD.

The Gannon was a highly organised affair and our most heartfelt thanks go to the committee that put so much hard work into organising the event. This year's shortened event was a resounding success as the psychological advantage of beating UCD convincingly at Tribesmen, Trinity held the advantage throughout

the race and finished a good length and a half ahead of the competition.

The Intervarsitys were held on the 5 lane, 1500m Castlewelling course with ideal conditions on both days. The Intermediate race was first and although a poor start, the boat sat back and found its feet. A solid performance by every crewmember pushed the boat ahead of the competition and took the lead by the 1000m mark. With a 1 1/2 hour break between the intermediate and senior race, crew focused on the next task at hand. Our start let us down again but the crew rapidly pulled back together and drove hard for a lead. QUBC Senior 8 were overtaken but a talented NUIG Senior 8 won by 3/4's of a length, DUBC finishing 2nd. The crew was in general agreement that the days racing had been some of the best performances by the DUBC 8 that season.

The Queens regatta the following day was another success with a win again in the intermediate category against a very strong Garda boat.

The season continued with wins in the Commercial and Neptune Regattas and next up was Trinity Regatta. Our thanks goes again to the strong outside support the club has received from past members of the club who play a great part in advising and organising the event and thanks to this commitment. Trinity Regatta was again well attended with a full complement of National crews and a number of International crews. The days racing was an overall success with DUBC taking the winnings in both an Intermediate VIII and the Intermediate IV. Lady Elizabeth also had a successful day winning the Senior VIII.

Training was continued through the Exam period with Athlone Regatta as the next immediate goal. Henley was near at this stage of the season and goals were being set for this year, especially with the wins accumulated already in the season, hopes were high. Nick Dunlop agreed to help give the eight extra coaching lessons, an offer that helped the boat a great deal and focused on the technical aspects of our rowing. Athlone Regatta showed us we were not invincible and the NUIG rowed to a win just a length ahead of us.

In preparation for Henley Royal Regatta we arrived two days before the competition began in order to check equipment and get a feel for the course. The traditional aid from the "Henley Fund" yet again proved invaluable and the continued support of those who have left the Club is greatly appreciated. DUBC had an easy first day easily beating a schoolboy crew. However on the next day we were drawn against Princeton University Heavy-weights, a daunting task and one in which we would prove ultimately unsuccessful. Princeton were a superb crew, unbeaten in the US, and went on to easily win the Temple Challenge.

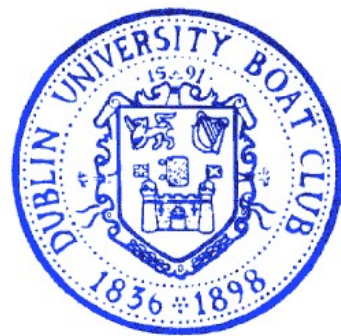
The Season ended in its traditional place, alas without the traditional result! The VIII continued to train hard following the disappointment of Henley and entered the Championships hoping to rediscover our earlier winning ways. The difficult tail-wind far from suited our style and we went on to record a disappointing second place.

A disappointing end to a season that had promised to deliver so much. Lessons have been learnt and changes made and there is no doubt that this year, DUBC will deliver. [RVM]

(Below) DUBC take the lead at last year's Gannon Cup



DUBC



NEWS

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A Note from the President: Rob van Mesdag

THINK LONG TERM

While the Captain's Committee rejoices in a tradition of at least 150 years, the Long-Term Committee is only just getting off the ground. So while each year's captain, in composing his Committee, draws from a well-established tradition, he and the chairman of the Long-Term Committee and myself as President now face a totally new challenge: that of selecting a new chairman of the Long-Term Committee: a procedure laid down in the new Constitution.

Such chairmen are not easy to find. They must not interfere in the affairs of the Captain but provide him with guidance and support in long-term matters such as fundraising, helping with Trinity Regatta, pushing College to complete the boathouse extension, etc.: matters captains have little time for. Long-Term chairmen should be expert at selecting the members of their team, lead enthusiastically and together with the Captain improve the health of the Club.

This task, calling for delicate leadership, has been in the hands of Long-Term Chairman Mike Ryder who took on this responsibility ever since the need for continuity in Club affairs arose...about eight years ago. He now wishes to retire and deserves to. After all, the new Constitution just ratified, stipulates a term of office for this post of three years only with a possibility or re-election for one more term.

So when asking ourselves "who's next?" the entire Boat Club family is starting on a new path: that along which new and younger Boat Club graduates should rise to the surface almost automatically as future leaders and as new incumbents for the Long-Term Chairman's post. Of course this is not happening yet. But all of us in the Club must prepare ourselves for that tap on the shoulder when a retiring Chairman asks: "Will you please take over from me?" This is how our Club captain operates when picking his successor and how any new chairman in any organisation is sought for his job. We in the Club must follow this route. We in the Club should now ask ourselves who Mike's successor should be...and the fellow after him! That's continuity. That is what we must build towards.

Presently Captain Richard Northridge, Mike Ryder and myself are starting from scratch. We have no reserve of leaders to draw from because the Long-Term tradition is young. I therefore would like to hear from younger LEB or DUBC graduates, interested in demonstrating their leadership qualities and willing to chair the Long-Term Committee for a three-year period. Being resident in Dublin would be a help. By volunteering you would make three-year incumbencies for the Chairman's post a matter of normal procedure and you would experience the joy and satisfaction of serving the Club you love. [RVM]

CAPTAIN'S REPORT

On behalf of the Committee, the Editor, and the rowers' themselves I would like to welcome you all once again to this year's DUBC News.

Before sitting down to write, I had a quick perusal of past DUBC News; they returned again and again to the theme of "change". On my arrival in 23 I was struck by the tradition and heritage of the Club. So why should a Club with 150 years of history; a beautiful clubhouse; an unmatched network of support and commitment from those old and new; and a 'Stripy that age cannot weary', change?

Revival and renewal is what is needed.

Tradition will be the theme of this year.

The shift in intensity of the club spirit was noticeable from day one of Fresher's Week, when the usual press-ganging recruitment returned with traditional vigour. The typical large numbers were recruited but this year has been noticeable for the high retention rate of men who, to a man, are willing, and importantly able, to be moulded into successful oarsmen.

To this regard Tim Levy and Gerry Macken could be seen as the artistes extraordinaire, with the temperament to match! The enthusiasm of their coaching team has rubbed off on their protégés to the extent that they can be seen saluting their oars to their invisible enemy in the shroud of a 6am morning. I have absolute faith that this "enemy" will suddenly materialise below O'Connell Bridge on the 27th March and almost as rapidly decrease in visibility over the course of approximately ten minutes.

One tradition that has been lost this year is that of the financial straits and insecurities that have plagued the Club for so long. For the first time in a number of years the Club finds itself very much in the black. DUBC is edging back into control over its finances with the Treasurer taking a proactive course of responsible action.

The College continues with its generosity towards DUBC. This takes the form of a substantial grant and several sporting scholarships, three of which were received this year. This support is greatly appreciated, and indeed relied upon.

Tim Coote has taken over control of the co-

ordination of the huge network of Old Boy members from John Bolton. This task is a gargantuan one and the enthusiasm, time and commitment that both these superb Club supporters have shown has been extraordinary.

The current crop of DUBC undergraduates has much to thank them for, as has the network as a whole. It is only with this support that I hope to continue the traditions and success of DUBC.

At the last AGM a new Constitution was ratified. This was drawn up under the careful eyes of Robin Tamplin, Mike Ryder, Rob Van Mesdag and Brendan Smyth. News of some of the changes that were ratified at the AGM is contained later in DUBC News.

Over the past six years the Trinity Regatta has gone from strength to strength establishing itself as one of the central regattas in Irish Rowing. Unfortunately however this had been done without significant participation from DUBC undergraduates. This year this has changed. Connor Fennesy and John Bolton, amongst other key players in Trinity Regatta, have combined with a large group of rowers from both DUBC and DULBC to establish an organisational committee. They will be in charge of running the Regatta. This transition back towards a high level of participation from the club is imperative, as for too long have rowers just rowed and ignored their duties on the river bank. This year I hope to see a change in both this and in the running of the regatta.

The senior squad began the year by welcoming the return of three former Senior Oarsmen to augment a group of men who have the drive, commitment and the potential to make a mark on any field into which they enter. Thus far we have secured victory in Neptune Head and come second in the Open VIIIs at Lagan Head. Commendation must go to the Novice squad as they too won their class in both races.

The training continues apace and as we approach some of the defining moments of the season I have every confidence that DUBC will return with some prizes that have been absent from Islandbridge for too long.

London Head, The Gannon, Henley and the Championships are coming, and we will be ready. [RN]

MARK POLLOCK & NICHOLAS WOLFE TRIUMPH IN THE GOBI DESERT



The Gobi Desert March is an arduous endurance foot race in which competitors race 150 miles across the Gobi Desert. Distance, however, is not the chief concern. More worrying are the extremes of temperature and the uneven terrain. Competitors must carry all their own food and provisions to last them the entire week. Each day both Mark and Nick ran between 20 and 40 miles of treachery and pain. In the process Mark and Nick managed to raise a considerable sum for Sightsavers International. After a difficult first few days of coming to grips with the conditions, Mark and Nick found their footing and finished 26th – a remarkable achievement for the novice ultra-endurance marathon runners. The Cable and French trophy was presented to both of them for having shown great courage, determination and cultural sensitivity.

Mark is currently carrying out postgraduate research into leading high performance teams and preparing for his expedition to the North Pole where he will race in 'The North Pole Arctic Marathon' (www.npmarathon.com). The North Pole Arctic Marathon takes place on April 10th and competitors can expect temperatures to plummet to between – 25°C and – 50°C. [EH]

LIZZIE DINNER

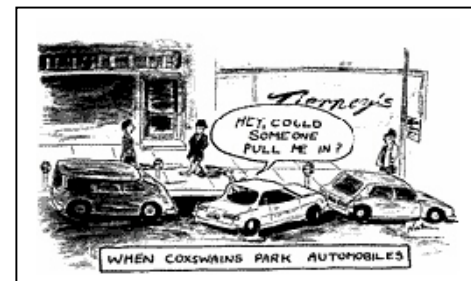
A tradition that has fallen by the wayside is the Lizzie dinner for the Henley crew. I would like to resurrect this and possibly have one in Dublin before the crew goes to Henley as well as one in Henley. Anyone interested? Please e-mail me at andrewcoleman@eircom.net. If there is enough interest it will be done.



After his London Rowing Club dinner party, Professor McDowell was helped with his scarves, hat, umbrella and coat by Henry Clark, left, John Pearson, captain 1953, Simon Newman, captain 1962/63, Anne Blanchard holding his hat, and Sir Brian Williamson.

NINETY IN SEPTEMBER 2003

Professor R.B. McDowell, possibly DUBC's eldest member, was feasted considerably during 2003 in celebration of his 90th birthday in September of that year. One such occasion took place in the London Rowing Club. It was organised by DUBC graduate and former captain Simon Newman. Henry Clark gave the address to which "RB" replied with customary wit. Also spoke TCD graduate Anne Leonard giving background to her book on the Professor. Entitled "The Junior Dean R.B. McDowell" it is highly readable and enlarges on its subtitle "Encounters with a legend". Available via <rob@mesdag.fsnet.co.uk> Earlier in the year Dr. McDowell had helped the Club by being one of several members bringing the Club's constitution up to date. His one and only appearance in a boat on the Liffey took place in the 1950s as the cox of a four composed of TCD academics. His crew won. [RVM]



THE MAIDEN EXPERIENCE

"Meet new friends," they said... "Get fit," they said... "Represent your college," they said... "SIX A.M.," they did not say!

I guess they didn't mention blisters, sore bottoms, cold toes, wet clothes, impossible ergs, heavy lifting, or the occasional impromptu swimming lesson in the upper Liffey either.

So, why do we do it? This is the impossible question that I find myself confronted with by most of my non-sleep-deprived friends. I suppose today, as the Maiden crew made their first descent into Dublin city in glorious sun shine amongst awed spectators, I thought: This is why.

But it wasn't all sunshine and lollypops! It was a pretty hard slog. Most of us were rounded up in the traditional manner during Freshers' Week: "Give us your money! You're a rower." "Hmm. That was easy." We thought. Then we were shown around the bar... Or club rather, shown around the club. "Oh yes, lovely wood finish. Windows all original? Where was that bar again?"

There was a big crowd at those first few sessions. Huge excitement at the prospect of churning up stationary water in a large outdoor bath full of leaves.

We received our first important lessons which were put to immediate use. I had the great pleasure of watching one of my team mates internally weighing the importance of the 'Don't put your foot on the bottom of the boat' rule as he quickly removed his foot, lost his balance and crashed head long into the river.

We were introduced to our coaches Tim Levy and Gerry Macken, and once we had become used to the volume level of Gerry's instructions (it's something like a Metallica concert), everything went swimmingly.

One fitness session and four sessions on the water each week gave us all plenty of time to improve our rowing. We were of course helped along by our two brilliant coxswains, Lindsay Courtney and Denise Harrington. They turned up in rain, wind, cold and darkness risking life and limb to ensure we successfully navigated our stretch of river and avoided embarrassment by not going over the weir.

Our first boat club party was the Halloween Massacre. We met in the Pav on what seemed to me the wettest night in Irish history and consoled ourselves with talk of a quite affair with a few of our new rowing mates. The bus however was quite different. Most of us were amazed that there were so many dirty songs written in English! Greetings at the club were given by a very gracious cowboy in a ten gallon hat that bore a strange resemblance to our head coach. The party was fantastic and we all had a great time learning new rowing chat up techniques. "Hi, I'm a rower...?" "Guys it's just not working!"

We sent two Maiden crews to the first race of the season, Neptune Head on Blessington Lake. We learned many things; first, that we had a lot of work to do before the next race, and second, that we really needed some wellies. Then we learned the all important trick of

stuffing spare socks into your shorts- for when the old ones get wet of course.

The real test of our metal was the training expedition (in a sort of Shkelton style) to Cappoquin. On the first day of the New Year we gathered sore headed and weary in the Dublin Bus terminal. After some rather heated negotiations with the staff about timetables, prices, student cards, the number of wheels on a bus and the location of the assassin on the grassy knoll we all got tickets to Dungarvan. "Sure isn't it only down the road."

Four or five hours later, after a short detour to Youghal, we arrived in Dungarvan. The best chipper in Ireland, Tony's, is just round the corner from the bus stop. We set up a temporary camp there while we waited for the taxis.

"I love the way it's so relaxed once you get out of Dublin."

"Yah, vun car unt vun minicab to Cappoquin. I'll be int ze tuwn zenter int twenty two minutes."

Hans was a great laugh and had lots of stories about the wild goings on of Waterford.

The training in Cappoquin certainly improved our rowing, but everyone had failed to learn the welly lesson and once again were reduced to cold toes and carrying extra socks in boastful positions.

"A crew rows on its stomach." Well we certainly wouldn't have gone very far without our generous land lady Mrs. Mary Whelan of the Toby Jug. After every meal she would enter the dining room and ask in a friendly way "Everything O.K. then?" Our response was invariably a messy mix of hints at hunger pains and large puppy dog eyes. Mrs. Whelan would always return with a second meal fit for an army, and not stop serving until we required assistance to be rolled out of the room.

We all chipped in before we left to buy her a big tin of Cadbury's Roses and then she offered to give us a lift if there was any problem with the bus. You don't get that at the Shelbourne! You can reach them in the Toby Jug at (058) 52333 and we recommend you do. You won't get a feed like that for miles around.

Since our return from Cappoquin the coaches and team have all had their minds set firmly on a good result at our next race, St. Michael's Hea d, Limerick. Hardly any of us have thought of dodging bricks or subduing locals, but I'm sure we'll cross that bridge when we come to it.

Taking up rowing was one of the best things I've ever done and our whole crew is looking forward to the great season of racing ahead. We are proud to represent Trinity and the Dublin University Boat Club. [DG]

The 2003 Senior VIII – (from left to right) Tim Levy, Ronan O'Laoire, Conor Hunston, Bernard Quain, Richard Moore, Kevin Devlin, Nicholas Wolfe, Sophia Gold, Richard Northbridge, Ozren Trivic

(Below left) Happy Novices along with their Senior counterparts enjoying the festivities at this year's Christmas Commons.



Tim Coote takes over from John Mohan as manager of the DUBC Appeal

HENLEY FUND MANAGEMENT

I am delighted to introduce DUBC graduate Tim Coote, captain in 1995 and nowadays a banker in London with JPMorgan, as the new manager of the Club's annual DUBC Appeal, alias Henley Fund which does so much to help us oarsmen meet our ever-increasing costs of boats, equipment, regatta fees, running of the landrover and trailer and members' travel expenses.

Tim takes over from John Mohan who started almost ten years ago to give the Appeal a more professional touch and produce a database of all members and past members, some 500 in all. John has done an excellent job and I thank him most warmly on behalf of everyone in the Club.

In mentioning our database - a vital tool for proper communication - I would urge all members and past members to keep me informed of any changes of address so that Tim's database can be adjusted immediately. Now I hand over to the new incumbent. Good luck Tim. The Club needs you! [RN]



TRINITY REGATTA 2004

Saturday 24th April
Islandbridge

Preparations are well underway. The Captain and the Regatta Committee very much look forward to seeing you all on Regatta Day. If you would like to place your advertisement in this year's Regatta Programme, please contact mibarry@tcd.ie.

LADY ELIZABETH BOAT CLUB



A Henley semi-final and second at the National Championships- Good results in many people's eyes especially considering where we started. Were we happy? In a word- NO. We had all been there before and wanted more. Don't get me wrong, there were some good times along the way: 26th at London Head, winning at Neptune, Trinity and Metropolitan Regattas, a bronze medal in Ghent and Henley (until we lost). There were also many lessons learnt along the way: How fit we have to be, the need for a bigger group of oarsmen but most of all having confidence in what we were and are doing.

So is 2004 going to be different? This is best summed up by a Tim Levy text message- "I want to win the Thames Cup – the rest is down to you". To this end there are now twelve Lizzie members competing for eight seats. Everyone is in a better position than last year in terms of fitness and there is a Lizzie VIII on the water six times a week. Hopefully this cohesion, which we lacked in the early part of last year, will lead to more wins on the domestic front and better performances in London, Ghent and Henley.

Another difference this year is that the Lizzie rowers, spearheaded by Steve Lowe, have bought their own boat named after the Cappelou and Trinity stalwart, Dan Murray. The Canadian World Champions use this make of boat and hopefully it will make the necessary difference. This, coupled with the new oars we purchased last year, means we cannot blame the equipment. Bad workmen and all that.

Finally I would like to thank everyone who helped us last year and continue to help us this year: Tim Levy, Nick Dunlop, Gerry Macken, Jim Murray, Jane and Andy Dixon (and family) for putting up with us in Henley, the Brown Women's crew (who provided a welcome distraction in Henley), Stuart King (Captain DUBC 2002-2003), Richard Northridge (Captain DUBC 2003-2004) and all the members of DUBC for the loan and rental of their equipment. Last but not least, to the Lizzie members who will allow us to get the fastest VIII to the start line.

If all goes according to plan the Thames Cup and the Big Pot will return to the boat house and next year's article will simply read:

"JOB DONE – we can all now sleep the sleep of the righteous and drink the drink of the drunkards" [AC]

Results 2002-2003

Neptune Head	Senior VIII
London Head	26th
Neptune Regatta	Senior VIII
Commercial Regatta	Senior x1, Inter x1, Novice x1
Trinity Regatta	Senior VIII
Queens Regatta	Senior x1
Ghent Regatta	Bronze Open VIII
Metropolitan	Senior VIII
Henley Royal	Semi-final. Lost to London RC
National Champs	2 nd Senior VIII

IN MEMORIAM

The deaths were announced of the following DUBC graduates: The Honourable Mr. Justice F.G. Cooke, architect James Slavin and Dr. John Leather and obituaries were received from Dr. Raymond Rees [RR], Dr. Eddie Ward [EW], Henry Clark supported by Robin Tamplin [HMC] and Rob van Mesdag [RVM].

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE F.G. COOKE.

Freddie Cooke must have been one of the few surviving members who rowed before the '39-'45 war. He was in the Senior VIII which rowed in Henley in '37, '38 and '39 and won the IARU Championships of Ireland in '37 and '38.

In 1941 Freddie was elected captain and in that year the VIII won the IARU Senior Cup, the first in a sequence of six successive wins of this trophy. He was generally regarded as a superb oarsman.

I had the privilege and pleasure of rowing with him in the Senior VIII and First Senior IV in 1941 and valued his friendship greatly. After he stopped rowing he coached the Senior VIII for a year or two. His brother Sammie rowed in the Senior boat in 1936.

Freddie joined the Colonial Legal Service and ended his career as a judge. What a pleasure to see him at Trinity Regatta some ten years ago when a picture of captains was taken on H'penny Bridge prior to a magic Club dinner. [RR]

(Left) Already approaching his 'eighties, Freddie Cooke, centre, hugely enjoyed the company of fellow Club captains about to enjoy their Club dinner some ten years ago.



to win: not its individual members, let alone he himself.

He was teased sometimes for having rowed for UCD before coming to Trinity because he read architecture first before taking up philosophy in TCD, thereby crossing the river to join DUBC. For both clubs he rowed at Henley where he met members of the London Rowing Club which he joined after leaving Ireland.

In 1955 he married Maeve Barrington and with her came to the United States in 1957, practicing architecture in New York City where first they lived. Later, the Slavins moved to Connecticut. In the late 1970s Jimmy accepted a position as architect in the Middle East where his extrovert nature and positive outlook gained him many new friends. Some ten years later he came back.

Jimmy always read his DUBCNews with great interest and often commented on one or other news item to his closest Club contemporaries. He often wrote how he would love to attend the next Trinity Regatta but he never made it. At Henley, some five years ago, he deputed his sons Eoin and Patrick to reserve a table at Leander for some of his old rowing buddies: a night well remembered.

Jimmy and Maeve fell victim to a motorist driving too fast on a snowy road. She skidded and ran into their car. Jimmy died almost instantly. Maeve and her two sons, one married, survive him. [RVM]

JAMES SLAVIN, member DUBC 1949 – 1953

Jimmy radiated enthusiasm. He was always full of ideas, knew lots of people, had travelled a great deal, showed great interest in the world around him and believed that difficulties could be overcome. We in the Boat Club witnessed only the first signs of these characteristics but these were enough to convince his fellow

oarsmen of his genuineness, sincerity and optimism. A nasty remark or bad temper were most rare if not totally absent.

He was not the highest class of oarsman but whatever proficiency he may have lacked was compensated for abundantly by his enthusiasm for the sport, total loyalty to his crew and determined contribution to crew spirit. It was the crew that rowed



In this early 1950s boat, Jimmy Slavin sit at 7, between Robin Tamplin, stroke, and Mike Murray-Alston at 6. Boatman Christy O'Byrne gives a helping hand.

DR. J.G. LEATHER

I got to know John quite well during the 1950 regatta season as I coxed the two crews in which he rowed, as four in the eight and as stroke of the first Senior Four. It was in this capacity that I was able to observe at close quarters his high quality blade work, his quiet but resolute determination and his ability to communicate effectively with the other members of the crew in a way which inspired them to give of their best.



JG in London Rowing Club colours as pictured by caricaturist Fred May in the August 1969 issue of The Tattler.

As these three stalwarts were Henry Clark, Willie Orr and Mike Murray-Alston (quite a trio) this secured prize-winning victories not only at Islandbridge, including a win against LEBC, but also at Boyne, New Ross and Waterford.

Throughout these races John never raised his voice - not even to the cox! But in his quiet and effective way he left nobody in doubt about what was required of them. He led by example. [EW]

Also some words from Henry Clarke supported by Robin Tamplin

I met John Leather within days of his arrival at Islandbridge in 1947 and found that JG became his mark: typically Irish I suppose. At first he struck me as a tall, down-to-earth North countryman with successful rowing at Oundle under his belt. Soon after, however, we found that JG also possessed a distinct sense of humour, great enthusiasm and endless energy.

Six days a week on the river was enough for most of us but on Sundays JG headed off into the Wicklows. Whatever the weather. A girlfriend, though fond of him, confessed she dreaded these winter expeditions.

I rowed with JG in the Senior VIII in '49 and '50, both happy and successful crews and particularly enjoyed him at stroke in our then unusual 13-stone-average Senior IV, unbeaten in the 1950 Irish season. By happy chance that crew reunited in 1954 as a LEBC Senior IV at Carrick on Shannon with Jimmy Brownlow in Willie Orr's seat a bow. Home on leave from Africa I had hardly rowed for three years but driven by John - who had stroked the London Rowing Club Grand eight at Henley that year - the boat went like a bird. It earned me my last regatta pot.

My happiest memories of John are of his quiet joy during parties after winning races such as his 21st birthday ball following a successful Putney Head and the drowning of our sorrows after our final in the Ladies' in 1950 when Dermot McGillicuddy and others had provided a crate of champagne and an irresponsible box of penny bangers. JG took down the Leander flag - since returned - on that occasion.

By sheer chance we met up again skiing in Austria and again at Tony Wilson's marathon barbeque when we were drenched in Guinness while trying to tap the barrel. By now John was a partner in his father's medical practice and hunted with the local pack in the Bolton area. In the '60s, after having taken up sailing, we met at Dromineer Regatta by Lough Derg, sailing and partying six days on the trot. As the old song says: "Oh those glorious nights of gladness. Gone away like my youth too soon" and I began to wonder whether we had really converted JG into an Irishman.

Both of us married late but very happily and we continued to meet at Henley where JG had rowed six times, five of which for DUBC. How lucky we rowers are to have our annual Henley get-together. How sad that next time JG won't be there. He was a companion we will sadly miss, faded away like so many other old friends we should never forget. [HMC]



Of course John Leather, second from left, was present at the fiftieth reunion at Henley of the Club's Ladies' crew beaten in the final in 1950. On the left is Henry Clark and on the right Eddie Ward. Robin Tamplin is in between



The late Gerry Blanchard's widow Anne must have felt extremely proud to see her son Guy win the Wyfolds at last year's Henley. He is at bow in the "Gerry Blanchard."

fearsome opposition in the form of Offaly BC and Craigenamanagh, to secure the novice double scull title. The National Championships saw Eamon Garrigan return from his studying sabbatical to replace Peter Henry. An excellent row in our heat allowed us to qualify for the final comfortably ahead of Waterford and UCD, and only 1 length behind Neptune. Shortly before our final, the wind over

Inniscara picked up and a rushed starting call resulted in the race commencing before we had attached ourselves to the stake boat. The results classify us as fifth but had we set a time equal to, or better than our heat time (as every other crew did), we would have finished a deserved third. Sincere thanks are due to Billy King, Piers White (currently roaming the world), Tim Levy and also to our

NOVICES 2002-2003

The year began pleasantly enough for the forty, first year novice rowers who convened on the boathouse in early October, with a tour of the facilities, some introductory tank work and a chance to chat with the senior oarsmen. Most of us, myself included, had originally been lured by the charms of certain DULBC members prowling around Front Square during Freshers' Week. However, there was something about the idea of rowing that intrigued us and the majority of us vowed to return. By Neptune Head in early November, we still had two eights capable of rowing the entire course without capsizing, and men to spare. Under the expert tutorage of Billy King and Piers White we spent the long winter evenings of the next three months honing our technique on the water, and our fitness on the ergs. By the time St. Michael's Head arrived we were baying for competition, and in the end only stroke Colm McCaughley's loose gate and subsequent lost oar stopped us from troubling the Olympic selectors. Lagan Head at the end of February produced another solid row over a long and gruelling course, but it was at Tribesmen's Head that we really started to produce some serious form. We finished fourth overall, just over 1 minute behind our own Inter Eight and beating both UCD crews in the process.

Things were looking promising for the upcoming colours event. The race was held at Islandbridge on a gloriously sunny day and many of our parents arrived down to see their sons competing. We were caught in the bank on the south station off the start and were, as a result, effectively 1 length down

within the first 100 meters. There was nothing to do but dig deep and row 'College' down and we found ourselves slightly ahead as we passed Garda BC. Unfortunately closing down the deficit had taken its toll and UCD lead by less than a canvas as we passed under the wires. We spun, and then rowed to Commercial and back to get some of the lactic acid out our burning muscles. To my memory, during that time not a single word was spoken by anyone in the boat.

Regatta season began in earnest with Neptune and Commercial Regattas. Our 'A' Four dominated Neptune Regatta beating some tough opposition on their way to the final. There they met the hosts who were hot favourites to win both titles. However, our guys set off like a rocket and showed tremendous grit and tenacity to hold onto the lead from start to finish. Another victory followed for the Four in the invitational novice race at University Championships in Castlewellan. The Eight secured a satisfying five length victory over UCD in the heats before going on to finish a close fourth overall behind some very experienced crews. At Trinity Regatta, the Eight scored a crushing

victory over Neptune in the semi-final only to be later disqualified for hitting a buoy. It was a sad way to finish what would turn out to be the last time we would row together as an Eight that season. Two German exchange students had been at the centre of the 'meat wagon' and with their return to Germany, and the impending exams, we began to focus on a Four. Having taken time off training to cram for college we used Metropolitan, Carlow and Athlone Regattas as preparation for the National Championships. One unexpected victory occurred at Carlow Regatta, where the scratch double of Seamus Murphy and Colm McCaughley beat off some

DUBC

coxes, Charlotte Ashe and Eavan McSweeney. [SH]

OUT AND ABOUT

The DUBC website has gone from strength to strength over recent years. These days the website has become an invaluable resource for both rowers and Old Boys. There is a guestbook where you can leave messages and very shortly there will be a live web camera to House 23! Don't forget to tune in for Christmas Commons 2004! Peter Henry is the webmaster and must be commended for such a wonderful job. The address is www.tcd.ie/clubs/boat. If you would like access to the restricted area, please email dubc@tcd.ie.

DUBC recorded their first Senior win of the season recently at Erne Head of the River. DUBC managed to hold off competition from their Lizzie counterparts beating them by 10 seconds with a winning time of 20:34. Queens University and Lady Victoria were also well beaten. Perfect conditions on the day allowed for some excellent rowing. The Novices also won their category remaining unbeaten this season with the first year novice crew just one minute behind. Richard Northridge's father presented the prizes to the winning crew. The Senior VIII was Cox: S.E.P. Gold, Stk: R.M.H. Northridge, 7: S.F. King, 6: K.T. Devlin, 5: P.G. Laird, 4: E.O. Hynes, 3: R.N.T. Moore, 2: V.R. Bennett, Bow: D.B. Cummins

The wedding of Ailill and Deirdre O'Reilly took place at Donnybrook church in the summer of 2002. Many rowers from Ailill's time were there to wish both of them well.



At Ailill's wedding were (from left to right) David Leaby, Neil Streen, Raymond Blake, Micheál O'Connell, James Lyndsay-Fynn, Paddy Moe, Shane O'Neill, Jim Holden, Conor Fennessy, Tim Coote.



James Lyndsay-Fynn (Captain 1998) stroking the London RC quad to 5th (and indeed winning the category) in the 4's Head last November.

Michael Righton-Claffey, Head of Science & Rowing, Dragon School, Oxford won a Vellum Award from the Royal Humane Society for rescuing the driver of a mechanical digger which had become submerged in a lake at Eton College. He had to smash the window with a hammer, drag the unconscious man out and give him the kiss-of-life. Michael was also awarded a Resuscitation Certificate

A new key was recently made for the DUBC notice board at Front Gate. Because of the prominent positioning of our notice board, we have been overwhelmed with private advertisements and unofficial notices. Many thanks to Andrew Henry (father of Peter Henry) for successfully managing to make a duplicate key of the original lock.

House 23 has never looked better. The Captain's rooms were completely overhauled earlier this year after many years of neglect. Many thanks to the buildings office and to the accommodations office for providing a new couch, a new cooker and the wonderful paint job. The Guinness stained ceiling of yesteryear is, I'm afraid, no more!

OLD BOY DATABASE

Please keep us up to date on your details. Please cut out and send to House 23, TCD, Dublin 2.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Ciaran Lewis (Captain 1992) won the Quadruple Sculls event at Henley last year. After five Henley finals Ciaran finally succeeded in attaining that elusive Henley medal. Ciaran is still training hard and recently won the Lagan scullers Head in Belfast racing for Commercial.

DUBC & LEBC will race three eights at this year's London Head of the River Race. The race takes place on March 20th at 3:45 p.m. If you are about please come down to Putney for a good old rant with the lads. Many thanks to all the Old Boys who have kindly offered to host us whilst visiting London.

(Below) DUBC VIII at last year's Temple Challenge Cup.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

March 13th – Trial Eights
March 20th – London Head
March 27th – The Gannon Cup
April 3rd – Neptune Regatta
April 4th – Commercial Regatta
April 16th – University Championships
April 17th – Queens Regatta
April 24th – Trinity Regatta
June 5th – Metropolitan Regatta
June 6th – Carlow Regatta
June 19th – Athlone Regatta
June 30th to July 4th – Henley Royal
July 9th to July 10th – National Champs

Good luck to William Gilbert on his marriage to Dr. Rachel Jane Gilbert. Congratulations to who Giles Hurley, recently engaged to Michelle O'Neill. Also to Mary Kate O'Reilly (Cox 1990s) on her engagement to Jonathan Kenyon. Best wishes to Donal Lunny (Senior Cox 1994) who recently married Suzanne Simpson and to Martin Murphy (currently rowing with LEB) on his marriage to Beatrice last September.

Congratulations to Deirdre Wilson (Cox in the 1990s) who had a baby son (David) last month. Fiona Parker (senior cox in late 1990's) had a baby boy last year (Jack). Well wishes to Shane O'Neill who had a daughter Isabel late last year.



Phil Browne (LARU Chief Executive) with Ross Hassett (Captain 1994) at the Irish world cup qualifier in Krasnoyarsk (Siberia).

PSNI Constable Huey and Reserve Constable Gillespie received the Royal Humane Society Award last November for their efforts in rescuing one of our Novice Eights at Erne Head in 2002. 'Franz' was caught by an exceptionally strong current, and with the rowers helpless to respond, the boat was swept against the central parapet of the bridge, the impact of which knocked most of the occupants into the water. The boat immediately folded around the parapet, in doing so trapping one unlucky Novice member, who was caught by foot straps and unable to free himself. His plight was further endangered by water pouring over his head.

A new DUBC constitution was recently ratified. Many thanks to the Longterm Committee for their hard work. In particular thanks to Mike Ryder, Robin Tamplin, James O'Reilly, Brendan Smyth, Richard Northridge, Rob van Mesdag and Prof. R.B. McDowell for their contributions. The constitution is available for viewing on the website.

BOAT CLUB TIES



Silk DUBC ties are now for sale. They are very reasonably priced at just €35. No boat club function is complete without one. Please send cheques/postal orders to DUBC here at House 23.