

HRR Reputation Regained

Captain's Report

Richard Northridge

In this, the Captain's Report for 2003/2004 I hope to detail the results of the year and then give a brief overview of other significant matters arising.

2003/2004 was without doubt the most successful season in eight years. Wins were gathered at every regatta at almost every level. In an attempt to give an accurate reflection of the achievements of DUBC here follow the results.

As ever, the year began with Neptune Head. In a typically Dublin affair a DUBC/LEBC composite won the day with a time of under twelve minutes. At Novice level, three VIIIs were entered with a DUBC boat again proving to be victorious winning by a staggering margin.

The New Year was heralded in by the annual sojourn to the wilds of Cappoquin where Jim Murray was typically as ever the perfect host. His family's long-standing support of the Club is reflected in the naming of LEBC's new racing shell after Dan Murray.

club perspective this disappointment was overcome by the success of both the first, and second year Novice VIIIs. The victorious second year crew from Neptune Head remained unchanged with a slight adjustment to its line up: Victorious Bennett replacing Colm McCaughley as stroke.

Late February saw the traditional prelude to London Head, Erne Head, taking place. This was the first outing for the full strength DUBC VIII. In one of its best races of the year DUBC won the Erne Head Senior VIII category by ten seconds. This was the first time a pure DUBC VIII had won a meaningful Head in a number of years. The Second Year Novices continued their unbeaten start to the season with a magnificent fifth place overall, finishing above Neptune Rowing Club's fancied Intermediate VIII. Although not victorious, one of the performances of the day came from the first year Novice VIII which drew many admiring glances with their eighth place finish. This crew was establishing itself as a force to be reckoned with, as the second years were to learn at a later date!

intermediate level and finished a very credible second. This step up in class gave the first year novice men a chance to achieve their first win, and this was duly achieved with aplomb.

Anticipation for London Head was high and so when the announcement was made of the cancellation of the event due to weather difficulties disappointment was great. However the decision was made to race in an informal VIIIs Head against the top London clubs, Oxford Brookes and an assortment of other foreign crews. This proved to be a great success as one DUBC/LEBC composite placed an excellent second behind an internationally packed Imperial College boat.

The other DUBC/LEBC composite finished fourteenth. Unfortunately the Third VIII did not race, but I hope the experience and sight of such a large event will serve them well in the future. I would like to thank the Georges, Dovers, Hickeys and Hallows for their generosity and kindness in hosting such a hearty bunch of DUBC men.

The Gannon Cup was next on DUBC's Agenda. Both the

DUBC



NEWS

House 23, Trinity College, Dublin 2
www.dubc.ie dubc@tcd.ie

Editor: Eamonn Hynes
March 2005



The Student Coxed Fours semi-finalists

Photo: Eamonn Hynes

The first race of the New Year, St Michael's Head, was to be raced on January 31st but due to adverse weather conditions was unfortunately postponed until February 14th. Following its postponement DUBC decided not to race.

This postponement meant that Lagan Head was next on the agenda. A DUBC/LEBC VIII finished second in the senior category having unfortunately experienced some degree of equipment failure. However from a

Erne Head was also the beginning of Andy MacDonagh's coxing career where he was honing the skills that would have such an "impact" on the usually calm waters of Islandbridge.

With one eye firmly fixed on London Head, Head coach Tim Levy assembled the fastest composite at his disposal for Dublin Head. This policy reaped rewards at senior level with both DUBC/LEBC composites finishing well clear of the field.

The second year Novice VIII raced above their standard at

Senior and Novice crews did not need to approach the race with the usual gusto and baiting that greets the annual race. This was due to that fact that on every occasion when the Trin had met UCD they had come up easy winners.

The Novice VIII was possibly the fastest first year Novice VIII ever assembled for the Gannon. This opinion is perhaps validated by their "winning" margin of 5 lengths. However although being the fastest, they were not the (contd. pg. 2)

A note from the President

Rob van Mesdag

Most enjoyable for me, chairing the AGM last autumn, was to express the thanks of the entire Club to Michael Ryder for his nine-year chairmanship of the Long-term Committee. This body, to advise the Captain in all matters concerning continuity, was started by Mike himself and short of a suitable successor or any long-term mention in the Club's constitution, Mike stayed on and on.....

His most painful task has been to soften clashes between the Club and (sometimes) the Ladies' Boat Club on the one hand and College authorities on the other. True, the DUBC at times misbehaved. But also is true that College have reacted too severely. So it was up to Mike and the Captain to seek mediation. Their meetings with College staff were often held at 8 a.m. so that Mike could reach his office in time for a normal working day and the captain do his training.

Newly-created admiral Richard Northridge and the newly-elected captain Richard Moore presented Michael with a beautifully engraved decanter together with a bunch of flow-

ers for his wife Elizabeth who has been such a paragon of love and support during all those years.

Moore is now well into his captaincy and shows all the signs of being as successful in winning races and creating activity at Islandbridge as did his predecessor Northridge. He is aware of being closely watched by all of us, but also knows he can rely massively on Tim Levy, the Club coach. Tim told me recently: "I am in my fourth year at Trinity rowing now and our standards of training and rowing are improving all the time. Watch this space". Space? He means website www.dubc.ie of course. It enables us to keep up to date so well.

At the AGM, John Aiken was voted Ryder's successor. As the new chairman he is delighted that Mike Ryder has agreed to remain on his long-term committee as the Club's contact man with College over TyROWbea. I bet it won't be long before Mike and the Captain will be urging TCD to fulfil its promise made some years ago. Has College forgotten? We haven't. We want our new boathouse and have already paid our share!

(contd. from pg. 1)

quickest of cats, and unfortunately were disqualified for taking the wrong arch on more than one occasion.

The Senior VIII regained the Gannon Cup with the greatest winning margin in over twenty years. It also managed to navigate the course with somewhat greater success.

And so the Club entered the regatta season buoyed by the enthusiasm of a hard winter's training and a successful head season. Neptune and Commercial Regatta were first and were to be found on the same weekend. DUBC continued its successful season winning the Intermediate and Novice VIIIs on both days. The most notable of wins was the Novice DUBC "B" victory over the "A" counterparts. This came in a fantastic race setting up a rivalry that would be used by coaches and rowers productively throughout the season. The weekend was also the first outing for the DUBC Senior IV which secured its first wins at Intermediate and Senior level.

The University Championships, viewed as increasingly significant due to the pressures from Trinity Sport, was a mild disappointment for the Club. The Novice VIII were beaten by a powerful NUIG crew, while a weakened Intermediate VIII lost narrowly; also to NUIG. This meant that the Senior VIII was to determine the destination of the prized Wylie Cup. In a frenetic race DUBC and NUIG, never more than a quarter of a length apart, pushed each other to their limits. Unfortunately the final push came too late, and the line too soon, with the final verdict being a one foot victory to NUIG.

The next day a level of pride was restored with the Novice and Intermediate VIIIs winning comfortably. The Senior IV also saw victory with a winning margin of one length over LEBC.

Following months of planning Trinity Regatta was a fantastic success both on and off the water. The Regatta Committee took on a slightly different form this year following many years reliance on a committed pure graduate committee. A new committee was formed with a core of graduate members: namely John Bolton, Claire Fennessy, Conor Fennessy, Mícheál O'Connell, John Aiken and Emily Farrell. This was supplemented by the energy and enthusiasm of current members of both the women's and men's Club. On a fantastic day the event was perhaps the epitome of what can be achieved when both new and old members of the Club combine. The organisation of the day was matched by the racing on the water, in what turned out to be a day of surprises.

First up was the thrilling victory of the Novice "B" crew over the Novice "A" crew in their final. The raw aggression of the underdogs was only matched by the

more experienced crew when Battye managed to break his oar, fortunately after he crossed the finish line.

The Senior IV continued its unbeaten domestic record and had a comfortable victory. This set up a tantalizing Senior VIII final where DUBC were to meet LEBC. In an epic race "The Trin" ran out winners by one foot in one of the best races in recent years. An overview of the regatta would also show that this was the first time in many years that DUBC had won both the Senior IVs and VIIIs, highlighting the strength of the year.

A trip abroad followed for the Senior IV. Gent was intended as a gauge as to how the crew stood compared to their English and foreign counterparts. Managing to overcome some irritable bowels the crew set the fastest time of the weekend in the heat and then disappointed by finishing fourth in the final. Following serious discussions with Tim, the crew put in a more credible performance on the second day, finishing third.

Although travelling to Gent was an effort, it was undoubtedly the most useful racing weekend of the year. In this respect I hope DUBC continues to follow Tim there with the enthusiasm to match his own in the future.

If Erne Head was the finest Head race of the year, Metropolitan was most probably the best regatta for DUBC. The first and second year Novice VIIIs combined to form their own strongest "composite" and this policy proved successful as they beat the much fancied NUIG by a canvas.

Then followed the Intermediate VIII which again saw a full strength DUBC crew take to the water. It raced well and won by a clear two lengths over NUIG (please note for future reference to the Championships). DUBC's Gent IV then won the senior blue ribbon event by a single foot over a high calibre NUIG/Skib composite. At this time, more than any other in the season, I believe that DUBC could claim to be the fastest club in the country.

An ever enjoyable trip to Athlone and the Furlongs continued hospitality to DUBC, and more recently DULBC, has been remarkable. The Club could not ask for greater and more generous supporters and the gratitude felt towards them, on both a personal and club level, is immense.

The racing itself proved to be marginally less successful than Metro with the weakened Intermediate VIII finding the conditions difficult and suffering defeat. However the Novice VIII and Senior IV continued their winning ways, both recording strong victories.

The inaugural Jim McMullan's Lomac Tiles Boat race against QUBBC, kindly sponsored by local businessman Jim McMullan of Lomac Tiles, was a surprise addition to the calendar. Possibly

the most over-hyped of races in Ireland, it was a revelation to see what a professional PR company could do for an event. Under the glare of the media spotlight, Trinity ran out easy winners. This event is scheduled to become a regular fixture in the racing calendar which in my view can only be seen as a positive development, not least due to the fact that the press coverage of the Club was unprecedented.

The climax of the DUBC season is traditionally Henley Royal Regatta. This year was no different with the Club deciding to send an unprecedented three boats to the event. This decision to send such a large field was only made possible by the support of the alumni through the Henley

VIII while Trinity "B" was defeated, by an equally narrow margin to Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford.

Trinity's seeded entry in the Student Coxed IVs had a more successful day defeating Reading University comfortably. In the next round Trinity defeated an American University again comfortably. This took the IV to the Saturday where they raced the much fancied Imperial College IV. Having been narrowly defeated by the same crew at Gent, Trinity fancied their chances. However in a strong stream and headwind Trinity were defeated by the eventual winners by under two lengths.

It is a measure of the level of expectation that has returned to DUBC in recent years that the



Victorious Gannon Cup VIII

Photo: Matt Pitt

Appeal. The breadth and depth of the support is now being tapped by Tim Coote, who replaces John Mohan in his role as fundraiser in chief. The time and energy both these men put, and continue to put, into the efforts of fundraising are greatly appreciated and a substantial help to the undergraduates on an annual basis.

The second VIII travelled to Henley having to qualify for the Temple Challenge Cup and delivered on the faith shown in them by their coaches by qualifying in a respectable time.

The first day of Henley delivered something of a knockout blow to the two Temple crews as the seeded Trinity "A" lost out narrowly to an Oxford Brookes

IV's performance was seen as a great disappointment. The semi-finals were contested by Imperial College, Isis, Oxford Brookes and Trinity and it is in this company that we should expect to remain.

Up to this point I have made only passing mention to the coaches involved with DUBC. Without these men none of the results would be possible. At the novice level Gerry Macken provided everything that an oarsmen could ask for in terms of enthusiasm, commitment, aggression and expertise. He produced some exceptional Maiden rowers who are all very much in his mould of what an oarsman should be. I hope that Gerry takes his men through the ranks and to the

Championship in the coming year.

Tim Levy as ever took on a huge number of crews. Juggling LEBC, DULBC, Novice, Intermediate and Senior oarsmen he produced victories at every level. His experience of rowing is matched by the faith which he possesses in his charges and at every level this faith is reciprocated. With luck, I am certain that Tim will produce a Henley winning crew within two years.

DUBC are also grateful to all those coaches who took the time to come and give words of guidance from the bank, namely Nick Dunlop, James O'Reilly, Billy King and Mick Doyle.

Just a week after Henley the Irish Championships was raced. In hindsight a "hangover", though in most cases not literal, from Henley existed. DUBC drastically underperformed with a number of second place finishes. The previously unbeaten Intermediate VIII finished a close second to NUIG, with the Intermediate producing a strong last 1000 metres to lose by one foot. The perhaps overly confident unbeaten Intermediate IV also came second in what was a surprise result to many. The Novices underperformed in their races, finishing second in the Novice IV, and third in the Novice VIII. Unfortunately an unsatisfactory finish to a highly satisfactory season and one that did not truly reflect the heights which DUBC had at times risen to.

In a year where rowing went from strength to strength, unfortunately our relations with College authorities did not. Tensions that have been building over the past years between some College personalities and the Club finally came to the surface.

I would like to record mine, and the Club's, deep gratitude for the unwavering support and skill offered by such a number of alumni. My particular thanks must go to the highly impressive Mícheál O'Connell and Mike Ryder.

One of the positives that has come across from the trials and tribulations of the year is the highlighting of the strength of the Club to withstand these negatives and turn them into a more positive energy. Throughout the year I have been impressed again and again by the unselfish and unbridled support given to DUBC by the Old Boys of the Club. The network of alumni that DUBC maintains is unrivalled by any club or society in College and it is in this knowledge that I know the Club will continue to build on its past successes, both on and off the water, and establish itself as the foremost Club in the country.

In the past season that has yielded a record number of wins the names of people that have helped the Club are too great to number. But their names are well known, and so it is with the sincerest gratitude that I and DUBC thank them.

Trinity Regatta 2005 Camp Cappelquin

John Aiken

The decision to run this year's Regatta was not an easy one and was reached only after a lot of reflection by the Captain and old members. The issues involved were outlined in Richard Moore's Christmas letter: the loss of 23.0.1 from DUBC and the increasing difficulty making the Regatta pay its way due to restrictions placed by College on the use of the Boathouse.

The loss of 23.0.1 means the loss of the Regatta's official home, postal address, meeting rooms and the location of the regatta draw. The restrictions on the Boathouse mean the loss of the regatta party/disco, a major element of the overall regatta financing and the reason for discontinuing the luncheon in 2004.

The alternative would have made this the first year since 1922 without Trinity Regatta, a measure of the seriousness of the issues involved. Several members of last year's Regatta Committee feel strongly that not running a regatta was the proper course of action. Given the cur-

rent climate detailed above, the situation will be reviewed once more in 2006.

However, now that the deci-

have reconvened and are busy with preparations for this year's event. We think the Regatta is worth preserving, we are proud



Glorious sunshine at TR04 sion has been made, we are looking for strong support from the Old Boys on the bank. The format will be similar to last year, a highly successful Regatta that took place in day-long sunshine, crowned by a DUBC Senior VIII win in the University Grand Challenge Cup. Again as with last year, the undergraduates will have a key input into the organisation of the event.

This year's Regatta Committee

Photo: DUBC News of its history, the role it plays in Irish rowing and the focus that it provides old members, some of whom rowed for DUBC fifty and even sixty years ago. We hope that College shares this view and that events such as Trinity Regatta don't pass away in the drive to create a modern market driven university.

Trinity Regatta 2005 will take place on Saturday 23rd April.

OBE for Edward Holding

Rob van Mesdag

Last October, H.M. the Queen invested Edward Holding, DUBC graduate from the early 1960s, as an Officer in the Order of the British Empire, OBE. His citation was: "lately Honorary Treasurer of Girl Guiding UK: for services to young people."

The young in question were Britain's hundreds of thousands of Girl Guides - Brownies, Rainbows, Rangers - belonging to Girl Guiding UK, the umbrella organisation for the UK Movement. Edward was its Honorary Treasurer for 13 years, attending at least 14 formal meetings a year plus a constant range of discussions relating to other business matters.

He told DUBC News: "It was a big task, but I was proud to do it. It is not often that you get home after a long day and think: 'I have done something really useful today'". Edward was a member of the "Irish Four" which reached the semi-finals in the Visitors' at Henley in 1963. His partners were Jonathan Story, Iving Weinman and the late Gilles Thal Larsen.

In his job, Edward was the only volunteer 'bloke' working with a large group of talented ladies who never stop typing and succeeding to sustain a vibrant and progressive movement. He said: "There was a lot to be done. Fifty per cent of all girls under



Edward Holding standing outside Buckingham Palace with his OBE

ten in Britain are Brownies and there are 50,000 youngsters eager to join if only there were sufficient volunteers".

Edward is now one of eight Vice-Presidents and the first man

Photo: Charles Green to join this group. He commented: "It has been a great privilege to serve such an outstanding organisation and I believe my award recognises its singular importance".

Eamon Garrigan

Cappelquin was yet again host to the merry band of DUBC men that descended upon the village with their inimitable style in early January 2005. Forty odd such revellers were to take part in the annual winter training camp that has become a welcome fixture in the DUBC calendar. Accompanying the DUBC rowers were members of DULBC and also several Lady Elizabeth oarsmen that undoubtedly added to this veritable mixing pot of sportspeople.

It was a brave armada consisting of five eights that embarked into the angry waters off the pier in Villierstown. After a short battle with our blades in the foul conditions we finally conceded to conventional wisdom and returned hastily to shelter in preparation for tomorrow's onslaught. Indeed, many hastily returned to console their efforts over a quiet tippie in the Railway Bar which was to stage a debriefing of the day's affairs in their entirety, at considerable length.

Friday saw a slight let up in the weather and this we hoped would provide crews with the chance they yearned to fine tune their bladework. Unfortunately, this chance did not materialise as we slopped through the churning waters of the river Blackwater.

That afternoon Cappelquin Rowing Club was the venue for circuit training. This turned out to be a rigorous barrage of exercises completed with military precision. The familiar sounds and smells of male physical exertion filled the hallowed club much to the dismay of local Cappelquinners and most of DULBC as well. All involved in

the session agreed it was a worthy alternative to an afternoon row on the treacherous waters. A lazy evening's rest ensued with many participating in various board and card games. The B&B was witness to many a heated poker game which resulted in wins from the sharks known as McCaughley and Calnan. One lucky novice mare managed to scoop the jackpot much to the enagement of certain senior rowers who had invited her to join the table!

The flat-calm, mirror-like waters that we enjoyed so much at last year's camp seemed to have returned for Saturday's proceedings. The day was composed of a morning and afternoon session and these provided the test-bed for improvements in our rowing technique.

Cappelquin Rowing Club was to extend a warm welcome to us on the Saturday night by opening the club bar to a band of revellers that included amongst us Trinity rowers, local Cappelquinners and several members of Cappelquin Rowing Club. The night played host to a series of antics that included the usual game of "Cockaleekie" which saw the previously undefeated club champion, Eamon Garrigan, being spun heels over head by the tree-bough-like force of Paul Laird's legs. Under the guiding light of a pale moon, we returned home in the early hours of the morning from the night's entertainment.

The weather was bleak on Sunday and an executive decision by Tim Levy brought the camp to a premature close. The training camp was a massive success and our thanks should be given to everyone involved in making the camp possible.

The Inaugural Lomac Tiles University Boat Race

Eamonn Hynes

The Lomac Tiles University Boat race is the brainchild of successful businessman and entrepreneur Jim McMullen. Irish rowing has always struggled for any kind of publicity and its participants rarely attract much attention from passive onlookers. Of course the chances of meeting a spectator at the Irish Championships at Farran Wood are rather slim anyway, but somehow we still turn up to race as ultimately it is the winning that matters for the purest of us amateur sportsmen.

Modelled on the infamous Oxbridge race, McMullen (along with a professional PR firm and emphatic enthusiasm from both captains), has sculpted an event that is hugely enjoyable for all

involved and generates corresponding levels of publicity.

Currently the event relies on the commercial aspect and there was much debate over the first VIII having to wear 'one-piece' suits bearing the sponsor's logo in favour of the more traditional inch and a half gauge stripy. Hopefully though the race will evolve and become a permanent fixture on both Boat Clubs' calendars.

A date for this year's event has yet to be set but do keep your ears open if you're about Belfast this June. Go on the Trin!

2004 crew: R.M.H. Northridge (stroke), S.F. King (7), K.T. Devlin (6), P.G. Laird (5), E.O. Hynes (4), R.N.T. Moore (3), E.J. Roffe-Silvester (2), D.P. Cox (bow), S.E.P. Gold (cox), T.J.S. Levy (coach).

DUBC Appeal News

Tim Coote

I would like to start by thanking everyone who generously contributed to last year's appeal campaign. With the increasing pressure placed on funding across all aspects of Trinity life,

Benefiting from Trinity's tax status
Over the next twelve months we intend to change the structure of the appeal process in order to benefit from Trinity's status as a registered charity. This means that if you are a tax payer in Ireland or in the UK, your contribution to the Boat Club will be



Empacher eight purchased with help from the Old Boy fund.

donations to the Boat Club appeal are appreciated now more than ever.

Last year the appeal raised 10,000 for the Club from 51 contributors. These funds helped with the Club's equipment needs as well as supporting DUBC's top crews at Henley Regatta - where the 1st four reached the semi-finals in their event.

The Captain and Club are extremely grateful for all contributions to the appeal and look forward to your continued support in the future.

Future initiatives:



"The Tamplin" (2003 reg.) racing at Henley.

The Best Day of my Life

Peter Henry

The venue for the Irish Sprint Rowing Championships in 2004 was again Carrick-on-Shannon Regatta, on August 1st. This was not the first time Carrick-on-Shannon Regatta had seen a crew from Dublin University: a photo in the Boat Club shows the victorious Junior Four of 1897.

The idea to send a Four to Carrick came in a moment of inebriated inspiration on a day of midsummer boredom. The monotony of daily work followed by a stint in the Pavilion was becoming too much for the Club members remaining in Dublin. A cox who could steer a straight line and not talk too much, and above all be pretty, was all that was required. Lisa Hayden fulfilled this role.

The boat went well in practise. Practising for a 450 metre race was something new. Coach Levy's advice was to settle for a few strokes; the crew which tried to hammer it all the way down the course would lose.

The day itself was beautiful, the atmosphere reminiscent of Henley which already seemed so long ago. In the first heat the crew were drawn against Muckcross RC and Garda Síochána BC. Muckcross were too late for the start to race; a Trinity student in that crew was subjected to mockery. Garda were left as far behind as is possible in such a short race.

The final was against

intended for the Club.

Sponsorship

Last year Enda Cahill skilfully managed to obtain sponsorship from Barclay's Capital. The terms of the sponsorship deal are very favourable to the Boat Club and hopefully this is the start of an extremely successful relationship for the future.

Thomas Dudeney Appeal

After hearing of the tragic death of Thomas Dudeney, son of Terry and Elaine, hosts for twenty years of our crews in Henley, a number of ex-rowers suggested that we raise the funds for a new DUBC VIII to be named after Thomas, initially inviting all those who know or have stayed with the Dudeney's to contribute. An appeal fund has now been set up and it is intended that Elaine, Terry and daughter Laura will formally name the new boat during the 2005 Henley Regatta.

If you would like to contribute to the Thomas Dudeney appeal or would like more details on the annual appeal please contact Tim Coote at 72 Longridge Road London SW5 9SQ, UK, or tim.coote@jpmorgan.com.

Once again thank you for all donations made to the Club throughout 2004.

Waterford BC and Galway RC. Waterford's well drilled four had been second in the Irish Championship and had many wins in the season, including a win over an almost identical Trinity crew in the final of Trinity Regatta. Despite the Bank Holiday atmosphere, this race was one to be taken seriously.

Galway didn't stand a chance. Waterford and Trinity were neck-and-neck down the course. Levy's advice was invaluable; settling for a couple of strokes

ensured enough was left at the end to take the win. Neither crew knew who had won after the finish; the times, by human standards, were identical. "Half a canvas to Trinity" was the umpire's verdict and all retired to "The Oarsman" to decisively end the 2004 season.

Trinity's Novice Four at Carrick-on-Shannon Regatta in 2004 was: V.R. Bennett (stroke), E.P. Garrigan (3), M.D. Barry (2), P.A. Henry (bow), L.A.M. Hayden (cox).



Properly kitted-out IARU Novice Sprint Champions

News from the Tideway

Drift Wood

Various ex-DUBC oarsmen continue to prolong their rowing career on the river Thames. Seen by the flicker of the lantern on his sculling boat is James Lindsay-Fynn as he sets off on pitch-dark nights for a training session of several miles on a windy river Thames outside the London Rowing Club.

Last year he won the senior VIII event at the Irish Championships for Commercial Rowing Club which also had Ciarán Lewis on board, who was DUBC captain in 1993.

At the British Championships James had won gold in the heavy-weight coxless fours and coxless pairs as well as winning the coxless pairs event at the Home Internationals.

Last November he finished 8th in the London Scullers Head, winning the elite lightweight pennant. Taking part in the Great

Britain trials, he was 6th in the single sculls in the long-distance trials.

This season, James, better-known by his LRC friends as Flimsy Limbs, aims to compete in the sculls and coxless pairs events at the Eton/Dorney World Cup regatta on 27 May. He would love to be involved in Irish rowing but said: "Alas, this is not possible because of my commitments at Bank of America in London".

Another lantern-lit sculling boat cutting through the Thames's gusty waters is that of DUBC graduate Mick Kerrigan (1997), still going from strength to strength, also rowing for LRC. And there are three more members of last years Irish rowing team there too.

It has been noted that ex-DUBC Nicholas Heathcote (2001) has joined Thames, where DUBC ex-captain Bruxner (2001) is often seen when out on leave from the army.

In Memoriam

Katherine Ruth Miller (1982-2004)

Eamonn Hynes

Katherine Miller (22) and her sister Jenny (28) were both tragically killed in a traffic accident on December 21st last. Most harrowing though, was that they were making their way home in anticipation of spending Christmas with their parents Liam and Britt at the family home near La Rochelle in the south of France. Word of Kat's death shook to the core of the club where Kat was a dedicated and well-respected cox.

She was a wonderfully skilful cox who could take charge of an eight with deftness and gusto. Kat's talents at the Neptune Head of the River on November 15th really came to the fore - there she coxed the DUBC Intermediate VIII to victory and although the boat didn't expect to win, she brought the crew together creating that cohesiveness that everyone looks for when stepping into a boat. The boat seemed to glide along the Blessington Lakes that morning, and it is for Kat's strength that day and on numerous other occasions for which she will always be remembered.

As well as success on the water, Kat had a love for the arts and was in her final year of Drama and Theatre Studies. She was a hard worker academically and in order to accommodate the forthcoming rowing season, she had almost completed her final year dissertation well ahead of the spring deadline. Kat was renowned for her lavish post-training dinner parties. Just before her journey to France, she had friends from the boat clubs and classmates from drama around for what was a most enjoyable evening of mulled wine, fine food and above all - thrilling conversation.

A remembrance ceremony took place at the Boat House that was attended by Senior Tutor Dr. Claire Laudet, Dr. Trevor West (DUCAC chairman), representatives from the Department of Sport & Recreation as well as members of DUBC, DULBC and LEBC.

Chaplains from Trinity College expressed kind words of condolence and said prayers in commemoration of the life of these two wonderful girls. Requiem Mass was held at St.



Kat coxing at Henley last summer

Photo: Eamonn Hynes

Mary's Pro-Cathedral on New Year's Day. Fr Dermot McCarthy was Principal Celebrant along with Concelebrants Fr Oliver Crilly, Fr Martin Murnaghan and Fr Kevin O'Neill. Readings were by Ms Karen Fitzelle and Church of Ireland Canon Desmond Sinnamon, friends of the Miller family. Kat's Swedish-born mother, Britt said a prayer in her native tongue before handing

over to her husband who spoke of his daughters as being 'our sternest critics and our best friends' and that 'it was impossible to explain the ache, the emptiness in our lives which has followed the loss of our daughters'.

The girls were cremated on December 23rd following a ceremony at the university chapel in Angers. Urns containing their remains were on the altar during

the Requiem Mass. After the Concluding Rite a ray of sunshine broke through the thunder storm clouds and filled the cathedral with beaming rays of light for several moments in what was an emotional Mass for all those present. At this year's Trinity Regatta, the Ladies' Boat Club plan to unveil their new eight, the 'Katherine Miller' and her parents are to present a perpetual trophy to the Regatta Committee.

Thomas William Dudeney (1976-2004)

Enda Cahill

It was with great sadness and shock that past and present members of DUBC learned of Thomas Dudeney's untimely passing just before Henley Royal Regatta last year.

Thomas was well known to

several generations of DUBC oarsmen and friends, from the time that DUBC first stayed with the Dudeney's in New Street in 1977, and subsequently at Sligrove House.

Thomas was educated at Shiplake College, and subsequently at Henley College, where he met his wife Suzie. He

also read computer studies at the University of West of England, Bristol, before leaving to focus on entrepreneurial initiatives after Suzie and he married in 2000.

At his memorial service, a moving tribute was made to Thomas's memory, which included the following quote from Solzhenitsyn: 'Some people are bound to die young. By dying, a person stays young forever in

people's memory. If he burns brightly before he dies, his light shines for all time'.

Between us, we encountered Thomas at various stages of his brief journey through life, and whether we remember him as a child, a teenager, a young man or a budding entrepreneur, we will all have been struck by his huge sense of fun and adventure, and can vouch for the fact that in his

brief lifetime, Thomas did, indeed, burn brightly.

Our thoughts and support remain with his parents Terry and Elaine, his sister Laura, his wife Suzie and children Erica and Cameron at this time and in the years to come.

May Thomas William Dudeney rest in peace.

Lady Elizabeth Boat Club Report

Steven Lowe

Disappointment and frustration sum up the 2003/04 season for LEBC. Throwing away a two length lead in the semi final of Henley Royal Regatta to the eventual winners, having been amongst the favourites to win the event, was soul destroying for everyone involved. The weather conditions were incredibly challenging, and a combination of ill-judged gearing, and some inexperience amongst the crew, conspired to make the race our worst row of the regatta season.

There were some high points however. Second place in the unofficial London Head of the River in front of London RC, Oxford Brookes and University of London (the official race was cancelled due to poor weather conditions) laid down the club's credentials. A medal at Ghent behind a crew of French U23

oarsmen and a strong Leander crew, and beating NUIG convincingly at Cork City Regatta to win the Leander Trophy, exactly 100 years since Trinity College won the inaugural prize, are notable highlights.

The current season is showing plenty of potential, and we will be setting out to right some of last year's wrongs. The ten strong LEBC squad are training with the DUBC senior oarsmen, and the eight and fours are beginning to show some promise. The season's aims are again Henley and senior championship wins, but at this stage it is too early to decide which boat, whether an eight or four, will be prioritised.

Unfortunately the current season could be the last in which LEBC is able to compete, and DUBC could lose what is a great opportunity for the students to train with and race composites with more experienced oarsmen. With no source of funding other

than member subscriptions, LEBC has been able to make only a little headway into the loan repayments due on the new Hudson eight bought in late

2003. We are likely to be forced to sell the boat after the national championships in order to repay the residual debt. The current season could therefore offer the

last opportunity for members of LEBC to win that elusive Henley medal.



LEBC Thames Challenge Cup semi-finalists

Photo: Martin Murphy

Maiden Voyage

Gearóid Ó Conchubhair

If rowing was not a voluntary occupation, it would surely be illegal or at least have to be heavily regulated by central government. I believe that this stock phrase may adequately sum up the “shock and awe” that a novice rower may experience when he first picks up an oar and jumps into a mercurial eight at some ungodly hour in the morning. To simply state that rowing is an elite sport performed by elite sportsmen which is different to any other would be to sell it short. Rowing is an experience!

Once a novice gets over the initial shock of the commitment and physical exertion which rowing requires, the early morning haze on the Liffey lifts and he gets to see the brighter side of flinging a twelve foot oar around. The principle benefit which springs to mind is the sodality and fellowship which can be found in abundance in DUBC. Serious and agonizing training is really just a prelude to the top class social calendar which the Boat Club offers. Legendary events such as the Massacre, Christmas Commons and of course the Trial Eights dinner, not forgetting the smaller less advertised social evenings which spring up throughout the season. A novice can expect a serious dose of stern training and a serious dose of stern socialising - both of which are mandatory.

Every novice's first dose of a rower's lot started thus. Rowing, we were promised, would let us escape the dreary existence of an

served the Club so well in times past. They had served it with pride and distinction - something which we as novices hope to emulate. After being given the requisite tour, a rousing cry to arms/rowing by our fair Captain and having paid our DUBC subs, some absurd amount of money of around a guinea, or some such monetary value as old as the Ark, those of us who could be convinced to stay, stayed.

Our first few weeks of training were wonderfully sedate in comparison to what was to follow. We met our head coach Tim “The Beast” Levy and our assistant coach “Dangerous” David Cummins - two sterling and quite mad fellows! Tim, as we were glad to learn, is as light-hearted as the rest of us off the water but patriarchal on the water. Then we have Dangerous Dave, the recipient of two Senior Colours, who, of his own volition and of no-ones behest decided to fry his wits this season, getting novice eights traversing up and down the Liffey. We as novices owe everything to these two guys: they get up at the crack of dawn and are at the beck and call of every novice whim. Our recent performances at several head races have shown the fruits of our coaches' dedication.

After a short time we were introduced to weekday morning training, quite an experience, as college undergraduates would often be still up at this hour after an evening of entertainment as opposed to waking up at this unforgiving hour. This was of course designed to temper us for our first race, which was held at

Blessington. Men's novices entered two eights and a four, which did quite well. The novice four of which I was bowman was a different kettle of fish however. We were not forewarned just how spirited a four can be. We, the four rowers and our venerable cox had never stepped into, not to mention

rowed a four before, and the same crew have not been put together in a four since then. Happily, we finished without capsizing, crashing or exploding.

After pain comes pleasure, or so the old adage goes, and why not? Our pleasure after the pain of racing came in the form of the

annual Massacre, a legendary party and a tradition at Halloween. Though, if memory serves me, this year's Massacre missed Halloween by a week or two! No-one seemed to mind or notice. We obtained the use of the very plush Renards night-



Newly-born spider finding its feet at Neptune Head

club, a fitting venue. An evening which passed without incident, a dry run for Christmas Commons.

Christmas Commons, a mandatory social event for all members of DUBC. This year we were kindly hosted by the esteemed Captain R.N.T. Moore at his residence, a wonderful evening in the splendid backdrop of Georgian architectural elegance and sweet sherry! It was a terrific experience of champagne, sherry, snuff and cigars, all of which helped the novices to get to know the senior and distinguished oarsmen of the club. Who could forget the scenic tram ride from the Captain's house to the hotel, where we were treated to a sumptuous four course meal in the Earl of Kildare hotel, which in turn was followed by further merriment in pubs and clubs around the city.

The annual New Year's training camp took place in Cappoquin, Co. Waterford. We were very kindly hosted by Cappoquin Rowing Club and the legendary Murray family. All of DUBC were based in Cappoquin town at Flynn's B&B, with the exception of a number of novice boys who were accommodated by the family of Alex, a Trinity novice himself, and a local of the area. Someone jokingly

remarked that it reminded them of “Fawltly Towers”, an uncharitable comment I thought.

The weather was terrible, but we all pressed on regardless. In my eight, our commander in chief was the vivacious Charlotte Ashe; we were in luck to have such a fine cox in our novice eight. Later that night we were treated to a veritable feast at the stately family home of the Villiar-Stewarts, of which one of the novice boys, Alex, is a mem-

ber. Members of DUBC were honoured with a magnificent spread, which included “Murphy's Porter Irish stew”, roasted pumpkin and a wondrous array of desserts, I was very partial to the latter, as my increased girth attests to. The good lady of the house informed me, on inquiry, that obtaining that much pumpkin at that time of year required knowing the right people and having good contacts. I politely nodded in agreement as my culinary expertise lacks a thing or two (only recently have I got the knack of cooking toast). The large banquet of food was complimented by a very fine and home produced cider; we were particularly pleased with its salubrious qualities, namely the high alcohol content.

Our last night in Cappoquin was one of celebration, not because

we were returning to our lovely metropolis, but because the Murrys were hosting us at a social evening at Cappoquin Rowing Club. After much fun, frolics and merriment, everyone retired to their quarters. In the small hours of the morning among the rafters of the attic, something was afoot. We, the attic dwellers, had unwelcome guests. Two seniors got in by stealth and a melee ensued, during which our brave coach, Dave Cummins, lost a much loved eyebrow. Unfortunate, insofar as the same eyebrow had suffered the exact same fate in the same room, at the same hour exactly a year before - it had taken a whole year for the previous eyebrow to grow back. As dawn broke the following morning, the two boyos were comfortably out for the count in an alcohol-aided sleep. All of a sudden, they awoke to find Dangerous Dave and I standing over them. I performed the rugby tackles, and with Dangerous wielding a scissors, we duly scalped the two boys. True story. I had never actually met or talked to those two chaps before, so I am sure that at some future convenient date, I too will be scalped and de-eyebrowed!

For Trinity novices, the future is bright - the future is Black and White. We have a heavy rowing and social calendar ahead of us. The characters of the novice crews are also beginning to stand out; there's Anto, the fittest person I have ever met. There's Dots, who screamed in a bit of a girly fashion after seeing a ghost in a house of great antiquity - the ghost later turned out to be a shower curtain, well I never!

(contd. pg. 7)



The better-equipped slave ships, of course, always carried a spare.



Dangerous Dave at Henley

average Trinity undergraduate. We novices, lesser mortals in comparison to our tour guides (members of the Club's senior eight) were duly impressed on seeing the boathouse for the first time, being brought through the entrance hall, bedecked with pictures of old members who had



BARCLAYS CAPITAL

(contd. from pg. 6)

There are also the two Terminators, Alex and Rory, duly named because they are two rugby beasts who power the first novice boat. I feel I must mention our wonderful trio of novice coxes: Jane, Lucy and Catherine. One chief and eight indians, remember! We've come on a long way since October, no more wobbling up the Liffey, no more

handbrake turns and spinning precariously at the weir - well, all to a lesser degree at any rate. We spent the first month with our bows or sterns hanging off the weir while spinning. The DU Ladies' Boat Club's novices achieved something which we failed to do, and that was to go over the weir in an eight! Luckily, save for a few bruised egos, no one was hurt.

I believe that there is no other sport to compare, no coxes to compare, no crews to compare, no coaches to compare, no anything else to compare with what we have at the Trinity College Boat House. We are privileged to service a proud one hundred and fifty year tradition. So let us row hard, row with pride, row for the Trin, row to win!

Temple Challenge Cup

Peter Henry

For the first time in five years, two Trinity eights were entered for the Temple Challenge Cup. With more than twenty men participating in senior training, there were more than enough to field a quality second eight. And with the return in June of the Club's Sims eight, "The Tamplin", the second eight had a craft as good as the first crew's Empacher.

The crew's only race together prior to traveling to England was Athlone Regatta. Proving that the novice category was beneath them, NUI Galway were sent down in the heat, with University College and Neptune left behind in the final.

Required to qualify for Henley, "Trinity College, Dublin 'B', Ireland" took to the water on the Friday evening prior to the competition. Forty-one crews were entered, with fourteen to qualify. Dutifully qualifying, the Trinity crew was drawn against Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, for the following Wednesday morning.

In 2004, Lady Margaret Hall were first division in Torpids and climbing the second division in Summer Eights. They were winners at Oriel Regatta, and the only Oxbridge college to qualify for the Temple Challenge Cup. Even Magdalen, Head at Summer Eights, failed to qualify. The Cambridge lightweight crew also failed to qualify.

Trinity approached the race with confidence but without arrogance; Lady Margaret Hall had not come for a paddle. A stone heavier than Trinity on average, they were bound to be strong.

The morning of the race was windy but sunny. The 'A' crew had just been narrowly defeated by an Oxford Brookes crew. Pressure was on the 'B' crew to keep the Trinity flag flying in the Temple Challenge Cup.

Despite a controlled start, the strong LMH crew had almost a length on the Trinity boat at the barrier. Sure that the Oxford boat would tire, Trinity upped their rate of striking and by Fawley were three-quarters of a length ahead. LMH did not let the gap widen, and when a strong gust of wind upset Trinity's rhythm and balance, the lead began to change hands again. The rhythm was not regained in the Trinity boat; dis-

appointingly, LMH took the win. The verdict was one and three-quarter lengths.

The loss was disappointing. However, that the Club is capable of molding so many men from complete novices into oars-



Trinity College Dublin 'A' men able to qualify for such an event is a good sign for the future. None of the second eight at Henley in 2004 had touched an oar before coming to Trinity, and for some it was their first year rowing.

Stewards' Enclosure.

The crew owes everything to the Captain and coaches. Captain Northridge was hugely supportive of rowing at all levels in the Club, with his eye on the future. The coaches - Macken, Dunlop



Photo: Peter Henry and Levy - were behind the crew all the way.

Thanks must be given to Dr. C.J.D. George who kindly accommodated two of the crew the week before Henley; to J.C. Pearson who satisfied thirst at the



Trinity College Dublin 'B'

As Brian Roberts said in 1985, "we should be able to produce the constant stream of people required to stay on top of our rowing, rather than relying on the occasional surges of good fortune which too often can be few and far between". Pat Braidwood's philosophy in 1966 was the same: "The system must be developed so that ex-maidens will regularly reach the senior eight by being good enough for it".

With the Irish Championships approaching, the crew continued to train hard in the mornings. The afternoons were spent viewing the racing, cheering on the Club's first four in particular, from the

Photo: Peter Henry Fawley bar; and to the old members of Mortlake Anglian & Alpha Rowing Club who were extremely generous at the Leander Bar.

Trinity College Dublin 'B': U.M. Voigt (bow), M.D. Barry (2), P.A. Henry (3), S.J. Colwell (4), R.W. Horner (5), R.J. Quinn (6), E.P. Garrigan (7), C.J. McCaughley (stroke), K.R. Miller (cox).

Trinity College Dublin 'A': D.B. Cummins (Bow), E.J. Roffe-Silvester (2), E.O. Hynes (3), J.R.D. Batye (4), J.P. Corcoran (5), S.P. Murphy (6), S.E. Heary (7), V.R. Bennett (stroke), J.C. Maitland (cox).

Out & About

This year's traditional Saturday afternoon Henley Barrell was a wonderful success, indeed a big improvement from the luke warm fizzy Guinness that has been served by the House & Grounds team as of late. Things almost came a cropper when it was discovered that the gas canister was unsuitable but luckily the head barman from Leander Club sorted things out by providing us with suitable gas fitting free of charge.



John Bolton at TR04

Officers of the Club

President:

R.H. van Mesdag

Captain:

R.N.T. Moore

Vice-Captain:

S.E.P. Gold

Hon. Secretary:

E.J. Roffe-Silvester

Hon. Treasurer:

J.C. Maitland

House and Grounds Secretaries:

J.F.J. Calnan

N.T. Cullinane

Records Secretary:

P.G. Laird

College Secretary Michael Gleeson was in attendance at last year's Henley Royal Regatta. There he soaked up some atmosphere and watched Friday afternoon's racing from the umpire's launch. It was a wonderful opportunity for those competing to chat with Michael and let him in on all the energy and enthusiasm that goes on down at Islandbridge. Having such a prominent member of College over for the day gave a tremendous boost to the Club and hopefully this tradition will continue at Henley Royal 2005.



Gerry and Sarah-Jane Macken

The Boyz

Daire-Seán Gibbons

*The prouder they are
The taller they stand,
These boys are the Trin
Like brothers they band.*

*Their faces are dark
Their knuckles are white,
In the backs and the shoulders
The tensions all bite.*

*The bitterest crews
Around them all float,
Bitching and swearing
Getting their goat.*

*But our boys know themselves,
Their weir and their river.
So the other crews shrink
As their blades start to quiver.*

*Over and under,
Stone steel and grass.
They gaze to their Club
As though it's their last.*

*Soothing and firm
The Coxswain's refrain.
Like stallions all frothing
She tries to restrain.*

*Take them down gently
and let them relax.
The training is over
It's all in the past.*

Circle and wait...

*Strong at the finish
Sharp a the catch.
Over the line
and off like a flash.*

*Over and over
The pain digging in.
Away with the hands
All for the win.*

*Panting and pushing
Gripped to the oar.
The coach at the bank
"Drive!" is the roar.*

*A smash with the rival
But no one stops there.
All for the finish
And... Easy there...*

*Exhausted and emptied
Thumping with pulse.
They return to their club,
Vic-tor-i-ous.*

Photo: Peter Henry

Out & About

Stuart King (Capt. 2003) represented Ireland at the U23 world championships in Poznan, Poland. There he raced the lightweight men's pair with UCD's Dermot O'Sullivan. They came fifth in their heat behind Turkey, Germany, Greece and Italy.

Piers White (2002) has just returned from a year long stint in Austrailia with **Nick Wolfe**. 'Wolfe man' now lives directly opposite the Boat House and has been known for curious early morning arrivals via the Liffey!



At the Kildare Street and University Club were: (back row) James O'Reilly, Michael Gleeson, Conor Fennessey, Jim Holden, Tim Coote. (middle row) Aillil O'Reilly, Mark Pollock (Guest Speaker), John Bolton, Bill Jaques, Raymond Blake. (front row) Rob van Mesdag, Mary-Kate Kenyon



Starter with absolute authority: Micheal Johnston, TR04



Richard Northridge presenting outgoing Long Term Committee Chairman Mike Ryder with a vase at the AGM last October

Photo: Rob van Mesdag

Tom Bruxner (Capt. 2001) has been stationed in Sandhurst Military Acadamey since graduating in 2002. Famous for his trademark beige slacks, uniironed shirts complete with sockless boating shoes, Tom hasn't changed much at all really (except of course for some light balding!) and on a recent trip to Dublin he was in flying form - he even managed to squeeze in some weekend training with the Senior Squad.

In other army-related news **Ronan O'Laioire** (2003) has been training at the French Officer's School at Saint-Cyr, Brittany. Ronan is now qualified to use a French assault rifle and anti-tank weapons which he thinks will be useful in his later career.

Richard Northridge has just left for a six month stint in Australia. There he will learn the ins and outs of being an economist whilst soaking up some rays. Don't adopt too many comfortable habits Noddy, as we don't want softies in the boat! Nobody has ever failed the ERASMUS exchange programme, so he'll surely have lots of studying to keep up to date on!

Best wishes to **Martin Murphy** (1994) on his marriage to Beatrice. **Kate O'Reilly**, former DUBC cox, got married to Johnny Kenyon. Congratulations also to **David Leahy** (1997) on his marriage to Margaret Gray, niece of Terry Gray (1971). David and Margaret now live in Luxembourg.

Keep up to date with the latest happenings at

www.dubc.ie



Jim Murray, Tom Fennessey, Robin and Hazel Tamplin at Trinity Regatta

Photo: DUBC News

Mark Pollock is just back from New Zealand where he took part in a gruelling multisport trek. Competitors traversed New Zealand's South Island by cycling 140km, running 36km (including a 33km mountain stage) and kayaking 67km of the Waimakariri River through the Waimakariri Gorge. Mark's next adventure will be at the Devizes to Westminster International kayak race on the river Thames.

DUBC and LEBC raced two eights at this London Head of the River Race. Last year the event was called off at the last minute due to inclement weather. DUBC finished 72nd overall with Lizzie coming in a respectable 26th. This result bodes well for a Thames Cup challenge this summer. Thanks to **Dr. CJD George** who kindly hosted members of the crew and was a great source of banter.



Mike Doyle and his three beautiful daughters at the Trinity Regatta Tea

Photo: DUBC News



Boat Club Ties

Dates for your diary

April 9th: Neptune Regatta
April 10th: Commercial Regatta
April 15th: University Championships
April 16th: Queen's Regatta
April 23rd: The 102nd annual Trinity Regatta
May 7th to May 8th: Sport Gent Regatta, Belgium
May 21st: Cork City Regatta
June 4th: Metropolitan Regatta
June 5th: Carlow Regatta
June 18th: Athlone Regatta
June 29th to July 3rd: Henley Royal Regatta
July 15th to July 16th: IARU Irish Championships
July 31st: Carrick-on-Shannon Regatta

The Boat Club website continues to evolve and develop. Features include a guestbook, extensive photograph archive, Current Members database, site statistics and an online entry system for the Trinity Regatta. Most importantly though is the new online Old Boys & Friends database. At present there are 750 of us in 30 countries worldwide. With a little work, we can hopfully get to the 1000 mark within two years. If you know of anybody that would

like to recieve regular correspondence from the Club, please logon to the website or write to the Captain who will gladly add new friends to the list. The original design of Peter Henry continues with technical updates from Eamonn Hynes.

Keep up to date with the latest happenings at

www.dubc.ie



Silk DUBC, LEBC, DUCAC, Knights and Pinks ties are now for sale and are very reasonably priced at just €35. No Boat Club function is complete without one! Please send cheques/postal orders to DUBC, 23 Trinity College, Dublin 2.