

DUBC NEWS



The first stroke of this year's Gannon Cup race. Photo: Martin McKenna/Trinity News

Powerful Trinity crew retains Gannon Cup

Eoghan Kerlin

Saturday 10 March 2007 saw the Boat Club take to the waters of the River Liffey for what would be their most important outing of the year to date, the annual Gannon Cup. The race was sure to be a tantalising encounter and one Trinity had no intention of losing.

The main event of the day took place at 3.15. The roads were blocked off and the banks of the Liffey were lined with people. This was what they had all been waiting for. The Trinity crew were firm favourites for the race and were trying to make it three victories on the trot after successes at both Lagan and Erne Heads. New boy Eoghan Kerlin occupied the stroke seat having impressed in his two previous races. One change had been made to the successful Lagan

and Erne Head crews with the more experienced Robert Swift coming in to replace the sheer power and raw aggression of second-year novice, Henry Tindal, who has also impressed thus far this season.

The crews were called to the starting line. All on the bank went quiet waiting for the call: "Attention. Go!" The crews were off and Trinity were shocked to find UCD in the lead after only 20 strokes. It was then that they realised that this was not going to be the walk-over that they, and many others, had expected. 500 metres in and the race was neck and neck. Each crew battled hard stroke for stroke to gain some sort of an advantage. All oarsmen were urged on by the masses of people cheering them on from the bank. Neither crew looking to disappoint. Then it happened. Right on half way. The Trinity

crew put in an almighty push and edged out in front. UCD were starting to tire and the Trinity crew could sense it. After the almighty push, Trinity took the lead. Only half a boat length separated both crafts. This was it. Trinity thought they were going to power through and cruise home to victory but UCD had a lot of fight still left in them and they were certainly not going to roll over and give up.

They responded to the Trinity push and their counter attack began. UCD started to edge back, no one knowing how the race was going to turn out at this stage. The crowd was mesmerised and enthralled by the spectacle unfolding in front of their eyes. With little over 500 metres to go and Trinity still half a length to the good, Joseph Calnan gave the call to take it home. A call that was echoed to

the rest of the crew by Trinity coxswain, Gabriel Magee. One final push saw the "powerhouses" in the engine room, Rory Horner and Edward Roffe-Silvester, lay down some massive strokes which resulted in Trinity taking a commanding lead. This was the end. Finally UCD had broken. They had nothing left and were unable to respond. David Cummins, sitting in the bow seat, was first over the finish line, winning his third Gannon Cup in four attempts. Trinity cruised home with a comfortable eight-second lead. All the hard work and training had paid off and Trinity were to have their day of glory, crowned victors of the 2007 Gannon Cup.

The regatta season is now in full swing, with the Trinity eight's goal being the Temple Challenge Cup at Henley Royal Regatta in July.



Captain's report 2006

We started the 05/06 year with a slightly reduced membership on the previous year. David Cummins's novice squad from the previous year formed the backbone of the senior/intermediate squad, under the direction of Mark Pattison and Tim Levy, and there was a new novice group under the direction of Nick Mahony and John Mohan.

The Dublin Sculling Ladder's opening time-trial took place on the day we reconvened at Islandbridge. Six of us took part, placing between 45th (vice-captain Joseph Calnan in a time of 8.07.5, despite his weight at this stage), and 122nd (the part-time kit secretary in a time of 17.32).

The intention to focus on small boats was there, but the number of boats available limited our participation in Neptune Head to five scullers. Entered in the Intermediate category they placed between 18th and 26th, with competition mainly an internal battle, with newcomer Rob Swift coming first out of the group. The entry at this first test of the season was large with the five scullers, an intermediate coxed four, intermediate coxless four, and senior, intermediate and novice eights.

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**Dublin University Boat Club
18.0.01 Trinity College
Dublin 2**

**dubc@tcd.ie
www.boat.tcdlife.ie**

May 2007



Trinity racing at Henley last year. The crew lost out to Cornell University. The crew was (from bow) David Cummins, Robert Swift, Rory Horner, Rory Browne, David Keane, Edward Roffe-Silvester, Joseph Calnan, Sean Osborne (stroke) and Jonathan Maitland (cox). Photo: Tim Coote

Cornell put a stop to Henley attempt

Robert Swift

The Temple Challenge Cup for University eights is regarded as the most sought-after University level trophy in the world of rowing, and the level of competition in the 2006 event was a testament to this. Two of the fastest crews from the US (where, according to unwritten rule, crews must earn the right to even compete at Henley) and two from Holland were the pick of the international competition. The Trinity party of eight oarsmen, a coxswain, spare man and two coaches were accompanied (in country of origin, but little else) by a UCD Dublin eight that had struggled for form all season.

The Trinity crew's status as men was confirmed when they were thankfully not asked to go through the rigour of qualifying – a testament to a crew that had worked hard all season to retain its unbeaten run.

The confidence of the DUBC crew was boosted when it learned that it had been seeded, and would not have to race any other selected crew until at least the third day of racing.

Training that day took place with the renewed vigour of a crew which, since being touted as 'inexperienced' in the run-up to the Colours race, had now received confirmation that it was not out of its depth.

The draw had been kind to the DUBC men and the crew were able to approach the first race, against The University of York, with some confidence. Having rehearsed the race mentally several times, and with some final words of wisdom from the coaches, the boat took to the water smoothly, and the opposition were dispatched with relative ease. A verdict of two lengths was recorded, and the crew members retired for the day in the knowledge that although things would get tougher, they had yet to perform to their potential.

Thursday's race followed a similar pattern, and thanks to excellent race plan execution, the University of Birmingham proved no match for the ever-improving Trinity boat.

With Friday came a real challenge; an eight from Cornell University of the United States. National Champions in their own category, this was an outfit

who had been together for two years and who were no strangers to crossing the line first. Neither crew had been really challenged up to this point, but similarly neither crew was going to lie down in this encounter.

By the time the word 'go!' had issued from the umpires lips, both crews had suffered enough nerves and, more importantly, built up enough adrenalin to ensure that the race would get off to a flying start. So it proved, and as each crew settled into its rhythm, the Trinity crew started to forge an early lead. With approximately one third of the race completed, Trinity's new yellow racing eight had a lead of a canvas, and it was not one they would relinquish easily.

As the pain really started to settle in, Cornell found something extra and their experience started to tell as they started to draw Trinity in, such that with 2/3 of the race completed Cornell had increased their lead to almost one full boat length. As the boats approached the crowded grandstands that herald the last section of the race, Trinity began to attack. The noise started to ascend in volume as did the effort of the two

Musings of our new President

Robin Tamplin

I little thought as I endeavoured to perfect my bellnote in the half sinking bath tub back in 1947 that I would one day be President of this great club. In the previous year, on a visit from Portora, I had witnessed the strength of rowing at DUBC at the time as the oarsmen of the day came to the end of a run in which they had dominated Irish rowing for six wonderful years. My puny endeavours in the bath tub were nothing compared to what I had witnessed then as the senior eight of the day paddled down the river with the banks reverberating to the power of their every stroke. Those impressions have not left me to this day.

I am very conscious of the honour of being elected President. I probably bored everyone to distraction the evening after I had been elected when the faithful gathered in the boat house to celebrate the intermediate eight's Championship win. What an occasion for my first as President. I indulged myself looking back to some of the earlier days of the club and to my own time, when Christy Byrne, boatman extraordinaire, and Mrs Franks, that wonderful woman and chap-one without whom no party could be held lest we enter into another occasion of sin, were part of the fabric of the place. How well I remember them, and so many others who over the years have given and continue to give service away beyond the call of duty. Therein lies so much of our strength.

What can I say about our past President? Rob has been an indefatigable and inspiring President. Over the sixteen years that he has presided he has transformed the role. Two things that stand out during his

term in office are the introduction of the Long Term Committee to provide continuity of administration, and his work with me in drawing up a Constitution for the club. But these are just two specific examples to be added to his much wider contribution through his ongoing presence and support in every conceivable situation. He has been a wonderful ambassador for the club, and I am very conscious of the hard act I have to follow. As I embark I wish you every possible good wish Rob in your retirement.

My involvement with DUBC since my arrival in Trinity in 1947 has given me pleasure beyond reckoning. I have been so lucky. Firstly to have had such a bunch of fearless contemporaries with whom to share our rowing exploits, and somehow avoid being imprisoned as we celebrated trophies beyond our wildest dreams. And who could have imagined the talent I found myself coaching in 1977 who were capable of winning the unattainable, since 1875, Ladies' Plate.

But the past is the past. The present is with us. There is great work going on in the club with a lot more to be done. Joining a large squad of Novice and Intermediate oarsmen over the new year's week-end down at Cappoquin I was impressed with the dedication, and not a little skill, as the group worked away under the watchful eye of their coaches on that lovely river. And that is but a snapshot of so much else going on on the rowing front.

I get impatient at times that the clubhouse extension has not as yet been completed but I am aware of the good work that is going on to bring that about. Its completion is a consummation devoutly to be wished and I look forward to the day when we will see it achieved.

I look forward to being at Henley this year and catching up with many of you there on that sacred ground. Till then look after yourselves, and keep the flag flying.

– Robin.

crews, and when Trinity started to pull back on the American boat the support increased further.

The cacophony generated in Trinity's favour served to propel the boat towards a shuddering culmination. Sadly 2006 was not to be Trinity's year at Henley, and they were beaten by

the eventual losing finalists, a crew that exuded experience and exemplified good rhythm and controlled aggression. The verdict, recorded at half a length, was testament to the calibre of the race. The greatest respect is paid between crews locked in such a battle, and this was no exception. Good row, Cornell.

The long-term view of things

John Aiken

Rowing

The Club's long-term committee has undertaken to provide resources to improve the Club's fleet of boats and land-based rowing ergometers. This year saw the Club's first 'big boat' championship win in eleven years. It is widely accepted that success in 'big boats' is best pursued through training in 'little boats'. To this end, it is the intention of the long-term committee to develop a fleet of sculls, double sculls and pairs so that training and technique can be better developed during the long winter period from October until March. This will not only enhance the Club's potential in eights and fours during the regatta season but also offer opportunities to compete successfully in sculling and small-boats.

Our training programme not only includes the addition of a sculling fleet but also takes into account advances in the medical sciences. Sports medical resources are being provided by Trinity's Human Performance Laboratory under Dr Nick Mahony, captain in 1986. The long-term development of the athlete through training, monitoring, testing, and nutrition is equally important as that of the equipment.

All the above-mentioned should in time lead to a larger club and a broader base of rowers from which to select winning combinations. This will necessitate the provision of more coaches to support the athletes in the achievement of their objectives. This year, there are three squads. With a minimum of two coaches per group, at least six coaches for the current year are required and in years to come. These coaches will be encouraged and given practical support to undertake relevant coaching courses, (whether IARU, ARA or similar). I wish to take this opportunity to thank Mark Pattison, Tim Levy, John Mohan and Nick Mahony for accepting responsibility for coaching last season. It is important the coaching team increases both in number and in expertise obtained by qualification and experience.

Boathouse

The extreme frustration among old members and subscribers over the delay in completion of the TyROWbea building project agreed with the College authori-



This year's Gannon Cup winners relaxing underneath the campanile. Back row: Eoghan Kerlin, Rory Horner, Gavin Doherty, Eoin MacDomhnaill. Front row: Edward Roffe-Silvester, Joseph Calnan, Gabriel Magee, David Cummins, Robert Swift. Photo: Martin McKenna/Trinity News

ties has been uppermost in our minds. The restructuring of the DUBC side of this Islandbridge Development Committee is now complete. Following the retirement of Michael Ryder due to pressure of work commitments, I wish to extend best wishes to Desmond Hill as Chairman. He will be ably assisted by Simon Newman, whose wealth of expertise and experience will be most welcome.

A meeting with the College Bursar Professor Clive Williams, and the recently appointed Director of Buildings Mr Paul Mangan, held in the newly constructed Garda Síochána Boat Club, allowed our representatives to convey their strong views to College on the management, costs, finish and continuing snags of the first phase of the project. This sub-committee will be writing to subscribers concerning the present state of the development and hopes to provide periodic updates as it seeks to see the project through to successful completion. Although no one should be under any illusion that this objective will be easily attained, the message I proclaim

here is a positive one. We are determined to see facilities at Islandbridge completed in accordance with the promises made to our contributors.

Administration

On the administrative side, I offer my thanks, once again, to Senior Treasurer Matt Brennan for overseeing the Club's finances and to Micheál O'Connell for his continuing advice on any legal matters that arise. The Club is fortunate to have access to such expert advice.

The long-term committee continues to maintain close relationships with key offices in College. The round-table meetings each term with College authorities provide an open highway of communication between the Club, DUCAC, Department of Sport, Buildings Office and Junior Dean.

Events

Rory Browne, Claire Fennessey and John Bolton are to be congratulated, along with all the members of the Regatta Committee, for their splendid efforts once again in staging another excellent Trinity Regatta.

The Lomac Tiles University Boat Race with Queen's University, Belfast took place for the third time, and is now becoming not only an established and important event in the rowing calendar, but also an excellent opportunity to demonstrate all the positive things the Club has to offer College. This year's event was graced by the presence of the Lord Mayor of Belfast, the Vice-Chancellor of Queen's Professor Peter Gregson and finally the Secretary to the Board of College, and honorary member of LEBEC Michael Gleeson. Michael also made an appearance in the launch at Henley to witness Trinity's great effort against Temple Cup finalists Cornell.

Finance

I record my grateful thanks once more to Tim Coote for his unstinting efforts with the Appeal. His enthusiasm and determination are universally acknowledged, and the results of his efforts are self-evident. For example, he shrewdly channelled the funds raised in the Dudeney Appeal through the Trinity Foundation in order to

obtain substantial tax rebates. This strategy will be used from now on with contributions to the annual Appeal. We are much in his debt for all the work he puts into fundraising. It makes a major contribution to all the achievements recorded in this report for we rely increasingly on the financial support of past members and friends of the Club to secure continuing success. I am pleased to report that the family of DUBC's supporters continues to grow. Thank you again to one and all.

Acknowledgements

I pay tribute in glowing terms to my predecessor as Chairman of the long-term committee. Mike Ryder provided wisdom and a steady hand on the tiller during some turbulent years. He recently was most active on the boat-house development campaign, and over the past eight years chaired the Gannon Cup committee. He is fully deserving of his retirement and our gratitude. I also thank the remaining members of the Committee and especially the Captain, Edward Roffe-Silvester, for his excellent stewardship of a fine year. *(continued on next page)*

The long-term view of things

(continued from last page)

Congratulations to him and the members of the Club on the successes of last season. Winning the Intermediate Championship of Ireland in such style from an accomplished Belfast Rowing Club eight was the jewel in the crown of a year full of achievement both on and off the water.

Tim Levy, our first professional coach, has now decided to move back to England. He leaves us a legacy of formidable focus, most especially in terms of fitness training. We thank him for all his diligent efforts on our behalf, which led to some notable successes with both DUBC and LEBC. Always helpful and encouraging, we hope he will look back on his years at Islandbridge with fond memories. We all join in wishing him every success on his return to the UK.

In conclusion, and on everyone's behalf, I offer praise and thanks to our own 'flying Dutchman', the redoubtable Rob van Mesdag. When Rob asked me to succeed Michael Ryder some time ago, it was not a difficult decision. Working with Rob has been "an experience and an absolute delight!" For everything he did in his role as President, the Club and College owe him more than either can ever repay. His boundless enthusiasm, energy and support for the Club have been without precedent in living memory.

Rob, we were all delighted that you joined us for the Championships at Iniscarra, Co Cork, in July. The photograph of you and the victorious crew will always bring a smile. You will be happy to make way for Robin Tamplin in the knowledge that the Club has found yet another highly-respected and much-cherished rowing legend – happy that College is beginning once more to value the Boat Club, its Regatta and its worthy achievements, due in no small part to your exceptional efforts over the years.



The senior eight couldn't catch two composites made up of Islandbridge's finest rowers at Dublin Head earlier this year, and were forced to settle for third. From bow: David Cummins, Edward Roffe-Silvester, Eoin MacDomhnaill, Eoghan Kerlin, Rory Horner, Seán Osborne, Joseph Calnan, Robert Swift and Gabriel Magee (cox). Photo: Martin McKenna/Trinity News

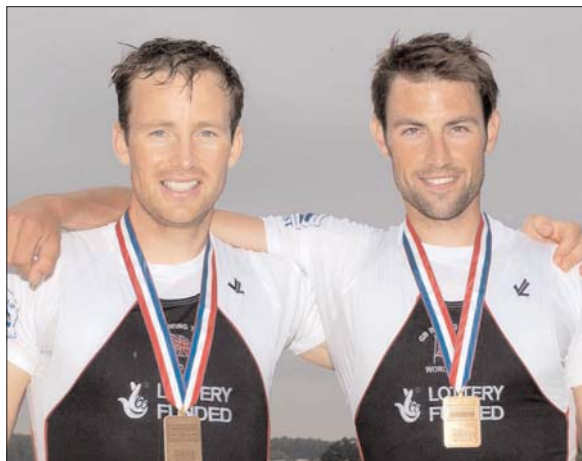
Former DUBC captain Lindsay-Fynn on the road to Beijing

Rob van Mesdag

James Lindsay-Fynn, captain in 1998, has done DUBC proud in continuing with his rowing since leaving Trinity. First he won a bronze medal in the light-weight quad at the World Championships in 1999, then the senior eight at the Irish Championships in 2004. Then in 2005 at Henley he won the Double Sculls with his partner Mark Hunter. Since then he has competed at the 2005 and 2006 World Championships, gaining a seventh and eighth place.

In 2006 he also won a bronze medal at the Poznan World Cup and at the Eton World Championships. James and Mark missed out on the final by two-hundredths of a second from the Polish double (the Olympic champions) in a semi-final he will not soon forget.

Today James has reached a crucial moment in his rowing career – to go or not to go. Knowing the man, his answer is



James (left) and his doubles partner Mark Hunter after winning bronze at Poznan.

obvious. James Lindsay-Fynn is determined to go – to Beijing of course. Not as a tourist, but to fight for a medal in the light-weight four or double.

Members of the DUBC senior crew first had wind of this when they met James at their winter training camp in Seville, Spain, in January of this year.

He was part of the British team which frequently trains there. Is one able, the Dublin boys thought, observing Lindsay-Fynn, to combine the quest for the Olympics with the pursuance of one's career in a large bank in the City of London?

They must have known the answer, for soon after Seville

Lindsay-Fynn said goodbye to Bank of America, where he has been part of the credit derivative team trading with London-based hedge funds for the past five years. Commenting on his decision he explained: "Here I am, 31. What is more important at my age? To advise hedge funds? To buy or sell each day, take five- or ten-year risks? Or to try to reach the highest rung on any athlete's ladder, which is, of course, the Olympic Games?"

From now on James will have the advantage of being able to concentrate entirely on achieving his greatest wish, but the task is an arduous one. Here are his crucial dates: June 3: the World Cup in Linz. June 24: the World Cup in Amsterdam. July 8: the World Cup in Lucerne. August 26 – September 2: the World Championships and Olympic qualification in Munich. James and his partner or crew need to be among the top eleven contestants.

After that, who knows? We wish him the best of luck.

Intermediate championship the jewel in the crown for Admiral

Edward Roffe-Silvester
Captain 2005–2006

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The entry was not a true reflection of the size of the active membership because several big names such as Alex Grubb and Niall Cullinane had to be called out of retirement to make up numbers for the intermediate eight. The members of the first senior eight to be put on the water were all eligible for intermediate, but this was a policy that we would pursue through the year, of racing above our status whenever possible. Overall we came third behind St Michael's and Neptune "A" in a time of 11.59, which had made us the fastest in the morning's head. The intermediate eight came fourth in their category in a time of 12.43 behind Commercial, UCD and Neptune.

All the winter training set us up well for the Gannon Cup, sponsored for the last of three years by The Economist, and for the last time very ably run by Mike Ryder assisted by John Walsh. It took place on the 18 March as part of the St Patrick's Festival. The Novice "B" crew the previous evening got the ball rolling by beating their counterparts by three lengths on the upper Liffey. Unfortunately after a disappointing row, involving some equipment failure the Novice "A" crew failed to take home the prize. The first eight took home the Gannon Cup, despite some scrappy rowing.

The Head of the River race was preceded by a few days' training on the Tideway overseen by Chris George. The crew and coach, and particularly our cox, learnt much in those few days. We started 76th and finished 73rd in what was a slightly disappointing performance. Our time was 18.55.35, compared to the winners Leander's 17.28.50, so there was still plenty of scope for improvement.

On our return we were well into the regatta season. A large entry in Neptune regatta included many small boats, in which we had been practising our skills in the preceding months. The senior eight lost to Commercial off the start in their heat, but the

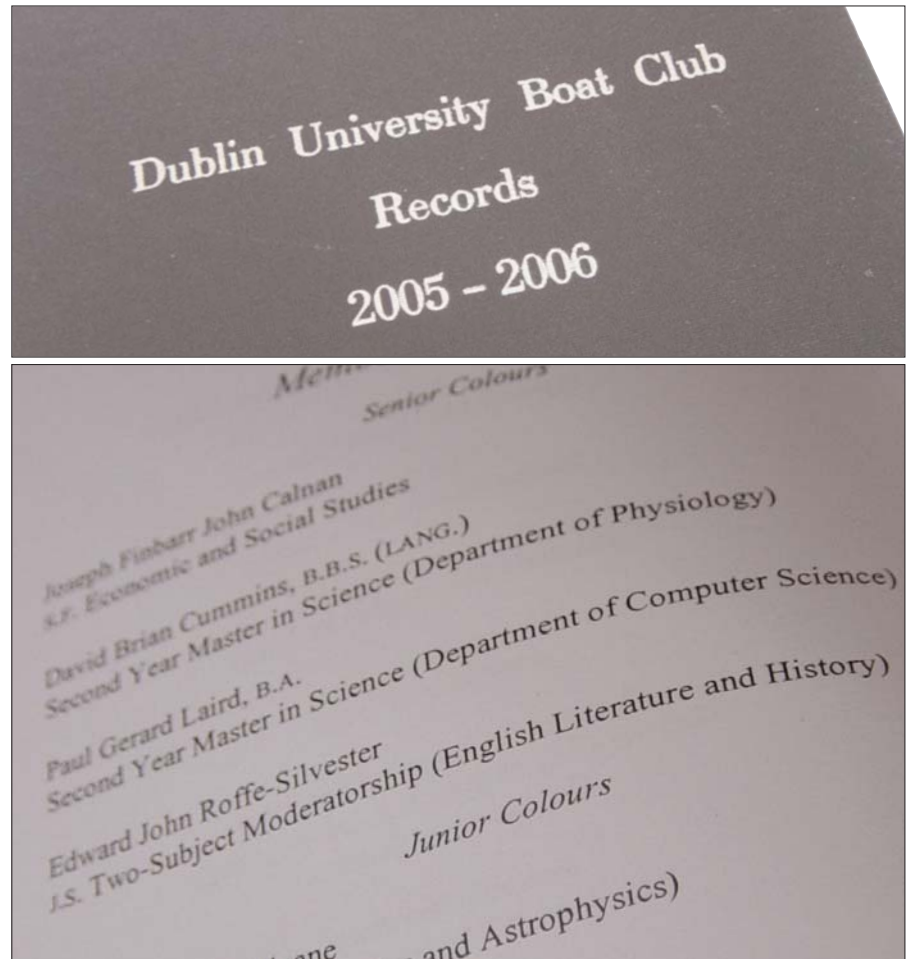
intermediate eight won. This was practically the same eight, but with Flaherty in the bows instead of Cummins. Racing as intermediates for the first time (indeed, we would be unbeaten in that category), we beat Belfast RC and then UCD. The novice "A" crew won a race by beating UCDBC "B" in their heat, only to be beaten by Neptune in the next round. Magee and Flaherty in the novice singles also won races.

The following day at Commercial Regatta, the Novice eight again won a race beating St Michael's but again progressed no further. The Senior pairs also failed to progress. The intermediate four won the event.

At the University Championships, this year in Limerick instead of Castlewellan, the intermediate/senior eight started moving well, now in its Henley order. In the senior final, after a long wait before the heat was cancelled, we came second to NUI Galway, having won the intermediate eight ahead of Galway, Limerick and UCD. The novice eight came a disappointing second in their heat, and so we failed to win the Wylie. The next day after some small boats racing – with a senior pair of Calnan and Osborne finishing second in the final, and feeling slightly fatigued, it took a little persuasion from Mark to get the eight to the start line. But the result was a brilliant race, better than the races of the previous day, in which we led the Shannon/UL/Cork/Castleconnell composite for half way down the course, and eventually finished second.

The Trinity Regatta committee to whom we are all indebted organised a wonderful regatta last year, with the luncheon reinstated. Unfortunately, as so often occurs, poor weather and a poor entry limited its success. The senior eight did not manage to beat Neptune, but racing as intermediates managed to win some medals. The novices lost to UCC in the final.

Top-quality racing in Ghent over a 2000m course was a very good experience for all who travelled, and more than made up for the slight inadequacy of the accommodation, and the difficulty in navigating the town. We improved our racing from



Another volume of Club records has been published, containing the crews and results for every race entered during the 05/06 season. Copies are available from the Records Secretary.

the first day when we came third in our heat with a time of 6.17.80, by chasing down a Queen's composite in the last 500, to the second day when we rowed at a high intensity from the start, finishing fourth in a fast heat, behind Henley, City of Oxford and Ghent, with a time of 6.22, just slower than Nereus's time, which nearly saw us qualify as fastest losers. In the under-23 eight the German national squad proved too strong, but we enjoyed racing them. A few weeks later at Dublin Metro, the Proud Challenge Cup for intermediate eights was won, but only just, after several weeks of disruption caused by exams, which is a feature of rowing that we need to learn to better deal with. St Michael's were close on our tails all the way to the line, and it was with great relief that we eventu-

ally crossed it.

At Henley, and in the preceding weeks of training in Blessington, the Senior 8 had been drilled back to form, and by Wednesday knew the course and was as prepared as we could have hoped to be. We were all incredibly grateful to the Calnans and the Swifts who made our stay over for an extended period possible and made it so comfortable for us. We were put out of the competition by a strong Cornell crew, as Swift outlines elsewhere in these pages.

The momentum was sustained all the way through to mid July and the Irish Champs. Our main aim of the year had been the intermediate championship. It was a straight final and once again we made it a close one for the cameras. Having had our noses in front all

the way, there was very little in it as we crossed the line in 6.26 ahead of Belfast RC in 6.27, who had been semi-finalists in the Thames Cup at Henley.

Overall it was a very successful season and I would like to congratulate all the oarsmen who shared in the success, and to thank our coaches Tim Levy, Mark Pattison, John Mohan and Nick Mahony for giving so much of their time, and for coaching us so well. My committee also deserve my thanks for their work and support, as do John Aiken and his long-term committee for their advice, and Tim Coote for all his help. Most especially, I would like to thank Rob on behalf of last year's Club for the enthusiasm and support that he gave to us as he gave to those who preceded us, and for enhancing so many events with his presence.

Second eight on a mission to win pot

Michael Daly

Roy Smith once wrote that discipline is the refining fire in which talent becomes ability. However, he happened to omit the fact that any fire takes time to kindle. One is reminded of this when considering that the entire tally of novice wins last year consisted of a single and long overdue victory by the first four in Athlone which, if anything, demonstrated the potential for greater success in the year to come.

Last year's novice crew has come a long way in the past six months, both in terms of physical development in the gym and cultivation of a finer under-

standing of technique on the water. The meticulous physiological testing in the university's exercise laboratory under the effective, if demanding, tutelage of Nick Mahony, has brought the crew to new levels of fitness and stamina. Novice coach John Mohan has demonstrated a consistent ability to get the very best technical rowing out of the raw materials that this land training provides.

The result of this has been much success in the early head races, with wins at Dublin, Neptune and Lagan, while a dubious half-second loss to the University of Limerick on a typically wild and blustery day in Galway showed that we are among the best novice crews



Club memorabilia is turning up on the internet, and some lucky old members are picking up some very interesting items, such as these DURC and DUBC pots from the 19th century.

nationally, there being 14 novice entries in the eights event on the day.

Rowing for the DUBC has never allowed resting on laurels, and a heavy atmosphere of competition exists around the boathouse, as the newly-arrived first years are benefiting daily from personal coaching by Ali Floyd, and challenging for the right to carve their name on a seat for a potential championship-winning crew.

The gap between the first novice eight – really the Club's

second eight – and the senior crew continues to close; what started as a gaping chasm has narrowed considerably and with the focus now on the regatta season, the crew is setting its sights higher than novice level. Both crew and coach are convinced that by punching above our weight both figuratively and literally, by tenaciously challenging the very best that intermediate status has to offer, our boat will continue to accelerate and our crew will continue to develop.

The crew is quietly confident of the potential for greater success that this season could bring and is determined to ensure that the purpose and resolve, the discipline, is not lacking come July 13. The many long, hard miles invested in Blessington, Cappoquin and Islandbridge will hopefully pay dividends. In Inniscarra, on a hot July day, DUBC will aim to take the novice pot for the first time since John Mohan himself clinched the title in the DUBC zephyr in 1994.



At the '66 crew reunion: (from left) Brian Armstrong (captain-elect 1966), Mike Ryder, Tony Bowen, Robert Northridge, Desmond Hill, Ian Hunter, Derek Walton. Standing in front is the widow of Bruce Rogers, Liz Adam. Kneeling: Noel Graham and Tony Gray (captain 1966).

Pleasurable reunion for '66 crew

Private, personal, sometimes poignant, but always pleasurable might be a fair description of any reunion. And so it was with this 40th-anniversary reunion of the 1966 Senior eight, which took place in the cricket ground on finals day at last year's Henley.

Wonderful sleuthing work by Mike Ryder and Tony Bowen

ensured that all seven surviving crew members attended, Derek and Val Walton having travelled from Vancouver Island. The Captain-elect for the following championship-winning year, Brian Armstrong, also flew in from San Diego with his wife Pat.

Some had not met in over

35 years. So, during a splendid luncheon provided by Liz Ryder, Sylvia Bowen and Amanda Gray, there was much mirth as expanding waistlines and receding hairlines were compared. There was also poignancy as Patrick Braidwood and Bruce Rogers were fondly remembered.

Kerlin intends to beat his *alma mater*

Eoghan Kerlin

The Lomac Tiles University Boat Race which sees Dublin University take on Queen's University, Belfast, on the River Lagan is set to take place on June 9th. I myself have taken part in all previous races and hope to play a part in this year's meeting between the crews. However, there is one difference this year compared to the previous three: I will be racing for the "other side", a side which for the past three years I have called the enemy, and a side which I have taken great satisfaction in beating (in 2005).

After graduating from Queen's last year, I decided that Trinity College was the place for me. A place where, among other things, I hope to win my second ever Lomac Tiles Boat Race. After last year's heartache in a race in which we, Queen's, led for most of the way, it was devastating to have come out second best. Although we prepared well, and on the day raced as well as we could, we did not expect the unexpected. The thought of crashing into a bridge



Eoghan Kerlin

all but 500 metres from the finish never occurred to us. After all, we were on home water and the cox had steered that line many a time before. But that is indeed what happened. Victory was snatched away from me and I was left with a bitter taste in my mouth. It has been almost a year now since that heartache and here I am in Trinity with no sympathy for any of my previous crew mates. I for one will be out to make it two victories on the trot for Trinity, and in my mind losing is most definitely not an option.



The championship winners at Inniscarra after their win. Back row: Seán Osborne, Rory Horner, Robert Swift, Edward Roffe-Silvester (captain), Rory Browne and John McCabe. Front row Joseph Calnan, Jonathan Maitland, David Keane and Rob van Mesdag. Photo: John Aiken

Championship win the best possible climax for Rob

Rob van Mesdag

My time as president of DUBC could not have ended more beautifully than illustrated in this picture. No, not because I am in it, kneeling on the right, but because it represents the best possible climax any president of DUBC could ever desire at the end of his term of office: the senior eight winning the intermediate Irish Championship!

I felt as honoured to be invited into this picture (taken by graduate member John Aiken) as I was over the moon at this magnificent feat, not achieved since 1995.

Moments earlier, the atmosphere had been extremely tense because the finishing line of the Inniscarra regatta course is obscured from the spectators' paddock by a hillock. It was therefore impossible to guess the outcome of a final which depended on a margin of less than one second. Only agonising moments later the loudspeaker announced the line judge's verdict.

Waiting with bated breath, then exploding with cries of

jubilation, were a collection of parents, brothers and sisters of our victorious men and – equally importantly – some of those DUBC stalwarts who over so many years have given so much of their time and energy to the club: John Bolton, who could be called Mr Trinity Regatta for his work in promoting the event; Michael Ryder, one of the initiators of the long-term committee; Robin Tamplin, coach of our Ladies' Plate-winning eight at Henley in 1977; novice coaches John Mohan, James O'Reilly and Nick Mahony, the latter also being DUBC's medical advisor; John Aiken, coach, past organiser of Trinity Regatta, now chairman of the long-term committee; and rowing reporter Micheal Johnston, eager to assist in getting our boathouse extension off the ground.

And wait, there's someone missing. Oh, here he comes, from behind the hillock: senior coach Mark Pattison, his jubilation never any greater than his usual gentle smile: "It's alright", he said, then walked down to the slipway to help his crew disembark. How lucky the Club has been to have had him coach our

crews in the 1990s when we reached several Henley finals and how marvellous to have him now: calm, quiet, utterly in control and greatly respected.

So much for those at Inniscarra. There have been many more, of course, who have given so much to the Club and that I was pleased to get to know during my fifteen years as president: the many captains who occasionally might have preferred silence from me instead of telephone calls or emails; the men in muddy oilskins, trundling up and down the towpath, trying to instill into novice oarsmen some notion of what rowing is all about; all those who rowed for the Club in weathers fine or foul, the long wait at the start of the Dublin Head of the River constituting a well-remembered episode; those who served on the Club's various committees, helped organise transport, edited *DUBC News*, lugged barrels to our Henley Saturday car park parties, cleaned the boathouse prior to Trial Eights or Regatta Teas; those who represented the Club in discussions with College authorities; the hundreds of

DUBC supporters at Henley Regattas and the many who played host to our men as they raced elsewhere in Ireland, England or abroad.

It is while thinking of this wonderful bunch of people that I realise how compact, loyal and dedicated the DUBC family is and what a privilege it has been for me to have been the president of this fine band of men, their lady coxswains, wives and partners. How grateful I am to all for having accepted me as their president, encouraging and supporting me in my job, and thereby raising my presidential years to a level which I rate as the finest of my life.

My last task was my easiest. It was to find a successor. Robin Tamplin was the obvious choice. Edward Roffe-Silvester, captain in 2006, and I agreed on this instantly and I am pleased to report that at the AGM last October Robin was elected unanimously as the Club's new president. You have nothing to worry about, Robin. All you need do from your stroke seat is to show a well-controlled blade. The rest of the ship will back you up 100 per cent. Go for it!

Website has a new home

The Club's website has had to move. It can now be accessed at its new address: <http://www.boat.tcdlife.ie> where you can get all the latest news.

New Colours for 2007

The Captain nominated the following members for Colours at Trial Eights this year: Senior Colours: Gabriel Magee, Robert Swift, Joseph Calnan, Seán Osborne, Rory Horner, Eoghan Kerlin, Edward Roffe-Silvester, David Cummins, John McCabe, Gavin Doherty, David Keane. Junior Colours: Maria Dunaeva, Henry Tindal, Kevin Cunningham, Julian Hand, Daire Quinn, Gerard Duffy, Conor O'Shea, Dónal McCarthy, Brendan Guildea, Friedrich Wetterling, Eoin MacDomhnaill, Ian Hussey, Michael Daly. Maiden Colours: Donal Finnerty, Rory Pike, Ben Goodridge, Thomas Ormond, Neil Franklin, Nicholas Kenny, Richard Mulligan, Martin McCarthy, Peter McKenna, Jeff Soraghan, Sophie Ward, David Lorigan, James Byrne, Seamus Crowley, Paul Dunphy, Donnchada Jackson, Graham Melia, Stephen Connolly, Lauriane Bertrand, Cormac Carty.

The nominees are aware that the captain may award them Colours of a different level, or not at all, at the AGM in October.

This year's committee

This year's committee is: Captain: Gabriel Magee; Vice-Captain: David Cummins; Honorary Secretary: Robert Swift; Honorary Treasurer: Gavin Doherty; House and Grounds Secretaries: John McCabe and Julian Hand; Records Secretary: Rory Horner; Ordinary Members: Michael Daly and Eoghan Kerlin.

The Maiden experience

Steve Connolly

Rowing is not merely a sport; it is an addiction. I believe this accurately summarises what a novice rower feels during his first year of training. Our year began with the usual flare and excitement when about 50 keen future oarsmen and coxes descended around the gates of the War Memorial Park on a sunny Saturday afternoon. Many of us were uncertain of what to expect. However, our worries quickly faded when we were greeted by the enthusiasm of Tim Levy. We received a tour of the boat bays and a brief talk of what lay ahead of us. The promise of peak fitness and the desire to represent Trinity ensured that most stayed, at least for the first week.

Training commenced shortly afterwards, with an emphasis on running and circuits. After the shock of the physical demands placed on us wore off, a dedicated squad of approximately 20 emerged and so we

began our water sessions. We struggled to find rhythm at the start as many found it difficult to overcome the initial nerves of being in a 60-foot boat with only an oar for balance. We were fortunate enough to have The Lady Elizabeth as our primary eight and due to the sheer number of novices, the powers that be decided to resurrect the Pembroke from retirement, giving us two racing eights to work with.

Alexander "Ali" Floyd took over as our coach after Tim's departure. Ali has been rowing practically his whole life and has a wealth of knowledge for which we as novices are truly grateful. The training appeared to jump from first to fifth gear in the space of a week following Ali's arrival and as a result we soon lost a few more off the squad. We owe everything to Ali's dedication which showed during the recent Head season.

Weekday morning sessions were quickly introduced which were designed to prep us for our first race. After the initial groan-

ing from some of the squad, these sessions became an essential part of our weekly regime. Much of the focus was on technique, and this was sometimes difficult when certain oarsmen were still recovering from a night of entertainment.

We were all greatly disappointed when our first race, Neptune Head, had to be called off due to adverse weather conditions. Our training continued without interruption until Christmas Commons. It is a mortal sin for a novice to miss out on what is quite simply one of the best nights out in the college year. The festivities began with Commons in the Dining Hall followed by an after-party which would put the MTV awards to shame. We retired to the Phil's "conversation" room where the Marie Celeste set sail on a sea of champagne. This was a perfect opportunity for us to get to know the senior oarsmen where they introduced us to snuff and cigars, a tradition which I am still trying to comprehend as it is such a strange combination. After our superiors told us what lies within the ladies' portakabin, and why they no longer work in Chigago, we made our way to Doyle's where the party continued to the wee hours of the morning.

The annual post-Christmas training camp took place in Cappoquin, Co Waterford. We were kindly hosted by Mrs Flynn and Cappoquin Rowing Club. The entire novice squad,

which comprised of first- and second-year rowers, descended upon the Murray family for another year running. We were truly blessed with the weather conditions for our stay this year and we tried our best to make the most of it. It was the first time we had an opportunity to train with the more experienced second years and we benefited from the time spent in combined crews.

We were fortunate enough to have the president of the Boat Club, Robin Tamplin, grace us with his presence for the final few days of the camp where he coached all crews on proper technique. In accordance with tradition, the Cappoquin Rowing Club was again host to a farewell party for all who attended the camp. This was the first year, however, that the B&B missed the presence of David Cummins who, after two years of having his eyebrow removed by members of the squad, enjoyed the seniors' camp in Seville.

Our first race came in the form of Dublin Head where we entered two first year composite crews. The novice eight, of which I was bowman, succeeded in beating our other crew and also UCD's "B" crew. Unfortunately we were a few short seconds behind the UCD "A" crew. This was due in no small part to our truly dedicated cox, Sophie Ward, whose sheer motivation and determination to win pushed us to put 100% into

every stroke. She is definitely a force to be reckoned with for the upcoming season and, as a result, she is a much appreciated asset to the DUBC squad. That night we were introduced to the Trial Eights dinner which involved some truly inspirational speeches from the likes of Mark Pollock.

We also enjoyed success at Lagan Head where we came second to our second-year novice crew and again at the rescheduled Neptune Head.

Disappointment came in the form of the Colours races where both novice crews unfortunately lost out to the more efficient crews of UCD. We have been assured that Colours does not have any significance to the outcome of the season; however, this did not offer much solace to the two competing Trinity crews who gave it their best on the day.

The future is looking bright for our strong, dedicated squad with a few oarsman beginning to make a name for themselves, the first being the Canadian powerhouse of James Byrne and of course the self-proclaimed sex symbol of the crew, Graham Melia. We've come a long way from those nervous, unbalanced trips to the Boohouse Bend and some of us are now attempting to conquer the smaller boats.

We are truly proud and honoured to be a part of this unique and valued club so let us row hard and most importantly, row for Trinity.

News from the DUBC Appeal

Tim Coote

I would like to thank everyone who generously contributed to the successful 2006 appeal campaign.

Last year the appeal raised €16,700 from 72 contributors, compared to €12,500 from 64 contributors in 2005 and €10,000 from 51 contributors in 2004.

In 2006 the Appeal paid for the repair and replacement of several boats and critical equipment, including: Club scull, €4,500.

Contribution to racing eight, €5,000. Three Rowperfect ergometers, €6,078. Boat and trailer repairs, €2,750.

As always, it is our intention that the DUBC Appeal continues to grow in both monetary terms as well as in numbers of subscribers over the coming year. By the end of 2007 we intend to have raised €20,000 from over 100 subscribing old members and friends.

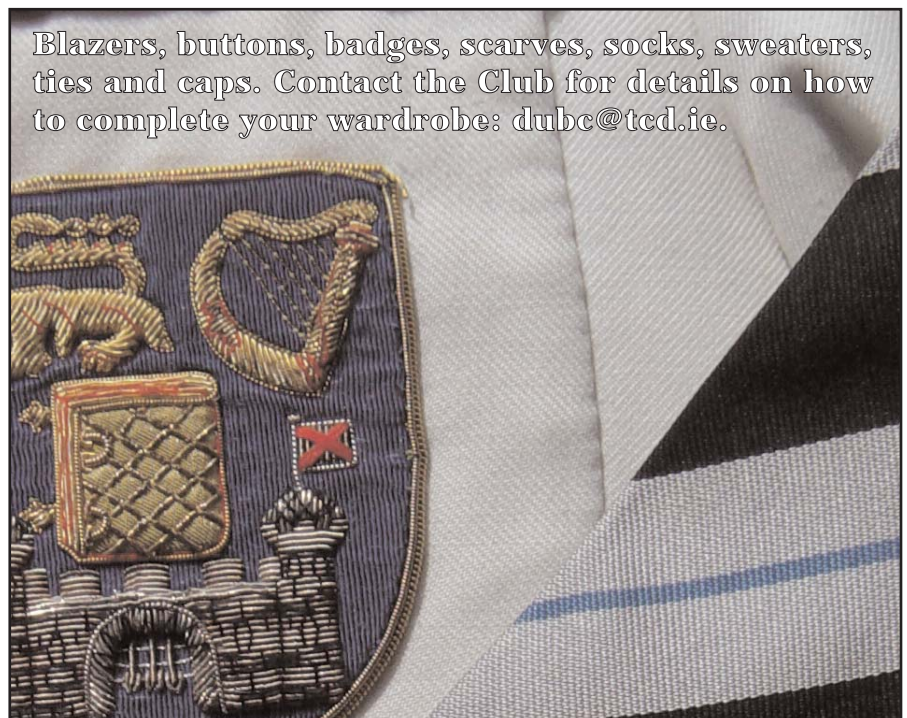
Sustaining a regular income stream from the Appeal is a critical part of the Boat Club's strategy. Without the year on year financial support provided by the Appeal the Club would not be able to afford a substantial proportion of its equipment nor remain competitive in Ireland and at Henley.

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

If you would like to contribute or simply 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. Alternatively please download the standing order form available on line: <http://www.tcdlife.ie/clubs/boat/oldboys.php>

Once again thank you for all donations made to the Club throughout 2006.

Blazers, buttons, badges, scarves, socks, sweaters, ties and caps. Contact the Club for details on how to complete your wardrobe: dubc@tcd.ie.



Beer replaced with champagne as 1981 crew relive old successes

Seán Tunney

Rowing is about both power and feeling; not simply a technique that can be taught, it is more an art that must be learned. The crew of 1981, lucky enough to be together for three years, had enough time to experiment and learn, develop a style and explore their art. Twenty-five years had passed and it was noted that there never had been a reunion and that maybe now, we should reunite. It may have been a few days late but in January of 2007, it happened.

In the Long Room afterwards, Nick Dunlop (captain 1981) recalled some of the events. He thanked captain Gabriel Magee for the warm welcome extended to us and for his glowing words on the importance of history and tradition at DUBC. He thanked the first crew for bringing their boat, the Thomas Dudeney, from Blessington and rigging it for us. For half of the crew of 1981, it was the first time in an Empacher and the first time with chopper blades. Thanks also to NUI Galway, the current champions, for driving from Galway with the IARU trophy for presentation on the Trinity slip. To those who made the phone calls and worked the logistics, to those who had travelled; Barry from Italy and Kevin from Canada – well done! And finally to Raymond, for the champagne.

Derek organised a room for dinner at the University Club, with our guests David Sanfey, David Hickey and Club president Robin Tamplin. Old photos were produced, also press articles, diaries, almanacs, programmes and competitors' badges along with wonderful food and wine and even a 1981 Armagnac!

The first race of the season was New Ross where we finished a close second to Garda, well inside the course record. This was followed by a period of seat racing in fours "Grey Matter", "Sting" and "Float". Lagan Head followed, a different crew line-up but patterns were beginning to emerge. Duly won, we moved on to the Erne, finished first and then prepared for the Tideway. The Tideway, as always, is a testing ground.



Trinity's eight, "The Magpie", defeating Orange Coast College at Henley in 1981.

Leaving Sanfey at home, we entrusted ourselves to the tender mercies of Chris George and Rob van Mesdag. In seven days, we had 17 outings, an ergometer test and finally the Head of the River race.

The Gannon fell to our hands easily, DUBC's sixth in a row and accomplished in style, by a distance. The Wylie Cup was cancelled due to political unrest in the North, so we had a period of concentrated training before Trinity Regatta. During this time the final brick fell into place, as we kidnapped a young and hungover Brian Roberts and put him into the cox's seat for a weekend in Blessington. Between his bouts of 'sea-sickness', we discovered three things: He had eaten raspberry yoghurt for breakfast, he was very light and he could steer. The crew was finally together.

At Trinity, we took the eight easily but lost in the four to Garda. At Metro a few weeks later, we got a look at potential new opposition for the year as Neptune joined with Lady

Victoria to take us on. They gave us our first serious race in the eight but did nothing else to surprise us. At Athlone, we took both eight and four ahead of Neptune. As the Daily Telegraph reported, "the university boat had gone a length and a half clear at 500 metres ... it had been a valuable exercise for the winning crew".

As Henley approached, old friends appeared one by one to offer coaching advice. Hickey and Mulcahy from the 1976 Ladies' Plate crew; Chris George and Rob van Mesdag from London, to build on their solid Tideway foundations; the erudite Robin Tamplin; and the ever-present David Sanfey. Sanfey was, without a doubt, the driving force and inspiration behind the year, solid and forceful when required but a gentle touch on the tiller if necessary. And so to Henley. For six of us, the verdict of two feet in the previous year's semi-final still haunted. We were back with new blood and ready for business. We trained diligently each

day, picking up crews for Barriers and Fawleys, giving each a dusting as we went. We even took on the mighty Cornell Grand crew, coxed by our own Eric Sergeant, honorary Irishman, but lost. The regatta draw had us seeded to meet Yale again, in the semi-final, and after Southampton University, Orange Coast USA, and Williams College USA, we duly did. This time the result was clear: they matched our start, pushed early and stayed to win by two lengths.

This crew had been together for nearly four years in one form or another. There was a realisation that in another two weeks, we might all walk away with a lot of happy memories but no major win for all our hard work. It was this thought that galvanised the crew for the final push to Cork and an appointment with the Garda crew at Inniscarra. With most of the eight graduating in 1981, this championship race would mark the departure of another generation of Trinity oarsmen

and the passing of the baton to the next. Had we been worthy custodians of the fine traditions of DUBC? Would we pass on that sense of pride, self-belief and achievement that had inspired us and sustained us for the previous three years? With Garda going one length up by 1000 metres, there may have been some doubts on the bank. Cox Brian Roberts calmly called "up two" and we started holding. He called again and we started moving. At 1500 metres, it was about half a length. Roberts again called "up two", the boat surged ahead, 250 metres from home and at 42 we caught them, lifted again for a final effort and won by half a length.

A week later at the Home Internationals we had to repeat this race plan. At three-quarters of a length down at 1500 metres we lifted, again and again, to first catch England and finally Wales. We won by a quarter of a length and secured the match victory for the first time since 1967.

1981 an unforgettable year for its successful senior crew

Seán Tunney

It's hard to know where to start, but an enduring memory of mine from Inniscarra in 1981 was an immense sense of relief. We had had a good senior eight for three seasons, yet despite the odd spectacular victory on home waters, we had achieved little of lasting merit. This was the last fling of the dice and we knew it. The race itself passed in a maelstrom of high rates and then even higher ones. For those of us in the bow there was always the tantalising yellow stern of the Garda boat that didn't quite manage to escape from our peripheral vision. And then it began to slip back in, hardly perceptible at first, then in a glorious surge. Our stroke Brendan Flynn deserves particular credit, but at least when he asked the searching question we were able to respond. We surged across the line and have dined out on that victory ever since.

Hardly had we come ashore but there was Club president James Shillington, staggering towards us, downhill, over rough terrain and with arms wrapped around a host of six packs. That night I drove home with my parents, towing the boats, with the massive trophy in the car. The following day the celebrations began in earnest at Islandbridge. The memories at this stage are a bit hazy – though not hazy enough. Then it was on to the Home International for more of the same.

Fast forward some 25 years to a clear but chill January day at Islandbridge. Some have sprouted grey hair; others have filled out nicely. Remarkably, however, the outing (judiciously restricted to one trip) is a joy. The boat sits solid and runs smooth. The wisdom of age sees no pyrotechnics attempted – do a little work in the water and then extract maximum benefit on the slide is the order of the day. We celebrate with champagne this time.

This was always a movie that would have box-office appeal. The opening scene is from the past, a generation past, and is shot with no sound, in black and white. A well-drilled and fit young crew moves effortlessly through the foreground, add some scenes of



Above: Brian Roberts, Brendan Flynn and Seán Tunney with the Leander Trophy at Cork City Regatta. Right: the 1981 crew. Back row: Seán Tunney, Kevin Lynch, Barry Fallon, Derek Gordon, David Sanfey (coach). Front row: Raymond Blake, Nick Dunlop, Brian Roberts, Brendan Flynn, Gerry Macken.



smiling and back-slapping and then in soft-focus, an eight is carefully placed back on its rack. Next, to the present, add in the sound and the colour and watch as now, a yellow Empacher is being lifted off the same rack, swung "heads high" and then lowered slowly to the water. It doesn't really look a serious outfit, there's a green tracksuit, a woolly jumper, an old plastic waterproof and even a pair of Helly-Hansen tights. All are wrapped up in many layers to keep out the chill January

air.

Paddled off bow-four, middle-four, then stern-four, maybe something still there and the concentration is total. The next scene is shot from the Chapelizod end, as the boat spin-turns, a haze of steam rises from heated bodies. Now confident and hungry for work, the layers are peeled off and it becomes apparent that more than one has managed to fight off the moths in anticipation of this day.

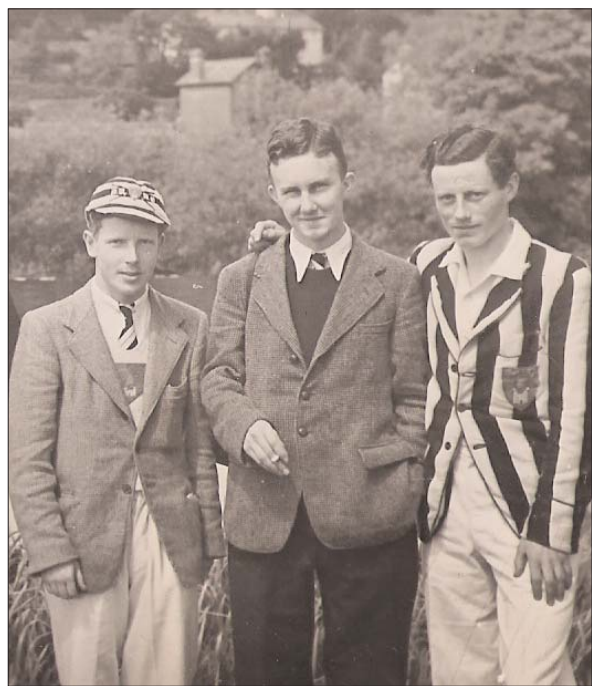
A quick interlude now, a

close up, of dark-veined hands, skin a little crinkled, reaching into the back of some mahogany drawer and unfolding a "stripey". Yellowed and sweat-stained in places and worn grey on the midriff from all that "down and around the turn", pan out now to show the facial expression as it changes from pride to doubt in realisation that the fabric no longer feels as flexible and also, it just looks a little too small! This could be a family movie so the ensuing struggles at eight dif-

ferent locations will all be cut, you know what they say about horizontal stripes – it's true!

Back to Chapelizod now, and through the steam the crew pulls away and finds the rhythm of old. Nobody called it, but every body felt it, a subtle change from light to firm, a quickening around the turn but still slow on the slide, rock solid now and running, running – and with the camera too still running, for the next five minutes we were once again in black and white.

A look at the Club in 1946



Top: A large group at Trial Eights 1946. Bottom left: Ed Ward (in maiden cap) with his friends at Trinity Regatta in 1946. Right: The unbeaten maiden eight of 1946. Back row: J Keogh, E Lillie, BW Withrington, JDR Williamson. Sitting: G Warwick, T Michael, R Bell, W Marshall. Cox: Ed Ward. Ed Ward donated his collection of DUBC photos to the Club, for which we are very grateful. Thanks also to the family of AP Kilroy who donated his collection of excellent pictures and memorabilia. Donations of old photos or other memorabilia are always appreciated as they can then be preserved for future generations.



Sir Brian Williamson and Sir Anthony Hart, who both rowed in the 1966 Junior eight, are seen here discussing their “comeback” at last year’s World Rowing Championships.



Tim Lennie with his wife Suzanne and daughter Catherine while visiting Tony Gray and his wife Amanda.

Out & About

In January of this year, **Tim Lennie**, who rowed in the Maiden eight in 1966 and now lives in Melbourne, Australia, made a home run. He was accompanied by two fine Sheilas or, more accurately, his wife Suzanne and daughter Catherine. As can be seen in the photograph, he reported for duty to his Captain of the day, **Tony Gray** and bosun Amanda, who were delighted to see them. Tim rowed with such Boat Club stalwarts as **Brian Williamson**, **Robert Neville**, **Kevin Shillington**, **Chris Knox**, **Pat Stokes**, **John Cary** and the late **Howard Schotter**.

The Northridge-Persson connection in the annals of the Boat Club is beginning to reach biblical proportions – something akin to the house of Abraham.

In the beginning was Canon **Aubrey Northridge**, himself a Trinity but not a Boat Club man per se. He begat, inter alia, **Robert**, who rowed on the 1966 crew. **Robert** had a sister, **Jean** – a fine girl, who fell from grace and married **Brian Persson**, another Senior eight man. They begat **Michael** and **Tim**, who rowed for the Senior eight and also **Emma**, who stroked the winning Glasgow University eight at Women’s Henley. Michael is now busy begetting more Boat Club members in Mozambique and the Lord only knows what Tim is up to in various chambers in London, where he purports to practise law.

Meanwhile, back in Enniskillen, Robert, who has headed up rowing at Portora Royal School for many years,

took **Hannah** for his wife. She became great with child and begat **Richard**, who in turn rowed for the Senior eight and captained the Club. Even patriarch Canon Aubrey, who celebrated his ninetieth birthday on the Saturday of Henley and who has visited Jean on numerous occasions, must marvel at his great works, not least the amount of bruising of heels that has gone on in his family over the years.

Last November, **Des Hill**, who has never travelled much farther than Carlow Regatta and the Auld Lammas Fair in Ballycastle, took his courage and his wife **Barbara** in his hand and headed for darkest Africa to find the lost tribe of the **Perssons**. It was not as difficult as expected and the aforementioned Brian and Jean, who live in some comfort and style just outside Swazi Plaza in Swaziland, made them most welcome.

Brian is very much at home in Africa, in every sense and this is manifested in the photograph by his beard and bare feet. Deep down, he wants to be an African bushman. Despite the wonderful hospitality given to Boat Club visitors, his only regret is that not enough folk call with them. The senior moments must surely be starting to arrive. Jean’s father had only just left when the Hills arrived. **Ian** and **Suzanne Hunter** had been there only a few weeks previously, in Ian’s case for the second time. **John Cary**, **Raymond Blake**, **Nick Dunlop**, **Tom Freeman** and **Peter Wolfe** have visited at

different times. **Alan Thomas** called while on honeymoon with his bride, **Pauline**. Michael and Tim have had a number of their rowing friends out to stay, including **Tom Bruxner** and **Owen O’Sullivan**. And of course, Jean’s brother Robert has been there with Hannah.

So, keep Brian and Jean happy. Call and see them. You will not be disappointed.

Among the younger old members, **Stuart King** (captain 2003) is back rowing after being banned in 2005. Stuart was rowing for NUI Galway, but is now sculling for UCD, and pipped our own Robert Swift on the line to win the intermediate single scull at Queen’s Regatta.

Another club-hopper is **Jonny Maitland** (2006), who has gone from coxing Trinity’s championship-winning eight last year to steering the beefy UCD women’s eight. This odd move is made even more incomprehensible as Jonny is still studying at Trinity!

Odd career moves abound, however. **Eamonn Hynes** (captain 2002) has taken his master’s degree in engineering and is now a busy Dublin taxi driver, regaling drunken fares with tales of his Boat Club days. His taxi days are numbered, however, as Hynes has just been accepted to read for an MPhil at Cambridge.

His fellow engineering graduate **Eamon Garrigan** (2005) has followed a similar course. Garrigan has quit his banking job to cycle an “ecocab” – a kind of covered rickshaw – around Dublin city cen-



Des and Barbara Hill with Brian and Jean Persson in Swaziland.

tre.

On the rowing front, **Kevin Devlin** (2005) is now studying and rowing at the University of British Columbia. His main goal is to make the university’s Henley crew to ensure he is at the Trinity keg this year. Devlin’s determination is undisputed.

Another remarkable feat has been pulled off by **Andy MacDonagh** (2004). The fear-inducing cox has started a degree in NUI Galway, despite still studying here in Dublin. It must be a heavy workload; no wonder he’s quit rowing.

It’s been Pinks all round for Trinity’s ex-rowers, with **Rory Browne** (2006) and **Iain Nash** (2005) being awarded University Colours for their successes at equestrian and shooting, respectively.

There’s a lot of exciting news from the Laird family. **Paul Laird** has been kind enough to return to full-time training, despite not feeling the

need to turn up at all in the first two terms. Paul’s situation is not new however – one need only remember that ancient oarsman who was so overweight there was scarce an eight into which he could fit.

Big brother **Rob Laird** has returned to Trinity to read for a postgraduate diploma in project management, but the much-prophesied Laird/Laird pair has failed to materialise.

Also, **Tom Bruxner** (captain 2001) was recently sent to Iraq with the British Army where we wish him well. **Mark Pollock** (captain 1998) recently returned from an ultra-marathon and will shortly be departing to climb to Everest base camp. **Henry Maitland Clark**’s (captain 1950) nephew, Henry Tindal, is part of this year’s senior squad. **Michael Barry** (2004) was captain of the reformed DU Bicycle Club last year. **Rupert Pennant-Rea** spoke at the Phil in Hilary term this year.