

# DUBC NEWS

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**The crew which beat Oxford: Eoin MacDomhnaill, Eoghan Kerlin, Paul Laird, Henry Tindal, Alexander Floyd, Seán Osborne, Joseph Calnan, Peter Heverin and (in front) Gabriel Magee at Trinity Regatta.**



## A fine win over Oxford Blues at Trinity Regatta

### Gabriel Magee

THE HIGHLIGHT of Trinity Regatta 2008 was the exhibition race between Oxford University Boat Club and Dublin University Boat Club. An invitation had been sent to this year's victorious Blue Boat, and with the help of funding from DU Central Athletic Club, they gladly accepted the all-expenses-paid trip. Though the full contingent could not attend, four members of the Blue Boat (including

president and cox Nick Brodie and double Olympian and world champion Mike Wherley), four Isis rowers (among them former Neptune man Martin Walsh) and one spare man made up the eight on the day. Despite not being the full line-up which had beaten Cambridge, it was nonetheless a formidable opponent, the likes of which has not been seen on Irish waters in some time. David was in Black and White; Goliath, in Dark Blue.

As gracious hosts, we offered the Oxford contingent

our top Empacher eight, and we made our way to the start in our second craft. It might be argued that this was like David offering Goliath his own shiny sword and contending himself with his trusty old slingshot, but the Captain had promised the Oxford men our top boat, so we obliged. Indeed, most of the spectators on the bank rated the men in Black and White as serious underdogs compared to the Dark Blues, who impressed the crowds with their clean starts on the way up the course. However, they were in for

a shock.

The Trinity men, having the experience of the peculiar flow at the start of the course, got off to a clean start and, to everyone's surprise, were a length up by the first bend. Oxford, however, maintained their composure, as one would expect from such a distinguished crew, and began to fight back coming into the big bend. Brodie had placed them on the correct line coming out of the first bend and they were poised to take their advantage at the Boohouse, as they were

racing on the south station. However, witnesses report seeing the Oxford president with his arm in the water coming round the turn. He was clearly not prepared to take the turn, and with the racing rudder of the Empacher he was left with no other resort. While it demonstrates his skill and composure in making the best out of a mistake, it is also a testament to the old proverb that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure: a brief

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## The 2007 Captain's Report

THE BEGINNING of a new rowing year is always an exciting time. However, the opening of the 2007 season seemed more significant than usual. It marked the 140th anniversary of the founding of the Boat Club, which had split from the older DU Rowing Club. Perhaps even more importantly, it marked the 30th anniversary of the last Trinity win at Henley: the 1977 victory in the Ladies' Plate.

These facts were in the back of my mind as we began training in September. With seven oarsmen from the previous year's intermediate pot-winning eight returning, plus experienced oarsmen Cummins, Doherty, and former QUBBC standout Kerlin adding to the squad, and a large group of returning novice oarsmen, there seemed to be a real sense that this group could turn the dream of an anniversary win at Henley into a reality.

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## Flying the flag again

IT HAD been several years since the original Club flag flew at Islandbridge. The only time current members had seen the old banner was when watching the memorable Boat Club party scene in *Quackser Fortune has a Cousin in the Bronx*.

But thanks to perennial student and man of many sports Gerard Connors, the Club now has in its possession a large embroidered reproduction of the original, which consists of the arms of the College on a royal blue shield imposed on a background of black and white chevrons. It was made by Flag Makers, Montague Lane, Dublin 2.

An editorial in *Trinity News* last year called for this flag to be flown over Front Gate when the Club next wins at Henley. Could this be the year?



**The last stroke of the race against Oxford University at Trinity Regatta. The Trinity eight was (from bow) Joseph Calnan, Seán Osborne, Henry Tindal, Peter Heverin, Paul Laird, Alexander Floyd, Eoin MacDomhnaill and Eoghan Kerlin. Gabriel Magee was in the coxswain's seat.**



**Donagh MacDonagh at Henley last year.**



**President and Vice-President: Robin Tamplin and Alan Browne having a chat at Trinity Regatta this year.**



**On the podium at KRSB Regatta in Ghent, Belgium, last year. The senior eight finished second behind Leander Club in the final of the senior "A" eights.**



# Thoughts from our President and some very positive news

**Robin Tamplin**

WHERE does the time go? Here I am scurrying to put a few thoughts together for the 2008 *DUBC News*, with more than a year under my belt as Club President. The year has absolutely flown, which may of course say more about advancing years than anything else, but I'll just park that thought, if I may, for the moment. It has in truth been a very full year, with bits, like the curate's egg, of good and bad.

I felt for the Club as it weathered a couple of disappointments: the losing of the novice eights championship to UCD at Iniscarra and the meeting of tough opposition at Henley.

The novice championship loss was a big disappointment to the crew members and coach John Mohan, all of whom had put in sterling work during the year. A fine crew had been produced which had been welded together essentially at Cappoquin earlier in the year.

At Henley the senior eight were unlucky in the extreme to find the Temple Challenge Cup dominated by three strong American crews who proceeded to knock us out and then, one by one, each other. To that extent Henley hasn't changed, and you never do know what crews you may come up against. It was an eye-opener to the second Trinity crew, their first time there, to discover what Henley is all about.

Many of you will, no doubt,



**Robin at speaking at the Regatta Luncheon at Trinity Regatta this year.**

have read about the attack on our boats at Villierstown, Co Waterford. Considerable damage was caused while the novice and intermediate squads were training there early in the year. It was the Ladies' Boat Club's boats which came in for the worst of the damage, but either way it was an act of vandalism which has been roundly condemned by the Cappoquin community. It was not the sort of news I wanted to hear while I was out in Seville with Mark Pattison and the senior squad.

Hearing of the wonders of Seville, where the senior squad went to do some winter training, I flew out to join Mark Pattison

and the squad for a couple of days over the New Year. What an experience that was, including as it did meeting up with James Lindsay-Fynn, past Captain of DUBC and a gold medal winner at the World Championships, who was there with the British lightweight squad. He came and talked to us about the rigours of training at that level.

The facilities at the international rowing centre where we stayed were a revelation, and the water on an offshoot of the Guadalquivir river a far cry from the lovely but rather unpredictable waters at Cappoquin. I felt something of a return to my

own rowing days as I joined the boys over meals at the centre, but I can see I have a lot to learn to get fully up to speed with the training and facilities that are part of the modern rowing world.

Back on home ground I am delighted to be able to report a welcome development regarding the boathouse extension. A letter has been received from Mr Michael Gleeson, Secretary to the College, informing us that the College is willing to accept liability for the total cost of stage one – the changing rooms – at €810,000, and that the IR£287,000 contributed by Boat Club members (in response to the 2001 appeal) can be seen as a contribution to the remaining areas of development. This is great news, and credit must go to those who have been involved, especially Michael Gleeson himself. We owe him enormous thanks for his role in bringing this about.

This year has had bits of sadness for me, and I know for many others, with the passing of that remarkable man Norman Furlong. A tribute to him is included in this newsletter. His contribution on so many fronts was enormous. And the news came to me only lately of the passing of Hugh Wilson who shared with me many roisterous moments in those 1946–50 years.

I hope to see many of you at one or other of the year's events, especially at Henley Royal Regatta. And do keep in touch – the Boat Club's website is at [www.boat.tcdlife.ie](http://www.boat.tcdlife.ie).

## Thanks for generosity to DUBC's Appeal

I WOULD like to thank everyone who generously contributed to the DUBC Appeal campaign in 2007. Last year the appeal raised €15,190 from 62 contributors, compared to €16,700 from 72 contributors in 2006 and €12,500 from 64 contributors in 2005. A number of standing orders expired in 2006–2007 which we hope to reestablish in 2008.

In 2007 the Appeal paid for the repair and replacement of several boats and critical equipment, including a €6,000 contribution to the purchase of a racing coxed four, €8,550 towards the purchase of three pairs from Oxford University Boat Club and €2,500 for boat repairs.

As the capital equipment requirements of DUBC continue to grow in conjunction with the small boats training policy, we remain committed to developing the appeal fund over the coming year.

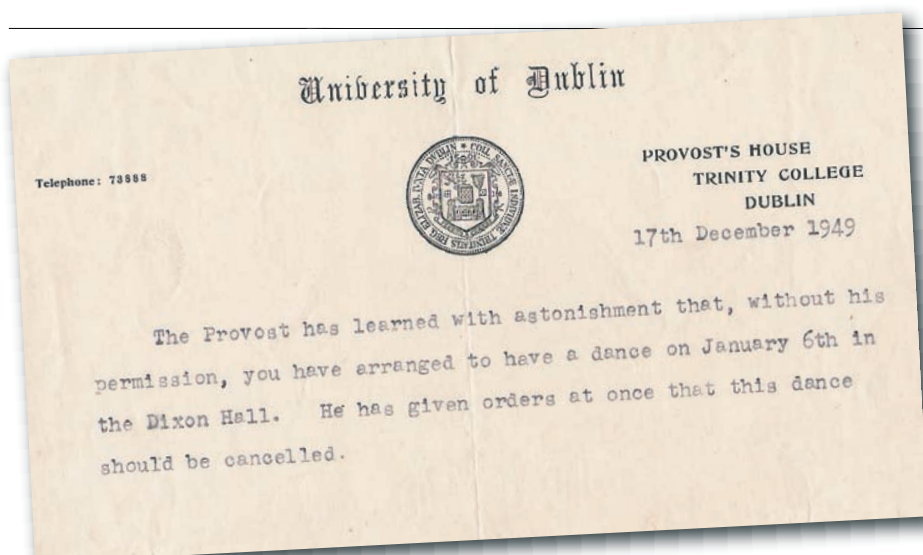
Sustaining a regular income stream from the Appeal is a critical part of the Boat Club's long-term strategy. Without the financial support provided by the Appeal the Club would not be able to afford a substantial proportion of its equipment nor remain competitive in Ireland and at Henley.

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 to the annual appeal please contact Tim Coote at 72 Longridge Road, London SW5 9SQ, UK, or send an email to [tcocoote@hotmail.com](mailto:tcocoote@hotmail.com). Alternatively, please download the standing order form which is available online at [www.tcdlife.ie/clubs/boat/oldboys.php](http://www.tcdlife.ie/clubs/boat/oldboys.php).

Once again thank you for all donations made to the Club in 2007.

(Tim Coote)



**This amusing note was among the pictures and other items donated to the Club by AP Kilroy's family. The Dixon Hall is no more, but Boat Club parties are still famous in College. The Club is always grateful for donations of old DUBC-related items.**





**"Oxford's massive push saw their bows literally leap out of the water". Dublin University in the lead as the Oxford boat rapidly closes in, just before the finish at Trinity Regatta. Photo: Des Hill.**

# David beats Goliath as Black and White team triumph over Oxford

*(continued from front page)*

survey of the course beforehand might have prevented the need for such a measure.

The upshot of all this was that the men of Trinity found themselves coming out of the Boohouse bend nearly a length up. As the rudder came off down the straight leading up to Army, the DUBC men pressed their advantage. Oxford, meanwhile, fought back once again, and with their clean, polished style, they decreased Trinity's lead.

But the last bend was in Trinity's favour and stroke man Kerlin, having been in this position just two weeks previous when he stroked the composite Islandbridge eight that defeated a Dark Blue outfit at Neptune Regatta, knew it. The turn gave DUBC a natural advantage and, as they came out of that final bend, they raised the rate up two and pushed out again to take clear water over Oxford.

However, the race was far from over, and the cox reminded the crew: this was no ragtag group of oarsmen they were facing; these were battle-tested rowers who could draw on racing experience from the very highest levels. With about 500 metres to go, DUBC were still three-quarters of a length up, and the crew, despite being in



**Mike Wherley, Aaron Marcovy, Martin Walsh, Ben Smith and Anthony Mullin, members of the winning Oxford and Isis crews earlier in the year, at Trinity Regatta. Photo: Bohoe Photography.**

severe pain, could sense that finish line.

The crowds were now roaring as we came down the final stretch; the excitement was palpable. Oxford regained their composure and put down a massive push that saw their bows literally leap out of the water with the incredible power that only a crew of their calibre can summon, taking half a length off Trinity in about three

strokes. The Dublin men had one last push left in them and they threw everything they had left into it, hitting 41 strokes per minute as they sprinted madly for the finish line. The battle was fierce, with Oxford gaining ground, but they could not hold their shape and the Trinity men held them off to cross the finish line a quarter of a length ahead, to the delight of everyone on the bank.

A cheer went up from the Trinity boat, an expression of pure delight after a harrowing week for the entire Club, as the decisions of a few threatened the entire season for the dedicated many. More than anything, the race vindicated both crew and coach. What more proof could one ask for as to the measure of this crew than its ability to overcome adversity and perform despite stacked odds?

What more vindication could there be for the coaching of Mark Pattison than to have the oarsmen he has developed throughout the last three years defeat such a worthy opponent? As for Oxford, they left the water feeling as if the stone had just struck them between the eyes. Like Goliath, they never saw it coming.

However, they were not outrowed, but outraced. As in any sport, it is the possibility that any crew can win despite the odds against them that lures us back to the oar time and time again. It is no shame for Oxford to have lost that race, as winning it was never their ultimate goal – they achieved their goal when they won the Boat Race. The sporting Dark Blue men quickly overcame the shock of defeat and consoled themselves by sharing a pint with the Trinity oarsmen and were also treated to a fine dinner in the Boathouse with the members of DU Boat Club.

As the night wore on, the race quickly faded into memory. For the Oxford men, it will probably always be a fond one of an enjoyable night in Dublin. For the Trinity men, it will, however, be cherished among their greatest achievements, not because of who they beat, but because of how.



# Strategic five-year plan aims to guide Boat Club into the future

**John Aiken**

I BEGIN this report by expressing the thanks of the Club to Tim Coote who, along with his extensive work on the Appeal, undertook to head-up the production of a most comprehensive and well-presented Strategic Plan 2007–2012 which I had the pleasure of presenting for adoption at the AGM last October. It is a production of which the Long Term Committee and Club can be very proud, and it will act as our bible for the pursuit of success over the next five years. After an excellent introduction covering the Club's 170 years of sporting excellence, achievement and structure, it lays down a clear strategy for the coming five years. This 2012 document gives a thorough insight into our requirements and it details training programmes, racing aims, the development of the Club's competitive, equipment and training facilities, regatta objectives and junior recruitment. It highlights extensively the major issue of funding. It is an opus of



**John Aiken.**

the highest quality, but not one to be broadcast far and wide for others to imitate.

## Rowing

The policy of small boat usage is well under way with the purchase of sculls in 2006/7. We now possess a fleet of sculls from varied builders, which we need to build up annually by trying to pick up top quality boats at best prices. The Seville train-

ing camp over Christmas was once again a great success for our senior squad. Training in a top venue in perfect conditions with good quality accommodation, food and equipment along with the possibility of observing the training of national squads is a standard preparation we must accept as the norm for our most ambitious athletes.

The continued modification of training from past seasons also takes in the advances in medical sciences. Sports medical resources continue to be provided by Trinity's Human Performance Laboratory. The long-term development of the athlete through training, monitoring, testing, and nutrition is equally as important as that of the equipment. The senior squad's application to the training regime, and the progressions thus gained, have been noted by excellent testing results so far, showing that major success is possible when all components are in place and the athletes truly believe and commit to the system. I take this opportunity to thank our coaches and medical officer for the programmes,

expertise and advice available to the club.

All the above eventually will provide us with a larger Club and a broader base of rowers from which to select our winning combinations. It is, therefore, imperative that we provide a bigger team of coaching personnel to support these athletes in achieving their winning objectives. Already our senior coach, Mark Pattison, has been recruiting helpers on the bank, and it is good to see them all contributing to the DUBC cause.

## Development

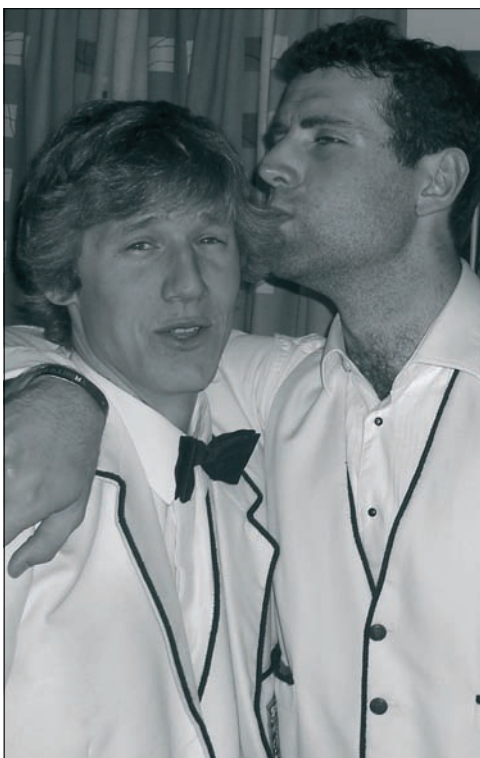
Desmond Hill has settled very well into his role as chairman of the Boathouse Development Sub-Committee, succeeding Michael Ryder. He and his committee have worked extremely hard to get to the bottom of where we stand with the development project. They have spent a lot of time delving through records, letters, emails and faxes, and held many meetings with various college representatives (including the Provost) in order to present the Long Term Committee with a position to go

forward. The result of this endeavour is detailed by the President elsewhere in this newsletter, but I want to extend my own thanks to all those involved to date. We have now been presented with a new opportunity to go forward, and this must be grasped with both hands.

## Administration

Relations with College remain good. The termly round-table meetings with College authorities continue to prove a very useful and open line of communication between the Club, DUCAC, Department of Sport and Recreation, Buildings Office and Junior Dean. I would like to put on record my thanks to the College representatives for their input and support at these meetings. On our own administrative side, I would like to offer my thanks to our Senior Treasurer, Matt Brennan, for overseeing the Club's accounts. Micheál O'Connell also deserves our thanks for his continued advice on all things legal.

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Some young old boys at Trinity Ball last year. From left: Shane Colwell and Niall Cullinane; Eamon Garrigan and Séamus Murphy; and Colm McCaughley with George Salmon (DUBC president 1898–1904).



# The Ballad of the Phantom Eight

for DUBC

The rains blow darkly from the west;  
The river seems to end.  
A silent Eight turns with the stream,  
Above the Boohouse bend.

There, swift from Lucan rolling down,  
The flood speeds branch and barque:  
"Now row in from a racing start,"  
The cox cries to the dark.

The bell-notes sought by stroke and coach  
Splash out an ancient spell;  
Down racing to the sounding weir,  
The oarsmen ring their knell.

Their knell they ring forever more  
With strokes as light as air,  
Their breath they gasp into the night  
With a cry of cold despair.

On motorways near Islandbridge  
New Dublin hurries past,  
And never sees the spectral race,  
That marks the oarsmen's last.

But come with me and you will see  
The boat that strives for home,  
A cox bound to eternal toil,  
As winter gnaws his bone.

"Now take her home!" he witless steers  
Straight for the flooded weir:  
"But easy as you pass the post,  
Relax, for rest is near."

And so again, as once in life,  
Exhausted at the end,  
He lets the boat drift on and on,  
Past boathouse, coach and friend.

A moment poised upon the brink,  
He tries to back her down,  
A moment more, a crack, a cry,  
And then the shriek of "Drown..."

It blew across the watery waste  
To warn all crews that hear:  
*Thou shalt not easy at the post  
Above a flooded weir.*

In black and white the spectral Eight  
Rows on till races end,  
On summer nights, on winter eves,  
Down from the Boohouse bend.

JCA Gaskin

(Professor John Gaskin, FTCD, who rowed with and coached DUBC in the 1960s and 1970s, recently published a volume of verse, *Moments from a Life*. Professor Gaskin kindly gave his permission for "The Ballad of the Phantom Eight", which appears in his new book, to be included here.)



College Secretary Mr Michael Gleeson with John Aiken at the Lomac Tiles University Boat Race in Belfast in 2007.



Des Hill, Mark Pollock and John Bolton enjoying themselves at Trinity Regatta this year.



Sir Anthony Hart and Kevin Shillington on the bank at this year's Trinity Regatta.



# Glory and bitter disappointment for a second crew with high aspirations

**Kevin Cunningham**

TRINITY'S novices had a solid year of unfortunate coxing incidents in 2006: an encounter with the weir before the Dan Quinn Shield, crashes with bushes and banks at Commercial and Trinity regattas, changing lanes at Limerick Regatta, moving completely off the course at the University Championship, and sinking at Dublin Metropolitan Regatta. 2006's first-year novices returned last year with a point to prove and a coxswain who could steer.

The 2006/07 season, consequently, was a year of unrelenting dominance at novice level and competitiveness at intermediate level during a strong year for the latter category. Thanks to extensive training work out in Blessington, Trinity dominated the head races at novice level – a 45-second margin victory at Neptune Head, 53 seconds at Dublin and 40 at Lagan.

Two training camps at Cappoquin, at Christmas and Easter, and an impromptu camp at Blessington, cemented this advantage and also served to elevate some of the first-year novices to a skill level closer to that of the second-year squad. Paul Dunphy and James Byrne emerged from the beginners' camp with firm claims to places in the inter boat.

Finally, the April Regatta season arrived. Under the precise leadership of coach John Mohan, DUBC put on a professional display at Neptune, winning each round by a margin of easily. With less convincing rows at Commercial Regatta, DUBC once again took home the silverware. However, the nature of the game had clearly changed, and victory left team members with feelings of relief rather than exhilaration.

The following week, the eight took the tankards at the University Championship in a far from convincing manner which would prove ominous.

At the following day's regatta, as part of the season strategy, the crew made the step up to intermediate, feeling that novice level was beneath them. Two oars, Henry Tindal and Eoin MacDomhnaill, also competed in the senior race. Although a very fine race, the senior victory was to be the only win of the day.



**Henry Tindal, Gerard Duffy, Kevin Cunningham, Julien Hand, Maria Dunaeva, Eoin MacDomhnaill, Daire Quinn, James Byrne, Paul Dunphy and John Mohan after the win at Trinity Regatta in 2007.**

While the second-year crew produced two fine performances at intermediate level, leading the race for the first half of both, it had to endure its first defeat at novice level in the last race of the day. Inconsistent steering and a double act by the alternating pushes of UCD's first and second novice reduced the weary bodies of DUBC's second eight to a canvas loss. The ungracious jubilation of the UCD crews at the finish line ignited a spirit in DUBC last seen at Neptune regatta.

At Trinity Regatta, DUBC would make no mistake and put out arguably its strongest novice eight for the first, and unfortunately last, time. A meeting with UCD's first novice eight was lined up in the first round. UCD had combined their two impressive boats from the previous weekend and were looking to put Trinity (or "the Tans", as we were referred to) past them. However, this was to be an even more convincing execution by DUBC than any before. Right off the start, with the by-now famous "sit-back", Trinity put a length into UCD. Around the Boohouse bend, and in response to the UCD cox's audible "how much do you hate them" shout, Trinity put a second length into UCD. Another

length followed at the minute mark and a final length was added just in time to wish the UCD crew three rounds of "hip hip hooray" for their participation before they crossed the line.

Later in the day, the Trinity crew were beaten in the final of the intermediate eights by UCD's top crew. The margin of a canvas (and shortening) was a very impressive result and an indication of where the crew was heading.

In a display of the strength of the whole club the same eight returned to the start by just minutes after the intermediate final to take home another easy victory in the final of the novice category, this time over Thames Rowing Club.

The training period that followed was intense. The second crew had proved its worth and was mixed in with the first squad as it was announced that, in imitation of the great 2004, two eights would go to Henley. The two mixed crews would push each other on the water everyday and this would prove to have a great impact on the first eight when they travelled to Ghent. Furthermore, at Metro Regatta, DUBC put out three eights in the senior category, finishing in both

first and second place. Surely no other Irish club has shown such strength at the highest level in recent years.

However, success of this kind was to unfortunately deteriorate. Having lost Dónal McCarthy to a back injury, the second crew then lost their bow man Daire Quinn. The situation worsened when four man and stroke for the head season, Jools Hand, became ill and was out for three weeks. The crew was then split as the second team's two top oars, Tindal and MacDomhnaill, were required for the first eight's assault on Henley. Under these circumstances the second eight for Henley was reduced to a four to which the second novice eight would lose another man, the big Canadian James Byrne.

The depleted team travelled to Henley, with the hope of training when the other crew members would be available. However, this was very limited due to the circumstances. While a few enjoyable races at Reading Town Regatta kept spirits alive somewhat, the sight and atmosphere of Henley rose up too much emotion. A drive was set in motion to form a second eight, bringing Trinity College's Henley 2007 entry to a four and

two eights. The novice coach, Ali Floyd, was on board, and the four's cox, Gabe Magee, slotted in to construct a misfit, yet determined eight.

Amazingly, this crew gelled incredibly well. The eight was required to race in the Friday qualifiers. The crew had a real impetus to perform at a stage they had not expected to. The eight men attacked each stroke with tremendous desire and fury. However, ghosts of the crew's first year returned as the eight crashed into a stake-post. Our cox was Maria Dunaeva, who had had an excellent year until then. In spite of coming to a complete halt, and four men being unable to row for almost 20 strokes, the eight men missed qualification by a mere two seconds. This margin that suggested that the crew could have done the Club proud at the regatta itself, if it hadn't been for the unfortunate crash. The failure to qualify was a bitter disappointment, and the men in white blazers will be asking "what if" questions for many years to come.

In the week following Henley, the novice eight regrouped for the Irish

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**Norman Furlong**

# Club says farewell to warm-hearted and modest Vice-President Norman

DR NORMAN Furlong died peacefully in his sleep on 25 May, 2007, aged 86, after a long and tiring illness.

Norman was a man of many talents and, as a character, one in a million. The packed memorial service in St Mary's Church in Athlone on 31 May spoke volumes of the love and respect so many felt for this warm-hearted and modest man. The son of a clergyman, he spent many of his early years in Boyle where his father was rector, and he and his brother Godfrey spent many hours out on the Boyle river where his love of water and boats probably took root. In due course he entered Trinity to study medicine and indulged his new-found hobby by joining DUBC. Here he proved to be a particularly good stroke and was soon in demand to stroke the senior eight.

At about the same time he met and fell in love with his wife-to-be, Rosemary Chapman, who was one of the staff members in the Registrar's



**Norman (second from left) as a member of the 1943 junior eight.**

Office, and also happened, conveniently enough, to be chairwoman of the Boat Club ladies' committee. Between this distraction and the rowing he found it difficult to give the study of medicine quite the attention it deserved. His father, becoming seriously concerned at the protracted time his medical studies seemed to be taking, imposed a complete ban on rowing. This produced an appalling vista, not only for Norman, but for DUBC, where

his skills were much in demand and he was prevailed upon to continue rowing – in disguise. DUBC crews then featured a mysterious newcomer by the name of "AN Other". His parents, getting wind of this, arrived at Athlone Regatta with serious intent, but had their intentions thwarted as they watched with reluctant pride Norman stroke the DUBC crew to yet another win.

The stories of his rowing days are legion as Norman com-

peted at regattas all around the country. Following Athlone Regatta one year, he and fellow oarsman KV Law took to their bikes and cycled back to Dublin to sit an exam the next morning.

Norman was a wonderful GP, covering a wide area around Athlone. No call for his medical services was ever passed up, and it is said that there is not a man or woman within a wide radius of Athlone who was not delivered by him. Many nights he never saw he his bed, as

returning from one call he would find another waiting, a light over the door and a note from Rosemary telling him where he was to go. For relaxation he spent time out on the Shannon in their motor cruiser, returning to tie up in their harbour at their house at Coosan, a harbour which Norman himself had built. Their house was always a-buzz with the comings and goings of friends, and at regatta time it was a welcome base for DUBC crews. Which of us has not enjoyed the hospitality of that glorious house, with the Rosemary/Norman team on hand to cater for every need?

Norman's election as a Vice-President of DUBC was a well-merited tribute, not only to his rowing achievements, but also to the years of hospitality shown to innumerable visiting DUBC crews by him and Rosemary at Athlone Regatta. Our sympathy goes out to Rosemary and their son Alan.

*(Robin Tamplin)*

**Richard Colles Brehon Henderson**

## Former captain who will be sadly missed

DICKIE was the eldest of three brothers who were all at Portora together. Jerry, the youngest, Nial Bell and I went up to Trinity for Michaelmas term 1943 and we rowed together. Our first term we were finalists in the Usher fours. At Trinity Regatta we were in the maiden four and eight. Dickie was captain of DUBC that year.

As junior freshmen we were very impressed with Dickie as a person and as Captain. The Club was run very efficiently as all outings took place promptly. Training routines were strictly adhered to and we all enjoyed our rowing. Dickie devoted a great deal of time and energy to coaching and encouraging us in the maiden eight.

There were some famous contemporaries: the Wilson brothers, Ian who succeeded Dickie as Captain, and Jako; and the Furlong brothers, Norman and Godfrey. Sadly all deceased.

Dickie rowed at Portora and was the Senior Patrol Leader in the Scouts and was awarded the Kings Scout Badge. He had a distinguished career as an engineer, building a legacy of multi-million-dollar dams on some of the world's largest rivers from Kemano, British Columbia, to Kaptai, Bangladesh, and the Squaw rapids in Saskatchewan and the tropical waterways of Brazil. He remained in Brazil for 27 years, taking the small Brazilian firm Mendes to become the eighth-largest construction company world wide.

Like his father he was a Mason and he became District Grand Superintendent. He was predeceased by his wife Joy and is survived by his daughters Cecilia and Anne. Anne cared for him throughout his final illness. He died of cancer aged 82 on November 24 in Canada.

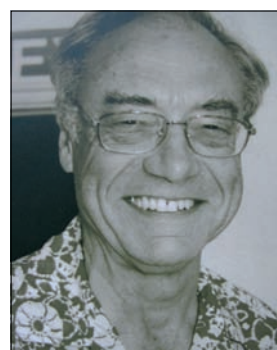
*(Dr Johnnie Cockrill)*

**George Richard Hallowes**

## George was a great club man and a fine oarsman

I SPEAK of George as a man of the river. While I know him to have been a good husband to his wife Veda and good father to their daughters Teya and Kiri, my first-hand knowledge of George is as a fellow oarsman. He was a fine man to have in one's boat as well as a good Club man: both unique qualities that can never be replaced. The Club dinners following our outings on Wednesday nights will never be the same without George putting forward his well-informed opinions and emphasising his points by a quick verse from Gilbert and Sullivan in his strong baritone voice.

He was at Trinity in the mid-1950s, rowing in the first eight which gained a 16th place in the London Head of the River in 1956. After graduating in engineering he went to London to work with the engineering



**George Hallowes.**

firm Binney & Partners. He then joined the London Rowing Club. Work soon took him to foreign parts, Peru, Hong Kong, Pakistan and the Middle East among them. But fortunately he also found time to meet and marry a beautiful South African nurse called Veda.

George was born in Ireland in March 21, 1939, after his

father had settled there after retiring from the Indian army and choosing Ireland because of being such a good hunting country. George was taught to ride at an early age and we are lucky that he became an oarsman rather than a horseman.

Yet he was also a keen dinghy sailer and by way of contrast also took up singing. He was a member of the Thames Philharmonic Choir for some 20 years, first as a tenor and then a baritone. This diversity of interests coupled with his gentle and tolerant personality have made of him a friend who will always have a special place in our memories.

*(extract from an address given by Iain Laurensen, Commodore of The Irregulars (veteran oarsmen) of London Rowing Club, at George's funeral on November 7 last year.)*





**Gabriel Magee and David Cummins at the DUBC keg at Henley last year.**



**Seán Tunney and Alva at the DUBC party in Butler's Field at Henley last year.**



**The senior eight celebrate their win over Queen's University, Belfast, after the Lomac Tiles University Boat Race in 2007. From left: David Cummins, Joseph Calnan, Gabriel Magee, Robert Swift, Gavin Doherty, Henry Tindal, Eoghan Kerlin, Eoin MacDomhnaill and Paul Laird.**



**John Hill with his daughter Louise, herself an accomplished rower, at Henley last year.**



**Seán Osborne and Bill Keating in the Stewards' Enclosure at Henley last year.**





**Rob van Mesdag** chatting to a young lady at Trinity Regatta this year.



**Vice-President Des Hill** at Trinity Regatta this year. Des took most of the excellent photographs which you see in this year's *DUBC News* – thank you Des. Photo: Bohoe Photography.



**Michael Daly and John Mohan with Eoin MacDomhnaill** at Trial Eights. MacDomhnaill was awarded the Fox Memorial Cup for winning the Club's sculling competition. Photo: Maria Dunaeva.

## MacDomhnaill wins Club's sculling prize

AT THE Trial Eights dinner in February this year, Eoin MacDomhnaill was presented with the Fox Memorial Cup – often referred to as the Pineapple Cup – for coming out on top in this year's internal Club sculling ladder.

The cup was raced for while the senior squad was training in Seville after Christmas. MacDomhnaill was first ahead of Robert Swift and newcomer Peter Heverin, with captain Joseph Calnan a few seconds behind these three.

At Trial Eights, MacDomhnaill was also presented with James Lindsay-Fynn's old stripy, which James

had donated to the Club to be used as a prize.

The *Irish Times* archive, which went online earlier this year, revealed some interesting new information about the Pineapple Cup. A letter to the newspaper in August of 1951 gave an account of the cup:

"The late Major Charles V Fox, rowing for the Brigade of Guards Club, won the Diamond Sculls something over 40 years ago. The handsome gold cup which he won for this race was, after his death, very kindly presented by his sister to the Dublin University Boat Club, and is now in their possession, together with the other cups which

Trinity Boat Club crews have won outright in bygone days.

"His brother, the late William Fox, rowed for Trinity College, Dublin, as an undergraduate in the eight which won the Thames Cup at Henley in 1903."

This letter confirmed what was already assumed: that CV Fox was the brother of WF Fox, who had rowed with Jack Langrishe, Mick Leahy and the other legendary men who made up the successful 1903 crew.

The cup has been presented to the Club's top sculler since 1931. Winners in recent years have included David Cummins (2006) and Robert Swift (2007).





At Trial Eights this year. On the bench: Nikki Wong, James O'Reilly, John Mohan, Gabriel Magee, Joseph Calnan, Robin Tamplin, John Aiken, Alexander Floyd, Clarissa Wallace and John Bolton. Standing behind the bench: Eoin MacDomhnaill, David Cummins, Brendan Guildea, Henry Tindal, Andrew Coleman, Joseph Henry, Stephen Friel, Eoghan Pomeroy, David Gilligan, James Jaycock, Robert Swift, Gavin Doherty, John McCabe and Peter Henry. Next row of three: Rory Croome-Carroll, John O'Neill and Rishi Watson. Next row of five: Robert Mawn, Peter Heverin, Killian Rogan, Ian O'Loinsigh and Lorcaín Cameron. Next row of six: Stephen Ennis, Alan Crosbie, Daniel Ryan, Peter Croke, Omar El Baradie and Nicholas Lonergan. Standing to the left of the doors: James Byrne and Seán Osborne. Standing to the right of the doors: Eoghan Kerlin and Michael Daly.

Copies of this photograph and all Trial Eights photographs back to 1995 are available from the Club. Team photographs from 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997 and 2007 are also available. If you have a Trial Eights photograph from before 1995 or any team photographs the Club would be grateful for any copies or scans which you could provide. These can be added to the Club archive.





**Michael Daly, Brendan Guildea and John McCabe congratulating the senior eight after their victory at Trinity Regatta.**



**Seán Osborne basking in the praise from his admiring friends on the bank.**



**Rob van Mesdag at the barrell of Guinness at Henley last year.**



**This year's Regatta Secretary Nick Kenny keeping an eye on things.**



**Raymond Rees watching the racing at Trinity Regatta this year.**

## *The interesting case of Cork City Regatta*

SOME DUBC men enjoy their cigarettes; or at least they did over 120 years ago.

This very interesting cigarette case came to the notice of the Club recently when its owner got in touch. It appears to be a presentation prize from the 1887 Cork City Regatta, and is engraved with the names of the DUBC eight which (presumably) won the event.

One on side is engraved "Cork City Regatta, 1887, Dublin University Boat Club", and the names of the members

of the crew: TM Tate, L McDonnell, EC Byrne, CM Moore, J Willington, AC McDonnell, JS Green, HA Elgee and HN Dunne.

On the other side is a crest, which appears to be a stag's head erased, above the motto "nec timeo nec sperno". This translates as "I neither fear nor despise". Perhaps a reader can identify these arms?

The Club could not afford to buy this item but perhaps it can be acquired for the Club's silver collection in the future.



**The two sides of the silver cigarette case, engraved with the names of the 1887 DUBC crew which rowed at Cork City Regatta.**



# Trinity crews dominate at every level at events on home waters

*(Captain's Report 2007, continued from page 2)*

## Christmas Commons

The only major event before the Christmas break was the annual Boat Club Christmas commons. This is always one of the highlights of the DUBC calendar and this year was no exception. The event always brings out a few ex-oarsmen to help introduce the novices to the traditions of the Club. The Phil generously allowed us the use of their conversation room for our reception, where we convened the DUBC choir under the instruction of CJ McCaughley and shared a cordial glass or two of the finest sherry. A cock-a-leekie match was overseen by ex-Captain Northridge, who gave many a novice some tutelage in its finer points.

## Cappoquin and Seville

The start of the New Year saw the oarsmen of DUBC at training camps. While the both the first- and second-year novices made the annual pilgrimage to Cappoquin and the Blackwater with Coaches Mohan and Floyd, the senior squad went to the sunny, flat clam waters of Seville in Spain. Anyone who might think that this was a holiday is sorely mistaken, unless racking up 36 kilometres a day in a scull is your idea of a vacation.

## Head season

These camps paid dividends at the first race of the season, Neptune Head, which saw the club back in eights. This event came later than usual, as it was postponed due to bad weather. Neptune Head was my first race, despite only having coxed the eight a handful of times. I can recall manoeuvring through the arch of the bridge easily enough, which had been my greatest fear, only to realize that I could not tell which buoy marked the end of the course! Despite the fact that I called 100 metres to go with about 500 left, the boys continued to pull until the actual finish and we took the senior pennant. The second eight also started their season off on a good foot by taking the novice pennant.

Dublin Head was up next and, despite a much better row, the Senior eight came second to a stacked UCD eight. The second-year novice eight, however, con-



**The winning Erne Head of the River eight last year with old members of DUBC who won the very first event in 1957. Back: Edward Roffe-Silvester, Eoghan Kerlin, Joseph Calnan, Henry Tindal, Gabriel Magee, Eoin MacDomhnaill, Gavin Doherty, Rory Horner and David Cummins. Front: Hugh Delap, Brian Kidd, Nicholas MacGillycuddy and Tom Molyneux.**

tinued its success by winning that category.

Lagan Head saw the first return to those waters for former QUBC man Kerlin, who was now stroking the Trinity eight. Coming under the last bridge, Kerlin announced that it was "party time" and, despite the fatigue from that long race, the entire crew was infected with his excitement and the rate climbed up as the boat flew through the last 100 metres. This was more than enough to take the senior pennant. The second eight also won the novice category.

## Erne Head

Next was Erne Head. The organisers made a special plea to DUBC to send our senior eight, as it was the 50th running of this race, the first of which was also won by DUBC. Some members of that initial DUBC crew were in attendance that day to see us take the pennant.

## Gannon Cup

This win also gave us confidence the next week at the Gannon, because we had beaten UCD by over a minute over that long

course. Still, we knew that they would not give up without a fight, which was exactly the case. The novices had already lost their matchup, leaving the pressure on the senior eight to put UCD in their proper place. It was a hard-fought battle, though we were consistently moving away over the last half of the course. UCD gave everything they had to stay with us, and by the last bridge their reserves were empty, while we were just hitting out stride to take a comfortable win.

## Uni Champs

After this was a packed weekend of rowing in Castlewellan, where we competed in the University Championship and Queen's Regatta. Once again, the second eight dominated the competition and won the novice category at the Uni Champs, though we were shocked the next day when they were beaten by a fast-improving UCD eight at Queen's. This meant that the title of University Champion rested with the winner of the senior eights. Despite a poor start, we quickly distanced ourselves from most of the field,

except for NUI Galway. While we pushed them to the line, we were never able to move through them. We redeemed ourselves the next day by winning Queen's Regatta, though only by the narrowest of margins.

## Trinity Regatta

Trinity Regatta saw similar results. The second-year novice eight won their category comfortably, while the senior eight underperformed. It was sad that we could not win in front of all the supporters there, but perhaps it is because our focus was on KRS Regatta in Ghent a week later. Despite the loss, the regatta was brilliantly organised and agreed by all to be one of the best in recent years, and I would like to thank the Regatta Committee personally for that.

## KRS Regatta

Any lingering doubts about the quality of the senior eight were dispensed at Ghent. There we won both a bronze and silver medal over the likes of Leander, Oxford Brookes, London Rowing Club, and Agecroft. This showed that we had the

speed needed to win against the level of crews we would meet at Henley, when we wanted to. This was a turning point in the season. The focus had always been on Henley, but with that goal so close, its attainment seemed truly possible. We were now a realistic contender, and the entire crew seemed reenergised by this possibility.

This time also marked the return of senior oarsman Laird and senior cox Gold to the squad. The added depth of the squad allowed us to enter three eights into the senior category at Metro Regatta, one being the second-year novice eight. DUBC took the top two spots in that category on the day, confirming the depth of the squad.

## Belfast Boat Race

This only left a return to the Lagan for a comfortable win over Queen's in the Lomac Tiles University Boat Race before we departed for Henley Royal. This was also the last race for the first-year novice squad, who had

*(continued on page 16)*



# Looking back 60 years after Robin rowed for Ireland at the Olympics

**Robin Tamplin**

JULY 10, 1948, was a big day. Certainly for any crew that had their hat in the ring for the Pot. Nomination day. For the IARU had announced that the winners of the senior championship, to be held on the Lagan at Belfast that day, were to be nominated to represent Ireland at the 1948 Olympics. A momentous decision, and a momentous time. If ever an Irish crew was to compete in the Olympics, this was the year, for England were hosts and it is not every year that the Olympics land on your doorstep. As the big day approached, tension mounted and excitement ran high as the contenders, Neptune, Belfast, Queen's, UCD and Trinity, sussed each other out.

1948 was not a strong year for DUBC. We were on the rebuild, following a run when the senior eights championship had come our way with extraordinary regularity, from 1941 to 1946. So, in spite of the "hope that springs eternal", on the day it was no great surprise when we went down in a heat to Belfast Commercial, who in turn succumbed to UCD in the final. With as much dignity as I could gather round me I retired with the rest of the crew to sample a pint or two and see what entertainment Belfast might have to offer. It was something of a surprise, then, when the hand of our coach, Maurice Horan, landed on my shoulder. The bearer of glad tidings indeed, he had come to tell Chan – Raymond Chandler – and myself that we had been nominated to join the Olympic squad. Scarcely believable. The contents of the unplanned "relaxed" post-regatta evening paled into insignificance against this new scenario.

UCD's coach Ray Hickey, and Maurice Horan, had been nominated as joint coaches and there followed an intensive twelve days' trial and grounding process, a lot of it in fours, in Islandbridge. Everyone watching everyone else, and all of us under the critical eyes of the rank and file of the Dublin clubs as we passed and re-passed up and down the river. Demanding stuff indeed. When the crew formation was eventually decided there was a collective sigh of relief. I found myself occupying



**The Irish Olympic crew in 1948, from bow: Tom Dowdall (UCD), Morgan McElligot (UCD), Joe Hanley (UCD), Danny Taylor (Queen's), Barry McDonnell (UCD), Paddy Harold (Neptune), Robin Tamplin (Trinity), Paddy Dooley (UCD). The cox was Denis Sugrue (UCD).**

the seven seat behind Paddy Dooley, the UCD, and now Irish, crew stroke. He set a rhythm not a thousand miles from DUBC's own, and those 12 days had done wonders in getting rid of some of the most glaring inconsistencies. When the time came to pack our gear and head for the big event itself, we were getting much better clearance on our puddles.

The memories of the event itself are legion. A first Irish rowing too, not that any of us were bowed down by such weighty considerations, being much more absorbed with the minutiae of getting gear together and raising the few brass farthings necessary to finance one's "personal" needs among the oarsmen of the world. I still have a letter from my parents,

sent with all the pride of the moment, enclosing £2.10 to help me on my way. Hardly a princely sum, even in those days, but a reminder, nonetheless, of how things have changed. As befitted representatives of our country we were kitted out from head to toe. White flannels, shoes, a tie, a cap and a magnificent windcheater, the in-garment of the day – I'd always wanted one – with "Ireland" writ large across the chest in capitals. The crowning glory: a blazer. Donal O'Leary, the team manager, had worked minor miracles to get all this arranged on time.

Our journey to Henley began, on July 24, as so many seemed to in those days, boarding the mail boat in Dún Laoghaire, laden with baggage, oars included, and ended when

we were duly delivered to our accommodation in Hatter's Lane School, High Wycombe. There we joined a number of Scandinavian crews – Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden – and our welcome was complete when, at a brief ceremony, our flag was run up to join theirs, *à la* United Nations, on a flagpole in front of the school.

The Irish crew was an interesting mix. Drawn from the Dublin clubs, with the exception of Danny Taylor of Queen's, the only common ground until this coming together was one of intense rivalry fuelled by the traditional keenly-contested encounters on Irish waters. Though the resulting "reserve" was blunted during the 12-day selection period at Islandbridge,

it took the first few days' residence in High Wycombe to begin the real breakthrough. More accurately it took our daily journeyings to and from Henley, a distance of some 14 miles, to do the job.

Henley was quite something that year. Dressed all over, and everything and everyone out to Welcome. Invitations and passes all round, from the obvious to the obscure. Bedecked with badges and fluttering card you'd have needed a personal secretary to keep track of your engagements. Not to mention the training. It was my second visit to Henley that year, having been there earlier for the regatta. But for the Olympics the course had been altered to accommodate three crews abreast, and the start moved to the end of the Island, to facilitate the repechage system. In our first race we were drawn against Canada and Portugal. Canada looked good, but Portugal less so with a rather cumbersome-looking style. But whatever hopes we might have had of pushing the latter to a race proved to be illusory when they motored off the start, and led us comfortably home, with Canada ahead again. Our repechage race against Norway, fellow occupants of Hatter's Lane, proved no different, with no concessions being made to our shared accommodation! It was some consolation that Norway proved to be one of the fastest crews, ending up with the USA and Great Britain in the final. And there was satisfaction too in the fact that we had a good row each day.

Though the racing itself was memorable, with all the customary hype and pre-race nerves, our elimination gave us freedom to follow some of the other events. Things that stick with me still are Laurie and Wilson winning the coxless pairs for Great Britain, and Bushnell and Burnell the double sculls. Laurie and Wilson had particularly lovely rowing. Memorable too was Chris Barton, from our own Co Kildare, stroking the British eight in the final of that event but failing to oust the strong American crew from their position as favourites.

The official opening of the

(continued on page 23)





A member of the Garda Síochána ensures the Club's old boys are behaving themselves at Trinity Regatta. Photo: Bohoe Photography.



Eoin MacDomhnaill and Eoghan Kerlin rowing to the start ahead of the Oxford race at Trinity Regatta. Photo: Bohoe Photography.



Nick Dunlop and James Lindsay-Fynn at the barrell of Guinness in Butler's Field at Henley last year.

## The Boat Club and the future

(continued from page 5)

### Events in 2007

Rory Browne and Richard Moore should be congratulated, along with all the other members of the Regatta Committee, for the huge effort once again in presenting another very well-run Trinity Regatta. This year's regatta was attended by the United States Ambassador Mr Thomas Foley, a former Harvard oarsman who entertained us at the Regatta Luncheon with stories of Harry Parker.

The Lomac Tiles University Boat Race against Queen's University, Belfast, took place for the fourth time. This is proving to be an important rowing event, not to mention an excellent opportunity to exhibit what the Club has to offer to the College. This year's event was graced by the presence of the Lord Mayor of Belfast, Vice-Chancellor of Queen's Professor Peter Gregson, and Secretary to the College and honorary member of LEBC Mr Michael Gleeson. DUBC won both races. For the record, the score has now moved on to 3–1.

As noted in last year's newsletter, the Gannon Cup was retained in impressive style by a strong senior eight.

A dinner also took place in Leander Club on the Friday before the Henley Royal Regatta in honour of Rob van Mesdag, who retired at the 2006 AGM. The guest speaker was our President who spoke humorously, and in detail, about Rob's great sporting and administrative achievements both with DUBC and Holland. A lovely meal, attended by both young and old, was enjoyed by members, who gathered to thank Rob for his great successes over the years.

### Finance

On behalf of Tim Coote, I record another great response to the Appeal. Already this new season the Appeal has handed over €7,000 for the purchase of three pairs. We must acknowledge the enormous feeling of good-will from our alumni members and record our thanks to them for

their continued support, and cash! This support from members and friends of the club plays a major part in our successes. The family of DUBC's supporters is growing. Thank you again, one and all.

John Bolton has decided to move from heading up Trinity Regatta to the huge challenge of sponsorship, and I hope to be able to report positively on this new initiative next year. Already, I can tell you, there has been one significant success, and we hope for many more.

### Acknowledgements

Finally, it *has* been another very successful year. I thank my fellow committee members and especially the Captain, Gabriel Magee, who, benefiting from the base left by Edward Roffe-Silvester, worked tirelessly to maintain and steer his bridges, both metaphorically and literally. He has completed his stewardship, leaving the Club in a very strong position as it heads into another season, full of much promise.

On Tim Levy's retirement, his position as Boatman was taken over, initially for six months and now permanently, by Andrew Coleman. Andrew has settled in well at Islandbridge. Noted for his ruthless attention to detail, I feel Club members will benefit greatly from his efforts on training, sculling and rowing technique. We join in Andrew's delight at his new appointment, wish him well, and look forward to working with him closely over the coming years.

May I extend my deepest sympathies to Rosemary and Alan Furlong on Norman's passing. Let us celebrate here the great life he led, his hugely positive contribution to the lives of the people of Athlone, his rowing achievements at DUBC and his efforts as Vice-President for many years, not forgetting the superb hosting of our crews in his beautiful home at Coosan.

And in conclusion, I would also like to extend my thanks to our new President, "Mr. Robin", as he was so aptly named many years ago on the banks of the Nile. A Trinity rowing legend, a gentleman, and a pleasure to work for, I look forward to continuing my role as Chairman of this committee and to serving him, and this famous, great old Club, to the very best of my abilities for the next three years.



# Confident squad takes on the world's finest crews at Henley

*(Captain's Report 2007, continued from page 13)*

been reinvigorated by their loss at the Gannon. They trained hard and rowed well, taking the win from the Queen's novices.

## Henley Royal Regatta

After some final preparations in some soft conditions in Blessington, including a seat race that saw lightweight Cummins beat the far heavier Laird for the remaining seat in the senior eight, two DUBC eights and a four departed Ireland for the waters of the Thames at Henley.

Arriving two weeks early, it seemed the rain had followed the DUBC crews to England. Training continued regardless as the senior eight in its final combination (Calnan, Kerlin, Horner, Tindal, MacDomhnaill, Osborne, Cummins, Roffe-Silvester and Gold in the cox's seat in place of the Captain) practiced on the course in near flood conditions. In addition, the remainder of the senior squad had formed a four and entered the Prince Albert with Doherty, first-year novice Byrne, Swift, McCabe and Magee making the crew.

The novice eight was also there training, as preparation for their run at the novice pot in three weeks time back in Ireland. They made an attempt to qualify for the Royal Regatta, though they had to utilise the Captain in his old position as bow man, rather than cox, to make up numbers. The rowing of this scratch crew was more than sufficient to qualify. However, an unfortunate collision with the booms during the time trial saw them fall just short of the required time.

The rain let up enough by the time the regatta started for the crowds to enjoy some sunshine, but the flow on the river was still massive. This made the important factor of a crew's station on the river even more pivotal, as pundits were estimating that the lack of flow on the Berks side was worth anywhere from a half to two lengths, depending on who you talked to. The senior eight had a good draw, dispensing with Lady Margaret, Cambridge, on Wednesday and Bournemouth University on Thursday without



**Trinity's four at Henley last year: John McCabe, Robert Swift, James Byrne, Gavin Doherty and (in front) cox and captain Gabriel Magee. The crew lost out to a strong Colgate University four in the first round of the Prince Albert Challenge Cup.**

too much strain. Their first real test was to be Colgate University who had already dispatched with Oxford Brookes.

Unfortunately, Trinity had drawn the Bucks station for this race, meaning that they would be in the teeth of that massive flow at the start and finish of the race. The men in the stripy zephyrs did not know exactly what to expect from Colgate, but they did know that conditions would be tough. They went off the start hard into the flow, attacking the first 40 strokes in what is quickly becoming head coach Mark Pattison's signature style. But for some reason, the

start in this all important race didn't seem to gel as it had throughout the year, perhaps due to the unusually strong flow or the power in the Colgate boat. Instead of the lead that their powerful start usually gave them, they found themselves digging deeper into their reserves just to stay level with Colgate. Coming into their advantage in the middle third of the course, Trinity made a push which saw them take the lead, but only by a canvas. This effort was then matched by Colgate with a push of their own. Heading into the enclosures, the race was tight; only a quarter-

length separated the crews. Unfortunately, the advantage was Colgate's and Trinity found themselves a quarter-length down heading into the final 500 meters with the flow against them.

There is a magical moment in rowing, often talked about but much more rarely experienced, when something happens in an eight. Somehow, despite the fact that the eight men are already working as hard as they thought possible, they reach down and discover something together that doesn't exist separately. Suddenly, the eight oarsmen and the cox all feel the same thing

and they begin to move as one. The boat lifts, despite oxygen deprivation and muscles filled with lactate. They are no longer separate, they are now united. A moment like this happened at Queen's Regatta when, despite being a length down with less than 500 meters to go, all eight oarsmen were able to instinctively move together and take the rate up and up, beyond all reason, to 50 strokes a minute. Had they not done this together, the boat would have simply fallen apart. Instead, Trinity won that race by an inch.

*(continued on page 20)*





**The Boat Club's novices this year racing in the Colours race for the Dan Quinn Shield. From bow: Killian Rogan, Alan Crosbie, Peter Croke, Daniel Ryan, Nicholas Lonergan, Steven Ennis, Eoghan Pomeroy and Lorcaín Cameron, coxed by Nikki Wong. The crew, coached by John Mohan, lost to UCD. Photo: Orla Kerbey.**

## Memorable 2007 for second eight

*(continued from page 7)*

Championship. Henry Tindal and Eoin MacDomhnaill were released from their obligations to the senior eight and the Club's second priority of winning the novice eight championships was the main focus. With only a few days to gel, the eight was further reshuffled into a combination used less successfully at Tribesman Head and Commercial Regatta. The senior oarsmen were placed in stern pair, with your scribe moved to the three seat. This was certainly a little bit of gamble, but given the state of the squad at that time, such a gamble may have been necessary and it seemed to put a more defined shape to the boat. A seat race was performed on the Tuesday to finalise the bow seat. Brendan Guilda, who had battled with the schol exams all season (and not getting them), losing out to the more lightweight Mick Daly, who had toiled with a back injury all season.

While the Trinity men had been away, Queen's had begun to beat UCD's novice eight and it appeared as if Trinity's almost scratch crew would do battle with Queen's for the novice pot, the Club's main hope for a pot in 2007. However, the championship had a familiar feeling to it as a resurgent UCD crew pushed right down the course in a record time and took home the novice pot with DUBC rowing in a disappointing second. The following day, another scratch crew took to the water for the

intermediate final, this time without the senior oarsmen. In spite of a much more inspiring row, the overall results mirrored those of Queen's Regatta and a familiar end to an otherwise glorious and promising season. While the story of the season may read as a tragedy, the journey was that of total enjoyment.

While the end of the season provided drama and as a snapshot the season may seem like a tragedy, the season as a whole was not. In fact I enjoyed it no-end. Cocooned in the banter of the squad and the trips out to Blessington, for me, the day begun when we went rowing and the day ended when we finished. What were magical, were the long rows out in Blessington or Cappoquin; gliding, trailing neat puddles, across vast expanses of sun-reflected water. As the steam flows out from the back of each man, the feeling of total commitment in sustaining the balance with and for the rest of the crew, where all you hear are plops of the catch and the puddling of the finish. It is like a head massage. And at the end of the piece, you turn to your best mates who shared the experience and listen to acknowledgement from John in the launch. And then you begin it all again. There is nothing I would have rather spent my time doing.

*Crew wins: Dublin Head, Neptune Head, Lagan Head, Neptune Regatta, Commercial Regatta, Irish University Championships, Trinity Regatta.*



**Maria Dunaeva and David Cummins at Trial Eights in 2008.**



**Len Dunne and Philip Browne at the barrell of Guinness at Henley last year.**



# A date with destiny: Lindsay-Fynn wins gold at World Championships

Chris George

IT IS 2.30pm in Munich on Sunday, September 2, 2007 – the training done – the decisions made: to change to sweep – to give up the job and train and rest full time – to lose a career and salary and to take the Lottery Shilling. A new scratch crew formed in April has bedded down and surprised many with bronze, silver and then gold (at Lucerne but with no Chinese World Champions present) in the World Cups.

All is quiet with only the starter and officials disturbing the peace of the Munich course. The crew will be with its own thoughts as they sit on the start of the final of the World Championships. The mind is quiet and one could be looking down on oneself as if from above – the routine warm-up and preparation will comforting, but only up to a point. In previous events in the year the crew has beaten all crews but one – the current World Champions, the Chinese – who are a formidable force with all the selection



James, in two, racing in the lightweight four.

power of half a billion male population and a state that is very keen to retain its gold medal status for this, an Olympic event.

Any one of five crews could snatch this gold medal as, at this level now in lightweight rowing,

the margins are small. Twenty-seven crews raced in six heats on August 27 and James had the third-fastest time in the heats – helpful, but no real guide. In the qualifiers five crews did 6.13 or 6.14 and the next three were only seconds behind. The four

had come second to the rather fast Canadians who had the fastest times in the heats. But second was good enough for the semi-finals where the results decide the lanes. No nonsense this time and a cracking 6.00.13 gave James and his crew one of the two 'favoured' centre lanes and left the Italians and Chinese a second behind. The previously fast Irish four were last, some five seconds adrift of the pace. All 12 semi-finalists had times of 6.05 or under. In the other semi, France had beaten Canada, leaving the Olympic Champions, Denmark, to scrape into the final. What a line-up! It was going to be a tight race.

It had been a long road since a disappointing second in the "B" final of the doubles in 2006 at Eton in front of the home – not to mention the Irish – crowd, having only just failed to qualify for the final (margins are even tighter in the doubles). This is a fading memory, but even that needs to be wiped out completely. Now is the chance. Destiny awaits. How to sublimate the whole year's training into six minutes? It is the state of mind that makes the difference at this level.

The start is good – nothing too fancy as the crew needs only to ensure it is in the pack and on the pace. At 500 metres it is third in a cracking 1.30 and, following coach Robin Williams's guidance, the pace is even and relaxed for the middle thousand. This takes them from fourth at

the 1000 to second at the 1500 whereupon a great burst of power and rate just before the last 250 sees James and his crew past Italy, and then France, to the first gold medal in fours for Great Britain since 1992. Less than five seconds separated all six crews.

JAMES was born in Dublin on September 29, 1975. He is from Trim, Co Meath, and was educated at Eton College where he learned to row. Actually, he started his rowing career as a cox and got his first GB vest in the men's pair at the World Junior Championships in 1991, where he finished seventh. A couple of years later, he took up a blade and then came up to Trinity in 1995. Here his original coach was Nick Dunlop.

In his first season, he won the intermediate (the old "Junior") championship and rowed in the Temple and was beaten by Oxford Brookes in the final. In 1996, again, the Temple: beaten by Yale in the semi final (Yale went on to win the event). In 1997, it was the Britannia, beaten by Hansa Hamburg in the semi-final (Hansa lost to UL in final).

In 1998 he was elected Captain of the Club and it was the Ladies' Plate. They beat a Galatasaray (Turkey) crew before being beaten by Notts CRA/Oxford Brookes.

In 1999, he represented Ireland in the lightweight quad and got his first World Championship medal, a bronze. A couple of years later, still sculling, he decided that his priority was a career and took a job with the Bank of America which precluded any rowing – that was until he had established some credentials at work. In 2004, the call of the blade became overwhelming, and he joined "Trinity by the Thames", London Rowing Club (the club I represented 1977). It was at about this time that I got to know James better. The story is typical of the man! I was officiating on the security at a HERR party at Thames when I noticed a hand appearing at the bar window that leads onto the passage way between us and ICBC. It was a favourite trick of certain disreputable club members who wished to avoid the £5 entrance

(continued on page 21)

## AN OUTSTANDING OARSMAN.



Dr. Chris George with his "Gold."

Chris George must have achieved the ambition of his lifetime when the British Lightweight VIII on which he was rowing pulled off the "Gold" at the World Championships in Amsterdam last August. And what a cliff-hanger of a race that was with

the VIII getting home from Spain by just 7/100ths of a second in a gruelling hard fought race every inch of the way! Congratulations from us all on that superb win. Chris's rowing career, began with D.U.B.C. in 1966. In 1968 as a member of the D.U.B.C. Junior VIII he helped win the Irish Junior Vllls Championship at Limerick Regatta. In the following year he established himself in the Bow seat of the Senior VIII which won at Trinity Regatta, a feat not accomplished incidentally for several years before, or indeed since. Moving to London in 1970 he joined University of London, and as Captain of Boats in 1971 won among other events that year the Ladies Plate at Henley. But this was only the beginning. In the years 1970 to 1977 he won among other events the British Universities Championship 4 times, the British National Championship 5 times, the Visitors, the Stewards, and the Thames Cups at Henley. He also rowed on crews representing Great Britain at European or World Championships in 1973, '75, '76, and '77, winning a "Bronze" in the Lightweight Vllls in the World Championships in Nottingham in 1975, and last year the coveted "Gold" at Amsterdam.

All in all a truly remarkable record!

## HENLEY REVISITED.

**Dr Chris George's victory in the Great Britain lightweight eight at the 1977 World Championships was marked by this piece in the 1978 edition of DUBC News.**



# Captain is aiming for a successful 2008 season

**Joseph Calnan**

HAVING been part of DUBC for four years now, the Club is even more exciting and vibrant than it was when I first came to Trinity. Being Captain has given me insight into what makes DUBC such a special club in Trinity. The Club to enjoys its diverse range of activities during the year, from the renowned Halloween Massacre party to the first traditional night out, Christmas Commons. In February, Trial Eights always throws up a few surprises. Trinity Regatta in April with the Regatta Luncheon in the long room also adds to the experience of rowing for Trinity. This year we added a competitors' dinner to the Trinity Regatta experience, where the Trinity oarsmen dined with their Oxford counterparts.

Being in DUBC is different to being a member of any other club, whether another rowing club or another College sports club. Steeped in tradition, the debate of whether a senior or maiden zephyr should be worn for racing is still always a matter



**Joseph Calnan.**

for discussion. Should the zephyr be worn with or without the badge? And if the whole senior squad is racing in sculls, is one the top boat, therefore giving that sculler the right to wear the senior zephyr?

The latter "problem", which is ultimately a good problem, has occurred because of the generosity of you, the old boys, allowing the club to follow a small boats programme. Over the four years I have been here the club as gone

from owning two sculls and two pairs, to eight sculls and five pairs. It is imperative that novice oarsmen, after having joined the club, learn the subtle feeling of how to move a boat, something the small boats lend themselves to. This program has allowed the Club to move with the times and win at the highest level. Recently we finished 28th out of 420 crews at the Head of the River Race in London. Last year we won bronze and silver medals at KRS International Regatta in Ghent.

Apart from this newsletter, the best way to keep up with the Club's latest successes is at our lively website at [www.boat.tcdlife.ie](http://www.boat.tcdlife.ie). By keeping an eye on the website you can see that your generosity is enabling the Club to perform on an ever higher level, with the Henley goal always in sight.

I look forward to seeing you at this year's regattas, particularly at Henley. And please stay in touch. You can contact the Club by writing to 17.0.01 Trinity College or via email at [dubc@tcd.ie](mailto:dubc@tcd.ie).

Thank you for your support.



**Secretary to the College Mr Michael Gleeson and Provost Dr John Hegarty with other spectators giving their support at Trinity Regatta. Photo: Bohoe Photography.**



**Gabriel Magee and Robert Swift enjoying a glass of Pimm's at Henley Royal Regatta last year.**



**Colm McCaughy, John Mohan and Philip Browne at the Henley Regatta last year.**



# No wins at Irish Champs

*(Captain's Report 2007,  
continued from page 16)*

Now, with the hopes and dreams of not just the oarsmen in the boat or those oarsmen watching from the bank who had sweated and sacrificed side by side all year with these men, but also all the past members who had come to watch Trinity break the thirty-year silence at Henley, DUBC needed one of those moments. As the announcement in the Stewards' Enclosure hailed the approach of Trinity, a cheer went up, despite the fact that they were now trailing. DUBC needed something magical.

But it was not meant to be. There was no magical lift. This time, when the oarsmen went to their reserve tanks for the final push, they found them to be empty. In the end, a length and a quarter separated the two boats. Even now, it's hard to say why. Was it the disadvantage of the flow? Where the Americans just bigger and stronger? Was it the side effects of an unbelievably long and hard season of training? Or was it something intangible, that hard-to-define element of rowing that may have been undermined when the unit that had come together in October was split up by the late return of some members? It's impossible to know. No doubt, the oarsmen of that crew will still be asking themselves those questions 30 years hence over pints of Guinness at the DUBC barrel in Henley.

In an ironic twist of fate, Colgate University was also responsible for the exit of the Prince Albert four earlier in the week, on Wednesday. The circumstances were similar, as the Trinity men lost by only half a length to the Colgate four, again with the flow against them. They rowed an excellent race, but the lack of proper preparation was telling against the stronger American crew.

Still, the fact that DUBC was able to field two eights and a four for an elite international event shows the depth

and potential of this squad. The results were not what we had hoped for at Henley, but perhaps this says more about the expectations DUBC places on its senior eight as well as the special place Henley holds in the hearts of anyone who has rowed at Trinity. After the potential shown at Ghent, expectations were high. While Trinity did not win the event, they have made it to the quarter finals two years in a row. This means that they are among the top eight university crews at Henley. This year, they made it as far as any other university in Britain, placing them among the elite universities of the United Kingdom. Trinity can hold its head up as the elite rowing university in Ireland, one of the last student-only clubs in the country.

## Championship

This statement was confirmed the week after Henley when the DUBC senior eight competed for the title of Irish champions. They were the only all-student eight in the race. Against a field of rowers that contained current and former international athletes, they placed third behind last year's champions NUI Galway and this year's winners, a Shannon/St Michael's composite. The novice eight, who had every hope of securing a victory, were not able to beat their counterparts from UCD, who took the trophy to the other side of the Liffey. Surprisingly, the senior four turned in the best result of the weekend for DUBC, taking second behind an NUIG four.

## The future

While no gold medals were brought home from Inniscarra or Henley, the fact that DUBC is now able to field so many oarsmen who are competing in the top of their respective classes bodes well for the future. With many of the senior oars having returned, as well as a promising group of novices just coming into their full potential, Trinity is set once again to have a fantastic year. Already, it's hard to keep thoughts from turning to Henley and wonder: will this be our year?

*(Gabriel Magee)*



**Gerard Duffy, Maria Dunaeva, Brendan Guildea and Enda Cahill at Henley in 2007.**



**Anthony O'Neill, John McCabe and Gavin Doherty, still standing on the Saturday at Henley.**



**Richard "Noddy" Northridge and John Bolton at Henley last year.**



# Lindsay-Fynn's path to glory: one World Champion profiles another

(continued from page 18)

fee to the party for which, at that time, a large queue had formed. A cheeky face followed the hand at the first floor window. This was by virtue of moving the large commercial rubbish bin and climbing up on top of it to enter through the window. "You're Chris George aren't you? You and I have much in common!" Intrigued, I wondered what I could possibly have in common with this impudent elf on his castle of rubbish. He went on to say that he and I were the only Trinity men to have won medals at World Championships. He was firmly told to join the back of the queue where I would, with pleasure, meet him with a pint to ease his wait. We had an amiable chat on what he was doing now and the health of Trinity in general.

We often met on the Thames, and one particular occasion springs to mind. When I was out in a pair with a club mate (quite a good pair at that), we caught up with an unidentified sculler along Chiswick Eyot just before the crossing. I urged my partner onto paddle harder for the crossing to get ahead. Most crews cross early on the apex of the bend and I was confident that if we went well round the bend we could take the good still water close to the bank and do a sharp, quick crossing while the sculler was out in the stream. Not a chance! The unknown sculler took just the right course, kept ahead past the bend and crossed over at exactly the same time as we did. "Oh Well!" I said, "Go like hell on the crossover and we can get him." At this point a cheery voice that I recognised as James's yelled out "Morning Chris!". This only made me redouble my efforts, much to the annoyance of my partner. We went all the way to the Pink Lodge hammer and tongs with James never letting us get ahead and washing us down all the way. The b\*\*\*\*\*! This tale does give you an insight into the mentality necessary to win.

I was also sculling myself from Thames at the time and it was noticeable that James would be coming off the water, having clocked up his mileage in his scull, just as most others were going on the water for their



**Top: James going for gold. Bottom: Timothy McKean, James, Ross Hassett, Conor Fennessy and Tim Coote at Henley Royal Regatta last year. Top photo: Peter Spurrier/Intersport Images.**

"early" morning outings. How he managed to do this, ride his bike 10 miles to work, and put in a good day's work prior to the evening training, I simply do not know. It did pay off because, under the tutelage of Paul Reedy, no mean sculler himself, James shone in the 2005 GB trials where he was second in the lightweight sculls. He was the only squad member not on full-time training as a Lottery-funded athlete.

The highlight of that year was the winning of a senior event at Henley Royal Regatta where they won the Double

Sculls Challenge Cup. The rumour that he only has one, and that is why he wore his DUBC blazer to get his Henley medal is, of course, quite true. He was then selected for the lightweight double sculls, and he and Mark Hunter went on to win the "B" Final in the 2005 World Championships in Japan. The next year he won the GB trials and, as a member of Council, I was privileged to be at the GB team dinner to see him get his citation – again wearing his DUBC blazer!

Eighth in the same combination came next at the 2006

World Championships at Eton. In 2007, Olympic qualification year, with Zac Purchase now on the scene, it was going to be necessary to beat Mark Hunter in trials to get into the double. An email he sent at this critical moment in his rowing career sums up his attitude: "After five years at Bank of America, I have decided to move on and focus all my time on other opportunities, aiming to qualify in August and to row at the Beijing Olympics in August 2008." To which I replied: "Go for it. You will never regret trying. I, too, quit my job when it made me

late for two outings in a week. Best thing I did!"

Happily, as it happened in the end, James did not make the double but his third place in the single trials was such that Robin offered James a place in the sweep group – an unusual thing to happen in mid-season in GB rowing. It was an inspired move.

Despite the passage of time since I was competing, it is interesting to see how little changes as to what is necessary for success at this level. There are many similarities in our rowing careers and our attitudes – Anglo-Irish, British public school, we both won junior/intermediate Championships at Trinity, single-minded to the point of (unwittingly) making enemies of friends and crew mates, resigned from employment so as not to prejudice our rowing, won an open event at Henley, won bronze medals (I note ruefully that James was five weeks old when I won mine at Nottingham) and we both came over to GB.

However, James did it in an Olympic event (and just look at where the lightweight eight is now) and is doing times in his four that I never achieved in a Trinity eight. When I was first rowing with the aim of a GB vest in 1969 the standard (qualifying) time to get selected for the GB eight was 6.01. His four got under that in the semi-final! I am told that in the Empire Games for 1958 the Irish eight was told to get under 6.30 if it was to go. It makes you wonder what will be the time for the gold medalist of 2037.

With financial pressures and the College authorities, mistakenly in my opinion, placing all the eggs in the academic basket, will we have a Trinity world champion before 2037, if ever? I firmly believe that not only will DUBC forge such a person but also that James will be our first DUBC Olympic medalist. As I write, he is fighting for his place in the crew along with all the others and, hopefully, by the end of the month, the fight for five persons fighting for the four places will be over and the four will include James. Let us all give him our best wishes for good health and racing in Beijing and after that is over we can give the man the proper celebration in the Club that he deserves.





**A happy Nicholas Longergan after the novice eight's win at Trinity Regatta this April. Photo: Bohoe Photography.**



**Novices fighting for the cock-a-leekie title on the floor of the Boat Club bar at Trial Eights in February. Photo: Maria Dunaeva.**



**New novices Eoghan Pomeroy, Nicholas Lonergan, Stephen Ennis and John O'Neill at Christmas Commons this year.**

## The maiden voyage

**Daniel Ryan**

WHEN, on that sunny day in Freshers' Week, you approach the DUBC stand, it is with a great cloud hanging over you. And, as you put your name down and hand over your couple of euro, apprehension clutches at your heart and you realise you have just signed away your soul. You have signed up for something of which you have heard so many terrifying stories: training everyday at 4am, tortuous fitness tests, a strict clampdown on all socialising, and competitions so painful that people regularly die racing in them. In other words, university rowing!

What you don't realise at the time is that you have not just signed up for a sport, you have signed up for a lifestyle, and a set of traditions, which bring with them some of the most exhilarating moments in all your college career. At the beginning of the year, you can't do three press-ups, the coaches are all dismissive of the "idiot novices", and every time you get in a boat, the balance is so bad you can barely take the next stroke. This causes most of the friends you made in the first week to leave and you start thinking about joining them. But for those who remain, these low moments drive the group together and a brotherhood is formed. Your team mates are the ones you spend most time with. They are the ones who keep you going through the pain of the erg tests. And they are ones with whom you share a unique college experience which no one else can fully appreciate.

Our first race of the season



**The novices' cox Nikki Wong meets the Pembroke Rowing Club Cup at Trial Eights earlier this year.**

was Neptune Head in November. Three boats braved the challenge. And between these three we crashed into sandbanks, went the wrong way past the start line, crashed into other boats and broke seats in the middle of the race. Afterwards we all counted ourselves lucky we were all still alive. But the legacy of that day was that we had all pulled together and all three boats crossed the finish line.

The next event of the year was New Year training camp at Cappoquin. This five-day learning curve brought a new intensity to our routine and transformed us from an uncoordinated group into a focused squad who knew what we were trying to achieve. We also got to know each other outside the boat. We made vast improvements and, if anything, began enjoying rowing all the more. The week was not without incident however. Not least was the day we pushed off onto the Blackwater, only to be pounced

upon by North Sea-like swells and driving rain. We powered our way home as waves broke over the riggers and rain ran down our necks, soaking us to the bone. But in many of us, there was almost a masochistic enjoyment of the experience. We were becoming rowers!

Now we are heading into racing season and we will find out if all the erg tests, wet days and early mornings have been worth it. We will test ourselves and each other and learn a whole new set of lessons. We will transform ourselves again from green novices to blooded oarsmen. And therein lies the essence of novice rowing. The new and extreme experiences push you to places to never thought you could reach. You find strength and determination you never thought you had. You're plunged into the deep end and when you've dragged yourself painfully out, you're a better person for it.





**Old news:** The 1981 crew went out on the Liffey for a paddle as part of their reunion last year, and last year's *DUBC News* neglected to publish this photograph. Back row: Seán Tunney, Kevin Lynch, Barry Fallon and Derek Gordon. Front: Raymond Blake, Nick Dunlop, Brian Roberts, Gabriel Magee (captain 2007), Brendan Flynn and Gerry Macken. Photo: Maria Dunaeva.



**This intriguing drawing was among the items the Boat Club gratefully received from AP Kilroy's family. Some readers might recognise some of their contemporaries. Get in touch if you can identify anyone.**

## Lucky new Colours for this year

THE CAPTAIN nominated the following members for Colours at Trial Eights this year. Maiden Colours: Nikki Wong, Clarissa Wallace, Rishi Watson, Eoghan Pomeroy, Stephen Ennis, Omar El Baradie, Stephen Friel, Killian Rogan, Daniel Ryan, Ian O'Loinsigh, John O'Neill, Peter Croke, Alan Crosbie, Fergus Poynton, Seán Darling, David Gilligan, Joseph Henry, James Jaycock, Nicholas Lonergan, Lorcaín Cameron, Rory Croome-Carroll, Robert Mawn. Junior Colours: Brendan Guildea, James Byrne, Paul Dunphy. Senior Colours: Gabriel Magee, Robert Swift, Seán Osborne, Eoghan Kerlin, Paul Laird, Peter Heverin, Alexander Floyd, Henry Tindal, Eoin MacDomhnaill, Gavin Doherty, Joseph Calnan.

## Robin's Olympic adventure

(continued from page 14)

games on July 29 was, of course, a highlight. As we entered the stadium the roar of acclaim was overwhelming. The long drawn-out arguments about our identity, Ireland or Éire, were behind us, and satisfied or not about the outcome of our Éire banner, *we were there*. Though I can't wheel out a gold, or a silver, or a bronze, to admiring, gasping family and friends, I can produce some very yellow photographs and a commemorative medallion to support the point. And from time to time I admire a photograph, framed in *passé* partout, which was all my meagre resources would stretch to at the time, of the Irish crew on a practice outing at Henley. Gliding past Phyllis Court with a reach that hurts me now merely to look at it. Poised for ever. Frozen in time.

(This article was previously published in the 1992 Trinity Regatta programme)



# Out & About

Henley resident **Enda Cahill** reports that the January flooding in the Thames valley brought a new look to the Stewards' Enclosure. The Stewards' Enclosure and regatta car park were completely under water, along with most of Butler's Field. He reports that at the height of the flooding he ran into Laura Dudeney and her husband, along with their three very wet young children, who had successfully proved that the flooding was well past maximum welly-depth. The Thames has now retreated to its normal position between the banks, and all is back to normal.

**Tom Molyneux** is currently experiencing success in mineral exploration. Tom has also taken part in several high-profile concerts in Dublin recently as part of the Bray Choir – his commitment to the choir even caused him to miss Trinity Regatta!

Alice Freeman, daughter of **Tom Freeman**, is continuing to

have a very successful rowing career. She recently had an excellent showing at the GB trials and will hopefully make her father proud at the upcoming international events.

**Tony Wilson** recently won an award for his ingenious new table. The "origami" table has three identical legs, but there is only one way to intertwine them. "It's a bit like a puzzle," said Tony, "but once solved, the legs are a triumvirate, ready to support the glass top and any weight placed on it – solid as a rock."

Tony has also written a book with his DUBC contemporary **John Gibson** entitled *The Universe on a Bicycle*. The introduction on Amazon.com promises a good read: "Two old friends from Trinity College, Dublin, decide to ride their bikes round the coast of Ireland. Fifty years before, they had rowed together in the university crew; now, more decrepit, they

spend their days meandering through the Irish countryside."

**Mark Pollock** is planning yet another adventure. Later this year he intends to take part in the first race to the South Pole. If successful, Mark will be the first blind person to reach the pole.

There have been lots of babies in the past year. Deirdre and **Aillil O'Reilly** have had their third child, Lauren. **Paddy Moe** is Lauren's godfather. Recently-married **Jason Connery** has also had a baby girl. **Brendan Smyth** had a baby boy, Oliver, who will be joining the novice squad in 2026. **Shane Herlihy** and Caroline had a baby boy, Luke.

**Ross Hassett** has moved yet again, this time to Moscow, where he is working for a hedge fund. **Brendan MacDonagh** was appointed chief executive of HSBC's North American unit. Among oarsmen of more



**Gavin Doherty and Anthony O'Neill in the Stewards' Enclosure at Henley last year.**

recent years, several are pursuing further education, or refusing to leave university at all. **Eamonn Hynes** is finishing his MPhil at Homerton College, Cambridge, and is considering starting a PhD closer to home in September. **Daire Gibbons** is finishing his MSc at Oriel College, Oxford. **Kevin Cunningham** will be doing a master's degree at Oriel next year. **Rory Horner** is reading for a PhD at Clark University in Massachusetts, USA. **Edward Roffe-Silvester** is doing a degree at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London. **Rory Browne** is studying at St Cross College, Oxford, where he made the university's modern pentathlon team. **Victor Bennett** is finishing the first year of his veterinary degree at the University of Budapest. **Jörg Hahn** is working as an assistant at the University of Erlangen where he hopes to do a PhD.

Some young old boys cannot escape their rowing addiction. **Sophia Gold** is coxing for Henley Rowing Club. **David Cummins** is rowing for Commercial. The aforementioned **Kevin Cunningham** is rowing with "open club" UCD.

Others are trying to earn an income. **Colm McCaughley** and **Richard Northridge** are still being worked to the bone in

London, and both are refusing to come to Henley to cheer on the senior eight this year. **McCaughley**, **Northridge** and **Paul Lynn** have been dining regularly at the Oxford and Cambridge Club in London, where conversation is dominated by Northridge's insistence that his eight in 2004 was the fastest DUBC crew in history.

**Shane Colwell** has finally finished his PhD and is now working in the Netherlands. **Robert Semple** and **Robert Quinn** are budding journalists and both did work experience at *The News* in Liberia in the past year. **David Battye**, having finished his master's at Queen's University, Belfast, last year, is now a researcher in the Northern Ireland Assembly at Stormont. **Ronan O'Laoire** is pursuing his diplomatic career in Austria where he works on issues relating to non-proliferation and disarmament.

Among those still in College, **Michael Daly** was secretary of DU Bicycle Club this year. **Conor O'Shea** has forsaken the Boat Club in order to set up a DU American Football Club. **Sophie Ward** has defected to the Ladies' Boat Club. **Brendan Guildea** was editor of the College's poetry rag *Icarus* this year, which he filled with pretentious rubbish, pictures of Masha, and Boat Club in-jokes.



**A blast from the past: Gerry Macken, Sarah Jane Hogan, Nigel Reid (who rowed in the 1977 GB lightweight eight with Chris George) and Tim Levy at Henley in 1985.**

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

