

# DUBC NEWS

## Second Years Triumph at Champs



*On the podium. From left: Matt Brophy, Will Hurley, Paul Flaherty, Gerry Cantan, Dillon Rooney, Dearbhla Flynn, Dave Lally, Dan Keegan, Danny Ryan, Darragh Callnan*

On Thursday the 14th of July DUBC's Second Year Novice VIII won the Novice Pot down in Cork for the first time since 1993. Having dominated all season, they were hot favourites going into the race and won it in true style, by over a length of clear water over UCD. The crew, from bow, were: Darragh Callanan, Danny Ryan, Dan Keegan, Dave Lally, Dillon Rooney, Paul Flaherty, Will Hurley, Matt Brophy and Cox Dearbhla Na Flionn. They were superbly coached by Gerry Cantan.

Elsewhere at the Championships, Neal Byrne's First Year Novice crew came fourth, the fastest first years on the day. The Intermediate VIII lost to Queens by half a length in an epic race. They battled the whole way down the course, crossing the line at 43, but alas it was not enough.

Well done to all who took part. DUBC is in rude health, with a 1st and 4th at Novice and a 2nd and 4th at Inter it all looks very promising for the future.



*Club vice-president Mike Ryder congratulating the crew he coached in their first year*

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# Season Round Up

Gerry Cantan

This is my third year attempting to coach DUBC. Myself and the dog (dyslexics think he's god) have not been thrown out yet and are still made feel welcome. What attracted me in was Mark Pattison's ambition to develop skilful rowers through sculling and other small boats. This I suppose is quite against the etiquette of Rubrick chums gathering at dawn to cast a poetic silhouette in an eight on Anna Livia, but needs must, sculling is survival, a trip along the cliff edge, which very quickly smartens the nervous system.

Each September, when the memories of the Summer pain has dulled somewhat, we have a sculling camp in Cork. This is primarily to initiate the boys moving out of the safety and security of a novice eight (although one disappear over the weir this year) and to grind off the rust of the more experienced scullers. Unfortunately last September the weather which had been benign the previous Autumn decided to enter a period of ill humour, probably in response to the fact that a Scott had taken over the helm. Whilst we did get some sculling in, on many of the days the supplicants had to engage in heinous circuits and ergometer sessions. The torture was relieved by

The camp however did set the emphasis for September and all buckled down to, the dark art of sculling, so that DUBC won the sculling ladder team prize for the first time. No longer are Trinity scullers regarded as eccentric as portrayed in the folklore of Robert Van Mesdag and Peter Wolfe.

Being an acquisitive coach I spotted that there was a group of second year novices, good quality livestock, that would



'September Sculling Camp' by Gerry Cantan

grace any country market and with brains too. It was decided that a group of about 25 would be formed including the intermediates and seasoned novices. It's a decision I do not regret as the beastliness of youth, encompassed in the novice group, has stimulated the more gentlemanly sporting purveyors of the older, wiser intermediates.

Thanks to the old boy network 10 new ergometers have been installed on campus in a sports hall.

This has been really excellent. On Tuesdays and Thursdays the first sitting (for sitting it is) took place at 7.30 a.m. and the second at 8.30. Hamsters of the dark, battled through snow drift and flood to be on hand, to spin their bodies into efficient specimens.

On other days weights were lifted in the long room under the watchful eye of previous generations.

## The Goals

With everybody on board, targets for the year were set out:

- Win the inter and novice eights and senior quad at the Erne Head
- Win the overall University Championships
- Qualify an eight and a four at Henley
- Win Irish Championships at intermediate and novice levels.

The general intention is to have Trinity athletes at a high level of performance. As a coach I certainly will not complain about the sheer dedication of the athletes we have. Some come from a junior background but most don't and it is a huge achievement to reach the level of development they do in three years.

## Training Camps

When I arrived in the training centre in Seville for our January camp, I thought I had died and gone to heaven (don't tell Caroline). The sun shone, the accommodation, food, medical attention, river, boats and ambience of other rowers was simply terrific. We brought out the 14 intermediates, hired 6 pairs and one double and traversed

200 kilometres during a week of learning skills. This was certainly a great foundation.

One could get used to ascending the steps by the river to purchase petrol for the cat and a bag of 20 oranges for 2 Euro.

For the second year novices the previous week there was the delight of freezing Poulaphuca.

Despite fingers freezing to oars and one enterprising, involuntary swimmer we got good mileage in. Not for them the soft delights of Seville, balmy evenings sipping coffee in historic surroundings, serves them right for volunteering.

## University Championships

For the University championships the group turned their hand to all manner of boats from eights to singles. Good results amassed enough points, combined with the women to be well clear of other Universities at the end. Unfortunately the university championships clashed with the London head this year.

As people are probably aware, (continued on page 4)



## Coming Back

Rob van Mesdag

I was back recently; how delightful it was. At the 2010 AGM I learnt that the number of people who now actually pay for their membership of Lady Elizabeth BC and DUBC has risen to 151 which at £ 150 a piece provides a vital supply of extra annual income to the Club. I noticed the advantage immediately in the shape of Neal Byrne, the new professional coach. Nice fellow, good oarsman himself. Also at the boathouse I encountered this new flow of funds. Brand new sculling boats, targeted to improve watermanship and fitness, lay or hung inserted between racks and rafters. A few were out on the river, manned by seniors while newcomers were being initiated by long-term chairman John Mohan, using the very same outdoor tank that Simon Newman had had built when captain in the 1960s; an antique, still fulfilling its function.

Meanwhile DUBC President Des Hill had arrived with space on his mind. Pointing to two trailers full of boats he remarked: "It's a shame to have this expensive equipment out in the open; we must make haste in creating space for it. Do we build onto our Clubhouse?" he asked as he looked up at it, "or do we build a shed next to the existing dressing room unit.... or is there space there where the container used to be, under the trees and next to Simon's tank?"

I left the discussion for a walk along the bank. The towpath is very posh now, asphalted all the

way and river, trees and fields - in full autumn splendour - were as beautiful as ever; nothings had changed even the abandoned prams and plastic bottles were there, embedded in the weeds. Would that someone organise one of those long-arm grabbers to haul this muck out of the water, especially at the Boo House bend where it's like syrup as crews row through the weeds.

On my way back, close to the Club, I missed seeing the telephone wire into which in 1952 a crow had flown. The poor fellow lay on the towpath, flapping its wings limpidly. Brave as I was I called Christy, our then boatman, to kill it, witnessing the execution from a distance. But Christie needed help; the bird's feathers were so thick that his hammer made no impact. "Give me a hand", he said, "it's neck is loike roobber."

Next wish was to report to DUBC's eldest member: Dr. R.B. MacDowell, who describes himself as "dangerously comfortable" in a nearby nursing home where at 97 he studies his Daily Telegraph with the naked eye. He was most interested in my observations and his love for the Club is as strong as ever although he admits that his presence at Trial Eights four years ago may have been his last. On that occasion he spoke about a new eight he had just christened. He described the "R.B. McDowell" as "new, strong and fast....like me!" He wishes the Club well. So do I. Going back is fun. Try it.

## Captain's Reprt



Charlie Landale

This year DUBC celebrates its 175th birthday. On anniversaries such as these, history is often brought to fore. Delving into the minutes book from the past two decades gives an idea of the Club's fairly multi-coloured story. One thing that has been constant is the sense of pride to be part of something that has spanned such a long period of time. I feel very proud to have played my part.

With the success of Lizzie's fundraising initiative we had an opportunity to embark on a journey down a new road this year. Our competitors in the UK, and more recently Ireland, had jumped ahead in this regard. The appointment of Neal Byrne was a crucial step towards seeing our crews compete at the highest level in Ireland and on an international stage. It is crucial that we continue to support this ambition, at the same time as protecting the unique image and experience that so many have enjoyed.

We have had a fittingly successful season. It began with DUBC's first ever victory in the Dublin Sculling ladder. From there we had a successful head season, winning seven pennants.

Notable wins were the Inter 8+, Inter 4x and Novice 8+ at Erne Head. The first weekend of the regatta season saw another first for DUBC, with the Club winning the overall University Championship on points for the first time. The following day at Skibereen Regatta we picked up four more first prizes. The weekend after, Trinity Regatta was upon us, where we picked up more silverware, notably in the Senior 8+.

We took 34 athletes over to Marlow Regatta with us in late June, and managed to qualify an eight and a four for Henley. Racing in the UK was an eye opening experience for all: there are just so many crews going so fast. We can only aspire to beat them in the future.

Our history is important and will always be there, but DUBC needs to move forward. In order to be successful in the future we need to build on the successes of this year. LEBC and DUBC's fates are intertwined: the more financial support that we can build, the more that we can achieve. But we need support in all areas, not just money. We need more people on the tow path and helping behind the scenes, only then can we really enjoy the success of what we have set in motion.

There are already too many people to thank by name here. To everyone who has been involved, I would like to say that I am truly grateful for all your help. It has been a team effort, and I hope that you will all come back





*(continued from page 2)*

UCD through their scholarship programme have amassed a strong cohort of ready-made stars for their first eight. Although we carefully prepared for the Gannon and the crew raced well, we were simply out-gunned. Because Irish university boat clubs are such a small entity there is a constant conflict for coaching and resources between bringing in athletes who have already established credentials at junior level and guiding raw material picked up in Front Square.

Theoretically there is a four year window in which to bring people to senior status. In practice the onus on students to study abroad in their third year will have implications for university rowing, unless partner universities with rowing can be found.

Setting that aside the group continued to amass wins at regattas.

Exams are always disruptive, but I think the only way to regard them is punctuation in a season, downtime for the maintenance of fitness, but a calm before the end of season storm. No group could maintain the intensity of the early and late season without a break.

After exams we target preparation for Marlow regatta in mid-June which is a really excellent event.

The inter group entered an eight and four at Intermediate 1 and the Novices raced intermediate 3.

All crews raced well and reached finals, but we were not quite up to speed as regards the final kill.

U.K. and U.S. crews get this class of racing from the heads every two weeks, seven crews abreast going hammer and tongues and sprinting at the end. The Grand League regattas will certainly help Irish crews to harden, but without competing abroad it is difficult.



Above: the small boat fleet in Blessington.

Below: Gannon Cup 2011 gets underway in choppy conditions



Marlow regatta is a real eye opener which builds huge experience into the whole of DUBC. The first year novices also raced there this year and acquitted themselves well.

### *Henley*

For Henley the eight gained automatic qualification based on their Marlow result. The intermediate four bravely travelled over for the qualifiers to gain a place. Maevé coxed the qualifier and was back on station to cox her eight the next morning in Dublin, that's dedication..

Henley is a bit of a conundrum. It is a very significant regatta that everyone wants to compete in but the standards are now so high in the Temple and

Prince Albert, that fall foul of the draw and it can be a very discouraging place for a Trinity crew. The athletes we have are very dedicated and ambitious, not wishing to be an also ran.

Although not highly regarded in DUBC circles the Irish Championships which occur two weeks later than Henley are regarded by the athletes and crews as the benchmark of where they have progressed to. The championship targets are seriously high. A senior eight would need to be travelling over 2K at less than 5.42, intermediates at sub 5.50 and novices at sub 5.58.

Unfortunately we had to take on Nereus in the eight in the

first round. Nereus are always a serious outfit. It is a sweeper club for talented student athletes in the Amsterdam area. Whilst I am confident that technically our crew was equal, the Nereus boys had an average 2K ergometer test score of sub 6.12. Still they were hammered by 4 ½ lengths by a USA Berkeley crew in the final.

As if to reinforce the dilemma I outline above as to the source of athletes, Berkeley actively recruit gold medal athletes around the World for their Freshman eight to race the Temple. Somebody has moved the goal posts.

The four were beaten by Bristol  
*(continued on page 6)*





Elite sculler Luke Acheson contributing to DUBC's first club victory at the sculling ladder



Not all fun in Seville! Lorcaín Cameron's hands on the final day



Shiny new shoes for the club's top VIII, the Thomas Dudený, this year



Two recruits from across the river: junior Ian Kelly and old dog Captain Barry Crushell



Novices enjoying 'the banter' at Trial VIIIs this year



After Trinity were declared University Champions, captain Charlie Landale was sent for a swim



*(continued from page 4)*

University by two lengths in the first round. They raced well but had only been together for two weeks.

Henley regatta as it is now constituted prompts a real examination of what DUBC exists for. The athletes I have dealt with certainly want to achieve what is possible with their group. The club must be there to serve them and not simply a false hope.

To make the Henley week useful we shifted on Thursday to the Oxford Boat house at Wallingford to train. The boat house is spectacular and very welcoming. The Thames at this point has a 7.5 km stretch of good water.

#### CHAMPIONSHIPS:

Since last September we have had a very clear idea that the final goal would be the Irish Championships. We travelled to Cork knowing that we had potential for a number of wins, but also realising that the best laid plans on man can come asunder.

The novice eight provided the confirmation winning their final in good style on the first day. It seems that their only loss at Dublin Metropolitan gave them the humility to get better towards the end of the season.

The intermediate eight had a titanic struggle with Queens. Queens gained a quarter length on the start, slipped us another quarter at 1000, we came back strongly nearly gaining the upper hand, but it was .7 of a second to Queens on the line. We had gained a lot on them since Marlow in June and I cannot fault the crews guts.

#### CONCLUSIONS

There is no doubt that with the top group of twenty and the first year novice group of twelve that there is great momentum in DUBC.

The University really has to make up its mind however whether it will simply cater for 'sport for all' at a low level of engagement or whether it really want to cater for high performance athletes.

Trinity does excel at the provision of general sports facilities, but is falling behind with regard to high performance. The athletes in DUBC at the moment have a spectacular commitment to train 8-10 times a week, but the equipment and supports are simply not there at present to support this.

There is no easy answer. Private clubs in Ireland have very good financial support from the National Lottery. Both the Dublin private clubs must have received over 1 million Euro in the last 15 years.

Unlike the U.K. universities DUBC is not eligible for lottery assistance and therefore struggles to advance the equipment and facilities.

DUBC could be a real presence with:

- Astute recruitment of suitable athletes
- Better equipment and facilities
- A well co-ordinated programme for progressing athletes
- Retaining the fun that being a member of DUBC is.

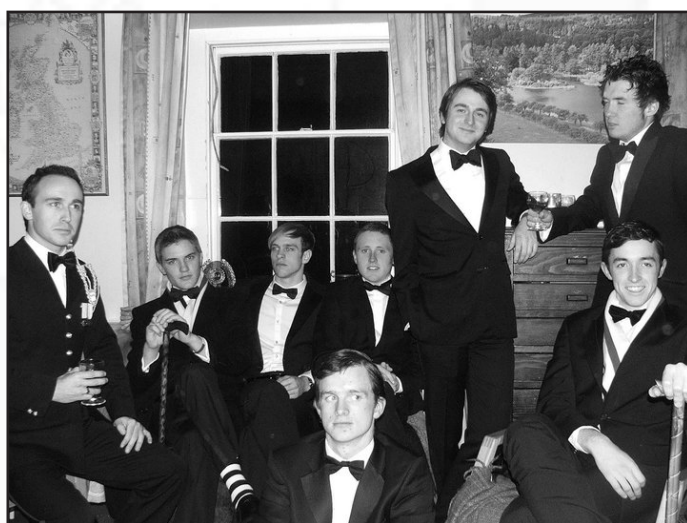
Lastly I will have to thank Charlie Landale and his team for being so efficient in organising a very complex programme.



Intermediate VIII at Skibereen Regatta. From left: Fionn McCaffrey, Mark Harris, John Magan, Luke Facheson, Charlie Landale, Maeve Crockette, Patrick Jacques, Padraic Ryan, James Semple



Novice VIII at Skibereen Regatta. From left: Daniel Keegan, Paul Flaherty, Will Hurley, Darragh Callaghan, Matt Brophy, Cathal Dolan, Dillon Rooney, David Lally



Christmas Commons, a tame affair as per usual



## President's Letter

Des Hill

When Trinity was narrowly beaten by Jesus College, Cambridge in the final of the Ladies' Plate in 1936, there were records set in that race, Kevin Shillington was telling me recently, which lasted until my first year at Henley in 1965. In perfect conditions, many records fell that year. Karl Adam's Ratzeburg crew beat Vesper B.C., the 1964 U.S.A Olympic Champions in the final of The Grand and took the record for the course down by seven seconds to 6.15, a time which everyone then thought was practically unassailable. Not so. In common with all the events, it has fallen steadily and this year, Hansa Dortmund, the German national crew, reduced the record further to 5.57 in beating Molesey & Leander, the GB crew in the final of The Grand.

In The Temple, the Univ. of California, Berkeley, took the record to the Barrier down from 1.47 to 1.46 on the Thursday and to 1.44 on the Friday and Saturday. The same crew took the record to Fawley down by one second to 3.00 on the Thursday, to 2.58 on the Friday and to 2.57 on the Saturday. On the Friday, Harvard, in beating Yale, reduced the record to the Finish from 6.14 to 6.12. On the Thursday, the day after A.S.R. Nereus, Holland beat Trinity in the first round, they equalled the record to the Barrier, which had just been set by Univ. of California, Berkeley.

We might reasonably take the view that some of these crews should be entered in the Ladies' Plate and not the Temple Cup. However the winner, Univ. of California, Berkeley, was a freshman crew and was entitled to be there. The problem is that on board were one of

last year's superb Eton College eight and two junior champions from Slovenia or wherever. Trinity is not alone in this. Many Clubs are encountering the problem, namely the ability of wealthy universities to scour the world through the medium of the Internet and 'hoover' up any available talent. When my local club in Coleraine, Bann R.C., won the Men's Junior 18 Irish Championship last year, I am told they received an inquiry from Yale. Trinity has a long road to travel, therefore, before it will feature once more in a semi-final or final at Henley, much less win the event. However, let us not be down-hearted. As the Chinese say, 'A journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step'.

Henley apart, DUBC has enjoyed a solid year.. Charlie Landale has done a fine job as Captain and has run a tight ship. He has been loyally supported by a small but enthusiastic panel of voluntary coaches and to them we offer our grateful thanks, especially Gerry

Cantan, who looks after the Senior squad. The most notable success of the year was the winning of the Universities Championship, which was achieved as a joint effort with DULBC. This did much to foster good relations between the two Clubs and enhanced the standing of both with College.

Thank you to all our loyal subscribers for providing the funding to enable us to employ our first professional coach, Neal Byrne. The venture has been a great success. Neal has worked tirelessly with the Novice squad as a rowing development coach and achieved good results. Numbers and standards have improved. As he moves to Waterford with his new wife this summer, it is regrettable that he cannot remain to see and enjoy the fruits of his labours this coming winter. We wish him all the best for the future.

Trinity Regatta took place on 16th April and was well-organised and run by Regatta Chair, Brigid Collins, and Matthew Brazel, ably assisted by Micheál

O'Connell. Dr. Hegarty, attending with his wife, Neasa Ní Chinnéide for the last time in his capacity as Provost was joined by guest of honour, Leo Varadkar, Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, who spoke briefly after the luncheon.

It is with great sadness that we record the deaths of Vice-President Professor Alan Browne and former Captain, Peter 'Blondie' Ross Todd. Their obituaries appear elsewhere in this newsletter.

Although David and Jane Hickey were the first members of DUBC and DULBC to marry, Ben Hurley, Captain in 1989, was the first DUBC man to marry a DUBC lady, Senior VIII cox, Tatiana (Tats) Convery. Well, Ben has gone and done it again. He will be the first Captain, whose son also has been elected Captain. We wish Captain-elect Will Hurley every success for the forthcoming year when he formally takes office at the AGM in October.





# *The Maiden Voyage*



John Langan

Having had many friends who were rowers, one of the few certainties in my life had been that rowing was not for me, owing to the regimented training programmes I had seen them endure over the years. However, during a sunny afternoon ramble through Front Square during fresher's week, I paused a little too long in front of the DUBC stand, and heard the call of "you look like a rower" coming from one Fionn McCaffrey. He espoused the merits and joys of rowing, quelling each of my reasons against, and soon had me signing my name on the dotted line.

Training kicked off with gusto on the first Tuesday of Michaelmas term with a field of near 100 running the classic DUBC 5km route around campus. The run was followed by intense circuit training classes held in the TCD sports centre on campus, with everyone being introduced to new work out exercises which would become the sustenance of our land training

Much time was spent in the tank during the early days, learning the basics of the rowing stroke and how to begin to work in unison as a crew. The inter and senior squad mem-

bers were hugely accommodating and helpful during our first water sessions at Islandbridge, often rowing the bow and stroke seats of novice boats so that we might stay upright in the water, as well as offering helpful tips and advice on oarsmanship and technique.

Training camp was held soon after New Year on Blessington lake. On the water training was carried out in two VIII+'s and one IV+. A well structured training plan was set out for the camp, which allowed each tough work session to be followed by rest, recuperation and re-fueling.

Micahel Ryder and Mark Pattison accompanied our coach for some of the water sessions, complimenting his instruction and adding another angle on aspects of our rowing that we needed to focus on. A hybrid yoga-pilates session was held on the Saturday afternoon of camp, led by Peter Wolfe.

The annual colours races with UCD were held on St. Patrick's day, with the race forming part of the St. Patrick's day festival and the course running upstream from O'Connell bridge to St. Jame's gate. It was a great day for rowing as a sport, with the senior races receiving televi-

sion coverage on RTE. Despite our high levels of training in the run up to race day, UCD were the victors of the day, winning all four races and delivering a strong message for the season to come.

The resolve within the squad was impressive after Colours, with levels of focus and commitment to each training session increasing as we approached University Championships in early April. Everyone looked forward to their first real taste of multi-

lane racing, and the event certainly did not disappoint. It was a great and rewarding weekend for the first year novices especially, as we won our first year novice category with a convincing win over the competition.

Much of novice squad began sculling during the exam period, with coach accommodating us around our respective schedules and developing a training regime that allowed us to go out in small sculling boats and learn the basics of two-oar row-





ing. This training transferred well into our sweep rowing and as the exams passed in a flurry we were soon back to full time training, preparing for Marlow Regatta and National Championships.

Marlow Regatta was a spectacle to behold and a fantastic sporting event to be part of, with over 2000 oarsmen competing on the Saturday alone. Captain Charlie Landale's family ran the DUBC tent with aplomb, and deserve commendation for providing a spread of food and drink that would leave the hungriest rower satisfied, re-charged and re-fuelled for his next race. The standard of competition in our races was higher than what we had encountered before, and we finished the weekend all the better for it. The novices fin-

ished their racing at the regatta with their best race of the weekend, finishing second in the first year novice category.

Myself and all of the novice squad are grateful for all of the help we've received from the Old Boys of DUBC. Your continued support of the club is invaluable and has provided us with something very few clubs are fortunate enough to have: a full time professional development coach. As a squad we are looking forward to National Championships in mid-July, hoping that we can vindicate all of the hard work throughout the year, both from our coaches and the athletes and bring home some silver to Islandbridge.



#### Alan DH Browne MD, FRCPI, FRCOG, FRCSI (hc)

In almost 175 years of rowing at Trinity there can be few oarsmen who wore the black and white with greater distinction than Alan Drury Harling Browne. His was a commanding presence in the Senior VIII and he helped drive Trinity to a hat-trick of victories in the 'Senior Pot' in 1944, '45 & '46. This trio of wins, when added to those of 1941, '42 & '43, still constitutes the longest winning sequence by any club in the championship's history.

For decades afterwards, whenever tea was served in the Browne household, the sugar always came in one of the splendid silver replicas that were awarded to winners of the championship in those days. Alan also competed in the first post-war Henley, when the crew camped at Remenham, carrying with them a good supply of food from Ireland in an effort to beat the post-war rationing. They made it to the final of the Ladies' Plate where Jesus College, Cambridge, stroked by future Olympic silver

medallist CBR Barton, proved too strong for them.

Throughout the 1950s and '60s his association with the Boat Club was limited to annual attendance at Trinity Regatta as he devoted himself to his medical career. Master of the Rotunda Lying-in Hospital, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, and an honorary fellowship of that college all attest to his talent and ability. He was held in universally high regard.

Come the 1970s he did some coaching of an RCSI crew and once his son David started rowing at Trinity in 1975 the call of Islandbridge, and then Henley, became as strong as when he had pulled an oar himself. He travelled regularly to the Royal Regatta with his wife Pamela in the late 1970s and early '80s, but painfully narrow defeat was to be Trinity's lot in those days. He was there, though, in 1986 when his third son, Philip, rowed to victory in the Ladies' Plate, this time in the colours of Neptune. It was exactly forty years since Alan's own final defeat and a

brilliant photo from the time shows Browne père et fils rejoicing in the win.

He retired in 1988 and almost immediately volunteered for the unenviable job of turning hundreds of pages of handwriting into a typescript first draft of the Boat Club history, *In Black & White*. It turned into a Herculean task as re-drafts and corrections stretched almost to infinity but his enthusiasm never flagged. Inevitably, he gave a wonderful speech of introduction at the book's launch and it is safe to say that it would never have seen the light of day without his help.

Alan was most at ease at his holiday home at Mullaghmore in Sligo where he and Pamela hosted legions of their own and their sons' friends over the years. There are dozens of Boat Club men with great memories of a weekend or more spent under their roof. Visitors could be sure of plenty of laughs when Alan would dip repeatedly into a bottomless pit of tales and reminiscences about his time in the Boat Club and the Rotunda

Hospital. These were told with the ease of a born raconteur, able to entertain his listeners without belittling any of the characters in the story. It was not all fun and games. When Lord Mountbatten was killed at Mullaghmore in 1979 Alan was on hand to lend what assistance he could to the survivors.

His election as a Vice-President cemented his bond with the Club and he took this office seriously, seldom missing a Trial VIII's supper. On those bibulous evenings he was frequently prevailed upon, usually at extremely short notice, to say 'a few words' by way of a toast to the Pembroke. He could always be relied upon to hold the attention of his listeners with a witty and entertaining speech, though it wasn't all froth. There was always some substance too, some nugget of wisdom which made it very clear that the Boat Club was a serious institution, deserving of one's very best effort. He always gave it his.

RFB





**At the barrel.** Clockwies from above: incoming admiral Charlie Landale with former captain Henry Clarke; Tim Coote with Heather Burns; Donagh MacDonagh enjoying a pint with some current club members; David Browne with Elaine and Terry Dudeney



#### **Peter Ross Todd, Captain DUBC 1958**

Following a short illness, Peter (aka Blondie) Ross Todd died just before Christmas last year. He was the only son of parents who moved from town to town in Ireland, as bank managers' families used to do.

When I first met Peter we were both boarders at Portora Royal School, Enniskillen; his home was in Mullingar. In our last year there, before going on to TCD, we rowed in the Portora 1st VIII, which was captained by Tom Molyneux. It was a successful crew and caught the

eye of DUBC scouts when it raced at the Trinity Regatta of 1954. They pounced on every oarsman from Portora who arrived in Front Square that autumn. Three years later we returned to Portora, together with Brian Kidd, another old Portoran, in the DUBC 1st VIII to win the first rowing of the Erne Head. In between times we all rowed in Ireland and England with success, some disappointments - but enormous enjoyment. Peter achieved what I didn't achieve the year before. In 1958 he captained the VIII that won the Irish Senior Championship.

When Peter left Trinity, he left rowing. Armed with a B.Comm degree, he lived and worked in Nigeria for John Holt Ltd, a highly respected Liverpool-based trading company. Then he moved across the Atlantic to be employed by the Hudson's Bay Company, where he met Betty, who was to become his wife. Although they settled in Toronto, they travelled widely throughout Canada both before and after his retirement in the mid-90's. But he never shook off his love of the water: for many years he owned and loved to sail his cruising yacht on Lake Ontario, moored just at the end of the

road where they lived.

Peter was a wonderful friend and support. In the years after university we kept in only occasional contact and when we eventually met again three years ago at the great DUBC dinner in the Dining Hall we both regretted not having kept in closer touch. I still do.

Peter leaves behind his wife Betty and their son Robert.

Hugh (aka Michael, Hughie) Delap  
Captain DUBC 1957



## DUBC Appeal

After the successful revival of LEBC last year, this season has seen DUBC produce some excellent results. Now, we are hoping to build on what has already been achieved and increase the number of standing orders and donations from the alumni community. The big move towards a professional set up in DUBC is clearly working, but can only continue to do so with increased support from Lizzie. So if you know of anyone who has not yet filled in their LEBC forms, please encourage them to do so!

### *Why is LEBC subscription based?*

According to the 1929 LEBC constitution, membership to LEBC historically required an annual subscription. All funds raised through this subscription were allocated to support DUBC. It is not clear when this policy lapsed but the intention has been to reinstate it. Therefore the subscription based initiative set up in 2010 simply reintroduced an existing practice. Last year's campaign has proven to be particularly successfully in attracting financial support from younger generations and crucially from recent graduates. Contributions to DUBC (paid directly or through LEBC) are now received much more evenly from all eras of Trinity oarsmen. This is a more equitable and secure state of affairs than donations being heavily concentrated from those who rowed in the 1940s 1950s and 1960s

*I have considered myself a member of LEBC for years. Does this mean I am no longer a member if I do not subscribe?*

The changes made last year were intended to return LEBC into a more inclusive organisation that offers meaningful support to DUBC. Nobody has been removed or thrown out of 'Liz-

zie' as a result of these changes. However, from now on those who are elected as 'contributing members' either through their subscription directly to LEBC or by being nominated for membership based upon their support - on or off the water - of DUBC, will receive a LEBC contributor's badge. As mentioned above, re-launching LEBC has proven a very effective means of attracting support from those who have not managed to get around to contributing to their former club before and will hopefully be a better platform to continue to support rowing at Trinity in the future.

### *Why give directly to DUBC instead of LEBC?*

Contributions to DUBC (via TCD) can receive tax benefits, whilst direct contributions to LEBC will not receive this. As a result of working in partnership with TCD, the tax benefit received by DUBC in recent years has covered the cost of two sculling boats. If you have any questions please contact Tim Coote (tccoote@hotmail.com)

### *Who benefits from DUBC / LEBC fundraising?*

All funds raised will exclusively support student rowing for TCD students. DUBC has benefitted substantially from DUBC / LEBC fundraising, particularly in the form of a professional coach. This, combined with improving facilities is beginning to produce results and bring Trinity rowing into the 21st Century.

### *Why does DUBC need additional equipment?*

DUBC has grown from an average of 16 athletes at the end of a typical season to almost 40 this year. The club simply does not currently have a sufficient fleet to accommodate more than a competitive eight and four.

Queens and UCD have each spent roughly €80,000 on boats in the last 24 months helping support all their squads compared to DUBC's investment of approximately €15,000.

### *Is Trinity College supporting DUBC?*

Trinity College continues to be the largest financial contributor to DUBC. The substantial cost of maintaining the boat-house, the boatman's salary, insuring the equipment, running a gym on campus as well as the DUCAC grant, are all covered by Trinity College. DUBC consistently receives the largest Club grant from DUCAC. However, college rowing continues to be a capital intensive sport and the College funding is simply not sufficient to allow

DUBC to retain a competitive edge at Novice, Intermediate or Senior level.

### *What can I do to help?*

If you are already donating to DUBC or LEBC, we would encourage you to approach any of your DUBC contemporaries for a contribution. Only 25% of those listed on our database are currently contributing and some of the most generous contributors only rowed for one year at novice level, so please approach anyone who you feel has any link with the club and may be interested in supporting the club. Membership/contribution forms can be downloaded from the Club website at <http://www.boat.tcdlife.ie/> or by contacting Tim Coote at [tccoote@hotmail.com](mailto:tccoote@hotmail.com)

### *Lizzie figures*

- **151 Old Members and friends contributed to DUBC / LEBC in 2010. This compares to 43 contributors in 2009**
- **€40,123 was raised - compared to approx €12,000 in 2009. This is before a tax enhancement available through Trinity Foundation which is likely to add €3,000+ of additional income**
- **Breakdown of income sources: €14,680 (37%), directly through LEBC subscription €25,443 (63%), to DUBC (many LEBC Members also contributed / set up additional standing orders to DUBC) 30 people contributed €250 or more, 6 contributed €1,000 or more**
- **€19,948 (50%) of income is recurring (standing orders)**
- **2010 saw a significant increase in number of contributors from those leaving TCD in 1980's, 1990's and 2000's. LEBC initiative has been a major success for reengaging all eras of the club**
- **The TCD Association & Trust, University of Dublin Fund, DUCAC and the current oarsmen themselves have all made significant financial contributions to the club in the past year**
- **If you would like to contribute to DUBC / LEBC in 2011 please contact Tim Coote at [tccoote@hotmail.com](mailto:tccoote@hotmail.com)**



## News from “Trinity by the Thames”

Drift Wood reports from the London Rowing Club

**Joe Calnan** left Trinity in 2008, then spent eight months pursuing and training for the lightweight GB squad. However, this journey ended prematurely after a back injury so he settled into a working life in London, taking a job with Xchanging. Last summer he went on a cycling trip across the Pyrenees with some friends. Following from this trip he decided to get back into rowing again, so joined LRC. He writes: “My aim was to progress up the club’s boats and possi-



bly win some medals. LRC is a great club to join as it has international oarsmen and a men’s squad which is usually able to field five competitive VIII’s at the weekends so there’s always a boat to row in. There’s also a full-time professional coaching team, good equipment and social side to the Club. Combining work,

social and rowing can be difficult, however as I see it you’re only young once and therefore able to compete to win at regattas such as Henley or elsewhere. Sacrifices do need to be made to be successful and win, but as we all know the best parties are when you have a pot or medal in your hand to celebrate!”

**James Lindsay-Fynn** (picture right) came 8th in London’s first VIII, thereby winning the much coveted Vernon Trophy, a distinguished pot. Prior to the Head he had told Drift Wood: “Subject to good health I will be rowing in the LRC first eight but that will be my last rowing race of the season because I am getting more involved with developing younger members with scope for the 2016 Games.

This year I was elected as a member of the FISA Athletes Commission, representing their best interests when it comes to decision making at FISA congresses.”

Drift Wood has it that **Gareth Goodsir Culen** is getting a new blazer specially tailored for a trip over from Australia this summer for Henley.

DUBC graduates **John**

**Pearson and Rob van Mesdag** continue to grace London’s Irregular Squad for 40 to 80-year olds, rowing particularly fast on Wednesday nights when outings in eights, fours or sculls are followed by beer and dinner in the Club’s

Members’ Room unless dinner is off in which case Cedric Sheppard proposes a buffet supper in his prestigious Hurlingham Club nearby.



Congratulations to Brendan Guilda (senior crew 2009) who was married last autumn to Rebecca Knowles