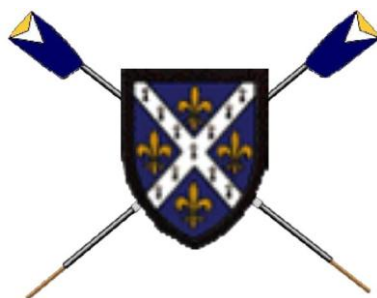


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# Friends of St. Hugh's Boat Club

## Newsletter – MT 2011

### President's Report

Another year for SHBC, and for its rowers, another year of training sessions spent in the infamous pain cave. But why do we spend such a large portion of our free time taking part in such a bizarre sport? Most of us will have picked it up when we started at Hugh's, and subsequently caught the rowing bug. For different people, 'the bug' will constitute different things. For some, it's all about the thrill of the competition – for others, it will be the social aspect, the "banter" (Tommy G, 2010). For the rest, it might be about finding your physical and mental limits and pushing past them. In reality, I suspect that the majority of my crewmates are simply closet lycra fetishists and this is their only socially acceptable outlet. Its ok guys, you're among friends here. This is a safe space.

For me, I'm not so sure. To this day I maintain a small but sufficient level of hatred for any kind of physical exertion (let alone on an erg), my inability to get out of bed in a timely manner is bordering on a medical issue and I can't swim very well. You'd think that on paper rowing is the worst possible sport for me, and yet I still carry on. Don't get me wrong, the transformation from a lanky, wheezing fresher to something that can passably resemble athleticism has been pretty satisfying. But, the journey could have been completed at much more appropriate hours in a gym. Would it have been as fun and fulfilling? No way.

What I'm trying to say in a slightly clichéd way is that the people I've made this journey with have been the best part of it. I have so many fond memories of my time at SHBC – I've been berated by a very large Scottish man at Henley, I've been told to man up by a small Romanian lady on the Isis. I've had unisuit sunburn, and I've nearly frozen solid sitting in a lock in -4 degrees. I've had outings that start late, and outings that start on time... actually, that's not strictly true. Ignore that last one. Regardless, I've enjoyed every last outing, every last erg and circuits session because I know that the seven other guys in the boat with me are doing all they can to make sure that we are the best that we can be come race time. That is a bond that isn't easily broken, and even when that best might not be good enough, the experience has still been an incredible one. And even if our crew had a bad campaign, we could still get some sense of glory from watching our women succeed. I think that sort of club unity is what makes SHBC so special.

I hope, like me you will remember SHBC and its members with fond memories. In my opinion, the boat club is one of the few groups at University that can genuinely pull different sorts of people together - the MCR and JCR, freshers and finalists, and most surprisingly in my case, the English and the French. That is something to be valued and treasured, and I hope these newsletters help to rekindle some of those feelings of friendship, achievement and how good it actually felt to get up at 6 in the morning to go and row with your mates.

Best wishes,

*Lawrence Perrett - SHBC President of Boats*



*Lawrence having some early morning fun!*

Any enquires, please email to: [thomas.griffiths@st-hughs.ox.ac.uk](mailto:thomas.griffiths@st-hughs.ox.ac.uk)

## Captains' Reports

### *Women's Novice Rowing*

Michaelmas 2011 has provided a well needed boost to the women of SHBC: being able to enter two novice women's crews and successfully recruiting 19 rowers of various experience levels. The term began with three fairly hectic but very promising taster sessions run on the Isis by the SHBC committee, with some rowers even trying to sneak into three taster outings in one afternoon! The girls very quickly began to show their commitment to the club as well as good potential in their initial technique.



*The 'Kholoud Hussein' crew after Christ Church Regatta 2011*

With outings being run by our very capable coaches (Andrea Graziadei, Ben Harrington, Andrew Wilson, and Civaram Sivakumaran), the crews began to bond both on and off the water, and Bryony and I decided to name the crews after some notable alumni - Kholoud Hussein and Sarah Outen. After seven weeks of uninterrupted rowing Christ Church regatta began, and despite the growing talent of our girls, they were unfortunately unable to progress into the third round of the regatta, with the Kholoud Hussein crew being knocked out by Merton WA and the Sarah Outen crew being knocked out by Oriel WA. Though the novice women of SHBC were unable to progress to the third round of Christ Church regatta, we should have two senior squads for the Torpids campaign next term, with the hope of a very bumpy ride.



*The 'Sarah Outen' crew on the Isis in Christ Church Regatta 2011*

*Becca Holttum – Women's Captain*

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### *Women's Senior Rowing*

The senior women of SHBC saw many highs and lows in the 2011-2012 season. While W1 was thrilled to go up a place in division two in Torpids, the loss of senior rowers due to finals had a big impact on the crew's performance during Summer VIII's.



*W1 Bumping Somerville in Torpids 2011*

Michaelmas term of 2011 has seen some really big improvements in the senior squad; the high levels of commitment shown by the girls, driven by coach Maria Gerelle, have turned what started out as a largely novice crew into a force to be reckoned with. The senior crew has already been dominant in “non-competitive-competitive” races against division one crews, and is continuing to get stronger. The social side of the women's squad is better than ever, with the crew talking about rowing-themed Christmas carols, to “hot dates” and everything in between during erg tasks. Our lovely social secretary has managed to book crew dates and cocktail nights for nearly every week of term (men beware!) with both undergraduate and graduate colleges, so there is something for every girl in the boat club to look forward to. With the 2012 Torpids campaign fast approaching, the crews are raring to get their “sea legs” back and get on the water and in the gym to prepare for St. Hugh's domination. Maria, Becca, and I are all ready to do everything we can to motivate our two senior crews to victory. As notable alumnus Kholoud Hussein would say, “Bring on Torpids!”

*Bryony Langdon – Women's Captain*



## Men's Novice Rowing

In Michaelmas 2011, we succeeded at recruiting three crews of committed novice rowers to defend the honour of St. Hugh's Boat Club at Christ Church Regatta. The outings were run by members of the first and second eight, who enjoyed the luxury of not being at the receiving end of technical advice for once (when you're standing on the bank, no-one knows that your posture is not flawless either...)



*Men's Novice's on the Isis in Christ Church Regatta 2011*



*'The Centaur' crew after Christ Church Regatta 2011*

Technical improvement was rather quick from the beginning, and some high-flyers even had the chance to join the second senior crew for a few outings. With our most successful crew in ChCh Regatta reaching the third round, we were happy to welcome many promising talents into the senior squad this term. A few faces are definitely worth watching with next term's first eight in mind!

*Sebastien Ferriere – Men's Captain*

## Men's Seniors Rowing

Apart from the return of many of last year's 1<sup>st</sup> VIII, the beginning of Michaelmas Term marked the arrival of two seasoned rowers spending a year of graduate study at Hugh's, who made a welcome addition to our first eight. They have since been training with us, and are a valuable asset to a young energetic crew who are determined to bump their way into second division at this term's Torpids!

The second eight is also a very promising crew this term, half of them having had some bumps race experience in the past, half of them those novices from Michaelmas term who impressed us most with their training commitment over Christmas, technique and their first ergometer scores.

We are also looking to enter a third eight, who may have the chance to earn St. Hugh's a third spot in the fixed divisions in Torpids. This, together with the fact that we have managed to recruit enough rowers to have regular outings with a 4<sup>th</sup> crew, shows that St. Hughs' Boat Club has become a rowing club to watch, with the men's side winning two set's of blades last year, and plenty more to show this campaign.



*M1 at Leander Club training for Summer VIII's 2011*



*M1 winning blades in Summer VIII's 2011*

*Christian Emmerich – Men's Captain*

## Upcoming events in SHBC

### Friends of St. Hugh's Boat Club Alumni Drinks

*Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2012 – 7pm – St. Hugh's College – MGA Lecture Room*

The current St Hugh's Boat Club committee is hosting an informal reunion at St. Hugh's College for former rowers, coxswains and all friends of the club, with drinks provided. Please RSVP, get more details or sign up to the boat club mailing list for the termly newsletter using the address at the bottom of each page.



### Torpids 2012

*February 2012*

- Rowing on – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> – The Isis
- Main Competition – Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> till Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> – The Isis
- Torpids Roast – Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> Evening – Venue TBC

Looking forward from a very successful Michealmas term in all respects, we are anticipating a successful Torpids campaign for both the men and women - our ultimate goal to get everyone into those all important fixed divisions! It means a lot to have our current alumni spectators cheering us on at the boathouse, and we hope to see as many of you as possible down at the river very soon.



*SHBC after Torpids Roast 2011*

Details for Torpids 2012 races can be found on <http://www.ourcs.org.uk/> nearer the time



Torpids will be followed by our traditional Torpids Roast formal dinner. Everyone is welcome and it would be great to see some more of you on our Alumni Table. If you want more information about the event then get in touch with Bethea Hanson-Jones ([bethea.hanson-jones@st-hughs.ox.ac.uk](mailto:bethea.hanson-jones@st-hughs.ox.ac.uk)), our women's social secretary.

*Men's 1<sup>st</sup> VIII bringing the Cox to waists at Torpids Roast 2011*

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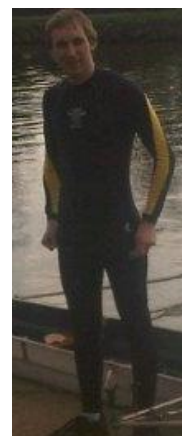
Well, that's all for now folks. Make sure not to miss out on our upcoming events and if you have any queries, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me (see below).

I hope you've found this article useful, and that we have rekindled some fond SHBC memories. If you want to help SHBC in any way (for example if you can put us in touch with your old crewmates, or would like to make a donation), just let us know.

I would like to say a special thank you to all of you who have donated in the past and present, and also to Helen Popescu, who has been extremely helpful this term in advising us about the best way to re-ignite alumni development for SHBC.

We wish you all the best in your post-SHBC lives, and look forward to hearing from you soon.

*Tom Griffiths – Development Secretary*



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