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Friends of St. Hugh's Boat Club

Newsletter – TT 2012

President's Report

Dear Friends of SHBC,

Hello again! So now I've gone from starting this newsletter back up again to writing the front piece, isn't it strange how the world works? Anyway enough about me, it's been an eventful term, with sets of blades and spoons awarded to M1 & M2 respectively (even some of those rarely sought 'spades' for a few people, which you can read more about in the Captain's Reports). We managed to put out 4 crews this Summer VIII's thanks to a new regulation change, which adds an extra boat to each division. This was brought in to tackle the recurring problem of some decent crews just missing out on rowing on, due to the large number of 'Schools VIII's' competing (as we've experienced too often!). I'll take this chance to congratulate M1 & W1 on their great campaigns, reflecting the amount of hard work they put in, and my commiserations to M2 & M3. However, those teams should remain optimistic, as if they carry on to next Torpids (and hopefully they will), I predict a change of fate!

In other news, this term has also seen the election of a new committee (a new committee list should be also attached to the alumni email). We shall try to follow the outstanding work the last committee achieved and hopefully it will be one of the greatest SHBC years to come yet! If there's anything you're interested in within SHBC, feel free to email any committee member, and we will be more than happy to answer your queries. I'm sure most of you have been following the Olympics too and it was great to see so many GB rowing medals (including one to Will Satch who has coached our M1 for a session before at Henley!). Hopefully we'll see some more people next year who will be inspired to give rowing a try, and we will try to organise some more Alumni Outing's for any of you who fancy hopping back into a boat (our last one proved great fun, some pics later on...)

I would just like to take this chance to give a massive thank you to the coaches Laura Gordon, John Mansell, Karl Offord and Maria Gerelle, the outgoing committee & novice coaches, especially the outgoing captains Seb Ferriere, Chris Emmerich, Bryony Langdon and Rebecca Holtum, and to Lawrence Perrett, the outgoing president, without whom none of this year's achievements would have been possible. Last but not least, a huge thank you must go to you, our alumni. As development secretary I had a great year organising events for you all, and the attendance rate really showed us current rowers how highly you all valued your time in SHBC. In fact, a photomontage of the years events can be found at the back of this newsletter. I look forward, as the incoming president, to continuing our college and alumni events (as well as our blade winning streak!). I also hope to see some of you at future get-togethers, which, from now on, will be organised by Beth Hanson-Jones, our new development secretary, whose "blurb" can be found at the back of this newsletter.

Finally, check out our new website, it looks pretty ace! The current domain is: www.hughsrowing.weebly.com but this is likely to change to the old domain: www.hughsrowing.com at the beginning of Michaelmas Term 2012. Either way, feel free to check it out, there's plenty to take a look at.

All the best,

Tom Griffiths – SHBC President of Boats 2012-2013



Tom at 'Torpids Roast' 2012

Any enquiries, please email to: bethea.hanson-jones@st-hughs.ox.ac.uk

Captains' Reports – Summer VIII's 2012

Men's 3rd VIII

The presence of a St Hugh's Men's 3rd VIII at Summer Eights has been fleeting; the last time being 2009 where they finished a glorious campaign as foot of the river. None the less, a confident crew, who had trained together for the past 20 minutes, waited in the gut to be called forward to start their rowing on time trial. Gaining significantly on LMH II in front, St Hugh's M3 surged down the course setting an impressive time of 03:13.5 and qualified. During Viii's week M3 participated in some very close racing in a very tight division; rowing over on Wednesday and losing a place on the subsequent three days.



M3 during Summer Viii's 2012

Men's 2nd VIII

The preparation for M2's Summer Viii's campaign found itself heavily disrupted due to river conditions, being kept off the river for several weeks. None the less, with a gutsy performance, M2 posted a time of 03:17.0 in rowing on, qualifying for Viii's. In Div VI M2 was placed among several very fast crews, and despite having a very fast start, closing hard on the crew in front on all days, M2 was bumped four times over the campaign. While in itself a disappointing result; the performance of the crew shows promise, as they were able to close to within a canvas of the boats they were chasing.



M2 chasing Somerville II hard

Men's 1st VIII

M1 finished Summer Viii's 2012 in the highest position ever achieved for a St Hugh's Men's crew, Div III position 5. Credit for this must go to Karl Offord, our coach, and to the dedication of the crew, who pushed through the seemingly endless land training sessions for the three weeks when the river conditions prevented outings. Having lost so much water time, when the flood finally abated, M1 became a seemingly permanent presence on the Isis for the week before Viii's. All this preparation resulted in a fit, technically proficient crew with the self-belief (and endurance) to chase down any Div III crew over any distance. Starting on Wednesday; Corpus was caught by Univ raft. On Thursday SEH II crumbled and collapsed spectacularly after one too many pushes just past Univ.



M1 bumping Corpus 1st VIII in Summer Viii's 2012

Friday saw a sly Linacre escape from overlap in the gut, receiving another life, running, taking evasive lines down Greenbanks. We met again at Univ and rewarded them with the full overlap bump (though not spectacular enough to rival W1) for their efforts. This left a nervous wait before racing on Saturday. The knowledge of what bumping again would mean. But not the courage to utter it. A fast New II crew ahead of us. They had bumped this campaign. Would this end on the finish line? Tension on. Bang. We close. Through the Gut, breaking out into the light on Greenbanks. They run and cross early. Once again a meeting by Univ raft was arranged, and subsequently occurred. Four days, four bumps, all within a stretch of river 100m long. Finally regained the ability to say the word 'blades'. That final bump, healthy hit of our two on their bows blade, made every squat (of which there were many) in every circuit session (of which there were very many) of the past term very much worthwhile. Celebration.

We would like to thank John Mansell, coach of our M2 and M3 crews, who is leaving to take up a post at Caterham School. Thank you for all the work you have dedicated to SHBC and we wish you the best of luck for whatever the future entails.

Benedict Harrington & Gavin Suen – Men's Captains 2012-2013

Women's 1st VIII

The Women's Boat Club has had a hugely successful Trinity Term with the women's first eight going up two places into Division 2, building on the hard work of Hilary term. We started the term with a training camp getting the whole women's squad training at Godstow under the watchful eye of our excellent coach Maria Gerelle. After a week and a bit of rowing the good old British weather struck and the river went red flag – effectively prohibiting training for 2 and a bit weeks. The time off the water was punctuated by the long awaited arrival of our new boat, which once assembled sat on the rack for a few weeks as we waited for the water to subside! Impatient to put our new boat to the test and with summer eights fast approaching W1 headed to Dorney Rowing Lake for a Saturday morning of training. It was an excellent opportunity for us to work on race pieces and get some rowing in, as well as a chance to improve our boat rigging skills!

We were pleased to have three new novices this term, and along with a number of rowers from Hilary Term we were hoping to have a W2 that was able to compete in Summer Eights. Unfortunately due to the large amount of time spent off the water because of the weather, together with the crew we decided we would not enter a W2 boat this term. Some outings took place post Eights and we look forward to seeing the novices back in Michaelmas term to compete in Christ Church Regatta.

Summer Eights week arrived with wonderful weather and our newly named boat 'Sarah Outen' (after one of our notable alumni) we headed onto the water as sandwich boat at the top of Division 3. Yet again we held off Trinity for the third time this year, in a truly gutsy race right to the finish line. Racing in our second



W1 Holding off Trinity W1 - Summer VIII's 2012

race of the day we were chasing Lincoln, unfortunately for us this race was klaxoned before we could bump and so we faced another day as sandwich boat. Some of you will know that in recent years we have a history of holding off Trinity and the second day of Eights was no exception! Again rowing a fantastic race W1 held their nerve and held Trinity, pulling away to nearly a length at the end of the course. The second day of eights brought with it our first bump of the campaign and for most of the boat, our first ever bump. Faster than Queens and chasing them down Greenbanks they ran away, feigning a cross and staying on boathouse island side. Holding her line, our cox Sofia went for overlap before turning and going for the bump, right outside Hugh's Boathouse.



W1 bump Queen's W1 - Thursday of Summer VIII's 2012

Friday of Summer Eights was similarly successful for W1, chasing Hilda's we bumped just after Donnington Bridge, in not quite as much style as the previous day but with the same effect! The last day of the campaign we found ourselves chasing Mansfield who gave us a good race to the end, holding us off all the way to the finish line, despite our gain on them in the gut. Whilst we did not manage to finish off our campaign with a bump it was certainly my most successful campaign and the most successful campaign that I have seen in recent years for the Women's side of the boat club. Next year we will continue to build on our success and Trinity (having finally managed to bump up on the last day) will not manage to get us!

Thanks must go to the whole crew for their dedication to the boat this term, particularly when we were not able to get on the water, along with Maria for her fantastic coaching. It is with sadness that we say goodbye to our leavers, particularly our former co-captain Bryony Langdon. I look forward to the coming year with all returning members of the boat club, bring on Torpids!

Mimi Beckett – Women's Captain 2012-2013

Upcoming events in SHBC

Christ Church Regatta 2012 - November 2012

It's been great to see so much Alumni support at Torpids and Summer VIII's. Again we invite you to join us at Christ Church Regatta, with a bit more of a light hearted feel as we watch some of our new generation of rowers compete for their first time.



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



The 'Kholoud Hussein' crew after Christ Church Regatta 2011

It's definitely worth a visit, as novice rowing makes good entertainment (mainly errors from other colleges). If you feel like rekindling some of those memories from where a lot of us started our rowing lives, you're all welcome to come down.

Further details will be given at a closer date.

We shall hopefully be able to confirm some further events soon as well. For the time being, with the committee being unable to meet until the return of term, this has been put a pause on things, but we shall hopefully look at doing another alumni outing (previous one, see following article) and some other SHBC related events which will be open to Alumni too (e.g. our yearly excavation of Oxford's local public houses, to those who are interested...)

TT 2012 Alumni Outing

On the 10th of June St Hugh's Boat Club hosted its first alumni outing on the Isis. It was a great chance for alumni to get back on the water and reminisce about crews, coaches, outings and most important of all races. The event itself was a great success, filling two boats, with one rower remarking "That was the most fun I've had on the river all year." A trip to The Mitre pub followed the outing itself, which concluded a well organised event. We shall hopefully organise some more of these under our new development secretary, Beth (see following article). It's been great to start some new traditions and fingers crossed; we shall see some of these continue to run in future years.



Some happy people after the Alumni Outing

For those of you who don't know me I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself- I'm Beth and will be the new SHBC development secretary for the year 2012-13. I have been a member of the boat club for 3 years, and have both rowed, coxed and been part of the committee during that time. The boat club plays a big part of life for many at Hugh's and as development secretary I would like to ensure that even after leaving everyone can stay involved. I will be continuing Tom's great work and will hopefully be continuing the success of last year's events as well as organising a few more. If you have any questions or would like to see a particular event organised then don't hesitate to get in touch at bethea.hanson-jones@st-hughs.ox.ac.uk.



Bethea Hanson-Jones – Development Secretary 2012-2013

Beth at St Hugh's Ball

Any enquiries, please email to: bethea.hanson-jones@st-hughs.ox.ac.uk

2011-2012 in Pictures

