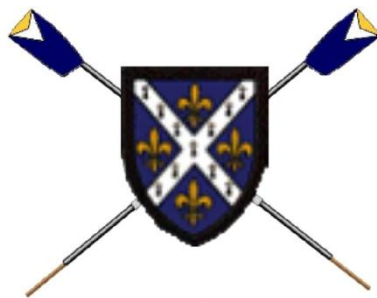


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Friends of St. Hugh's Boat Club

Newsletter – HT 2012

President's Report

Dear Friends of SHBC,

Unfortunately this term brought tragic news with the passing of our loyal boatman, Pete Burden. Pete was much loved by all of us at the club and his dedication, hard work and overall good humour that made rowing a pleasure will be greatly missed by all of us. The news hit the whole of the Oxford rowing community hard and this sentiment was expressed in a minute's silence before the M1 division on the Saturday of Torpids. It was a poignant moment when silence gripped the crowds on Boathouse Island and it allowed us all to reflect on his hard work and love for rowing in Oxford.

This year we decided to move the captains elections to the end of Hilary term, in order to allow finalists to get on with the unfortunate inconvenience to rowing otherwise known as a 'degree' and also to allow the new captains to ease into the role before the more hectic Michaelmas term. Therefore, I am delighted to welcome Gavin Suen, Ben Harrington and Mimi Beckett into the roles of captain. It is clear from their flurry of activity following the elections that the boat club is in competent and eager hands, and though I get the feeling that they won't need it, I wish them the best of luck for next year. Of course, we would be nowhere without our former captains – Becca, Bryony, Seb and Chris. Their work this year has been absolutely tireless, with Becca and Bryony essentially resurrecting the women's side of the club after a rough couple of years and Seb and Chris making sure that John Mansell's legacy continues into the future.

Unfortunately for me, the impending doom of finals next term marks the end of my rowing career at St Hugh's. And since we will be electing a new committee at the end next term, this will also be my last newsletter. I'm sure you got the gist from last term's newsletter that I have enjoyed my time with SHBC rather a lot, so I shall spare you all the sentimentality (I think last term's had enough to last a lifetime!). Apart from the odd "SHBC moment" as they have come to be known amongst the committee, I would like to think that my year as president has been fairly smooth sailing. However this is only due to the exceptional work of everyone on the committee, the continued support of St Hugh's College (and Nick French and Mary Kerr in particular) and of course Pete Burden. Without them things simply would not work, and I thank them sincerely and profusely. I also want to thank all of you, our alumni for your continued support of the club and I am looking forward to joining your ranks next year.



Lawrence in the 'Zone'

Best wishes,

Lawrence Perrett - SHBC President of Boats

Any enquires, please email to: thomas.griffiths@st-hughs.ox.ac.uk

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Captains' Reports – Torpids 2012

Women's 2nd VIII

Coached by ex-St. Hugh's men's captain John Mansell and current treasurer and member of M1 Jono Harrison, W2 showed some really impressive rowing this term, going from complete novices in Michaelmas to experienced rowers by Rowing On (February 17th). During Rowing On, men's and women's crews compete in time trials to determine the quickest 13 crews, which then qualify into the lowest division for the men's and women's categories during Torpids. Despite being the fastest St. Hugh's W2 crew since 2006 and obtaining a time that would put most seconds crews to shame, this year was extremely competitive for women collegiate rowers, and W2 were 2 places (3 seconds) away from qualifying into Torpids. However, in true Hugh's spirit, many members of W2 came down to the river during Torpids to cheer W1 and the other Hugh's crews on, and almost all members of W2 attended Torpids Roast. We would like to thank W2 for all their hard work and dedication this term, and hope to see most of them next term for Summer Eights!



W2 at Rowing On

Women's 1st VIII

W1 with a strong and determined attitude trained hard this term with our women's squad coach, Maria Gerelle, in preparation for Torpids (February 22nd-25th). Torpids for the first time was now in 6th rather than 7th week of Hilary term, giving the squad only 6 weeks to train, so a tough schedule including at most as many as 8 training sessions per week during term was set out. All of the hard work and training paid off with some of the most memorable races that W1 has had to date (though our opinions are obviously a little biased). Wednesday was very turbulent, and due to the conditions OURCS ended up with a very tight schedule between races, preventing any warm up on water; our crew also had our difficulties that day, with recovering illness and bow's seat falling off under Donnington Bridge, thereby only allowing her to row arms and bodies.



W1 at Torpids 2012

All of these hindrances as well as the superior racing of surrounding crews on that day meant that St Hugh's ended up being on the wrong end of a chain bump. Therefore come Thursday we had something to prove not only to fellow colleges but to ourselves, and we were finally caught by arguably the best women's boat on the water Lincoln (winners of IWL 2011/2012). Friday was our favourite racing day of our career, holding off Trinity College for the third year in a row, we managed to hold them off for the entire 2 km of the race, despite having significant overlap for about 600 m. While the girls pushed hard away from Trinity, our cox refused to concede and took an incredible line, sealing the race and ultimately escaping Trinity and even ended closing down on the crew in front St Hilda's. On Saturday W1 had their fastest race of the entire campaign, getting within a quarter of a length of St. Hilda's College, but unfortunately they managed to scrape away, making them the target for next year's Torpids.

As always, the girls celebrated a brilliant campaign on Saturday by being sprayed with Champaign by Maria, being handed Pimm's, and lifting a few senior members of the women's squad to heads, including our cox and women's co-captain Rebecca Holttum, veteran rower Lisa Moevius, and coach Maria, while a very quick reminder that this would be the last campaign in Bryony Langdon's (women's co-captain) St Hugh's rowing career she ended up very proudly in the Cherwell. The celebrations did not however end there as our celebrations went on during the infamous Torpid's Roast. St Hugh's boat club has had an incredible year and the women's side is in very good shape to be handed over to the next women's captain, Mimi Beckett. Though the resounding shouts of captains now passed will be heard all along the Isis stretch: "Go on Hugh's!"

Becca Holttum & Bryony Langdon – Women's Captains 2011-12

Men's 2nd/3rd VIII's

The third eight demonstrated themselves to be a very powerful crew, setting the fastest ever time during rowing on for a St Hugh's M3. Unfortunately despite this, they missed out on qualification by only seven seconds. Over the term they developed from novices to a coherent and impressive crew who have plenty of potential to perform in VIII's.



M3 at Rowing On

M2 have again had a highly successful term. Taking a mixture of last year's second 8 and novices from this year they were a force to be reckoned with, posting a very fast time at IWL. This continued into Torpids, where



M2 gunning down St Peters 2nd VIII

unfortunately luck was against them on the first day, when after being bumped by a very fast Regent's Park, the division got klaxoned seconds before they would have caught Merton. However they bounced back and went on to over bump 2 of the next 3 days, placing M2 in its highest ever position and for the first time ahead of all college 3rd VIII's! A thoroughly enjoyable campaign which has set M2 up very nicely for Summer VIII's next term.

Gavin Suen & Benedict Harrington – Men's Captains 2012-13

Men's 1st VIII

Last term we announced we were determined to bump our way into Division II. This time, we can, not without pride, announce that we have! We are especially grateful for this reward of our training efforts, as events were initially not playing into our hands. We very narrowly missed a bump on Keble on the first day, as the race was cut very short by an incident elsewhere (I believe the cox of St. Antony's steered into the bank – perhaps by some misplaced ambition to row overland – thus propelling one of their rowers out of the boat). To add to the frustration, Keble were lucky enough to escape us when University College crashed in front of them. The second day of racing we were chased again by Merton. Having seen the results of the first day, they adapted their strategy and decided they needed to bump us quickly. The 'fly and die' strategy offered the delightful spectacle to our supporters in the gut of an impressive 'fly', getting to within a quarter boat-length of our M1, and an even more remarkable 'die' as the gap lengthened until they were bumped by Somerville.



M1 gunning down St Peters 1st VIII

Surviving the onslaught, we did not manage to catch the much faster Univ crew that had crashed from the top of Division II the year before. However, on Friday we not only got our sweet revenge on Keble, who had become our favourite enemies throughout preparation. We also managed to over-bump St Peter's, after Univ had bumped out in front of us. Clearly on a roll together, Univ and our M1 repeated the same double bump on Exeter, who had started top of Div II on Wednesday, and whom we put in their place at the bottom of the division. To summarise, this year's Torpids made all the hard work in Michaelmas and Hilary worthwhile, with Hugh's M1 moving to their highest position ever (!) in the competition. It is also safe to say that we made sure that the ensuing celebrations after the race on Saturday, culminating in Torpids Roast in the evening, reflected our triumph.

We would like to thank Laura for the great work and enthusiasm that she has invested in this crew. (Un)fortunately, there are things in life other than rowing, so we wish her all the best in Dakar. We are looking forward to preparing for Summer VIII's this coming term with our new coach Karl Offord, and our new captains for next year, Gavin and Ben. Now up to you guys!

Christian Emmerich & Sebastien Ferriere – Men's Captains 2011-12

Upcoming events in SHBC

Summer VIII's 2012

May 2012

- Rowing on – Friday 18th – The Isis
- Main Competition – Wednesday 23rd till Saturday 26th – The Isis
- VIII's Dinner – Saturday 26th Evening – St Hugh's College, Dining Hall

Looking forward from a very successful Torpids, with M1 & M2 ranking the highest they have ever been, and the women putting out two boats out this year; we are anticipating a very successful Summer VIII's campaign for both the men and women. It means a lot to have our current alumni spectators cheering us on at the boathouse, so thank you all the alumni who made it to Alumni Drinks (in spite of the sudden blizzard) and Torpids. It was great to see your support and we hope we can count on it again this summer



Torpids Roast 2012 with some notable alumni

Summer VIII's will be followed by our traditional VIII's 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, our women's social secretary. (bethea.hanson-jones@st-hughs.ox.ac.uk)

Details for Summer VIII's 2012 races can be found on <http://www.ourcs.org.uk/>



A Tribute to Pete Burden – Our Boatman

Some of you may be unaware as Lawrence mentioned of the recent passing of Pete Burden, our boatman. It's here we as a boat club wish to pay tribute to his life, and all he gave to not just our boat club, but several others he served, who I am sure would wish to pay respects as well. This also hit the whole rowing community, with Torpids 2012 being held in memory of Pete. There was also a memorial race in respect to Pete, which near every club put out a boat for (in wind, sleet and hail may I add...), we also plan to put up a plaque in the boat house, so he will always be remembered as our boatman, Pete Burden.

Here's what some others have to say about Pete:

'Rest in Peace Pete Burden. You and the work you have done for us to continue to enjoy the sport we love will not be forgotten.'

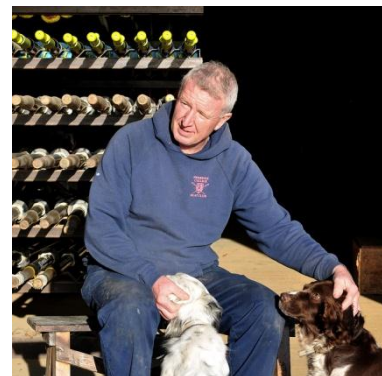
Martin Ince – SHBC President 2010 – 2011

'So many people there to pay their respects to Pete that the service spilled out of the church and filled the whole churchyard - amazing how many peoples' lives he touched. There's only one Pete Burden.'

Ewan Maddock – SHBC President 2009 – 2010

'I will never forget Pete's support throughout the five years I spent involved with SHBC, as a rower, captain and coach. He was always on hand with miracle fixes for our well-used boats, for last-minute launch emergencies and for my usual pre-race nerves. Every time I walk past St Hugh's boathouse, I will miss the offer of a cup of tea and his great banter. Pete was one of those people who are in the sport for the right reasons - an SHBC legend who devoted himself to helping us all enjoy rowing.'

Helen Popescu – SHBC Women's Captain 2007 – 2008



Pete with his dogs