



# FRIENDS OF CORPUS CHRISTI BOAT CLUB



April 2006

Visit our new Website:

[ccbc.org.uk](http://ccbc.org.uk)

# Welcome

Welcome to this first edition of the Friends of Corpus Christi Boat Club's Newsletter. It has been an exciting year for Corpus Rowing so far. We have just launched our new website [cccbc.org.uk](http://cccbc.org.uk) so you can keep up to date with CCCBC news. The achievements and results of each of the crews are outlined by the captains in their reports below, however, it is clear that there is far more to rowing than merely training and regattas and I'd like to highlight a few of the less serious achievements of CCCBC so far this year.

The year began with the recruiting of three new crews of Freshers' who soon began training for Christ Church Regatta. The Freshers seemed to enjoy the desirable ratio of crew dates to training sessions and the bonds of crew friendship were quickly formed. Greater financial assistance from college meant that our 1sts crews were able to start training in Michaelmas, allowing the Men's 1<sup>st</sup> VIII to compete at Wallingford Regatta and for the women, the arrival of our new Stämpfli (soon to be named Eleanor "Leo" Sharpston) resulted in renewed excitement about rowing.

A term with relatively good weather and almost continuous green flag status should have provided the perfect conditions for Torpids training. However, the coaches of both the Men's and Women's crew so enjoyed maneuvering the launch that "G-Y-Kitov" was sent to an early retirement. Similarly, strong winds and difficult conditions forged friendship between Corpus and Somerville Women's Crews. We were wedged between two pylons and they were stuck in the bank and while we at least managed to land the boat, the unfortunate Somerville women ended up waist deep in the river. There is nothing like being cold and wet to bring crews together. Similarly, when fog and wind tried to hinder our crews, we turned to cross training – playing rugby with rolled up scarves, cross country bike rides and runs (though I don't think that we anticipated injuries from such cross training).

I hope that you enjoy this, the first, edition of our Boat Club Newsletter. I would encourage you to join the Friends of CCCBC so that you can keep up to date with Corpus Rowing. By becoming a Friend, you will continue to receive this newsletter biannually and you will be invited to exciting Friends events. Your support will also ensure the CCCBC is able to maximise the development of its squad, enabling more superior performance. In Trinity Term, we will be having a Boat Naming and Blade Hanging Ceremony – see the Events section for more details. We are anticipating an exciting and successful Summer Eights Campaign for CCCBC and would very much welcome your support. There is nothing as nice as rowing past Corpus Boat House and being able to hear the supporters cheering you on.

Thank you for your ongoing support for CCCBC. We look forward to meeting you at upcoming events and sharing our enthusiasm for Corpus Rowing.

Rebecca Lindhout  
*President CCCBC*

## The Committee



Bettina Reitz – Women's Captain



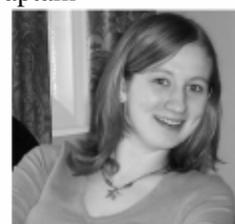
Jack Cole – Men's Captain



Paul Taylor – Treasurer



Rebecca Lindhout - President



Katie Howe - Secretary



# Christ Church Regatta

The year started promisingly when Freshers' Week saw a large influx of keen, new rowers. Introductory sessions were conducted by experienced Corpus rowers in the first few weeks of Michaelmas and convinced many Freshers that rowing was for them. Corpus was again able to enter 3 boats into the regatta – one men's, one women's and one mixed (entered as Men's B).

All crews trained hard and made huge improvements in the mere six weeks available due to the sterling work of the dedicated coaches and the crew's enthusiasm and willingness to learn. As 7<sup>th</sup> week drew closer, tensions within the boat club rose as crew illnesses and injuries meant last-minute substitutions and rearrangements had to be made.

On the first day of racing the 'Men's A' boat overpowered a less confident 'Exeter C' crew, maintaining several lengths lead throughout the race. The 'Men's B' (mixed boat) put in a valiant effort and were narrowly beaten by a much larger and stronger all male crew from St. Catz.



Kaitlin Bergan, Emma Rix, Aysha Pamucku, Josephine Diez, Emma Hamilton, Joanna Bell, Sasha Filippova, Emily Tipping *cox:* Jeremias Prassl

With Thursday morning came the repechage round which meant that the 'Men's B' and 'Women's A', who were unluckily beaten in the first round, had a chance to get back in the competition. First up were the 'Men's B' against 'Hertford B'. After a speedy start Corpus were beginning to edge away when Hertford veered over the lane boundary and nearly collided with the Corpus boat. Needless to say the race was klaxoned and a win was subsequently awarded to Corpus. Sadly, this was to be their last race as a sudden change in the weather to torrential rain meant the rest of the repechage races were cancelled. The severe weather continued into Friday resulting in racing for that day also being cancelled due to the high stream and dangerous conditions for novice crews.

Thankfully, Saturday dawned with clear skies, low winds and high hopes for the 'Men's A' boat. The course was shortened to about 400m which promised a day of exciting racing! The remaining Corpus boat



Paul Diggle, Jonathan Smart, Matthew Sullivan, Jonathan Crass, Chris Cattley, Tom Abbott, Paul Moody, Gregor Jotzu *cox:* Katie Howe

faced a strong crew from Wolfson who offered much tougher competition than Corpus' first round opponents. A strong start for Corpus saw them take the lead and hold it past Boathouse Island but a push from Wolfson allowed them to gain a slight advantage. It was neck and neck while Corpus struggled to regain their lead and a final surge of power from the men allowed them to clinch the victory. With less than half an hour to the next race, Corpus barely had time to paddle

round to the start line again to face their next rivals – St Anthony's. St Anthony's pushed off the start and took the lead immediately. The race was a close one but the efforts of Corpus' tired men could not match the power of St Anthony's, who pulled further and further away, eventually winning by about a length.



Grace Liu, Kathryn Papanek, Joe Fallon, Adam Woodhouse-Mowl, Tom Corcoran, Caleb Perl, Michelle Soufl, Lia Carpeneti *cox:* Ash Shakeri

All 3 crews performed admirably and enjoyed their first taste of competitive rowing. The vast majority of the novice rowers have continued to row into Hilary term and many are now members of the first crews.

*Katie Howe (Men's A Cox)*



# Women's Rowing

The experienced rowers began training in Michaelmas term, and some great improvements were made under the guidance of coach Kate Hillier, an ex-president of the Cambridge Blues. However, a chronic lack of rowers and a series of colds and coughs made it difficult to get crews out as regularly as we would have wished to. Nevertheless, fun was had by all, and some fantastic crew dinners brightened up the term as the days got shorter and the mornings colder.

Torpids brought more of the same recruiting problems. At a meeting held in 0<sup>th</sup> week, a grand total of three rowers volunteered to row 1<sup>st</sup> eight, and while I was trying to persuade 5 more girls that rowing 1<sup>st</sup> eight would be a great idea, disaster struck again: our coach unexpectedly resigned in 1<sup>st</sup> week, because she had been asked to coach for CULRC (the Cambridge Lightweights). Without a coach or a crew, the term, quite frankly, was not looking to be a great one ...

Things could only get better. A new coach was found with some difficulty, and an initially reluctant, but increasingly enthusiastic crew started training for Torpids. The women were lucky to be able to rack at Godstow for Hilary term, and bike rides and long stretches of uninterrupted rowing produced great improvements in fitness and technique. The crew contained 5 rowers who had only started rowing in Michaelmas term, and it was great to see them making leaps with their rowing and fitness from week to week. Training on the ergs supplemented our water time, and the crew met for weekly circuit training, with the ever-popular “killer-burpees” forming the high-point of every session.



The crew went into Torpids not expecting to do very well, but to gather experiences and to put out the best row we were capable of. We managed a strong row-over on Wednesday, but were unlucky to be bumped by a very fast St Peter's crew on the Thursday. The Friday was our worst day by far, when the boat initially failed to find a rhythm, and we got bumped by St Anthony's and St Hilda's, before we pulled it together and picked up speed. On the last day, determined to have a better race than on Friday, the crew started strongly, but was still looking to be caught by Wadham. However, the girls held Wadham off at a canvas with great determination. Wadham then got bumped themselves and we drew away to a length, only for a seat to come off, and Wadham to close again to almost overlap. With another fantastic effort, we held Wadham off again, and finally managed to draw away as they lost their rhythm and crabbed. We were three lengths ahead of them at the finish.

This exciting last day of Torpids has shown that the crew has the determination we need to do well, and we will build on this attitude for Trinity term. This very inexperienced crew has come a very long way since the beginning of term, and has now also gained some valuable race experience which will really help us in Eights. What is more, we are planning to name our new boat, a wonderful Stämpfli, after the first Corpus women's captain and rowing blue, Eleanor “Leo” Sharpston, and with such an inspirational name on our boat, we feel we are out to do great things next term. We hope to meet you down at the boat houses, supporting the crews during Eights week.



## 1<sup>st</sup> Torpid:

Cox: Katie Howe  
B: Kaitlin Bergan  
2: Emma Rix  
3: Emma Hamilton  
4: Emily Tipping  
5: Michelle Miller  
6: Sophie Rees  
7: Rebecca Lindhout  
S: Bettina Reitz  
Coach: Will Bourne-Taylor

*Bettina Reitz (Women's Captain)*



# Men's Rowing

## 1<sup>ST</sup> EIGHT:

I am pleased to report a very successful last two terms for Corpus' men's crews. We decided to get things going early this year and the 1<sup>st</sup> VIII started training from the first week of Michaelmas. Our target was to produce a decent crew for Wallingford Head, a timed race held over a 5km stretch of river just outside Oxford at the end of the term. Training in the depths of winter is never fun, particularly when you arrive to find your boat covered with a layer of ice, but, with numb fingers, we battled through and in the end posted a very respectable result. For much of our race we were locked in a struggle with a St. Paul's School boat –no shame in this: schoolboys who've been rowing for several years are notoriously faster than Oxford Colleges. Driven on by our attempts to keep up with St. Paul's we recorded at time of 19mins 26secs. The schoolboys may have got away from us, but our time turned out to be quicker than some of the larger Oxford colleges who entered the race. We beat both Christ Church and Queen's College and would also have done better than a combined Teddy Hall and St. John's boat, had it not been for some enthusiastic coxing by Toby Williams leaving us with a time penalty for obstruction.

Since most of the Wallingford crew returned to row for the 1<sup>st</sup> VIII in Hilary, I was optimistic about our prospects for Torpids. We did, however, lose Matthew Bottomley, our able bow man, to Medical School and our 6'5" Dutchman, Matthijs Branderhorst, also felt that his thesis needed some attention. Therefore a quick reshuffle found Matthew Stott, who rowed at school, stroking the 1<sup>st</sup> VIII in only his second term at Corpus, 4<sup>th</sup> year veteran Julian MacBride deftly changing sides and Freshers Gregor Jotzu and Paul Moody promoted from the novices. The rest of the boat remained unchanged.

Training started well, though our new coach Oliver Lough, from Wadham, did manage to sink our motorboat attempting a rather ambitious turning manoeuvre. We pressed on, though, with Ollie now cycling safely on the bank, and as Torpids drew near the boat was moving fast. Then disaster struck. First, during a run at six o'clock in the morning, which left most of us feeling pretty rough, Andrew Worley managed to injure his knee and to rule himself out for Torpids. Then sickness spread and various members of the crew had to skip some of our final outings. However, by race week, we did have a crew back together again and were ready to go. Beppe Pezzini, a visiting student from Pisa, was able to fill in for Andrew. Beppe proved himself to be as adept in the kitchen as in the boat on the night before racing began and our native Italian cooked us all some pasta of a rather higher quality than in recent years.

On Wednesday, the first day of racing, starting at 5<sup>th</sup> in Division 3, we managed to bump Exeter II less than two minutes into the race. Thursday was equally successful as we quickly managed to land a bump on Linacre seconds before a large crash behind us caused the race to be klaxoned and the rest of the division to be cancelled. We entered the final two days' races feeling confident and counting ourselves lucky to have got our bump in before the marshals stopped the race. The luck was not to run all our way, though, since our division was klaxoned once again, this time as we moved in to bump Wolfson. We were disappointed, but with blades now out of the question, resolved to try our hardest for one more bump on Saturday. We came close, chasing St. Peter's hard all the way down the course past the boathouses, but in the event couldn't quite close the gap. We leave Corpus' 1<sup>st</sup> Men's crew at 3<sup>rd</sup> in Division 3, hopefully ready for promotion to Division 2 next Torpids. I am extremely pleased with the result, and thanks go to all the crew and coach for their hard work. Also to Paul Taylor who captained the 2<sup>nd</sup> VIII who also managed to qualify for Torpids and rowed well in a tough division. Some of the 1sts will be keeping up with their rowing over the Easter Vac, competing at the Head of the River Race in London, and come Summer Eights I hope to put out an excellent boat. Bring on the warmer summer outings.



Men's 1<sup>st</sup> Torpid:

Matthew Stott, Julian MacBride, Matthew Stott, Julian MacBride, Chris DeConinck, Jack Cole, Gregor Jotzu, Tom Charlick, Beppe Pezzini, Paul Moody *cox*: Toby Williams

*Jack Cole (Men's Captain)*



## 2<sup>ND</sup> EIGHT

This year Corpus M2 improved on last year's Torpids result by actually qualifying in Rowing On! We were drawn sixth in the bottom division, ahead of Univ III and behind an impressive Keble III that consisted of many former first eight rowers. On the first day Univ nearly caught us off the start, and photographs suggest that were it not for some inept coxing they might have hit our stern. We managed to pull away from them coming out of the Gut, and rowed over comfortably. Thursday saw us leave Univ off the start and nearly catch Trinity III, but they held us off strongly and we rowed over. On Friday a Hertford "schools" eight caught us at Donnington Bridge, and again we nearly caught the Trinity boat in front of us. On Saturday both St John's III and Regent's Park bumped us. John's caught us entering the Gut, and Regent's caught us at the beginning of Green Bank. We nearly caught St Hugh's who were in front of us, but were unsettled by the boats coming up behind us.

Overall we went down three, but since we had failed to qualify last year this wasn't a bad result. After all, all the crews who bumped us went on to get Blades, and we hope to do better in Summer Eights.

*Paul Taylor*



Paul Taylor, Mike Rivers-Bowerman, Binya Even, Jonathan Crass, Paul Diggle, Jonathan Smart, Tom Abbott *cox*: Ash Shakeri

## Victory at the Corpus Challenge

On Sunday the 19<sup>th</sup> February, Corpus Sportsmen and Sportswomen gathered outside Univ to travel to Cambridge to carry out the traditional "Tab-bashing". The usual enthusiasm and determination were present; it was our mission to show our Cambridge counterparts that Oxford truly is superior. The new thing this year was, however, that an Ergo Challenge had been introduced. The challenge saw four crew members (two men and two women) from each college battle it out over a 5km erg. With changeovers well practiced and fine-tuned and tactics in hand, Corpus Oxford looked in a strong position. The team, Bettina Reitz, Michelle Miller, Matt Stott and Chris DeConinck powered through the challenge, with a huge crowd of supporters surrounding them. I'm not sure that there has ever been such excitement or enthusiasm about an Erg! We emerged victors by about 100m, which is a significant distance over 5km, especially given that the Cambridge Team included a Lightweight Blue Rower.



Michelle Miller on the erg being cheered on by Bettina Reitz and Matt Stott



Even the exhaustion of sprint ergs can't keep the smiles off their faces: Michelle Miller, Matt Stott, Bettina Reitz, Chris DeConinck



## Upcoming Friends of CCCBC Events

### Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2006: Boat Naming and Blade Hanging

In 1931, the Corpus Men's Crew were Head of the River. The Blade won by this crew has been donated to the Boat Club and will be hung in the front room of the Boat House

Leo Sharpston began Corpus Women's Rowing and was a Blues rower. She is now an Advocate General for the European Court of Justice. As Leo is such an inspiring woman, we have decided to name the new Women's 1<sup>st</sup> VIII Stämpfli after her – the Eleanor "Leo" Sharpston.

In celebration of the boat naming and blade hanging, we warmly welcome all Friends of CCCBC to the Boat House for drinks and nibbles. This will be the first event for the Friends and will be a great opportunity for past rowers to meet our current crews.

If you wish to attend this exciting event, please RSVP to the Katie Howe (Katie.howe@ccc.ox.ac.uk)

### Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2006: Summer Eights

On Saturday of Eights, college will have its usual Summer Luncheon, after which all Friends will be warmly welcomed at the Boat House to watch the afternoon's races. Following the races, there will be a dinner for Friends and current rowers at an Oxford Restaurant. This will be an informal dinner and give current and ex-rowers a chance to share their stories. If you would like to attend the dinner, please RSVP to Katie Howe (Katie.howe@ccc.ox.ac.uk).

VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE: [cccbc.org.uk](http://cccbc.org.uk) FOR REGULAR EVENTS UPDATES

## Social Events

An integral part of any successful Boat Club is a great social atmosphere. As well as the inevitable Crew Dates, the annual Torpids Cocktail Party was a great success. Also, Julian MacBride (President Emeritus) organised for the return of the Annual Boat Club Dinner – an evening which I am sure many of us will never forget.



# Membership of Friends of Corpus Christi College Boat Club

## Welcome to our new members

Mr John Aeberhard  
Mr Antony Asquith  
Mr Bob Baker  
The Rt Hon Lord John Coulsfield  
Mrs Emma Davidson  
Mr David Jack  
Dr David Joyce  
Ms Alison Hawkins  
Mr Geoffrey Helliwell  
Mr Tracy G Herrick  
Mr John P Kent  
Mr William Morris  
Mr Richard Muir  
Dr Marc O'Reilly  
Mr Bryan Seel  
Mr John Sephton  
Mr Christopher A Villiers  
Mr Peter J Waite



*Do you have any photos or reports from when you were a Corpus rower? We'd love to build on the CCCBC archives and fill in the gaps. If you have photos or stories, please send them to Katie Howe*

## Already a member?

Would you like to set up Standing Orders to ensure that you never forget to renew your Friends of CCCBC membership?

*Friends of CCCBC: HSBC Bank Account  
Sort Code: 40-35-34      Account No. 12331519*

## Not a member yet?

**By becoming a member of Friends of CCCBC, you will continue to receive this biannual newsletter and receive invitations to special Friends events.**

**Annual Membership of the Friends costs only £15. This money will go towards the development of Corpus Rowers. Please send a cheque to the College Development Office made out to FoCCCBC along with your details and matriculation year. Alternately, contact Katie ([Katie.howe@ccc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:Katie.howe@ccc.ox.ac.uk)) for more details about the benefits of being a member.**

