

Tortoise Club Newsletter Michaelmas 2017

The Oriel Spirit is as strong as ever. Our BBQ was a great success, kicking off some huge recruitment to both novice and senior squads. Wyndhams was characteristic carnage, with over fifty people racing and around 40 partaking in dinnertime entertainment. It was a great honour to be part of Tortoise Dinner, getting to meet those who have gone before, upon whose shoulders we stand, means that it will always be a very important event for us. We are incredibly grateful for all of the support that Tortoises provide, from Stevan popping up to Oxford at 8am to drive M1 to Upper Thames, to the Blades Scheme, without which we would not be able to do what we do. It is because of our alumni that Oriel stands a step above our rivals. Thank you.

Women's Captain's Report

Having said farewell to many of the extraordinary women that earned Oriel Torpids headship last year we have gone back to basics, focusing on recruitment and development. We got Ben Reeves and Morgan Bolding onboard as our new coaches, their expertise and enthusiasm has been invaluable. Seventeen fresh faces joined the squad at the start of the year and have been coming on in leaps and bounds ever since.

Wyndhams was great fun and, as every Tortoise knows, there is method to the madness showing the novices what it is all about. A low alumni turnout meant that we did matched eights races instead, giving us all the more practice. We continued to develop our racing experience by organising battle pieces against Univ at Wallingford. The added pressure of side by side racing really spurred the crews to develop. With a committed novice squad of 13 left we entered a single boat into Christ Church Regatta, unfortunately luck wasn't in their favour and they didn't make it past the first round but the experience was invaluable looking forwards to Torpids.

Whilst the novices were busy with Christ Church the Senior Women were preparing for two external races in the last week of term, competing at both Wallingford Head and Fairbairn's. Not perturbed by having a rigger break mid race at Fairbairn's they completed both, gaining some valuable racing experience. The whole squad are now starting to hit the vac training hard, ready for training camp and the build-up to Torpids in Hilary

Lara Bonney

womens-captain@orielrowing.org



The whole OCBC family turned up for Wyndhams

Tortoise President's Report

Tortoises across the ages come together to celebrate at 2017 Tortoise Dinner

The Tortoise Club continues to march onwards and this year's dinner saw the highest turnout in recent record with close to fifty Orielenses gathered at London Rowing Club to celebrate Oriel Rowing and in particular the recent successes of the women's crews. Torpids headship last year was a long time coming for many and it was insightful hearing from Lara about how the squad are working to solidify what was built last year. While Robert may have you thinking the M1 cannot be beaten do not be fooled: The Tortoises scored a resounding 3-0 victory at Wyndhams leading to a movement to enter a crew for the Eights Head (Sunday, 11th March). Any male Tortoises interested in racing please drop me an email on tortoise-president@orielrowing.org. If anybody is interested in putting together a crew for the Women's Head (Saturday, 10th March) do let me know and we can get to work bringing the Tortoise Club back to the river.

The development office currently has a supply of Blades bow ties and pashminas looking for a loving home so if you enjoy either a) securing future Oriel glory or b) wearing the finest stash Oxford rowing has to offer then you need only ask for a direct debit form and you can kill two birds with one stone. Last year the Tortoise club raised over £19,500 for the OCBC through the Blades scheme and this year we will do even better with your support.

The Tortoise spirit burns bright and I look forward to joining many of you at Torpids Dinner for another night of celebration.

Floreat Oriel

Stevan Boljevic

Tortoise-president@orielrowing.org

Dates for the Diary:

Torpids: 28th February - 3rd March

Summer Eights: 23rd - 26th May

Tortoise Club at HRR: Saturday 7th July



Tortoises from across the ages come together to celebrate at 2017 Tortoise Dinner

Men's Captain's Report

It's been a good start to the year on the Men's side, the results speak for themselves:

On the ISIS, two novice crews gave a good showing at Christ Church Regatta, and we entered another two novice crews and a senior crew at Nephyths Regatta, all making Oriel proud. We even entered the only two mens' singles for Nephyths, and we're glad that we won.

Turning our eyes to foreign fields. M1 raced at Upper Thames Autumn Head, winning our category of the Academicals, and were the third fastest crew of the day beaten only by Thames Rowing Club. Once again, M1 sallied forth this time on home ground at Wallingford Head, coming second to Upper Thames Rowing Club in our category and beating all Oxford Colleges, Pembroke being the closest at 20 seconds slower. Finally, M1 and M2 headed off to Cambridge in order to shoe some Tabs. M1 were the fastest College crew taking home the shields, beating the hosts Jesus by 14.5 seconds, and were the third fastest crew overall. M2 decided to do some bumps practice, with the bank, but still made a good showing as one of the fastest M2's.

This year we have brought on board Rowan Arthur as our new Men's side coach. He has been working to train us as a whole squad: getting two eights out at a time for some side by side battle paddling for our Monday Matched M8s Madness; and bringing on novices to do land training with the seniors in order to invigorate them and accelerate their progress. This has paid off with strong results at both Christ Church and Nephyths Regattas, and was a great showing having two mens crews compete at Fairbairns. We have twenty-six people signed up for training camp so will be going into Hilary with momentum and desire. We're looking for a full set of blades and that Headship is coming home.

Robert Boswall

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M1 shoeing Tabs in the Jonathan Close-Brooks