

Tortoise Club Newsletter Michaelmas 2018

Dates for the Diary:

Torpids : 27th Feb - 2th March
Eights: 29th May - 1st June
Tortoise Club at HRR: 6th July

Tortoise President's Report

I'm sure we can all agree Double headships are better than single headships so it was only fitting that this year's Tortoise Dinner in celebration of Double Headship was a fantastic success. Turnout was up on last year's record and the captains promised even greater successes this year to surpass the stellar performances of 2018. We wish them all the best.

Turning to the river an invasion of wild bulls put a slightly unusual twist to Wyndhams leading to some unusual racing. The mens alumni crew fought hard through a blade clash to win by a resounding 1 seat margin whilst the women alumni came level with the current w1 in mixed crew racing. I am putting together a crew for the Eights Head on 30th March looking to improve on last years 170th - email me at tortoise-president@orielrowing.org if you want to take part. I'd love to see a Tortoise club crew take to WEHORR so let me know if you are keen and hopefully we can get a crew together too.

Finally the Tortoise club continues to make progress in its fundraising effort and having reached targets to cover funding for coaches looks onwards to start making significant annual contributions to funding equipment at OCBC. The clubs recent run of success over the last 4 years would not be possible without the generosity of current Blades. If only 1 in 6 non-Blades signed up we could ensure the OCBC can renew a top class fleet every 5 years. If you want to support the OCBC I urge you to get in touch with either myself or the development office and nudge your crewmates to do the same - after all it takes a full crew pulling as one to end up head of the river.

Floreat Oriel,
Stevan Boljevic 2014

Tortoise President



Women's Captain's Report

The Women's side have made a strong and exciting start to Michaelmas term. With 4 returners from last years Torpids Headship crew, 3 more who have rowed with us in previous year (including another Headship rower from 2017) and a strong cohort of experienced oarswomen joining us this year, the top end of the squad very quickly got into the swing of training.

A further exciting development to the squad was the arrival of a new Head Coach Sophia Heath. Sophia is currently rowing in the hugely successful Brookes programme and has brought their winning mentality and enthusiasm for rowing into the squad. This relentless energy has kept morale sky high as we went into the dark winter months.

A large contingent of novices led from the front by Vice Captain Ellie Jukes and assistant coach Joe Evans-Murray have enjoyed strong start to the season. Despite the novice VIII getting knocked out in the repechage of Christ Church Regatta, a result that did not reflect their ability, the novices have all settled very well into the Oriol programme with a keenness and love for the club that could only be seen in Oriol College Boat Club. I am very excited to see what these girls can do in Torpids and fully expect them to be competing with other college first boats.

The results for the first VIII this term have reflected our desire and ability to defend the Headship at Torpids. We first went out to race at Wallingford Head winning our band by over a minute. Then came Fairbairns where again we delivered a strong performance beating all other Oxford colleges by over a minute, both very promising results at this point in the season. These results haven't let us get complacent, we know we will have stiff competition behind us and the girls are putting in the miles on the ergs over the vac then re-joining for a training camp before the start of term. We look ahead immediately to defending the Torpids Headship and will keep on pushing up the river in Eights hopefully towards the Summer Eights Headship within the next few years.

I would like to thank all the Tortoises for your continued support. Your generosity in all areas allows us to maintain our position as the top and dominating Boat Club in Oxford.

Eddie Shields
women-captain@orielrowing.org



Men's Captain's Report

The Michaelmas term has been a busy and successful term for the Men's side. We have three guys trialling for OUBC and three more trialling for OULRC. This creates a strong cohort that will be returning to the OCBC squad in April to bolster the effort of regaining Summer Eights Headship.

The Torpids squad has been developing well, with a very deep and experienced group of guys. Our first two boats are coached by three-time Olympian and Henley Grand winner Lenny Robertson. Our novice programme is led by Oxford Brookes rower Katie Metalli. The coaching team have been working on ensuring that the top-end keep developing whilst also being challenged by the new wave of nurtured talent.

Across the boat club, this term has been focussed around racing in 8th Week. Our Men's novices had a very strong run in Christ Church Regatta, making it to the Round of the Last 16. Our M2 competed in the Isis Winter League, finishing as the fastest M2 boat while also beating a handful of M1 crews. Our M1 kept striding on, competing in two Heads at the end of term. The crew finished 14th overall at Wallingford Head, setting a new Oxford/Cambridge college record on the course. The boys then went on to win the Fairbairn Cup in Cambridge as the fastest crew overall, beating CULRC, Cantabrigian and the Legends scratch boat. This was the first time in the records that Oriel have won overall, and it is sweet to have earned a cup to go alongside the 6 shields that are hung around the fireplace in 1.1.

Looking forward, we now look to keep pushing the squad forward. M3 are working on gaining a permanent division place. M2 are looking to keep chasing Pembroke for the title of fastest M2 Torpid. M1 look to, not only, maintain headship but do so in an assertive fashion. We have a strict Christmas Training Programme and 10 days of pre-season Training Camp to build the foundation for an even more successful Hilary Term.

On behalf of the Men's side, I would like to thank all of the Tortoise Club for all of their efforts. We would not be able to succeed as much as we do without the passion of the alumni behind us. I hope to see many of you on the banks cheering the boys on between the 27th of February and the 2nd of March. In the meantime, if you are looking for some motivation to come, I attach the link to last year's Torpids video.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IXOmSwVwMWE>

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