

Tortoise Club Newsletter Michaelmas 2016

Men's Captain Report

It's been a Michaelmas to remember for the men's side of the club. Inspired by lyrics of the 'Hoods Oarsman,' we leapt at the chance to go off to France at the start of the year, following an invitation from the Mayor of Toulouse to compete at the prestigious Garona Cup. After a hard day's racing our OCBC-Tortoise Club composite walked away with the silverware. My thanks to Tortoise Club athletes Callum Arnold, Calum Pontin, George Chapman, Iain McGurgan and Sam Salt for stepping into the crew. Back in Oxford M1, complemented by the arrival of two school boy rowers and last year's M2 cox Frankie Satchwell, knuckled down to some serious training. An encouraging 4th placing at Upper Thames Head at the end of October was followed by a training weekend at Dorney where the boys put lengths into Bedford and London Oratory



schools, whilst matching the pace of Eton. Our goal for the term was Fairbairns Head, the largest collegiate head race in the UK, dominated by Oriel back in the 1990s. After losing badly to Pembroke in 2015 we were determined to set things right. The crew dominated the race, beating every other Cambridge and Oxford college and winning the Fairbairns Cup for the first time in 20 years. We followed this up two days later at Wallingford Head where we were the 13th fastest crew of the day, leaving every other college trailing in our wake and beating 1st Vllls from Abingdon, Hampton and St Paul's.

Hard work lies ahead – Pembroke look fast for Torpids and retaining the Vllls Headship has never been more challenging. The boys will be back in Oxford from the start of January working hard to keep things as they should be: Oriel head of the river forever. *Henry Shalders* (mens-captain@orielrowing.org)



OCBC members welcome Tortoise and three time Olympic champion Pete Reed back to 1.1

Tortoise Club President writes

I am honoured to have taken on the presidency of the Club from Tony Ward: a legendary figure greatly respected by Tortoises across the ages. 2016 has been a revolutionary year for the Tortoise Club with the admission of women, appointment of new officers and the launch of the 'Blades' sponsorship scheme. November saw the club's first dinner with Tortoises from both men's and women's crews and was an enjoyable affair for all present. The club continues to move from strength to strength as fundraising efforts progress (see fundraising report) and we engage with an ever-greater number of members. These are exciting times to be a Tortoise and I wish all the crews the best for Torpids and Vllls 2017.

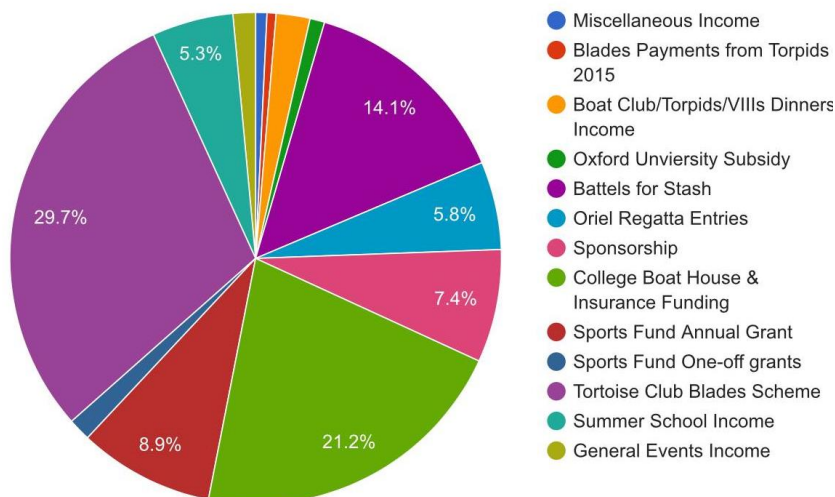
Floreat Oriel!

Stevan Boljevic

Fundraising Report

It costs £60,500 a year to run the Oriel Boat Club. With rising equipment and coaching costs but static funding from college, OCBC needs to broaden its funding base to remain competitive against well-resourced opponents like Christ Church and Keble. Two exciting fundraising projects are currently underway. Firstly, the Blades donor scheme seeks to fund our largest expense: coaching. The chart below sets out our projected income streams for the academic year 2017/18. We currently have 70 Tortoises signed-up as “Blades”. To cross the crucial £20,000 p.a. threshold we need to have 200 Tortoises (or 36% of the club) contributing £100 a year (equivalent to a pint and a half at the Bear a month!) For OCBC to stay financially afloat it’s crunch time – remember that when you were on the bung line it was no use leaving it to old Chunder at 5!

OCBC Income Distribution



Tortoise Club decade representatives:

2010s: Stevan Boljevic stevanboljevic@gmail.com

2000s & 1990s: Oliver Williams olivermhwilliams@gmail.com

1980s & 1970s: Jonathan Macfarlane jonathan.macfarlane@thepcp.com

1940s, 1950s, 1960s: Robin Stainer rstainer@radcothouse.co.uk

Women's Rep for 10s, 00s, 90s, 80s: Bridget Fryer

Bridgetfryer@gmail.com

Minutes from Tortoise Club AGM on 24/11/16 can be found here:

<http://bit.ly/2gs2QPm>



Secondly, a need was identified during the 2015 season (specifically at the start of Bedford Regatta when the stroke man's rigger fell off) to purchase a new VIII for M1. In a post-Brexit world a new Empacher comes to £41,000, well outside the reach of ordinary OCBC or Oriel Sports Fund expenditure. After a 6 month campaign we were very pleased to say that we were able to put in the order at the start of November – huge thanks must go to everybody who has donated, in particular to David Stokes for getting the ball rolling back in May, Tom Anderson for his work co-ordinating and John Cook for his donation which pushed us over the finish line. The boat will be called the *Jonathan Close-Brooks*, in honour of the captain of the legendary crew of '66. The current M1 boat, the *Courtly Love*, will be refurbished and given to M2. All Tortoises are encouraged to attend the launch of the *Jonathan Close-Brooks* on Saturday of Torpids on 4th March.

Upcoming Club events

Torpids: Wednesday 1st - Saturday 4th March

Jonathan Close-Brooks Boat Launch: Saturday 4th March

Summer Vllls: Wednesday 24th - Saturday 27th May

Henley Lunch: Saturday 1st July

For more information please contact Tortoise Club secretary **Callum Arnold** at tortoisecretary@orielrowing.org

“We went off to France at the start of the year...”



The Tortoises took the win at Wyndhams Regatta for the third year in a row. Over sixty students and Tortoises took part and afterwards one and all retreated to the Bear and then onto an OCBC dinner in At Thai!

Women's Captain Report

The women's side of OCBC has got off to an excellent start this year. Becka Leigh, the Vice Captain, began the term with a strong novice recruitment programme, which introduced 15 fresh faces into the squad. Moving through the term, we raced an 8+ and our top 4+ at Upper Thames Head, where the 4+ improved on their time from last year by nearly 2 minutes. We had a strong showing at Wyndham's Regatta, as well. Each girl raced at least 3 times, which gave the novices some valuable racing experience in readiness for Christ Church Regatta, and also gave the returners the chance for a good fight against the alumnae. We entered a single boat for ChCh Regatta, which, after some very close racing, made it to the last day before being knocked out by New College WA. At the end of term, our higher boats raced at both Fairbairn Cup and Wallingford Head. In Cambridge W1 finished in the top 10, and in Wallingford all 3 of the boats we entered (two 8+s and a 4+) were the among the fastest college crews, beaten only by Wolfson. We finish Michaelmas in a strong position, so roll on Torpids next term!

Edward Carroll (womens-captain@orielrowing.org)



With the Isis almost unrowable on weekday mornings OCBC has moved most of its water sessions to Wallingford. The women have been regularly boating armadas from Wallingford Rowing Club. We could not do this without the generous support of Tortoise Matthew Gilpin, whose sponsorship allowed us to purchase an OCBC minibus in 2015.