

## LMBC Newsletter 2

April 2007

*Note from the Senior Treasurer:*

I am delighted to be able to send you the second LMBC Newsletter. It is being sent to supporters of the Club for whom the College holds an email address. If you know of anyone who is not getting a copy then please ask them to contact me at Catherine@joh.cam.ac.uk.

You will read below of the activities on and off the water. I wanted to be able to let you know that after a very successful six month probationary period, we have confirmed Raf Wyatt's appointment as Boat Club Manager and we are looking forward to working with her over the coming years.

Other news is that thanks to the generosity of Martin Allen who rowed in the early 1980s, the Club will soon take delivery of a brand new VIII. Martin has requested that the boat be named in honour and in memory of Andrew Silk, Roger's son, who was an honorary member of the LMBC and coached quite a number of crews. There will be a naming ceremony on the Saturday of the Bumps so please let me know if you would like to be present.

**Catherine Twilley**

### **Dates for your diary**

*Wednesday 13 to Saturday 16 June*

May Bumps

*22 to 24 June*

Women's Henley

*Wednesday 4 to Sunday 8 July*

Henley Royal Regatta

John (Fitz) Durack will again be generously hosting his LMBC picnic in the Cricket Club car park at lunchtimes on Wednesday through to Saturday. All members of the LMBC, past and present, and their guests are welcome. Friday has been designated the 'Club Day' when the President of the LMBC, Professor Richard Perham, will be present.

*Saturday 8 September*

An LMBC reunion in College, with a regatta in the afternoon and a dinner in Hall. Invitations will be sent out in the next month or so.

Dear LMBC members,

It has been some time since the last newsletter from us but the reason lay more in an abundance of activity rather than a lack of news. The club as a whole has felt the lack of both experienced rowers and large numbers of novices but the dedication of everyone rowing and coaching for Lady Margaret in the past two terms led to solid performances at all levels. Lent Bumps saw M1 go up 1 to finish 4th, M2 retained the second boat headship despite most of the crew racing their first bumps ever (and maybe that's why they decided to race seven times over the three days), M3 were an example of how to enjoy rowing. M4 suffered from a poorly executed lowers boats squad system - a mistake we learned from and won't repeat.

The women's crews did well too - W1 went up 1 in Lents (thus allowing some members of the crew to put on greenery for the first time in their long rowing career...) and W2 kept their position.

Easter term training will start with training camps in York (M1 and W1, 15-21 April) with Jamie MacLeod and in Cambridge (M2-M4 and W2 and 3, 17-20 April). Definitive Mays crews will be selected in the week after these camps.

Let me thank once again all volunteer coaches and everyone who supported us on the bank in the past two terms. As you all know, this coming term is the perfect time to sunbathe on the towpath whilst coaching or just watching Maggie boats race or train - we all hope to see many of you there.

Vive laeta

**Jan Trnka**  
**Captain**

Hi there!

My mistake lay in thinking that the completion of the fours store would be a good time to send the next newsletter. Here we are more than the two weeks later promised by the architect, even more than the two months I'd allowed for in translating contractor-ese and still no satisfying ending to the long running saga. We do have a building and we do have boats being stored in that building but there are details like walls that keep the wind from blowing boats off racks, racks that are already too close together, doors that shut properly and locks that don't need the brains and delicate fingers of a surgeon to operate . . . perhaps in time for the next newsletter.

In between times we've raced and trained and raced again. M1 have shown their strength over long distances, coming second in the Fairbairns and winning the Cambridge Winter Head2head. The bumpy water at Peterborough slowed them down a little so it'll be interesting to see how they fare in this weekend's HERR. M2, a crew chock full of novices has had an interesting season but put in some very gutsy performances as sandwich boat in the Lents to finish best of the second men's boats. M3 were steady performers, even breaking through to the finals at Pembroke Regatta and M4 paid the price for some very inconsistent training by going down four times during the Bumps week. W1 and W2 should possibly have enjoyed the same fate, though to be fair theirs was more a problem of holding body and soul together for long enough. There was a lot

of strapping and some great performances from those who rashly promised to sub if they had to before they finished up one (W1) and staying level (W2). And LMBC still has all its crews in the top half of their respective divisions. Phew and ho! for Mays!

Alongside the Lady Margaret performances we've had two of our men taking part in the CUBC Development Squad. Matt O'Connor who trialled for CUBC last year and lasted until Christmas (not bad for someone who started as a LMBC novice a scant year before) and Will Gray who comes fresh from Shrewsbury and raced in the GB junior eight, have both been training twice a week in the Goldie gym alongside other hopefuls. They raced in the Kingston Head and will continue through the May term under the guidance of the CUBC coaches. This, I hasten to add, is alongside training in our First Mays boat; it's a feature of the Development Programme that rowing in your College crew is mandatory. Four of the boys who took part last year are now rowing in Goldie so it looks as though a pathway from College rowing into the Blue boat is developing.

Someone else who has been training in the Goldie gym is Hannah Stratford. Last year she sat in Blondie and our First Mays boat; this year she sat in the bow of the winning Blue Boat which raced at Henley. The other link to LMBC at the race is, of course, Roger who's been keeping me up-to-date with the girls' progress each time he pops in to the Boathouse. Yes, there has been the occasional cup of tea but no, the old tradition of boatmen's tea every morning at LMBC hasn't survived. But what I would have done without Roger's knowing what each and every gadget and gizmo was for and how one used it and when, I don't know. He gets to keep his car park a little longer!

We've had a lick of paint upstairs in the Boathouse, same old magnolia but at least fresh and shiny. Now that the weather's taken a turn for the better again I'm expecting the return of the painters to mark out the new parking places – there's not as much room as there was with having to leave the way free from the fairs store to the water, something that's already inconveniencing those of you used to having somewhere to park close to town. Sorry and all that, but when you see just how close those riggers come to your paintwork and how unhandily those boats are carried then perhaps the idea of parking bays won't seem at all bad . . .

The Boathouse has also played host to a number of strange men's eights being trialled as possible candidates for the next men's boat, thanks to the generous donation from Martin Allen that Catherine reported on above. Given that Janousek didn't come up to scratch with their last boat and Eton have sadly gone out of the business of making boats, we had to look at alternatives, the most recent of which was a big red BBG boat. It did look good: the boat in red, the men and blades in scarlet but it failed the Grassy Corner test and so was returned. The choice narrowed to a Vespoli shape and we have now placed an order for a Filippi F29.

And I've finished my 6-month probation period and have had enough practice in re-attaching bows to be confident of finishing the Easter term in some style. Thank you to all those providing coaching support thus far – there must be a few more of you yet to dust off the old bicycle and come and see us. Looking forward to seeing you soon and for the rest – well, there's always Henley (that's Women's and Royal both).

**Raf Wyatt**  
**Boat Club Manager**