

Hilary's Unfortunate Series Of (Weather) Events

Eleanor Prince, President

I guess all perfect things cannot last forever! After an unprecedented Michaelmas, we've had an unprecedented Hilary in much the opposite direction. Though the flag didn't waver from red during the entirety of full term, that didn't stop SHCBC from continuing to train or spend time as a squad. No river brings out the creativity for group runs, group

swims and even a few climbing sessions. The novel Torpheads left us with plenty to celebrate at our end of term dinner, with both sides putting in a performance equivalent to much higher places on the river. As soon as the undergraduates left for Easter the sun has returned to us (a coincidence, I'm sure) and we've been straight back onto the river. Summer VIIIs will be here before

you know it! The dates are confirmed as Wednesday 27th - Saturday 30th May – if you find yourself with a spare day, you're always welcome to support from the boathouse. Even sooner than that, I'm so excited to welcome you back for an afternoon of rowing at Sirens. I'll start doing my good weather dance now, I hope you're all doing yours at home too...

A (SHC)Bridgerton Story: The Trials Imposed by the Red Flag

Rhys Whistledown, Men's Captain

The more astute of our readers may remember this author's sanguine soliloquy from Michaelmas term. There I retold the successes of our intrepid novice men's eight at the Tamesis regatta in November on some of the smoothest water ever to grace the Isis.

If only we really knew the pain and frustration that lay just around the corner of the new year. I, for one, came into Hilary blinkered by optimism: my eyes fixated on Torpids and the prospect of an armada of Hilda's boats soaring to victory. But then, the rain started, and it didn't even begin to relent until the middle of February.

Things looked bleak, but we clung to the ever-waning chance for Torpids to happen under at least some sort of contingency plan. The boys took to the rowing tank at Iffley, and many a hard erg was ripped in the vain hope of being able to embark upon our

promising bumps campaign after all. But, alas, it was not to be. The OURCs gavel fell with a sickening blow on the 25th of February. There would be no Torpids 2026.

Presumably fearing a riot, OURCs proposed a compromise under the interesting portmanteau label 'TorpHeads'. The senior divisions would race in bumps order, albeit in the format of a head race. We cobbled together our M1 and put down a mighty time of 4:55 up the course. This established St Hilda's 1st Men's Torpid as the 12th fastest boat on the river, easily topping division III and blitzing even some crews in division I. My



Above, SHCBC men in a tank session



heartfelt thanks go to our teammates from the lower boats who came to support their friends in the first boats. Your support was greatly appreciated by all of us. Thanks also to the fantastic AR for coxing us!

As captain, I find myself in the very privileged position of being able to report on all of these successes; and the boys have been nothing short of stellar in their attitude this term. Trinity term should be an absolute blast.

So, fear not, Dear Reader! Our fearless Hildabeasts soldier on with heads held high. We're all looking forward to seeing you at Sirens'. At the moment, all our sights are set on Summer Eights at the end of May; and if that gets rained off, I'll eat the John West.



Above, SHCBC men following their impressive TorpHeads row, landing them 12th on the river. Thank you to University College Alum Alex Rigamonti (lying down) for his incredible coxing!

Lord of the Land

Anna Hutchens, Women's Captain

Unfortunately, not a whole lot of rowing has gone on in Hilary Term! With the river stuck on red flag, our dreams of a four women's crews Torpids started to look less and less likely as we approached week 7 with the river still flooded. Despite this, we threw ourselves into other forms of training, with multiple weekend sessions in the Tank coached by Megan and Rosie as well as regular ergs and some crew runs sprinkled in too. This training clearly paid off with a set of very strong 2kms completed at the end of term (with two novices under 8 minutes)! The highlight of Hilary was undoubtedly getting to go back out on the river for a day, competing in 'Torpheads'. Due to the restrictions placed on it, we were only able to enter a W1, starting in what would have been the starting order of Torpids. The women flew down the river in this head race, going +8 on their starting position - a fabulous result considering the lack of water time! While it was undoubtedly a disappointing end to term to have the majority of the women's side unable to row in Torpids, we head into Trinity feeling fit (thanks land training!) and optimistic for a successful Summer Eights campaign.

Keeping up with SHCBC

The Hearsay Hildabeast

What a term that was. As I'm sure the illustrious authors above me in this (equally illustrious) newsletter have lamented, the Thames did a spectacular job of ensuring that Hilda's rowers were confined only to the ergs this term, despite AH's best efforts to branch out to the JR. Despite this spectacular commitment from the women's side, we're still not sure the men have worked out where the ergs are yet (although maybe this was all a clever ploy on AW's part to spend more time with Mansfield).

Luckily, despite a distinct lack of rowing, the Hearsay Hildabeast has been paying close attention, and time off the water has given us plenty to report! A special note should be given to the ever consistent commitment of our coaches to Hilda's rowing, even those who should really be focusing on

their time in Brasenose. Don't worry MP, your advice is always appreciated.

With no early morning outings, SHCBC was perfectly well rested to end the term on a high at the Boat Race in London. Congrats again to SH for his remarkable ability to get skinny for a quick paddle up the calm waters of the Tideway. However,

following this, I am slightly concerned that some members of the club misinterpreted the meaning of the lightweight afterparty. Before I go, a special mention should be made to JD, who, in a rare break from haunting Mansfield Boat Club decided to prove just how safe (and dry) St. Hilda's Kayaking Club is. That's all from me for now, so have a fantastic Easter, remember chocolate = watts, and get ready for Trinity!



Above, SHCBC womens senior VIII crew after their TorpHeads time trial, thank you to Jack D for coxing.

Like what you see?

Please find a wide selection of our fantastic stash at the three shops linked below!

1. <https://rivalkit.com/collections/st-hildas-boat-club-oxford>
2. <https://www.kitlocker.shop/oxford/college-clubs/st-hildas-college/st-hildas-boat-club/>
3. <https://bluebloodonline.co.uk/st-hildas-college-boat-club-1>

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