

SHCBC finally rows?

Harry Hutchinson, Co-President

Marred by two terms of the Heavens opening upon Oxford, college rowing found respite this Trinity as crews finally set afloat upon the Isis.

Making the most of these fortuitous conditions, SHCBC's water training resumed in full force, preparing our hearty rowers for a Summer Viii's like no other.

Putting a year's worth of land-training angst to the test, SHCBC more than delivered this Viii's, with M1 narrowly missing out on blades and W1 claiming plus four places, overbumping Univ W2 on the

final day. Overall, SHCBC ascended a formidable nine total places – third highest on the river. External regattas were all the rage for a SHCBC venturing off the Isis. The women led the way entering City Bumps and Bedford Regatta, joined by the men at the end of the term as both sides represented SHCBC in full force at Peterborough.

It was our pleasure and more to see all our beloved alumnae return to SHCBC for this year's Sirens Celebration, a wonderful day of rowing, food, and friends!

Our presidents and committee

have been particularly busy this term, expanding our fleet with a newly refurbished Janousek VIII and securing a complete renovation of our well-used clubroom alongside Mansfield College Boat Club. Keep your eyes peeled for the new VIII's arrival next Michaelmas – I've heard she's quite magnificent! Special thanks to the alumnae and donors whose generous support has enabled these endeavours.

Last but not least, we cannot miss saying goodbye to this year's committee and welcoming their successors – with big shoes to fill, we look forward to seeing what they bring next year!

Sirens: a day of rowing, dining, and friends old and new

Harry Hutchinson, Co-President

It was a tremendous pleasure to see so many familiar faces at this year's Sirens Day as alumnae, rowers, and friends of SHCBC reunited for rowing, food and fun!

Meeting at Longbridges, rowers old and new returned to the Isis for a paddle and race along its waters, and to catch-up over endless Pimm's. A highlight of the afternoon saw Co-Presidents Harry and Matti pursue a wild "dog" chase through boggy floodplains, safely returning the scoundrel spaniel in time for a hose-down.



Meeting later for drinks atop the Rooftop Terrace, SHCBC and Co. once again joined together in the Pavillion for a hearty four-course-meal. The evening saw speeches galore and awards of SHCBC dedication and excellence to Arman Nejad, Clara Schürmann, Shea Heaney, and our Co-Presidents, concluding with thanks to alumnae for all their generous support.

We would like to give a massive thank you to Garry Luke, the catering team, and the events team for going above and beyond to help make this day happen!

Above: SHCBC and alumnae, atop rooftop terrace.
Below: Joisah Shields presenting the Sue Scoffield Award to Harry Hutchinson and Matti de Beer.



Summer Vllls success sees SHCBC rankings skyrocket!

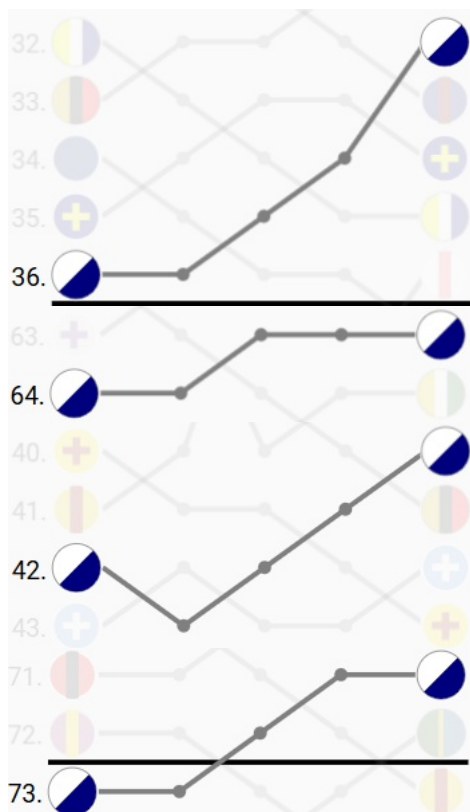
Jack Davies & Georgia Sweeney,

Men's & Women's Captains

In Trinity, things were looking up for M1 after two terms of limited water time. Despite issues around availability requiring lots of sub chasing, plenty of miles were put in, technique refined, and Watts put down. With some pre-bumps practice racing against Mansfield yielding promising results, hopes were set high for success. In the week of bumps, final practice was had and, many a motivational cry of 'loose' was heard from five-seat. The day arrived, Wednesday of Eights - the big one, could the eight deliver on their potential? No. A punishing steering encounter with a tree saw the boat being bumped by Wadham, yet despite this spirits remained high. The second day saw a revenge bump on Wadham, followed by a swift dispatch of Teddy's and Antony's on the Friday and Saturday. Despite not winning the coveted blades, we established ourselves yet again as the fastest boat in Div four. M2 also put in a huge shift, moving up two places after bumping New and Wolfson before their final race was klaxonned, establishing Hilda's as one of the most upward-moving clubs on the river. Thanks to all who enabled such a fabulous term, in particular Scott for his excellent coaching, Shea for stepping up as impromptu VC and Phil Gemmel for coxing M2 out of the blue.

The women's side at SHCBC entered two strong crews in Summer Eights this year. W2 was composed mainly of novice rowers who, thanks to the river flooding, had practically no water time until Trinity term. Despite this, they managed to defend their position on the river, rowing over three out

of four days, bumping on the second day. After ending last year as the second lowest W1 on the river, W1 proved the underdog should not be underestimated, graduating to the sixth lowest W1. Whilst the first day may have robbed their chance at blades, the first boat managed to climb four places across the week (five greater than last year), going plus two on the last day after gaining the long bump on Univ W2 right outside Univ boathouse (with a little thanks to an equipment failure on another boat). The club had a great bumps campaign overall, but the women's side in particular are looking to come back fighting next year in the search for blades.



Summer Vllls River Positions, from top to bottom:

W1: +4 ~ Bumped Christ Church W2, St Hugh's W1, Univ W2, Corpus Christi W1.

W2: +1 ~ Bumped Oriol W3.

M1: +3 ~ Bumped Wadham M2, St Edmund Hall M2, St Antony's M1.

M2: +2 ~ Bumped New M4 (twice, once appealed), Wolfson M4.



SHCBC M1, ready for victory.

External regattas all the rage

Jack Davies & Georgia Sweeney,

Men's & Women's Captains

This term saw SHCBC take their aspirations beyond OURCs regattas.

In City Bumps our Women did SHCBC proud, with W1 a klaxon away from blades. During Bedford regatta, the W1 team beat St Peter's before narrowly losing out to Emmanuel, Cambridge. The Women's side next entered a strong crew in Peterborough, as a composite with Mansfield and St Peter's. Despite the bow being held together by tape, they put on a gutsy row – the perfect end to an impressive run of external races

The post-Eights slack-off never came for the Men's side, as we turned to the Peterborough Spring Regatta. Entering a four for both days, and two pairs and a single for the Saturday, hopes were further buoyed when Luke and Yannick, our two former Blues trialists, showed up to the start line next to a Masters F (65+) pair. They went off, the masters pair stacked it into a bush along the way... and still beat Luke and Yannick down the course. Dreams of a beautiful tankard dashed. However a great time was had by all and hopefully a new tradition was established.



A thriving trinity

Now for the latest gossip from the *Hearsay Hildabeast*...

Is that a light at the end of the tunnel I see? Have we survived yet another year of exigent exams, tireless training, and audacious antics? Fear not my fellow gossip-hungry Hildabeasts for, as laborious as Trinity may have been for some, SHCBC does not fail to delight my ears with its sweet siren's song of gossip and mayhem galore!

Popping the cork on a spectacular term, this year's Sirens Day saw friends old and new welcomed back to SHCBC for rowing, food, and of course an abundance of Pimm's! The day's entertainment peaked with guests being delighted to the sight of esteemed Co-President HH frantically chasing a fugitive dog through a bog, only to be ceremoniously hosed down by his better half MDB. In lieu of Kit Officer HE, who was too busy gallivanting in Borneo to release coveted stash from Anniversary Alcatraz, CS stepped up as Blazer Salesman, sweet-talking rowers and alumnae alike. The only thing absent this year was our new M2 boat Victoria Abdy, named by our generous donors with support from the ever-diligent Development Office. I've been told she'll make a mighty addition to our fleet – provided that the refurbisher hasn't also fled to Borneo with our deposit...

Whilst our other socials this term may have fallen off harder than

Oriel's street cred after bringing a crossword to a crewdate, SHCBC more than made up for this with their rowing prowess. The end of OURCs' tyrannical closure of the Isis saw our hardy rowers finally back on the water, training for Summer VIIIs as fiercely as coach SH's wrath towards sea cadets. In typical Hilda's fashion, this year's VIIIs saw success and strife, love and conquest, and above all else tumultuous rowing at its finest! Despite their boat wobbling more than GS's knees, the W2 scratch crew respectably went up a position, a feat bested by W1 who bumped four places across three days, painfully close to blades... M1 fared almost as well, bumping three times, with strong blades potential had it not been for a certain cox's affinity for tree hugging in the gut, a Hilda's rite of passage I'm told. If bad luck were a crew it would most certainly be Hilda's M2, a casualty of the only klaxonned race and victim to one of the tendentious New M4 appeals, almost as infamous as a certain bow-seat who couldn't watch his mouth! Overall SHCBC did themselves proud, gaining a total nine positions on the river.

The twilight of Trinity term saw SHCBC gather together one final time for our Summer VIIIs dinner, a raucous evening of too many speeches, a rather questionable Kahoot, and a million awards, most notable of which were the controversial Presidents' awards... We also celebrated SHCBC success at Oxford City Bumps, Bedford, and Peterborough external regattas, the highlight of the latter being our two strongest Men's rowers getting beaten by a seventy year-old pair! Following a hotly contested hustings, may I congratulate the new committee on their ascension to power and wish them luck in picking up the promises from

where the previous committee left off. New President JS has a lot to live up to following this year's achievements, although one could, and many do, argue that as puppeteer shadow President, he was behind them all along! I bid a fond farewell to this year's committee and wish them the best of luck going forward, we all know that once you leave SHCBC it's downhill from here – especially for the co-dependent Co-President duo, however will they cope without each other?

That's a wrap folks! What a year it has been, I hope you have enjoyed my musings on your silly little shenanigans for... drumroll please... this unfortunately will be the last time I write for you as the *Hearsay Hildabeast*! Hold back your tears of woe, I share your heartache in losing me. How else will the degenerates of SHCBC get their gossip? Alas, fret not my scandal-starved rowers for I have appointed a new *Hearsay Hildabeast* to take up the mantle and keep you all entertained in the years to come – I'm sure they'll do just as audacious a job as you all deserve. Signing off for one final time, yours truly.

- *The Hearsay Hildabeast*



Co-President Harry Hutchinson having retrieved a dog from a bog.



Women's Captain Georgia Sweeney.

SHCBC takes on OUBC

Georgia Sweeney, Women's Captain

Myself and fellow SHCBC athletes Lizzy Hardy and Eleanor Prince participated in the OUBC development squad this last term. We all thoroughly enjoyed this experience, allowing us the opportunity to develop further as athletes. We also got many amazing chances to race including BUCS, Reading Amateur Regatta, Henley Women's Regatta, and Henley Royal Regatta Qualifiers. It was so exciting to be able to race, especially at Henley where we were surrounded by so many incredible teams.

It was also great to see Olivia Ramsay, an OUBC lightweight rower and SHCBC member, race at both Henley regattas.



Georgia Sweeney and Lizzie Hardy (back row, second and fifth from left respectively) at HRR Qualifiers with OUBC Development Squad.

Presidents'

Harry Hutchinson & Matti de Beer,

Co-Presidents

Starting off this new year as a rather unorthodox Co-President duo, we both wanted to make the most of the fortuitous position in which the club had found itself following the efforts of previous years, settling on two main development aims.

On the advice of coaches Scott Houghton and Rosie Maygothling, we sought to expand our fleet, securing a fully refurbished Janousek VIII for our Men's second crew, which we are proud to announce will be racing down the Isis come Michaelmas term next year. In partnership with Mansfield College Boat Club, we have also set into motion a full refurbishment of our joint clubroom, to be completed by next year's committee. We would like to extend thanks to the generous alumnae and donors who contributed towards these efforts, and the vital support from St Hilda's college staff including Chris Wood, Gerri Cane, Sarah Luke, Garry Luke, Sarah

valedictory

Springman, and Rosie Maygothling amongst many others, without whom our endeavours would not be possible.

Whilst constrained by the whims of the Isis's river level for most of this year, SHCBC's Summer VIII's campaign was a fierce success in which all crews ascended through the rankings, seeing SHCBC gain the third total highest number of places on the Isis. Our crews also saw terrific success as the club forayed into external regattas, giving crews a run for their money at City Bumps, Bedford, and Peterborough regattas.

Taking on the role of President in our fourth and third respective years has been an experience like no other. The opportunity to work with such an amazing committee and members of college staff has been an extraordinary opportunity and one that we will treasure going forward in our lives post-SHCBC. We would like to wish the incoming committee the best of luck, and hope that they achieve the same success in their endeavours.



SHCBC Committee 2023/24 - from left to right:

Top Row: Rebecca Morgan (Social Sec), Matti de Beer (Co-President), Harry Hutchinson (Co-President), Jack Davies (Men's Captain), Georgia Sweeney (Women's Captain).

Bottom Row: Chris Sanders (Treasurer), Josiah Shields (Secretary), Shea Heaney (Social Sec), Olivia Ramsay (Women's Vice Captain).

Meet the 2024/25 committee

President



Having had enough of answering to the whims of the past two years' Presidents, Josiah

has worked his way into taking their spot – we can only hope his whims are more tolerable!

Josiah Shields

Women's Captain

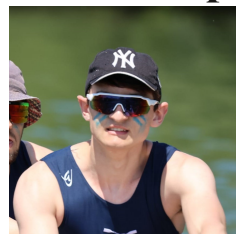


With a Nephthys win and blades already under her belt, Eleanor won't stop her trophy hunt until she's claimed every

victory on the Isis.

Eleanor Prince

Men's Captain



Perpetually late with a diet consisting of a whole chicken for breakfast, lunch and dinner, Shea has all the qualities that

Men's Captain could really need.

Shea Heaney

COC & Social Sec

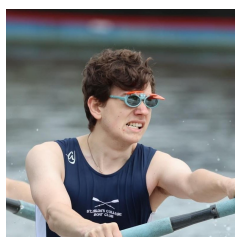


Calling 'Bring It On Boys' both on the water and the dancefloor, Jack has the daunting task of both coxing and

socials whilst also running OURCs – let's hope his degree can find time too!

Jack Davies

Treasurer



Tidy at the catch and tight with the purse strings, no penny can escape with Alex running the books.

Alex McInerny

Secretary



Adding another position to her CV, we hope Georgina's year with the JCR committee has prepared her well for

this one!

Georgina Summers

WVC & Stash Officer

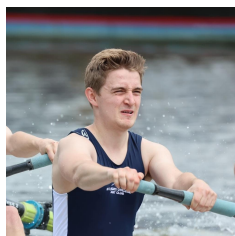


Always looking snazzy both on and off the water, Lucy's revamp of SHCBC's wardrobe and Women's rowing is

much anticipated.

Lucy Hamer

Men's Vice Captain



Fierce and determined, Jake champions the Men's spirit in a travel-sized package.

Jake Fellows

Social Secretary

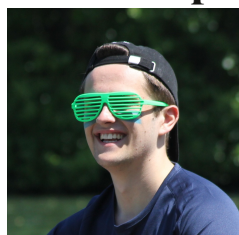


The real big guns behind SHCBC's social life, we can't wait to see Kalina's crewdate charisma packing a punch next

year.

Kalina Hagen

MCR Representative



A *tour de force* fuelled by cheap meat, Chris will be using his blazer-salesman skills to wrangle the MCR

away from their wine and cheese nights and down to SHCBC.

Chris Sanders

Boatman

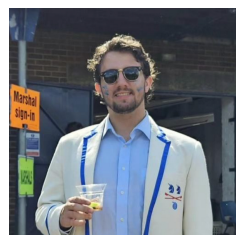


Ex-Women's Captain, Blues Development Squad, and has a 2K time to put most the Men's squad to shame, who

better to be keeping an eye on our boats than the legend herself, Georgia.

Georgia Sweeney

Social Media Sec



Remotely operating from his rustication, SHCBC has all the perks of Harry's Instagram efforts without

another mid-regatta tree hugging!

Harry Hutchinson
