

## A final farewell from this year's leadership

**Josiah Shields, President**

At the outset of this year, I aspired to solidify the progress made by the club since the end of the covid lockdowns through focussing on three areas: recruitment, retainment, and results. It is therefore hugely gratifying to have seen these efforts culminate this term in what has been one of St Hilda's College Boat Club's most successful ever Trinitys.

The two standout highlights have been a Summer Eights campaign in which we managed to field a record six boats, achieve two sets of blades, and gain the most places on the river to end the week at a net +15; as well as a Sirens Day which saw forty alumnae and friends join us back at the boathouse and college for rowing sessions, drinks, and a four-course dinner.

### Not one but TWO sets of blades

**Eleanor Prince, Women's Captain**

We've had a wonderful term of racing this Trinity! Starting with a strong showing in ISL with what became the Summer Eights W2 crew, we've shown off the women's side as one of the largest on the Isis. Of course, the crown jewel in the college rowing year is Summer Eights and this year did not disappoint. With 3 women's boats qualifying via rowing on for the first time since the college became mixed gender, my aim as Captain for the year was fulfilled! Despite some bumps on W1 and W3, these crews produced some exciting rowovers, holding off speedy crews for the entire length of the course. Our absolute superstars are

Such fantastic results are in keeping with those from the two preceding terms - in Michaelmas our novices reached the final of the Longbridges Ergatta and we welcomed alumnae and friends to the boathouse to celebrate its renovation and the launching of our newest boat, the *Victoria Abdy*; Hilary saw the club fielding five boats for Torpids, gaining the second most places on the river, and achieving a set of blades; and throughout the entire year our members have attended numerous external regattas, rowed in the Boat Race, and maintained SHCBC's stellar social reputation.

This has all been made possible by the hard work and dedication of our members and especially this year's committee, as well as the extremely generous support shown by our alumnae, friends, and St Hilda's College staff. I would therefore like to express my deep appreciation to all those whose commitment and effort has enabled the club to flourish so much this year, in particular our captains Eleanor and Shea. My best wishes go to the incoming committee for next year who, with Eleanor at their helm, I feel confident will continue the club's upwards trajectory from the past few years.

the W2, posting a solid time in for some sunny frolicking. Paired rowing on before taking the Isis with our friendly neighbours by storm and powering to 5-bump Mansfield in the CrewedVIII, the blades, including an incredible team of Shahar, Rebecca, overbump before Longbridges on Hannah, Marit and Clara powered Day 2. With most of our rowers through to the semifinals before staying on until next year, we're getting a bit too close to a in an excellent space to hunt houseboat... I'm so incredibly happy with all the hard work the squad have put in this year and hope they've had great fun too!

Below, the SHCBC Men's 1st Eight following their Summer VIIIs blades win, with their coaches Scott and Rosie (top left and 2nd from the right respectively) and principal supporter Sarah (top right).



Above, the SHCBC Women's 2nd Eight and their cox Evan following their Summer VIIIs blades win, before their celebratory champagne reception.



# Embracing External Regattas

Below, SHCBC women after racing in Reading Amateur Regatta.

## Lucy Hamer, Women's Vice Captain

Thanks to trailblazing passion tough time preserving their from last year's women's ranking after last year's +4 captain, Hilda's have well and without blades, but rallied by truly caught the external round 3 to secure 2 bumps and regatta bug - and this term the end the day on a high (-1). men decided they'd join in the Threatened by post-VIII's fun too. With heavy rainfall blues, W1 turned their attention sinking the lower boats' to summer side-by-sides and Torpids hopes, April's Oxford headed to Reading Amateur City Bumps presented the Regatta. Huge thanks to men's perfect opportunity to free our coach, Scott Houghton, for novices from the erg room and saving the day by freeing our give them a taste of racing (on stranded shell from the Falcon the water). The women's side compound. Drawn against a fielded a mixed ability crew crew of 17-year-olds from whilst the men pulled together Putney, W1 lined up two boats with some last-determined to silence the minute subs. M1 stormed out doubters who'd predicted a of the lower division, finishing schooling. Sadly it was not to the day +3 whilst M2 showed be, but the crew left with heads solid grit - eventually being held high and the ability to awarded a bump on a falling enjoy some well-earned, Brasenose crew (+1). W1 had a Pimm's-fuelled relaxation.



To the left, SHCBC men's City Bumps crew who raced well and secured +3 on the river.

To the right, SHCBC women mixed ability crew racing in City Bumps.



Above, SHCBC members racing in the Shenzhen Regatta

## Drama as the curtain closes on Trinity and a trip to China

### The Hearsay Hildabeast signs off

I'd like to bid a warm welcome This term, SHCBC to my most loyal and devoted proved that we're good for more readers for this, my final than just electric chat and pretty dispatch as your Hearsay faces, securing two beautiful Hildabeast. It's been the greatest sets of +7 blades. As such, the honour of my rowing career to beginning of term saw the be trusted with this, a ground- Hildabeasts exclusively focus breaking and trail-blazing piece on training, spending as much of club historiography. Much time on the water as possible. like the men's side, I've hit my One member took to this with peak: I'm not sure how it could particular enthusiasm, taking on possibly get better from here. extra sculling practice to train

for the big moment. Luckily, his parking issues were resolved before he was charged with propelling the W1 down the Isis. Still, it's worth repeating: can't park there, BE!

Like I mentioned, this term saw one of the most successful Summer VIIIs campaigns in the club's history, with SHCBC gaining the most net places of any crew on the river. None of it would have been possible without the tireless work of our President, JS, in coordinating and overseeing the club as a whole. Summer VIIIs gave him the opportunity to practice his leadership and management skills once more before graduating, as he was called upon to keep two of the committee's most outspoken members in line. Good luck to next year's Social Media Secretary, I wouldn't want to be the subject of KH's eagle-eyed fact-checking efforts.

Trinity term can't draw to a close without the year's most anticipated annual competition: the Annual General Meeting, of course! Many thanks to alumnae SB



for her generous gift and to EP for sharing it with us all- this year's AGM was certainly one to remember. Trinity can always be particularly difficult with exams but luckily fellow Hildabeasts are always there to support any crises you might endure... good luck with the thesis MS!

It seems fitting to close out my last ever column with a quick rundown of an SHCBC first: the first-ever SHCBC trip to China, where the men's side competed in the renowned and prestigious Shenzhen Regatta. I'm not sure what it says about the state of Chinese collegiate rowing that our boys managed to come second overall, having slept a combined six hours between the nine of them. It was an unforgettable experience, and some had so much fun they never wanted to leave— hope your Chinese is coming along well, HH!

That's all from me. I'll be handing over to my successor shortly and retreating back into the shadows. I wouldn't want to be taking over from me, though- this year's gonna be tough to beat.



Below, SHCBC rowers, alumnae and supporters enjoying the rooftop drinks reception at our annual Sirens event.



## A very successful sirens day

**Josiah Shields, President**

Thank you to everyone who attended this year's Sirens Day, it was an absolute pleasure to have so many of you join us and I hope you all enjoyed the evening as much as I did! It was wonderful to see alumnae from across the years, as well as to be able to partake in classic SHCBC traditions such as watching a certain ex-president resume his coxing love affair with the bank...

At the formal dinner in the evening it was my privilege to be able to present the annual SHCBC awards for prodigious dedication and contributions to the club to four exceedingly deserving individuals, namely Benjamin Etheridge, Valentine Sender, Eleanor Prince, and Scott Houghton.

Finally, a special thank you must be made to our coach and mentor, Rosie, whose generous auction of her rowing memorabilia helped to bring in a significant number of donations which will be kept in our new boat fund. The club is also extremely grateful to Garry Luke, the catering team, the events team, and the Development Office for all their work in helping ensure that the day went off without a hitch. Keep an eye out for next year's save the date in December if you would like to come to the 2026 event!



To the left, Benjamin Etheridge, the 2025 recipient of the Porteous-Owen award and Eleanor Prince, recipient of the Motion Gleen award.

To the right, an alumnae crew rows in the Victoria Abdy.



To the left, Scott Houghton accepting the Sue Scoffield Commemoration Award from president Josiah Shields for his incredibly valuable contributions to the club.



Credit to Phoebe Birch for all Sirens photos. Please contact [shcbc.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:shcbc.secretary@gmail.com) for the link!





## What makes SHCBC SHCBC?

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N	C	H	D	T	S	D	E	O	L	I	C	E	S
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D	C	L	E	N	D	D	C	E	E	R	A	R	L
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R	E	E	N	O	E	B	T	S	L	H	E	B	S
B	S	T	T	J	E	E	B	E	L	E	L	O	Y
G	I	W	E	H	I	A	W	O	A	B	O	W	S
N	R	O	L	I	A	S	S	C	R	I	E	B	L
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Above, the 2024-2025 committee!

Back row: Shea Heaney (Men's Captain), Eleanor Prince (Women's Captain), Jack Davies (Captain of Coxes & Social Secretary), Josiah Shields (President), Harry Hutchinson (Social Media Secretary), Jake Fellows (Men's Vice Captain), Alex McInerny (Treasurer).

Front row: Lucy Hamer (Women's Vice Captain & Stash rep), Georgina Summers (Secretary), Chris Sanders (MCR Rep) Not pictured: Georgia Sweeney (Boatman), Kalina Hagen (Social Secretary).

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Coaches

John West

Siren

Trinity

Crewdate

Ergs

Bowball

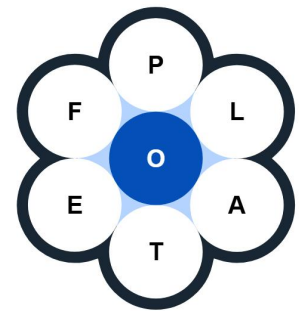
Longbridges

Regatta

Hildabeast

## Stroke of genius:

A rowing themed puzzle section



## Note from our president elect!

Eleanor Prince, 2025-2026 President

I'm super excited to be taking on the role of SHCBC president for the upcoming academic year! I've watched this club go from strength to strength over the last 3 years and know we can continue to grow. Following on from our record-breaking Summer VIII's campaigns, I'm hoping to continue to develop the depth of both sides (W4/M4 on the cards?). I look forward to increasingly developing our alumni connections and continuing the upward trajectory of the club. Enjoy your summers and I'm sure you'll hear more from me in the autumn.

## Recruitment ready

Jake Fellows, Men's Vice Captain

With 3 boats entered to Summer

VIII's on each side, recruitment this showing. Regular attendance of year has resulted in the largest erg sessions, especially on the fleet in SHCBC's history. women's side, while the river was Beginning in Michaelmas, the JCR closed, and dedication to showing and MCR barbecues offered a up for early morning outings when 100m sprint erg competition and the river permitted, allowed the copious amounts of food, club to carry through the success introducing freshers to what of our Michaelmas recruitment rowing has to offer. However, due drive. This led to one of our to river closures, taster sessions strongest ever entries to Summer had to be held off the water at the VIII's, with 6 boats and a net 15 Iffley road tank. places gained, a performance that

This disappointment continued all our rowers should be incredibly throughout the winter, prohibiting proud of. Looking forward to next lower boats from rowing in torpids year, although we are sad to see but this did not diminish the graduates escape our midst, our eagerness and commitment of cornucopia of skilled returning novices, allowing the club to rowers leaves the club in a solid bounce back for a strong trinity position for the coming years.

Created and Edited by Georgina Summers