

Update from UBBC Captain

Another summer has quickly flown by and has already been replaced by cold morning training sessions for all at the club. Over the break, many committee members were working hard behind the scenes to prepare for the upcoming season. We managed to secure five new sponsorship contracts which I hope will be long term deals and our equipment officers have managed to revive some of the old novice boats, including one which unfortunately sank last year. We have been revamping our publicity by creating a boat club Twitter account and Facebook page through which we hope to keep current members and alumni more up to date with race results and events at the club. I would recommend having a look at our website for an alumni news feed and the articles crafted by our new press and publicity officer Rhydian Harris who has shown quite a flair for writing!

The start of the year is always both an exciting and hectic time of the year preparing for the inundation of new members. Following an

impressive recruiting effort from the whole club we managed to sign up an impressive selection of experienced rowers as well as picking out a large number of tall novices from the crowds at Freshers' Fair. Despite many challenges being thrown at us with the new university membership system and being only given half the usual time at Freshers' Fair we managed to sign up more members than ever before.

Training has quickly got into swing with the men's seniors competing in matched eights and the novices progressing at a tremendous rate in preparation for their first race at UBBC Head this month. The women's seniors, following the purchase of their new VIII over the summer, managed to get out two VIIs for the first time in [recent] UBBC history. It has been really enjoyable over my last 4 years at Bristol to see such a fast rate of development and growth at the club and I hope this year's results will reflect this!

Adam Moss



Rowing at 2, HRR 2010

Next time : Interview with Caroline Emslie

UBBC's Women have really stepped on in the past few years, winning Henley Women's Regatta in 2010 and representing Great Britain at EUSA (European Universities) Regatta this year. The Alumni committee recently donated £4,000 towards the purchase of a new VIII for this squad, on the back of some excellent results.

Caroline was captain of the women's squad during the past two impressive seasons and we will be catching up with her in the next edition of the newsletter.



Caroline Emslie

We welcome all content from any of our readers.

If you would like to update us on any of your exploits since your days as a UBBC athlete Please contact Adam Mackenzie

(Details on page 11).

UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL BOAT CLUB ALUMNI



ALUMNI

WINTER 11/12



Merry Christmas to all our readers...

Chairman's Message

The quest for a new Boathouse appears to have hit a critical stage and as I write this we are still awaiting news from the University on the level of financial support they are able to allocate. The project is essentially now a joint venture with Monkton School and Avon County but with UBBC as the lead partner.

With the Government constraints on University funding, Bristol has to answer conflicting requests yet we remain hopeful that after all the hard work that has gone into this project, it will get over the line. Academic excellence seldom exists in isolation and Bristol remains a poor cousin when compared to other Universities such as London and Durham who are investing in boathouses, coaches and equipment.

£300,000 has been raised so far, not least through the heroic efforts of Gordon Trevett, so at issue is the remaining £100,000.

You can be sure that we will exert what influence we can to finally deliver a much needed base in Saltford. Those 1930's buildings continue to age less than gracefully.

Hopefully Father Christmas or someone like him delivers - and Christmas greeting to you and yours. Pull hard!

Chris Hartley UBBC 1983



Nonesuch BC contingent at Henley T&V Regatta, July 2011

Nonesuch BC at a glance

Why 'Nonesuch'?

One of UBBC's first boats was named Nonesuch, around 100 years ago. We share our name with the official University of Bristol Alumni magazine, as the name has a wider association with Bristol:

"The name Nonesuch seems to have been given by the people of Bristol in the 16th century because the colour of the flower was 'without equal'. The brilliant scarlet was seen as Bristol Red after a dye used in the local woollen trade. Since those times the flower has become the floral emblem for the city and its colour is used for the 'hoods' of the academic gowns of the University of Bristol." Nonesuch Boat Club, without equal.

How can I get involved?

All members of the alumni are welcome; please get in touch through the usual channels, contact details are shown in the committee section.

Possible events for 2012:

- Veterans Head of the River
- Henley Royal Regatta
- Got an idea? Please get in touch...

How can I keep up to date between newsletters?

Online
<http://ubbcconline.co.uk/alumni.html>

We are now present on all of the major social networking sites:

Facebook: search for 'Nonesuch BC'

LinkedIn: search for 'University of Bristol Boat Club Alumni'

Twitter:
<http://twitter.com/NonesuchBC>



Where can I buy Alumni blazers and ties?

Please contact the UBBC kit officer/club captain. Their contact details are on the UBBC website:
<http://ubbcconline.co.uk/contact.html>

Nonesuch Boat Club's first outing

On a warm Saturday in late July, around twenty Bristol rowers, past and present, gathered in Henley for the town's 'other' regatta; Henley Town & Visitors' Regatta. Despite the fact this was the inaugural outing of Nonesuch BC we managed to attract enough rowers to fill two eights, mostly composed of graduates of the past five years. Also joining in on the action was Gordon Trevett, who could not resist getting back in a boat despite being over 40 years older than any of his crew-mates.

First up to race were the 2nd VIII, drawn against Oxford Academicals RC. The Oxford crew certainly looked well drilled, and with the sight of a slightly more mature 3 man in the Bristol boat they had every right to fancy themselves likely winners of the semi-final.

However, after a slower start, the Bristol crew, rowing with great length and strong finishes, easily pushed through the crew composed of Oxford University staff.

After going on to win the club's first race by a comfortable margin, the crew had only one hour to recuperate



Will Preece (4) pulling the perfect 'pain-face'.

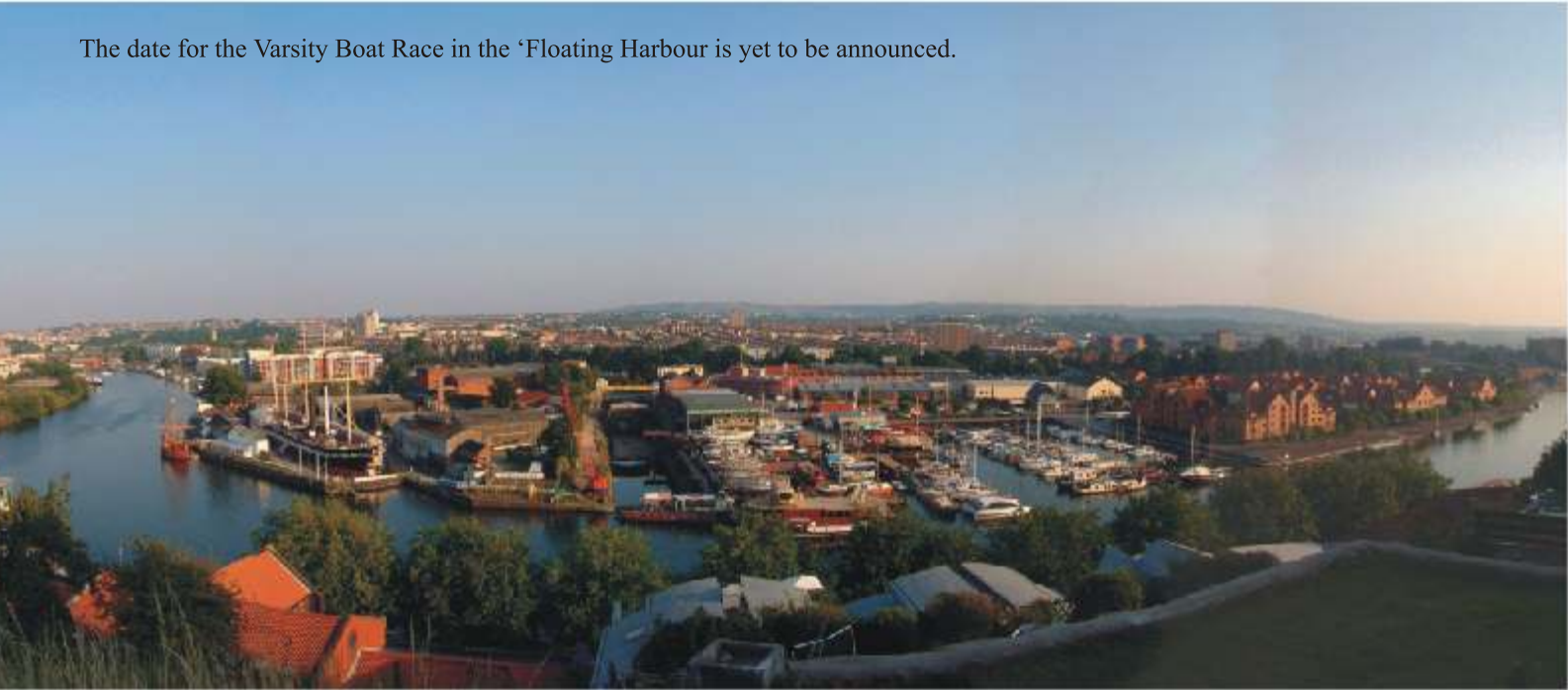
before taking on a crew from Henley RC in the final. This Was a tough ask as a number of our crew had not stepped back in a boat since leaving university after the adrenaline from the first race had subsided, they were really feeling the effects of the first race. Not to mention the fact that Henley RC would be racing on their home stretch and presumably had done a lot more training than us...

With the home advantage and a

quick start not matched by the Bristol crew, the Henley boat pulled out an early lead. Once the Bristol boat had settled into their strong racing rhythm the gap between the crews closed with each stroke, however we were unable to overturn their lead despite the obvious efforts of the crew.

The defeat was soon forgotten over a barbeque on the riverbank whilst our other crew prepared themselves for a straight-final later that

The date for the Varsity Boat Race in the 'Floating Harbour is yet to be announced.



Key Dates

UBBC are likely to be racing at the following events in 2012:

28 January

Quintin Eights' Head, London

17 March

Head of the River, London

5-7 May

BUCS Regatta, Nottingham

TBA

Varsity Boat Race, Bristol

2-3 June

Metropolitan Regatta, Dorney Lake

9-10 June

Reading Amateur Regatta

16-17 June

Marlow International Regatta, Dorney Lake

27 June - 1 July

Henley Royal Regatta

UBBC Alumni Drinks, during the Saturday afternoon tea break at Henley:

30 June

Lion's Meadow, Henley Royal Regatta.



The UBBC Alumni Newsletter is the occasional private organ of the UBBC Alumni

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View From The Launch

The 2010/2011 rowing season ended quite successfully with both our Men's 4- and our Women's VIII being selected to represent Great Britain in Moscow at the European University Champs. It was regrettable that the Men's 4- could not afford the £800 each to go. The women however went and came 4th in the final in their new Wintech boat. A great result for them, and a much improved time against previous regatta season opposition. Ed Fenn, the women's coach, has done a great job over two years now building this crew from basically novice rowers who learnt to row at Bristol. Five of them are back for this coming season and we have some new senior rowing talent just arrived to start their academic career at Bristol.

The women also attempted to qualify for the Remenham Cup at Henley Royal Regatta, narrowly failing to make the main draw. Kate Parrish was in the GB lightweight sculling squad last year and is having a real go at making it into a GB crew this year. Our Novice women had a great year with silver in the VIII at BUCS Regatta and several other notable performances. The coaching of Ben Miles for this group was outstanding.

Our men had another very pleasing season culminating with three crews qualifying for the main Henley Royal Regatta draw. This was the fifth year in a row we have had two crews qualify for the Temple Challenge Cup at Henley. No other university has ever achieved this. From a winning perspective; the simple fact is that in the past 10 years crews from the USA have won the Temple 8 out of 10 times, with a crew whose ergo score was at least 15 seconds per man better than ours.

Our 4- won a silver medal in the British University Championships and were automatically selected for EUSA. Regrettably at Henley the PA 4+ were knocked out on the

second day, being beaten by Newcastle University who broke both the Barrier and Fawley records in our race against them.

Our two Men's VIIIs also lost on the first day at Henley but it was quite remarkable in as much that one of our crews was basically our Novice VIII who had only been rowing for 6 months. Considering that some 90 crews trial on the Friday before Henley for only 16 places in the main draw this is some feat! Our thanks to Paddy Vickers, 2nd VIII coach, and Laurence Taylor, our head Novice coach for some great coaching this past season.

It may interest you all to know that 4 of our past volunteer coaches have now secured fully paid professional coaching positions elsewhere in the country. Our thanks also to Dave Rowland who

does our strength and conditioning for giving so much thought to individual development.

The proposed new clubhouse plans are with the Bath & North East Somerset Council and we expect to get a market related quote from builders early in the New Year.

We now have another year and the intake looks very good mainly on the size and numbers of both our senior and fresher rowers in both men and women. We look forward to another exciting UBBC year.

Gordon Trevett
Sport High Performance Manager &
Director of Rowing
Warden of Hiatt Baker Hall



Before taking to the water at Henley T&V Regatta



Winning 1st VIII (L-R): Pete Randolph, Matt Steeds, Andrew Lawson, Andrew Turner, Seb Tjornelund, Adam Rushton, Edward Walton, Phil Williams, Mark Roberts

afternoon in the blue-riband event of the regatta, Elite Eights. Again, we had been drawn against a crew from Henley RC, although their offering would be much faster in this event. However our crew, organised by Peter Randolph, also had some serious pedigree half of the crew had earned themselves Bristol Reds whilst at University.

Both crews surged off the start line and again the Henley crew managed to secure an early advantage with their highly polished start. Many spectators in the launch following the race were surprised to see the Bristol old boys swiftly counterattack and soon overturn Henley's slight lead, which we managed to maintain down most of course despite Henley's ferocious attempts to get back on level terms. Nonesuch snuck across the line first and celebrated enthusiastically, probably more relieved that the race was over than anything else!

Once back on dry land, tankards and trophies were collected and the winning cox, Seb Tjornelund, could not escape being thrown into the

River Thames despite his getaway attempt. Some celebrating duly took place that evening in Henley, and by all accounts, everyone had a great time.

Adam Mackenzie

Here is Gordon Trevett's account of the event:

"...The spirit of all the guys was fantastic, and a very happy atmosphere existed among all of us. Ribbing banter was rife! Winning Elite VIIIs capped it all off.



Seb Tjornelund receiving the Elite Eights' Trophy



1st VIII: Pulling out into a lead past Remenham Club



2nd VIII: Contrasting middle pairs post-race

Well done to all! Long may the successes of Nonesuch continue!

I was so very sorry I could not have stayed for the barbeque but duty called unfortunately back at Hiatt Baker. I was quite prepared to

accept all the criticism of my ageing technique! Blood on the back of my legs attests to the fact that I was slamming my legs down hard but a deck ridge was cutting across my calves preventing me from flattening the leg drive. At the end of

the day I was quite happy to finish alive not having rowed in a boat for 15 years! Judging by the noises coming out of Will Preece he was suffering more than me with about 200m to go."

David Phillips updates us on the latest Alumni fundraising efforts

Tom Davies and I recently met with Gordon and Simon Hinks, director of sport - Bob Reeves' successor. They made the trip up to London to talk through progress on the boat house, the funding gap, ongoing funding requirements and how the alumni and the university can work more effectively together. In summary:

Boathouse project...

Work on the preparatory phase of the boat house replacement project is well underway. Tom and I looked at an impressive set of drawings, and discussions on the legal side of things (between Monkton School, Avon County, UofB and the Duchy of Cornwall are progressing).

Total estimated cost to Bristol was originally estimated at £560,000. It is now hoped that in fact the required total from Bristol will be nearer £400,000. (Total cost of £1m, split 4:4:2 between Bristol, Monkton and Avon County).

Currently £300,000 of that has been raised, about half of which has

come from a single donor, with the other half raised by club and alumni initiatives. A final £100,000 is therefore needed to get the project 'over the line'.

We made it clear to Simon that whilst we are prepared to go out to the Alumni base for another fundraising push, the University needs to put its hand in its pocket. Not only to come up with the actual cash, but so that we can demonstrate to potential donors a firm financial commitment from the university. Tom suggested by way of example that if we can tell people the university is contributing between £50,000 and £70,000 then it makes getting the final £30,000 to £50,000 easier for us (although clearly no small feat). Bottom line is people will want to feel the university is committed to the project in cash terms (rather than simply being content to splash it all over their own fundraising literature).

Simon also mentioned the possibility of further government funding through the "elite facilities fund"

managed by Sport England. He is going to explore this further. Simon and Gordon are meeting with various committees this week and early next, at which point they will have a better view of the extent of the University's financial commitment to this final portion of the cost. They will update us early next week, at which point we'll have a clearer view of the task in hand.

Once we hear back Tom and I will get our thinking caps on in terms of a further fundraising push. Any ideas appreciated!

Ongoing fundraising requirements...

Simon and Gordon clearly both feel passionately that the future of the club lies in the hands of its head coach, and are keen to start thinking now about succession planning since Gordon (or "G-Force" as Simon referred to him at lunch) is due to retire in 2-3 years' time. Simon's view is that to recruit a top quality coach to replace Gordon at

After finally managing to tear myself away from UBBC in 1993, I rowed with Falcon RC in Oxford for a year or so, before finally hanging up my all in one (which I still have!) in 1995. Thereafter, I returned to my first love, swimming, and am still at it. I returned home to Trinidad in 2003 and since then have been paying the bills as a self employed town planning consultant, whilst enjoying much warmer sea water than in the UK!

It has been a real joy to write this and reconnect with my memories of rowing at Bristol which are numerous, enduring and with the exception of ergos and all things related, very happy!



Ashley Whittaker and Piers Robinson, WHORR 1993



Victoria Hobday, Trinidad, June 2011

Richard and Emanuela Burrill... enjoyed their Scottish salmon fishing excursion which was won at the Leander raffle last year. John and Rachel Burdett were the



gracious and generous hosts - he normally flies large passenger jets internationally and Rachel is a vet. John writes: "We had a very good weekend mid-June with Richard



and Emanuela, the salmon fishing prize winners from last year's raffle. We had a great day on the Tay at Cargill, no salmon unfortunately though we saw a 36lb fish that had been caught earlier in the week. Managed to get them both dancing an eight-some reel after dinner and had a good walk up the hills on the Sunday." John stroked the UBBC VIII in 1982.

As for the two tennis players, this is John Burdett and Pete Dakin. Pete rowed in the Bristol VIII in 1982 along with Simon Foster in the powerhouse middle seats "carrying along the bow and stroke men I seem to remember." Chris Hartley was sat in the bows "observing the technical incompetence before me" and John was busy setting the rhythm at stroke. Pete recognised John on the tennis court in Teos, Turkey whilst on holiday. He is fit and well, lives in Poole and still rows. Small world!



Victoria Hobday (UBBC 1993) writes...



Before first year registration, Cheddar Gorge, October 1989

I arrived in Bristol for my first year of a BSc in Geography in 1989. Not long off the plane from Trinidad with an accent that no one understood (plus odd red hair and a small coconut around my neck), I had no knowledge or experience of rowing, other than an inexplicable determination that I wanted to do it. Having signed up at Fresher's Week with a number of other exuberant but clueless first years, Ben, Jez and the rest of the coaches promptly set about 'thinning the flock' with positively evil land training entailing endless circuits, lots of shouting and ridiculous running tours of Bristol's steepest hills. The reward of surviving all of this was a trip to a very run down Saltford boathouse in an even more ancient yellow bus to take to the water in a leaky wooden boat which took twice as many people to lift as it did to row. I was hooked!

Fast forward to the end of my third year, during which time the Women's Squad miraculously managed to obtain a second hand Janousek IV, which we used with wooden blades. In those days, UBBC had little if any equipment and virtually no resources. However, we had spirit and commitment in abundance and like all rowers; we knew how to have a good time! Regardless of wining (which we did on occasion, including Marlow Head in 1992) we had lots of fun on and off the water.

Great friendships were made and cemented during those times, many



of which are still standing the test of time and distance. I was that much in love that I stayed in Bristol for a year after graduation to continue my relationship with UBBC. That year, the Women's Squad managed to obtain not only a second hand Empacher VIII, but with the assistance of some personal funds, we finally got decent blades - second hand Dreissigackers. We were all set!

our most memorable row that year (1993) was the Women's Eights Head of the River Race. After all important standard preparation which included "Nevermind" at high volume, we started in position 63 and overtook at least 8 crews along the way. We were not overtaken; we emerged victorious from a few tense blade clashes; we finished in 23rd place overall. PDG!



the head of a coaching team is likely to cost up to £40,000 per year. In addition he envisages a team of part time coaches, costing somewhere between £5-10k a year each (this is essentially the model Durham are currently following).

This is clearly a big annual spend.

We made it clear that there is scope for the Alumni to contribute to coaching funds on an ongoing basis, but the bulk of the funding requirement is going to have to come out of the university's coffers. It may be that one way to reconcile this is to have the university's funding directed at coaching, with the club / alumni fundraising efforts focused on capital investments (i.e. new boats and equipment).

General Alumni issues...

We all discussed the current alumni base and options for increasing the subscription revenues (an ongoing issue we have wrestled with since we all got involved in this). Simon has a vision for how all university clubs should be tapping their membership bases for fundraising purposes through the use of events, newsletters etc. We are clearly way ahead of the curve in this respect, but there is more we can do, including greater interaction with parents of students, greater focus on recruiting new alumni (the involvement of the "younger" generation will be crucial in this respect).

Simon talked about the possibility of broadening Alumni involvement across all sports through the means of intra-sport events, such as a "first teams" dinner, or a Reds dinner, or even just a general "sporting alumni catch up evening". I for one certainly think there is scope for the UBBC Alumni to get involved in these sorts of events.

There is potentially scope for closer university involvement in the coordination of the Alumni

membership and subscription base, which would give us access to the university's charitable status for the purposes of alumni fundraising. Simon mentioned a scheme which he believes is already up and running, whereby alumni funds for other sports are held by the university, and therefore subject to tax relief / gift aid, yet are ring fenced and essentially controlled by the relevant alumni association (multiple signatories required etc). Simon is looking further into this, but it seems like quite an exciting development in principle.

It was a really useful meeting, and we've all agreed it would be good to meet in this way a few times a year, to ensure we are all pulling towards the same aim.

Regards,
David



Next Alumni Event

Saturday 28th January

(same day as Quintin Head Race).

The tide timings have not worked out particularly well for combining watching the racing and enjoying a social event on the same day; a 9:30am start time has just been announced by the race organisers. However, we are still planning on meeting at a more sociable hour that day.

Venue and timings are still to be announced; please check online (the event is listed on our Facebook page) for updates at the start of next year.



Racing at Henley Royal Regatta

Contributions from our Readers

John Gammage (UBBC 1969) writes...

I read somewhere in your recent newsletter that you are planning a "where are they now" so am sending you a couple of pictures from 1969 when I was rowing at Bow in the 1st VIII and we went to Henley but got knocked out in the qualifying rounds by Oriel. I have had no contact with any of that crew since then so a little questionnaire would be interesting.

By the way, I love those blazers (and ties) but two trans-Atlantic flights for the fittings would be a little extravagant, don't you think? Yes, these days I live in Texas and haven't laid my hand on an oar in over 40 years, but I'm still the same weight as when I left Bristol and wouldn't mind getting into a boat again.

Not knowing what has transpired in the interim, it certainly looks like Bristol has come back to the fore in rowing and long may that continue.

P.S. My first year, 1967-68, I was unable to row having just recovered from a motorcycle accident and a badly broken leg. As a result it ended up a bit shorter than the other and I used to adjust my stretcher askew to accommodate the difference. To be sure that I had fully recovered from that accident

(and another where I fractured my skull on an oil rig some years later) I ran a few marathons starting in 1998 and everything seemed to work OK as I got down to a PB of 3:40 (at 50 years old). In my final year I forsook rowing to go rock climbing in the Avon Gorge, but that's another story...

