



## The older I get, the faster I was.

Yes, it is time. Time to relive just how fast you really were, how quick your hands, how sophisticated your pulling power and just how snugly Madame Lycra hugged your curves. Time also to wonder at how your fellow crew mates could have disintegrated quite so quickly and how come she is still with him and he with them? It is also time to celebrate a new boathouse nearing completion (it has been a while...) and a rampant UBBC and Nonesuch BC.

It is thirty years since a combined University and UWE crew raced the might of Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Georgetown and Rutgers on their home waters and won the Head of the Potomac in Washington. We are inviting those Universities to all of our events over the summer to mark both that anniversary and their extensive generosity at the time.

So, **dinner at Leander on Friday 4th July**. Be there or face the ridicule of your other crew mates. Be there because it will be fun and be there because for once no one wants anything other than to buy you a drink...

You will not be dining alone, we are expecting a good turnout and have also invited some of the great and the good from Universities and Clubs we have raced against over the years. Even better, take the lead, relive your glory days and get your crew organised. Book a table, book several tables... book early and often.

Chris Hartley



## ALUMNI

*The Chairman and Committee of the  
University of Bristol Boat Club Alumni  
request the pleasure of your company at a*

*UBBC crew and reunion dinner*

*Leander Club, Henley on Thames  
Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July from 7.00pm*

Crew colours and Regatta dress  
RSVP ASAP at  
[www.ubbc alumni.eventzilla.net](http://www.ubbc alumni.eventzilla.net)



Three course dinner and wine  
£80 per person  
£60 under 25 UBBC Alumni





The victorious Men's Alumni 1st VIII



Varsity this year did not turn out all that well for UBBC, losing the key blade races 3-1 overall, with the only winners being the Women's Novices. The Men's Alumni 1st VIII won comfortably and the Men's Alumni 2nd VIII lost by one foot against the UWE 2nd VIII. Rumour has it that the UWE Alumni VIII had taken Friday off work to train together in Bristol, as they were so fed up of being beaten year after year. In the women's event, UWE managed to overturn our recent years of dominance with a victory by a few lengths. It was great to see so many alumni getting back in to a lycra and racing for Nonesuch; getting three eights of part-timers out is an impressive feat. Many alumni chose to cancel their plans and stayed in Bristol, joining the Club at the Ball and afterwards at (where else?) Lizard Lounge... some things never change.

Nonesuch Summer Plans

- There will be a crew at Henley Royal Regatta 2014, we are currently aiming for another spot in the Thames Challenge Cup.
- We will be racing at some other events this summer, most likely to include Henley Town & Visitors' Regatta on Saturday 2 August.
- As with last year, there will be a barbecue at Reading Amateur Regatta on Saturday 14 June.
- Check Facebook and Twitter for the latest updates, or write to any of the committee to submit new ideas.



The Women's Alumni VIII

Technical corner: Rule change rescues Nonesuch BC hopefuls

There was relief within the senior ranks of Nonesuch BC with the recent decision of the FISA (the International Rowing Federation) Congress to create a new age category for masters rowing.

"Masters rowing" is open to all from the minimum ancient age of 27 and then is divided into minimum age categories where the competitors (excluding the cox) need to average the set age. With international regattas and an annual World Championship it also has the advantage that mixed boats can compete. It is a fast growing and extremely popular part of the sport which, at times, can put serious pressure on clubs who have in the past focused on a younger contingent.

There were nine categories (minimum average of 36, 43, 50, 55, 60, 70 etc) but, with the new decision, there will now be ten. American Burk Ketcham had circulated a petition worldwide to ask FISA and the FISA Masters Commission to approve a "J" category for rowers so that the athletes could look forward to an extended competitive lifecycle. Nonesuch BC competitors can now race in age specific categories that include a minimum average of 80 years and above.

We couldn't actually find a Nonesuch BC 'J category' oarsman for comment, but would really like to hear from any UBBC Alumni members who are actively competing in Masters competitions in any category.

For interest the oldest current competitor on the Masters circuit is one Dr Charles Eugster at the ripe old age of 93. Since 2010 he has won 10 gold medals in 12 races at the World Masters Rowing Regattas in Canada, Poland and Germany. His attitude is best summed up in an interview by 'World Rowing':

" I want to be 93 and at my best. I want to have a beach body when I'm 94, a new job and a new girlfriend."

Keep training boys and girls.

Chris Hartley

Over £250,000: the UBBC Alumni record and contribution to date!

We are adding up the UBBC Alumni contribution to the Club over the last three decades. We are at over £250,000! More detail next edition but perhaps you can help fill in some of the gaps?

- 1983:**  
Start of Alumni
- 1983:**  
First HRR tea party
- 1984:**  
First newsletter, USA tour
- 1986:**  
Purchase of new Eton Racing Boats VIII
- 1986:**  
Purchase of new blades
- 1988:**  
Purchase of club minibus
- 1998:**  
Purchase of carbocraft VIII, Australian coaching sponsorship
- 2003:**  
Australian coaching sponsorship
- 2004:**  
Club development loan
- 2004:**  
Purchase of Empacher VIII
- 2005:**  
Purchase of Kiwi IV
- 2006 and 2007:**  
UBBC oarswomen supported Australian development programme
- 2010:**  
Leander dinner raises £30,000 for the new boathouse
- 2011:**  
New Women's VIII
- 2013:**  
Boat repairs
- 2014:**  
Coaching launch



## Crew under the spotlight: Women's 1<sup>st</sup> VIII 2010

In 2010 the Women's 1<sup>st</sup> VIII rowed to victory at Women's Henley Regatta, winning the Intermediate Academic VIII's category. Below the crew describe in their own words the win and what they are doing now.

**Coach - Ed Fenn:** I arrived at UBBC with little experience of coaching and none of coaching women; I was quickly thrown into the deep end! Through the spring/summer of 2010, we painstakingly worked on every stroke off the start over and over until "perfection" was achieved. Eventually we won BUCS Regatta by 0.4 seconds (causing me to fall off my bike). Wins at Varsity, Avon County Regatta and Reading Regatta were achieved and celebrated, but it was all leading up to Women's Henley.

We went into the competition with confidence, but a couple of crews left us unsure if we were capable of winning. We believed we could kill off a lot of crews in the first minute of each race and this proved to be true in the first two rounds. But when we faced Cambridge lightweights in the semi-final, we knew this was our toughest test. The race began; we immediately stormed a one length lead, which was a shock to the crew and me! The rest of the race was completed with sheer determination from our crew with me looking on helpless from the launch. When we crossed the line, the feeling was incredible. We had beaten Cambridge with ease! In the final we led Cardiff University from the start. It was an amazing feeling to have won Women's Henley and to have not lost a race for the entire season.

I went on to coach the UBBC Women's Senior Squad for a further three years. I'm now not far from coaching; I'm now doing a PGCE in science at a secondary school in Southampton. I have a view to move back to Bristol and maybe even help out with UBBC rowing again in my free time.

**Cox - Alice Skinner:** Winning Women's Henley was a great achievement that I am proud to have been part of. Having grown up in Henley and rowed on the stretch for nearly ten years with Henley Rowing Club, it was exciting to be able to race alongside rowing friends old and new.

Since graduating, I have made the most of my degree in Childhood Studies... and become an accountant!

**Stroke - Mel Underwood:** I can still vividly remember that winning day as if were yesterday - that nervous feeling of sitting on the start line knowing that winning Women's Henley was easily within our reach; we had just beaten Cambridge in the toughest race of the Regatta, the semi-final. I remember Ed telling us just before that race that Cambridge would be up on us by half a length by the end of the island, and when it came to racing, Alice our cox having to do a double take when she told us WE were actually half a length up on Cambridge instead!

Fast forward four years and I'm now working as a doctor in Warwick, happily settled with my fiancé.

**7 - Caroline Emslie:** One of my most poignant memories from Women's Henley (other than the winning itself, of course) was Matt Ridley, then Club Captain, suggesting that perhaps we shouldn't be quite so confident going into the final and there was a chance that we could still lose... For better or worse, Matt's wise words were ignored and we went into the final completely convinced that we were going to win, luckily we did!

The combination of: the nerves before our final; the winning moment; the champagne on the banks; the influx of UBBC members who had rushed to Henley just to watch the race; and the knowledge that our hard work (including the infamous, freezing and generally horrible Reading winter training camp of 2009/10) had been worth it, made that one of the best days of my life.



Since then, I have finished university and left the world of rowing and taken up running instead. I am now a trainee solicitor and will qualify in September to specialise in litigation.

**6 - Chelsea Hicks:** Winning at Women's Henley was one of my greatest achievements; it is something that I will always look back on with great pride. As a crew we spent the year training extremely hard, starting the year with a crew for the most part made of rowers with only a year's experience. When it came to Women's Henley, we really did not expect to make it to the final; in fact we were so unprepared for making it to the final that we had not even packed dresses for the prize-giving ceremony.

Having finished my undergraduate degree at Bristol in Veterinary Pathogenesis, I am now nearly at the completion of my PhD in the Clinical Veterinary Science department at Bristol.

**5 - Lidia Cammack:** I graduated in Veterinary Science in 2013 but have failed to leave University... I am currently studying for an MRes in Biomedical Research at Imperial College and am still rowing. I am enjoying being on the Tideway and rowing for Imperial, but it was quite a shock after the tranquillity of Salford (and obviously training is not as much fun as with UBBC!) Some of my favourite memories of University are of rowing and I don't think I will ever be lucky enough to train with such awesome girls again. Winning Women's Henley was amazing and although we weren't the biggest crew physically, I think everyone

had the best attitude. We worked so hard together to achieve what we did and I hope that we always stay in touch with UBBC, and each other.

**4 - Sinead Connell:** Winning Women's Henley was by far one of the best days of my life. It was completely unexpected when we started the competition and an amazing start to my rowing experience. In the summer of 2011 I was lucky to be one of the crew who went on a fun and interesting trip to Moscow to represent GB Universities at EUSA.

I finished my degree in History of Art the same year and have been studying in Bristol since. Last year I did a law conversion and I'm just over half way through the Legal Practice Course. Next year, I'm having a second gap year (and might use this as an opportunity to row in warmer climates), before starting work as a trainee solicitor in Bristol.

**3 - Ellie Walsh:** The last time I sat in a boat was when we won Women's Henley just after I graduated - nice to quit while you're on top eh?! Since then I have worked in a theatre and a bank, spent a year travelling in France and am now finally settled down in London working in fundraising for the medical research charity Breast Cancer Campaign.

My favourite rowing memories include our coach Ed throwing us a cox-box from the bank at BUCS Regatta and then us finishing the race without knowing if we had won or not - two equally tense moments. It was an exhausting but amazing last year at university and we could not have achieved what we did if we hadn't all given it everything we had. I really hope we will all get back in the boat together one day!

**2 - Stacey Crocker:** Like many rowers out there, during my university experience rowing became the substance of my life. I was thoroughly addicted early on so when our 2010 crew came together for Women's Henley Regatta the dream had come true. The training camps, ergs and sacrificed social life were all worth it. What a feeling! Winning it has been the best experience of my life (so far). The memories will always stay with me and I doubt I will ever stop mentioning it, or slyly slipping it into conversation.

Fast forward four years and I now do little exercise and no rowing. It's the classic 'the time's not right' situation of settling into working life and not really seeing how rowing can fit in (how do people manage it!?), but never say never! I currently work

For Macmillan Cancer Support fighting inequalities in cancer care, and I love it. I'm edging my way into fundraising with challenge events to keep my fitness going but for now I will just have to look forward to thrashing UWE at Varsity again.

**Bow - Eva Jacques:** Since graduating from Bristol last year I've worked as a private tutor for three spoilt Russian children in oligarch-land just outside Moscow, and am now working with the Trade and Investment Promotion Agency for the Czech Republic in London. My rowing activities have been fairly low key since the magical Women's Henley win, with any involvement now confined to the

river bank! That said, I did commit to a hectic training schedule of one session a week at the local club during my year abroad in the Czech Republic; I can boast that I rowed in the Moravian regional championships in an ancient wooden quad scull, and on another occasion I was thrown into the cox's seat at last minute for the Czech Uni Champs when the Mens Senior eight were (lets face it) extremely desperate. I don't find myself yearning after the intense winter training and countless early starts, but I do miss the camaraderie, Ian's incredible boxing sessions, and with spring in the air, I do think from time to time that it would be nice to get back on the water...





## View from the launch

I am just back from a very good rowing camp in Dunkirk which, with rowing 3 times a day, was fairly exhausting. We seat raced for our Senior Men's 1<sup>st</sup> VIII and there were some surprises as to who made it in. This year we are down on horsepower, but all the guys are very fit and row technically well.

The Senior Women's 1<sup>st</sup> VIII is in training for the upcoming regatta season and most of them came on the Dunkirk camp with Olly the coach. They are nearly all quite experienced and we think they will do very well this year.

Currently we still have two Men's and two Women's Novice VIII's rowing and racing. It is looking good for next year as most of those have indicated that they will be staying on and rowing again. The crews have also had some very good results in several Head races. Our Novice coaches this year Rob and Lottie have done an excellent job under very trying conditions.

Frustratingly we had our three outboard motors stolen from a triple locked container earlier in the year. This meant that for six weeks we could not coach our crews consistently on the water. We are living in the field by the A4 road and have had terrible weather. The extreme flooding at Saltford has also meant that we have not had much water time. A lot of ergs and fitness training including Killer Kiwis have been the staple training diet. No surprise then that lots of erg PB's have been the result for most rowers. The new clubhouse will seem like the Ritz Hotel after the past few years!

Shortly it will be the Varsity Cup series against UWE. The coin toss is not being done until the morning of the race [Ed: so the gamble of which side of the course the crews get will be even more nerve-racking...]. We hope to see two alumni eights thrashing over the course.

Our Senior Men's 1<sup>st</sup> VIII beat UWE recently in a race in Gloucester, but lost the following day by 6 seconds over 4k rating 4 pips under them. We won the Exeter Head a week later. In the Quintin Head we lost IM2 by just 0.4 of a second to UL. Callum Gathercole, who is currently at 7 in the VIII, won the BUCS LW indoor champs. We have been rowing in our 9 year old Empacher, but we found out at Dunkirk that over 1000 metres the Liz Hatfield Hudson boat is 6 seconds faster. With age the Empacher has lost a lot of its rigidity. I know the feeling!

I have a new twin hull coach boat courtesy of several Alumni arriving in early June to be christened by Lady Narelle Thomas after the Vice-Chancellor's wife. However, we'll have to wait for the new building to be secure before we can put it inside!

G  
Director of Rowing & Head Coach

### Q&A: Gordon Trevett

Gordon Trevett, almost ten years ago a keen Kiwi, formerly of London, made Bristol his home and UBBC his mission. So what lies behind the rugged good looks of this master of the coaching launch, Director of Rowing and Warden of Hiatt Baker? We ask the questions others have pondered for the last decade.

**When did you first start rowing?** In 1960 at the age of 17 years I was working in the Baker St Branch of the National Provincial Bank as a Junior (adding up remittances every day, giving out bank statements and balancing all the cheques that went through - thrilling!). I saw a rowing poster so went down to 6 Lower Mall, Hammersmith where the Bank had its clubhouse. British Rowing are in that building now!

**How did the Bristol coaching job come about?** In New Zealand I saw an ad on Rachel Quarrel's Rowing Service web site for a coach for UBBC. I applied online and sent my CV over. Bob Reeves, then Director of Sport, replied offering me a Director of Rowing position which combined both coaching and fundraising.

**Where will you end up NZ or UK and why?** I will go back to NZ as we have our whole family there. I have had several attractive offers of rowing employment in NZ in recent years, but I have certain goals yet to achieve with the UBBC.

**Proudest moment at UBBC?** There have been so many it's hard to select just one, but the one that gave me the biggest hangover afterwards was winning the 2007 EUSA gold medal in Banyoles with our UBBC 4-. Pretending I was an aeroplane in the middle of a deserted Banyoles high street at 4.00am all on my own, and being totally lost, was one memory of that success.

**What is your current erg score?** My last erg scores were at 61 years of age. These were a 6.32 for 2000m, 3.02 for 1000m,



1.24 for 500m, and a 15.3s 100m. At one time I held several World records and still hold indoor NZ records.

**Which part of your body has aged the most?** My back and my libido. The spirit is still willing though!

**Who do you support in rugby?** I support Saracens over here. Auckland Blues and the All Blacks in NZ.

**Most difficult moment at Bristol?** Losing to Cornell in the Temple quarter final at Henley Royal by a canvas, when we were a third of a length up and moving away as we passed the Stewards enclosure. The river was in flood and the Phyllis Court station we were on was recognised as being totally unfair, particularly in the last 150 metres. It was like hitting a brick wall.

**Now you are a Leander man do you wear pink socks?** I certainly do and cerise chinos as well when a suitable occasion comes up. I must say though I get more looks and requests to have photos taken with me when I wear the UBBC blazer and tie!!

**If I could wave a magic wand-what would you ask for?** I have discussed this with some of my rowers recently. If I won the lottery I would buy over £500,000 worth of Empachers of various boat classes to put into our new boathouse (due to be opened on the 27th September).

**Do you know any rowing jokes?** Not any clean ones but I quite like these quotes I have seen on T-Shirts: "Rowers do more before 8.00am than most people do all day", "Crew is life....everything else is just details" and "It's exclusive...Club Bristol Pile!".

## Photos of the construction of the new Boat House



**Official opening on 27 September 2014!**



## Views from the Captain's seat

It would have been very easy for me to write 600 pessimistic words on the challenges UBBC has faced over the last 6 months. These have included a minibus not fit for purpose, three stolen launch engines, some of the worst flooding Saltford has seen in its history and a decision to decamp the club to Dorney after 3 weeks without any water outings to only be faced with gale force winds and a theft from our towing vehicle. Then, last but by no means least, the constant delays to the building of the new boathouses. By the time they are completed we will have been without a boathouse for 12 months. Those words however, describing the 'car park' of boats that now resides outside in the top field at Saltford or the shipping container in which we have been keeping our 'valuables' or the farm that has become the temporary home to boats and equipment not in weekly use or too valuable to keep in a shipping container, would have done a great disservice to the overwhelming feeling in the club at the moment. That feeling is one of satisfaction at successes already achieved this year and excitement about successes yet to come.

**The successes so far.** First was the Instant Impact 'Win your sponsorship' competition which took the form of garnering the most Facebook likes and shares for a video produced by the club. Well, we won our sponsorship, netting £1250, which was directed towards some much needed repairs to Novice VIII's along with the Alumni's own generous donation and has proven to set the tone for the rest of the year! A £2000 donation from Alston's Furniture allowed us the purchase a second (possibly third or fourth) hand Empacher VIII for our novice women and a women's 4+. All this work meant that by the end of January we were ready to field a remarkable 7 VIII's (3 Senior and 4 Novice) at Quintin Head. The weeks following Quintin Head should

have been busy and race-filled, instead they were busy and filled with constant changes of plan as races were cancelled left, right and centre.

But then along came the EY 'Make it better' competition... Pete Jones and Charlie Lewis have described in a different article how it all happened but the overall result for UBBC was a new cox box, a £500 cheque, £5000 worth of repairs and equipment (£1000 of which will be heading to the University of Worcester), what feels like a thousand new friends within the rowing community and an incredible atmosphere within the Club. But that's not where the good news stops, funding from the Alumni Foundation has also allowed us to purchase yet another cox box meaning that all 7 racing boats have one each for the first time in a while! And then, in the same week as the EY win, the club took part in the Ignit10n event for Sports clubs at Bristol University which challenged each club to come up with a 10 hour challenge involving the whole club. 80 members rowed in relay on 4 ergs for 10 hours, covering the distance from Bristol to Edinburgh but more importantly raising over £2000 for the charity Above & Beyond.

### What of the successes yet to come?

The Women's squad have made the most of a lot of weather-enforced ergs, and in response to Gordon's wishes in the last issue of this newsletter, have continued to bring down their erg scores. By the beginning of next term it seems likely that the squad will have at least 4 members with 2k scores below or near 7.20 and will have gone on training camp looking for the boat speed to match it. The Men's squad, and in particular the Senior Men's 1<sup>st</sup> VIII, have had a promising Head race season so far and are excited about the success that may lay ahead as we enter Regatta season. The novice squads have also been thriving. Despite of the lack of

boathouse or regular access to coaching launches both squads still contain over 16 novice rowers keen to learn and perfect their technique as we head into summer. And the rest of the Club? Well, not content with bringing in over £8000 worth of new equipment and repairs into the club over the last 6 months the sponsorship team have a few more tricks up their sleeves so watch your Facebook and Twitter accounts carefully!

The route of least resistance for this year, with no boathouse, very little money and equipment in desperate need of repair, would have been to simply survive, safe in the knowledge that the Club would have a new home next year and we just had to hold on until then. Instead we have continued to drive the Club forward, dealing with the pressing matters of the moment and planning for the future. As someone much wiser than me once said "if the facts don't fit the theory, change the theory."

None of the above could have been accomplished without your support and, as always, the current members of UBBC are very grateful to have such an active alumni. I hope to see as many of you as possible during the regatta season!

### Stephanie Harris



## History and UBBC

It is a situation most likely as old as university education itself; you leave school enthused with the subject you have chosen and worked hard to study, only for it to be eclipsed by some other interest before the time of your degree is up. In my case that fairly quickly came to be true of my love of rowing and UBBC, I have spent the last two years clocking up the odd hours in the library before heading back to the gym or down to Saltford. I still enjoy history, I can't deny I find it all very interesting, indeed a few of you might recall me, mounted atop a chair delivering a few lines on the Boer War at the 2012 Head Race Ball.

However, as my degree draws to a close I have been granted the rather unique opportunity to take my dissertation to a far fonder area; that of UBBC and its history.

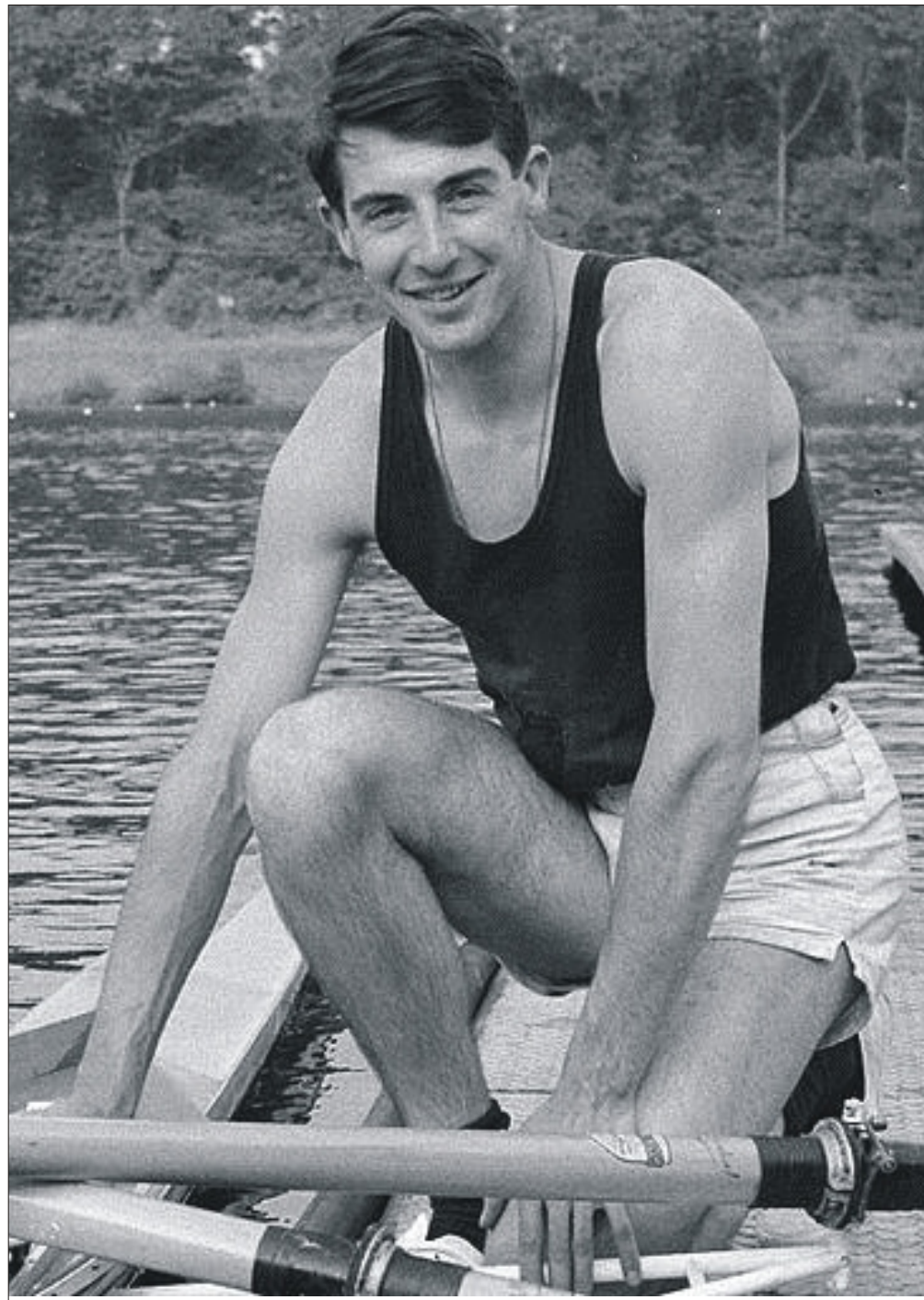
I have not set out to write a straightforward chronicle of UBBC's history, with the material available to me at present that would be impossible, and not I think of the most value. What I am doing is conducting a study of what is available; the 'Club Timeline' initially prepared by Dr Michael Hills and the famed 'Captains Box', now dubbed 'The Archive' containing material from as far back as the 1920's and a wealth of sources dating from the late 1960's and early 1970's relating to a Professor F. A. Gaydon. More contemporary names get a look in too, for the purpose of my dissertation people who I have had the privilege to meet and even be coached by have taken on the form of historical figures.

My work focuses on three main areas: firstly the comparatively limited material currently available to me and what points of interest it is possible to take from it, secondly the record keeping in the club and whether it's possible to establish a pattern or motivation behind it, and lastly the ability of a shared and memorialised history to motivate and inspire in a club like ours.

The new boat house represents a great opportunity to shape the future of our club, but after my research I strongly believe that a key factor in building this

bright future lies in an awareness and celebration of our past. It is my hope to see the names and smiles of recent, long gone and in some cases forgotten oarsmen and women of UBBC shine down from every corner of this new boathouse. With the framed contents of our archive liberally strewn across the walls at Saltford every member of UBBC will be daily reminded of the great pedigree of the club they are part of.

Peter Jones



Alumnus Hugh Wardell-Yerburgh (B.Sc.), Double Champion: Silver in the coxless fours at the Tokyo Olympics 1964, Diamond Sculls Winner 1968.

**Do you have any  
UBBC memorabilia  
suitable for the walls  
of the new boat house?  
Let one of the  
Committee know!**



UBBC and social media

At 3pm on the 5th of March 2014, after a week of intense campaigning, Bristol University Boat Club won £5000 worth of funding in EY's 'make it better' photo competition. How we got there, however, makes for quite a story.

In order to win the competition we had to get the most 'likes' between Facebook and Instagram on our submitted photo. Right from the first day of the competition, it was clear we were dealing with a two horse race. Bristol Jets, the University's cheerleading squad, initially took the lead whilst we were out training but soon we were able to implement our carefully thought out week long plan. The tactics for the competition essentially revolved around networks; everybody at the boat club does different subjects, lives with different people and comes from lots of different areas and schools. If each day we could use these networks to get our message out then it was just a numbers game; with over 100 active members, the potential was huge.

The tenacity of the cheerleaders, however, meant we had to do more. The UK rowing community became the next target of our campaign and the whole club worked frantically to tweet, message, email and call all the rowing contacts we could muster. Nonesuch BC also provided us with some useful connections to the many other rowing clubs our former members have gone on to be involved with. The Boat Club page became awash with excited cries of retweets and shares from Olympic legends and famous brands. Confidence was on the up and this excitement eventually morphed into a frenzy of pleading messages to anybody with a following of more than a thousand. One Novice Man even tried (in vain) to convince Justin Bieber to share our photo.

Despite all our efforts, however, the cheerleaders kept on coming and surged into the lead with only a few days left. Our photo had been shared and retweeted by many of the big names in the rowing world, we had the UK's premier rowing photographer, Iain Weir, working for our campaign and a number of other clubs were working hard to rally and coerce as many people as possible into liking our photo and yet we were still behind.

What was happening? What else could we do? An insidious doubt began to sweep through the ranks of UBBC. Many

thought we were out gunned, out classed. What if our strategy was spent and we were out of ideas? With around 24 hours to go until the final bell, we were about 500 likes behind and the club's resolve was waning. Enter the Americans. A core group of campaigners (what we termed 'Competition HQ') realised that whilst the UK social media landscape was going to bed for the night, the Americans were wide awake. As a result, we worked tirelessly throughout the final night to spread our message 'across the pond'. With this fresh pool of 'likes' from the US and others in the international rowing community, we soon began to erode the cheerleader's seemingly insurmountable lead. Excitement once again gripped the Boat Club page and by dawn break, our photo had taken the lead by around 150 likes.

During the final stretch of the competition we were matching the efforts of the Cheerleaders 'like for like' and holding onto our lead. On the back of the excitement over the American

intervention, smaller groups of members came together to replicate the Competition HQ we had set up in the library to hothouse the final stretch of the campaign. The Novice squad, for example, set up one such group and they proved particularly adept at promoting our instagram photo with a barrage of spamming that sort to raise the photo's exposure on the social network. With an hour to go, it was time for afternoon training and the carpark of the boat house played host to our final push as the cheerleaders clawed back, at one point reducing our lead to a mere 40 likes. As the clock struck 3pm, we realised we had done it, we had won and the insomnia and malnutrition of the last few days seemed to have been a small price to pay. Our minds could now focus on the impending training session and we were on the water by 3:15pm: how very apropos.

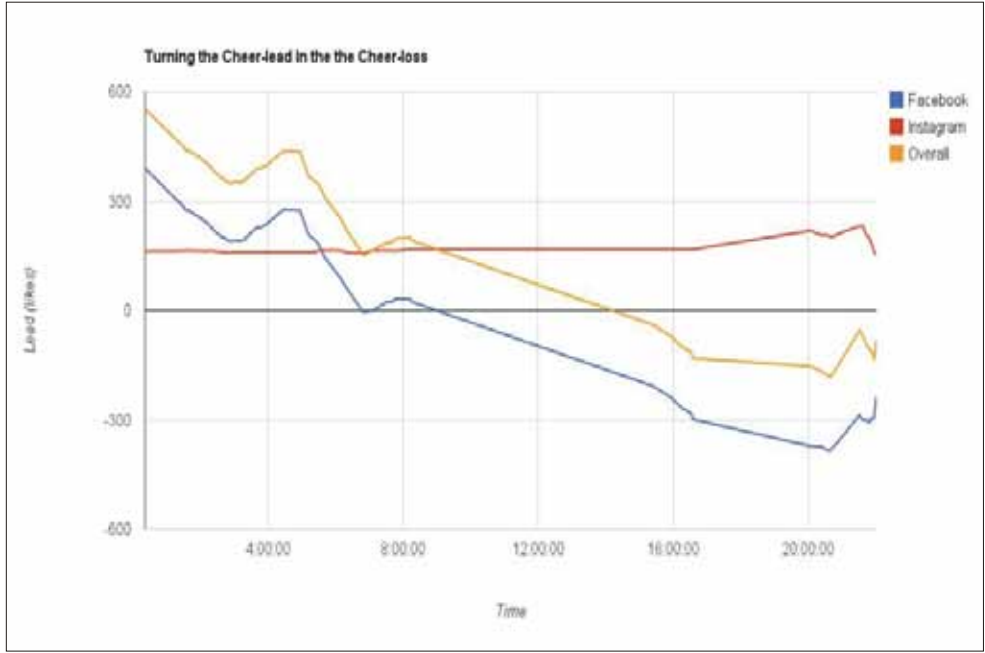
The financial benefits of the competition need little explanation. The club's accounts are consistently balanced on a knife edge and this money will therefore

Go towards helping us repair boats that would otherwise remain in poor condition and unfit for the demands of a top university Boat Club. We are also now able to donate £1000 worth of funding to the University of Worcester Boat Club whose fleet was tragically damaged during the recent flooding. This competition has, however, done much more than simply help us repair our fleet; the profile of the club has been raised immensely not only in the UK but around the world as well. Both the British and American governing bodies of rowing were committed and proactive supporters of us during the competition. We have become known across the US rowing community from San Diego to Orlando and our Twitter and Facebook profiles

now have a thoroughly international flavour to their following. Many clubs and universities in the US have even offered to host us if we ever happened to be touring America.

The goodwill and support we received from the rowing community was simply staggering and went far beyond any expectations we had. If this competition has taught us anything, it is that we are immensely privileged to be part of such a fundamentally benevolent community.

#CharlieLewis



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- Stacey Crocker,  
Nonesuch BC Women's Captain  
staceymariacrocker@gmail.com

Please feel free to contact any of the steering group at the above email addresses, or alternatively, write to us at:

UBBC Alumni  
c/o University of Bristol  
Alumni Office, Senate House  
Tyndall Avenue, Bristol BS8 1TH

You can find us on all major social media platforms - search for **Nonesuch BC**



# **DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR**

## **UBBC Alumni Events 2014**

### **26th June, Wine at Avery's for friends of UBBC:**

In the cellars of wine merchant Avery's of Bristol, our Chairman Chris Hartley will be leading friends and sponsors of UBBC on an evening of sixteen clarets and six cognacs. Master of Wine, Matthew Hemming, will contribute a running commentary while current UBBC members will help run the evening. The objective is simply to thank non-alumni supporters from within the University and beyond. Depending on the response it may be that we have spare places for alumni members willing to help us host the evening.... drop Chris a line if you might be able to help.  
It is a tough job but someone has to do it.

### **4th July, Dinner at Leander Club:**

2014 is a fantastic year for your Club and we would like you to come to a dinner at Leander Club to celebrate during Henley Royal Regatta.

Four years ago the dinner at Leander raised £30,000. Well over £1,000,000 later, despite the floods delaying opening, we now have the first new Bristol University boathouse since 1928. We are not seeking additional funds in July, we are seeking your company and that of your crew mates and friends to celebrate.

Leander Club, the home of Sir Steve Redgrave and still the world's single most successful sporting club, as measured by Olympic medals, is a magical place. None more so than during Regatta. We aim to have a drink overlooking the river followed by an excellent dinner and we very much hope that you will be able to join us.

Tickets are £80, (£60 under 25 for UBBC Alumni under 25) including wine on the table, a welcome drink, and a three course dinner followed by coffee and chocolates. Tables of ten and everyone is welcome.

Please book your tickets at [www.ubbc alumni.eventzilla.net](http://www.ubbc alumni.eventzilla.net).

### **5th July, Pimms during afternoon tea of Henley Royal regatta:**

Join us for Pimms in the usual parking lot at Henley Royal Regatta. If you haven't been before, go to the corner of Lion Meadow, opposite the boat tents and nearest to Remenham Lane, and look out for UBBC blazers!

### **27th September, Opening of the new boat house:**

Vice Chancellor Sir Eric Thomas, selected guests and you have been invited to attend the official opening of the new boathouse at Saltford on Saturday the 27th September 2014. Details of the day are still being worked through but if you can make it, please hold the date. The last time UBBC had a similar reason to celebrate was in the 1920's!

## **Racing Calendar**

31st May/1st June - Metropolitan Regatta

14th/15th June - Reading Amateur Regatta

20th - 22nd June Henley Women's Regatta

21st June - Marlow Regatta

27th June - Henley qualifiers

2nd- 6th July Henley Royal Regatta