

Momentum Michaelmas Membership Milestones

Eleanor Prince, President

The driest Michaelmas of my time at St. Hilda's College has inspired impressive levels of club growth. With only a brief foray into amber flag, the beautifully rowable Isis lent itself to a successful batch of taster sessions, and training up a whole host of new coxes. Two wonderful BBQs, catered by college, made our captains jobs more difficult as they had to

navigate having more sign-ups than taster slots! Throughout the term, the ever-dependable men's side coach Scott continued his excellent job and was joined by new women's side coach Megan to enter three boats into the main novice event of the term. Off the river (though still close-by), we successfully upgraded the racking to sliding racks which has significantly improved our

ease of boating. Thank you to everyone who has supported us already in this endeavour. It was wonderful to finish off the term by bringing everyone together at our termly dinner and there are so many new faces to get to know. We've started the year so well, I can't wait to see what's left to come.

Below, please find our save the date notice for Sirens. We can't wait to see you!

A new coach and a lot of novices

Anna Hutchens, Women's Captain

With Michaelmas rowing the past two years being defined by a near-constant state of river closures, it is fair to say that the river gods blessed us this past term. This ability to get novices out rowing on the water undoubtedly contributed to a record novice recruitment on the women's side! Our recruitment drive began at the fresher's week BBQs, with over 25 sign-ups for a taster session at each of the MCR and JCR BBQs. It seems novices must have enjoyed these, as numbers translated into big turnouts at ergs (20+ seen each Tuesday!), as well as crew runs and regular outings - with each week seeing a minimum of three completely different novice eights going out. This recruitment success led to us entering two women novice eights into the Tamesis Novice Regatta, for the first time ever! These crews did Hilda's proud, with both winning their first race, and our 'A' crew progressing through to the

knockouts on Saturday. As well as all our lovely new novices, we have had another very exciting recruit this year: our new women's coach, Megan Culbert. We can't wait to see the new heights she leads the women's side to in the coming terms! On the senior front, we are lucky enough to have retained the majority of our seniors from 2024/25, with their willingness and enthusiasm facilitating the training of so many novices. Seniors also got together a scratch crew and raced in IWL A, putting on a strong showing to finish comfortably in the top half of competitors, an



impressive result for an eight that had never rowed together before. Looking forward, we are approaching Hilary with a lot of excitement and potential, looking at a likely 4 (!) women's boats entering Torpids. This would be the first W3 or W4 to ever race in Torpids from St Hilda's, a testament to the depth the program



Above (B crew) and left (A crew), novice women post Tamesis regatta races.

has built in the past few years. Perhaps most importantly, the novices have also been nicely integrated into the wider SHCBC community, with a huge number attending the Boatclub Dinner!



Above, SHCBC men after Tamesis regatta

Raring to Race

Rhys Williams, Men's Captain

Inheriting the men's side captaincy was always going to be tricky. One can only imagine the Herculean task I encountered upon receiving the torch from our esteemed captain emeritus. Double blades for M1 and crew turnover led some of our members to believe the wave of success had indeed crested, but it was all down to us to prove that wrong this Michaelmas.

The rain gods have been (mercifully) benevolent this term. The Isis flag has never looked greener. A healthy novice recruitment meant we could get started straight away; and despite every college in Oxford scrabbling for novice outings, we had a fairly consistent crew out on the water from the off. Many of the boys have been going out up to three times a week, with one man going a step beyond to start rowing for our clubhouse compatriots in red! Just remember where your loyalties really lie, MD!

Tamesis week approached. The intrepid Hilda's men were to face Wadham B. We went into the first race with high spirits, and, as it turned out, wattage to match: pulling away to a comfortable lead within the first few strokes. Advancing to Thursday put us against Christ Church A: a crew to whom we were somewhat indebted after racking our shells on boathouse island during the long-awaited Longbridges sliding rack installation. We decided to thank Christ Church appropriately by bowballing them before the end of the start sequence. Friday rolled in

with another crushing victory over Keble A, before a tough draw against Magdalen A, the overall winners, meant we had to retire at the round of 16: a fabulous achievement, and one about which we were all very proud!

In the spirit of winning, the seniors have also followed suit this term. Two competitive 4+ boats have been fielded this term in both IWL A and Autumn Fours, with the M4+A

posting the fastest time for a 4 in IWL A, beating many eights, and the affectionately named 'Physics 4' exhibiting some strong rowing in both competitions. Things are looking bright for the coming terms. Great work boys!

So, as the whirlwind that is Michaelmas draws to a close, we're left with a great deal to consider. Thanks for all of your commitment and enthusiasm this term. This is where the real work begins. The more doubtful among you might still be asking yourselves: "has the men's side really reached its peak?". I think we're just getting started...

We would love to meet you!

Eleanor Prince, President

Our annual Siren's dinner is the real highlight of the SHCBC calendar. It's so fun to hear about little snippets of different people's experience throughout the last 50 years or so. Save the dates and ticket information are yet to come so keep an eye on your inboxes! If you know of anyone who may be interested but might not be on our mailing list, please contact the Development Office at development.office@st-hildas.ox.ac.uk. On a personal note, I am always enthusiastic to hear about your experience or anything you would like to share with the club. If there's anything we can help you with too, do ask – in September, we took a few alumnae up the Cherwell in an VIII during the Gaudy Weekend! I can be contacted at president@hildasrowing.co.uk and beyond that, look forward to seeing you all in May!



Above, SHCBC men running a novice taster session. Image features Shea Heaney as cox and senior rowers in Bow and 2. If you are interested in any (stylish) SHCBC stash, such as the splash jacket pictured, please reach out to me and we will be happy to help!

Behind the Watts

From your new Hearsay Hildabeast

What a term we've had! The greenest flag Michaelmas has seen in years, sweeping success at Tamesis regatta, and only a couple of angry OxRows. St. Hilda would be proud.

Luckily, in true Hilda's style, the abundance of on-water training that we had this term gave me plenty to write about. Yet another fresher made the now-annual pilgrimage into the Isis (for future reference, it's much more fun above the water). The men's side did manage to stay slightly drier, though I would like to point out it is harder to fall in the river from your bed.

Beyond the gaze of St. Hilda, the first crewdate of the term proved as eventful as ever. Amid concerns that a former men's captain was drifting too far away from his roots with SHCBC, some completely spontaneous and not remotely pre-planned ABCs ensured that SH stayed as close to the club as ever. A second crewdate proved just as eventful, although I would like to extend



my condolences to a certain member of Corpus Christi College Boat Club, who seemed to find the whole night very hard indeed.

On a slightly more sophisticated note, possibly the busiest night for your Hearsay Hildabeast was our Boat Club Dinner. An evening of food, speeches and booze really proved just how close this club really is. I do hope AW lived up to his surname.

To finish, I'd like to give some special congratulations to our men's Social Secretary, for remembering the way to

Above, SHCBC women celebrating an eventful Michaelmas term at the formal.

We are happy to have so many new faces!!

Longbridges one (1) time this term! Long may this commitment continue.

All in all, it's been a fruitful term for the Hearsay Hildabeast! Have a restful Christmas, spend as little time as possible on the erg, and I'll be back in Hilary, with eyes (and ears) peeled. Remember, there's no secrets under SHCBC!



Left, the SHCBC men at the celebratory end of term formal. Unfortunately, there were no pictures where everyone had their eyes open...

RowWord

This puzzle contains 6 surrounding letters and a central letter. The goal is to create as many words from these letters as possible. Every word must contain the central letter. You are allowed to repeat letters in your words. There are 132 dictionary defined English words in this puzzle, and there is one word that uses all of the letters once. Good Luck!!

