Adverse weather conditions sadly hampered the long-awaited four days of Torpids racing this year, with the senior umpires stating that they ‘cannot remember conditions as bad as this for Torpids’ in their 20 years of collective experience.

This resulted in only two of the days being deemed safe for crews: the Wednesday and the Saturday.

Three SCBC crews took part in the racing this year: M1, W1, and W2. Sadly, both M1 and W1 had a rough first day, with both crews getting bumped due to unfortunate crashes early in the races.

However, the crew of W2, several of whom were racing in Torpids for the very first time, secured a bump from Regent’s Park!

A reduced number of crews were permitted to race on Saturday in half-divisions. We saw M1 sadly bumped by Worcester, but only after making them chase all the way up to the gut. W1 was denied a bump from LMH, but rowed over, having staved off Linacre.
Earlier this term, our W1 crew competed in the Isis Winter League headrace on the Isis. The race is from Donnington Bridge to the head of the river; 1.5km as fast as we can.

The race was an eventful one to say the least; after being set off a few lengths behind Queen’s W1, we managed to catch up with them well before the gut. Since we were not allowed to overtake through the gut, our cox Imogen Laycock did an incredible job at avoiding a bump and keeping her crew calm. Unfortunately, this did mean that we did lose some speed to avoid a collision with Queen’s. Coming out of the gut we had even more determination to regain lost time. Imogen performed an early crossing to overtake Queen’s coming out of the gut and pushed us to perform a great row down Greenbanks and Boathouse island.

The crew was originally disheartened that our row had been impacted by a slower crew, however the results showed a different story. We were placed as the second fastest women’s crew out of 20 Women’s College eights, placing only behind LMH. We were very proud of this achievement, and we’re even happier considering the circumstances. This was the third IWL time trial we have done since October, and we have improved our ranking on each successive race!
News from the Blues

This year, there’s no shortage of Somervillians sporting blue! From trialling last term, 3 members of SCBC made it onto the OUWLRC and OUWBC teams. Hear from our two members on the lightweight teams:

**SOWON LEE**
3rd year, Classics (BA)

“Hi, I’m a third-year classicist and the Blue Boat cox for the lightweight women. This is my second year with the team - I coxed the second boat Tethys last year. I started coxing at school in the States, mainly because I wanted the varsity splash jacket, then continued at Oxford with Somerville’s M1. My least favourite part about rowing is the 5am wake-up, and my favourite part is the crew dates! And winning, of course.”

**AMANDA THOMAS**
2nd year, Linguistics (MPhil)

“I was delighted to be selected to race in OUWLRC’s reserve boat, the Tethys coxed four, at the Henley Boat Races. We have got through countless chilly early mornings in rain, snow, and wind, dark evenings in the gym, and long days spent at Wallingford every weekend to prepare ourselves to race Cambridge. I was excited to put all the training to good use, and to represent both Somerville and Oxford at this prestigious event.

Trialling for the lightweight squad this year has been a valuable experience, and I have no doubt that I will come out of it as a stronger person. I have taken the SCBC spirit of enthusiasm to OUWLRC and will bring back some OUWLRC grit and determination to Somerville when I return for Eights in Trinity Term.”

Sowon and Amanda both raced at the Henley Boat Races (moved to Dorney Lake due to adverse weather conditions) on the 18th March this year.

The reserve boat (Tethys) won their race easily, and the Blue Boat narrowly lost in a dramatic and close race.

Huge congratulations to them both!”
**JULIETTE PERRY**  
3rd year, PPE (BA)

Having started rowing as a novice 2½ years ago, Juliette has been selected to row for the Oxford Women’s Blue Boat at the annual Cancer Research UK Oxford Cambridge Boat Race on the 24th March this year. With this amazing rise from novice to Blue, it comes as no surprise that she is ranked as OUWBC’s most improved member. She will be rowing at the 3rd seat.

Juliette was SCBC Women’s Captain last year and President this year.

We are all immensely proud of Juliette and many of us will be cheering her on from the riverbank on the 24th March!

The Women’s Blue Boats will be racing at **4:31pm**, starting off at **Putney Bridge**. Come and show your support for Juliette, Somerville, and Oxford!

For more information about the Cancer Research UK Oxford Cambridge Boat Race, check out the official website at:  
[www.theboatrace.org](http://www.theboatrace.org)

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For more news from SCBC, please be sure to follow us on social media!  
Twitter: [@SomeBoatClub](https://twitter.com/SomeBoatClub)  
Instagram: [@someboatclub](https://www.instagram.com/someboatclub)

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**The 1921 Association**  
Alumni News

**Call for photos for the Centenary Project**

With SCBC’s centenary in 2021 fast approaching, the 1921 association is working on a project to publish a history of Somerville Boat Club. We’d love to hear from you with any photos of your time at SCBC throughout the years.

Please send any submissions to [alumni@scbcrowing.com](mailto:alumni@scbcrowing.com)

**New LinkedIn group**

Stay in touch! Join our new alumni group on LinkedIn: Somerville College Boat Club

If you wish to contact the 1921 Association about joining, or have any questions, please email: [alumni@scbcrowing.com](mailto:alumni@scbcrowing.com)