

SCBC Newsletter Hilary 2020



Total washout... again

Having ended last term's newsletter full of hope that the rain would abate, the river fall, and the SCBC fleet weigh anchor and return to smash and dominate all before it, it is with an egg face that that I report that things went from bad to worse this term. With the amount of time the river was not red-flagged measurable in days rather than weeks, it came as no surprise that the combined efforts of storms Ciara, Dennis and co. forced the postponement of Torpids from 6th week to 8th week, and eventually its complete abandonment.

It goes without saying, though, that our committed oarsmen and -women made sure to maintain a high standard of fitness with ergos, cycles, swims and tank sessions in readiness for Summer Vllls, though these too, we now learn, will be cancelled due to the coronavirus. The women's crew for the cancelled WeHoRR were so irrepressibly competitive that they entered a Parkrun instead.



Wet play

As well as doubling down on the land training, our social secretaries made sure to put on an expanded programme of events, culminating as always in the termly Boat Club Dinner, this term a roaring success, aided by an excellent buffet and a good choice of beers in the Jericho Tavern.



Some good news: Chadlington sponsorship!

SCBC is pleased to announce an exciting new partnership with Chadlington Brewery, known as 'the Oxford beer.' Chadlington will help us cover some of the running costs of the club, and as a bonus we can be sure that when Summer Vllls is next run there will be an ample supply of beer! Those of you living in Oxfordshire can support a fantastic family-run business through the pandemic, which in turn will support SCBC, by looking out for their beers in shops or taking advantage of their free Oxfordshire-wide delivery service.

Onwards and upwards from SCBC: Alumnae in action

It is always a source of pride for SCBC when those who have rowed with us go on to greater heights, especially representing Somerville and Oxford against Cambridge on the Tideway. This year two alumnae were selected to race in dark blue: Amanda Thomas (2016, MPhil General Linguistics and Comparative Philology) for the lightweights and Issy Dodds (2015, Biology) for the openweights. In the latter's case there was a score to settle, having been in the same boat last year when it was beaten by the light blues.

The lightweights raced, on the tideway for the first time ever, on Sunday 15th March. The women's race was thrilling to watch, with Oxford looking promising and pulling out an early lead. Astonishingly, Cambridge managed to defy the textbook and come from behind at Hammersmith Bridge to win. Thomas, who is now studying for a DPhil at Trinity, said of the race,

'I was delighted to be selected for the first Women's Lightweight Boat Race to take place on the Tideway. The race was full of drama and it was a wonderful experience to be part of this historic moment for OUWLRC. Although Cambridge came out on top, I am proud to have raced in such a strong and motivated Oxford crew, especially in a year when very few rowing events are to take place.'

Even as the lightweight crews were putting their boats back on the racks it was looking inevitable that the openweight race would not go ahead due to the pandemic, as was confirmed a few days later. In the mind of this pundit there is no doubt that Dodds and the rest of the crew would have beaten Cambridge hands down.



CREDIT (both): Al Craigie Photography

Parish Notices

As ever, if you would like to join the 1921 Association please email alumni.scbc@gmail.com
To find out more about how to get involved, send our Alumni and Development Officer, Matthew Pugh (3rd year Classics) an email at scbcdevelopment@gmail.com
If you have any photographs or memories of your time with SCBC, please also send them in and help us to document the long and distinguished history of this boat club!

To keep up to date with the latest news from SCBC – though there may not be much for a while – visit our website: <https://somervilleboatclub.weebly.com/>
or follow us on social media:
Facebook: Somerville College Boat Club
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