



# MERTON COLLEGE OXFORD



## Boat Club Newsletter

*News from the Merton College Boat Club - Trinity 2023*

Alumni Number:

### WELCOME FROM THE BOAT CLUB ALUMNI OFFICER



Welcome to the March edition of the Merton College Boat Club Newsletter.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter, in which we report on Eights Week and the naming ceremony for the new women's shell.

**Ed Fage, MCBC Alumni Officer**

### HEAD OF THE RIVER

Over the Easter vacation, the men's side rowed in the Head of the River Race in London, in which four M2 rowers had a baptism of fire, rowing a 6.8km course and then rowing back the same distance, against the tide, to the start line.

### A RAINY MARCH

The rest of MCBC returned to Oxford for a training camp before the start of term, eager to get back on the water, but the wettest March since 1981 meant that rowing had to be replaced by a week on the erg. As you can imagine, once the river level dropped everyone was happy to escape the erg to get training for Eights.

### EIGHTS WEEK

During Eights week, MCBC learned that what goes up, must come down. MCBC went net down in the Eights charts this year: M1 went -1, M2 went -2, W1 went -2, and W2 went -2.

There were still plenty of exciting moments: M1 bumped Queens on Wednesday and held them off on Thursday in the most exciting three boat sandwich of the week, which saw an apparent glitch in the matrix as Queens' bow hopped clean over Merton's stern without touching it. W1 delivered a chunky rowover on Saturday in their new shell on Friday, accompanied by wild cheers from the boathouse.





*M1 racing at the Summer Eights (Photo © Richard Wakefield)*



*W1 racing in the new shell (Photo © Nikola Boysova)*

After the Summer Eights races were over, *Irene Tracey* was carefully cleaned and then carried by boatclub members from the boathouse through Christ Church meadow and into College, through to Sundial Lawn, in preparation for her naming ceremony.





Milo, Tabby, and Ed, smiling after the safe delivery of the Irene Tracey  
(Photos © Richard Wakefield)

## SUMMER EIGHTS DINNER AND NAMING CEREMONY

It was wonderful to see so many of you at Eights Dinner this year. It was a truly special occasion as we named our new women's shell, *Irene Tracey*, made possible by the incredible generosity of our donors.

During the Summer Eights drinks reception, the Vice-Chancellor made a speech, christened the new shell named after her, and then 'christened' the boatclub members and guests!

Pictures from the evening can be viewed [here](#).





*Our Former Warden christening the new shell - and then the crowd! (Photos © Richard Wakefield)*

## FAREWELLS AND NEW BEGINNINGS

The end of another academic year means farewells and new beginnings. Everyone in the club owes an enormous thanks to this year's captains Theo, Tabby and Milo, who have made such a fantastic year of rowing possible. And we wish the new captains, Becca, Chris, and Natasha the best of luck in their new roles. The whole club is behind them!



Merton blades (Photo © Richard Wakefield)

And finally, its goodbye from me. I am replaced in the role of MCBC Alumni Officer by the wonderful Theo Duke. I know he will take on the role with the appropriate level of panache and boat club spirit.

We would love to see you in College. If you would like to visit, please bring your Oxford Alumni Card to be given free entry to College during Alumni visiting hours (typically 10.00am-5.00pm, seven days a week). If you wish to come to College outside these times, please [contact the Development Office](#) or call 01865 276316 in advance, to make special arrangements.

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