

Student Scene

LMHBC Season 2009-2010

Ross Stevenson, LMHBC President
2010-11, (2007 Mathematics)

LMHBC had a very successful year in 2009-10, achieving its first set of blades since 2004, suffering only three bumps (and two of those due to a broken rudder cable) and performing well in other regattas. Additionally, we currently have the largest membership numbers in current memory (putting out both a Men's and Women's 4th VIII).

The start of the year brought a new intake of keen novice rowers and a large intake of them from the MCR due to the influence of the graduate captain, Gordon Stevenson (2008 DPhil Engineering Science). This helped us remain unbeaten, with 3 wins on day one of Christchurch regatta before the conditions rose to red flag and the final days of the regatta were cancelled.

Onto Hilary term and Torpids, where every LMH crew moved up in the bumps charts. The W2 had the fastest qualifying time in Rowing On, and felt they had a great chance of achieving bumps in every race, but unfortunately for them, weather conditions conspired so that they could only race on Friday and Saturday, moving up three places in the two days. M2 had it slightly better and were able to race on Thursday also, however they were unable to catch St Antony's M1, and so rowed over, but managed to bump up two on the final two days to achieve their highest ever Torpids bumps chart position. Both first boat crews were allowed to race on every day, with W1 bumping up three places by Friday, however a broken rudder cable on Saturday undid them by causing them to crash and then to suffer two bumps. M1 were knocked down one place to top of Div 2 on Thursday, but responded well on Friday, bumping boathouse sharers Trinity to become sandwich boat and race again

just an hour later. They managed to get an unbelievable double overbump on Exeter, just metres from the finishing line in what was a truly fantastic finish. They repeated the feat again on Saturday by getting contact on New, who had also started 3 places above them, almost exactly in line with the cox stone.

That wasn't it for LMH in Hilary term however, as both seconds crews entered the inaugural Spring Seconds regatta, with W2 winning the plate and M2 coming runners up in the plate.

Trinity and the summer brought further successes, both externally and in bumps. M1 came third overall in the Abingdon Head regatta at the beginning of the term and M1 and W1 went to Bedford regatta, where the girls defeated Magdalen, but lost out to Christ Church and the guys beat King's (Cambridge) and Worcester (revenge for being bumped in Torpids) before being beaten by University of London (no shame there) in the quarter-finals.

In Summer Eights, we were hugely successful, with none of our crews suffering a bump. Indeed, M2 achieved blades and are now two bumps away from fixed division after a fantastic performance, including tied victory in Rowing On and bumps on Worcester, Mansfield, Magdalen and Jesus. W2 also performed well in Rowing On and ended a one year spell out of the fixed divisions, also with 4 bumps on Oriel, Keble, Worcester (despite having been brought to a standstill by a crew who had bumped out) and Balliol. W1 managed to go up 2 with bumps on St Antony's and Wolfson. M1 went up three bumping St Anne's, Queen's and Trinity (again) and they could well feel hard done by the fact that the four crews ahead all bumped early on Thursday, depriving them of a chance at blades.

Overall, it has been a phenomenal year for the boat club and one we endeavour to better next year.



The LMHBC will be holding a fundraising event in 2011. Details to follow online and on Facebook. Please email ross.stevenson@lmh.ox.ac.uk for more info.

LMH Events

We have seen a very full events programme this year, particularly in the Trinity term, as we began to make use of the excellent new facilities afforded by the Pipe Partridge Building after its opening in April. For instance, we were delighted to welcome High Court Judges Dame Sonia Proudman and Dame Elizabeth Slade (both 1968 Jurisprudence) to speak in the Simpkins Lee Theatre before the Law Dinner in May. Another event for LMH lawyers is planned for next year. The LMHA Committee has been very active in running three events with capacity audiences at the Reform Club, at Bletchley Park (below), and at the Maggie's Centre in Hammersmith. We are very grateful to the Committee for arranging these. In the US we held events in New York and in Washington DC, where our hosts were the Deputy Head of Mission Dominick Chilcott and his wife Jane Chilcott (1979 English) at their residence. We are very grateful to them once again. Alumni gatherings were also held in Hong Kong and China as mentioned on page 12. Our thanks go out to all those who have hosted events, spoken at them, or helped in a volunteer capacity.



Architect, Will Wimshurst speaking at the LMHA meeting, Maggie's London, 6 July 2010

LMHA trip to Bletchley Park

Alison Gomm (1974 English)

On a bright crisp Sunday in April, members of the LMHA and their guests visited Bletchley Park, the headquarters of the Government Code and Cipher School (GCCS) during the Second World War. The original nineteenth century mansion and its brick outhouses are surrounded by the huts that were hastily built to accommodate the growing wartime operation and for which some of the mansion's original features, for example its rose garden, were sacrificed. Several of the huts now house displays about the work of GCCS and the men and women who served there – including Alan Turing's coffee mug, still chained to a radiator! There is also an