

## COLLEGE CLUBS

---

FIRST AND THIRD TRINITY BOAT CLUB. The Club has had a very successful year. Not only did the first men's VIII win most of the major University competitions, the first women's VIII also ranked second highest in the Lent bumps and only just missed winning a pennant at the national Head of the River Race on the Tideway in London. Coming second in the Michell Cup (which is an indicator of a club's performance across University rowing competitions), and this being the fourth year in a row of coming either first or second, First and Third has confirmed its leading role in Cambridge College rowing.

Among the victories that the Club achieved this year are: the Fairbairn VIIIs and IVs, the Lent bumps, the May bumps, and two events in the Small Boats Regatta (Miles Galloway in the Bushe-Fox Freshman Sculls, and Tom Coker in the Fairbairn Junior Sculls). The First and Third men defended the Lents headship for the third year running, as well as the Mays headship for the second year; the latter was last achieved by First and Third in 1967 (by the same crew that went on to win the Ladies' Plate, marking the last win of a Henley race by a First and Third crew).

Off the Cam, First and Third again proved their strength and won a number of head races in their category (formerly Senior 3), notably the Kingston Head, the Head of the Trent, and the Head of the River Race (S3 academic, known as the Halladay Trophy). The crew finished the latter race at a remarkable position of 53rd overall, the highest an Oxbridge college crew has ranked for many years.

However, there is still room for the Club to carry on improving, both in squad depth and in quality of top level rowers. The first men's VIII for instance was comfortably beaten by the University men's lightweight crew in both 2k as well as 5k sparring by considerable margins.

The women had a more difficult time, but developed well as the year progressed. Owing to the fact that most of their experienced rowers had left Cambridge at the end of last year, the first women's VIII contained a large proportion of novice athletes. Despite this disadvantage, the women did very well by holding an excellent second place in the Lent bumps and losing only to Downing by 0.1s in the Novice category of the Women's Head of the River Race. They also won the Fairbairn IVs competition and were runners-up in the final of the coxed IVs in the

University Fours races, an excellent result as well. In subsequent years, we hope that the women will also work on novice development, as they have already done impressively this year.

It was also great to see a number of members of First and Third rowing in University boats, namely John Kiely (2 seat in the lightweight blue boat), James Strawson (bow seat in the Goldie crew), Rachel Croft (6 seat in the Blondie crew) and Sasha Kasas (CUCBC spare man). Most of these returned to row for First and Third in the May bumps this year (apart from James Strawson, whose training commitment with CUCBC continued past the Boat Race), where they added welcome strength to their crews.

Warmest thanks are owed to everyone who contributed to making this year a success, rowers, coaches, coxes, bufties who helped in coaching or in providing accommodation before races, and this year's committee who have done most of the hard work. We wish the best of luck also to next year's committee – may luck and good spirits be on their side.

To yet another successful year!

FIELD CLUB. 2008–09 was another successful year for the Club, as shown by the reports below.

*Badminton.* This year the Trinity College Badminton Club, despite losing many of its veteran players, has maintained its enviable success. Two of our players made it into the Blues Squad. The Club has also maintained its large membership base, and currently has four men's teams and two ladies' teams. The introduction of a Mixed Practice has proved to be very popular and has allowed people from different teams to mingle. The First Mixed Team won the Mixed Cuppers competition – a first for the Club; the Men's First and Second and both the Ladies' teams kept their high positions in the league. The Ladies' Second team has managed to retain their title as the highest Second team in the intercollegiate league.

This year has also seen many changes to the Club itself. The Club's newly appointed Social Secretary (Jack Swait), who will be continuing until January 2010, has been very active in organising a range of excellent events for Club members. The Club's Webmaster (Jonathan Skelton) has partly renovated the Club's website, and the automated kit ordering system allowed the Club to offer three kit orders this year. In the near future, we hope to make game results available via the website, and to make it possible for members of the College to book the badminton court online. We have also changed the practices to include more drills and coaching (Adam Cranston, James Frost); as a result we have seen an improvement in the overall standard of play.