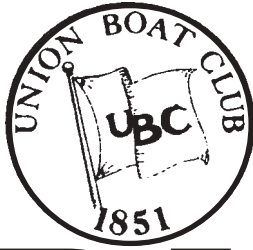


THE PUDDLE



Newsletter of the Union Boat Club of Boston

Fall 2000



Travelling Abroad

Health and Adventure

by *Bob Ackerman*

Rowing when travelling abroad is a good way to offset the effects of too much good food, but also a nice way to meet people and enjoy foreign waterways. Sometimes you'll meet someone who will help show you their city. While travelling I have rowed in Florence, Paris, Henley, Budapest, Toronto, Vancouver and, most recently, in Hong Kong.

If you don't have local contacts or friends, one way to find a club is to go into the FISA website (<http://www.FISA.org>), double click the right hand tab, "About FISA", identify the appropriate national federations and contact them for the local rowing club addresses. I found the Hong Kong information through a website which I discovered by trial and error: (www.chinnow.com).

Website seek-and-find will no doubt work for any country. Local rowing clubs are always delighted to meet colleagues from abroad and to

try to make arrangements for them to row. Keep in mind, though, that even some overseas clubs have liability concerns. Always bring a letter of introduction from the UBC secretary. When I was at the elegant Florence club (Societa Canottieri Firenze, in the old wine cellars of the Uffizi Palace) because of potential liability they wouldn't let me row until I could prove I was a member of a U.S. club. I called home to Margaret O'Connell, who, with typical enthusiastic aplomb, called overseas to document my legitimacy. (Maybe that call is why UBC dues went up). I subsequently sent the Club a copy of our membership directory, now out-of-date.

Rowing abroad always carries its unique signatures. In Paris you have to negotiate the barges. In Toronto you have to stick in sight of the safety launch that two rowers, in rotation, man daily. The water is the most potentially treacherous I've encountered.

For any UBC rowing colleagues going to Hong Kong, here are a few tips for men and women rowers: Contact the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club or the Sha Tin Rowing Centre. The RHKYC can offer short

term membership, which includes use of the striking Hong Kong Island clubhouse (restaurant, bars, swimming pool, squash courts) on the Harbor, at Causeway Bay. I suggest you contact in advance the membership secretary, Mrs. Tracy Leung (tleung@rhkyc.org.hk; tel. 852-2239-0371). They require a letter of introduction from UBC. The rowing captain, Mr. Martin Reynolds (martreyn@asiaonline.net), can provide information about rowing availability and conditions. Rowing is done behind Middle Island (between Deep Water Bay and Repulse Bay) or at Sha Tin.

The Sha Tin Rowing Centre boathouse is at 27 Yuen Wo Road, Sha Tin, Hong Kong (hkcra@hkstar.com, tel 852-2699-7271, fax 852-2601-4477). It is on an inland waterway 15 minutes by train (plus a 5 minute walk) from the Kowloon Peninsula. The frequent trains (fare less than \$1) leave from the Hung Hom station of the East KCR Railway. Get off at the Fo Tan (not Sha Tin) station. The boathouse office opens at 9:00 A.M. The guest fee is about \$8 U.S.

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President's Letter

A summer away from all things familiar gave me a chance to look at much that I take for granted in my life with a fresh perspective, unvarnished by the relentless pace of daily exposure to work, wife, friends and institutions. Headed east, each day brought something new; Indian Reservations, deserts, mountains, Great lakes, French Canadians, the St. Lawrence, biscuits and gravy, and all manner of people and lifestyles different than my own.

As we spent our last evening before entering the familiar environs of New England, I wondered what "re-entry" would be like, not without some concern for how I would relate to all of those "Things" that I had lived without for the past 67 days. It was needless worry. Vermont looked to be as lovely as the picture post card state that it is and was made all the more friendly by our stay with fellow UBC member Jim Sowles and his wife, Syddie. When we landed at Prouts Neck three days later among the finish line contingent was Rory Cowan, who joined the club the same year I did. And long before we even thought about the coast of Maine coming into view, I chatted with a cyclist headed up a hill we were coming down outside of Pine Creek, Oregon who, upon further inquiry by both of us, had rowed out of Union in the early 1970's.

I realized when the bikes were given their well earned rest that, while I missed the office not at all this summer, rowing and Union were always on my mind. Long hill climbs were made tolerable by the hope that such effort was building long sought strength and size in my "Quads" (it never happened). Any calm body of water would set me to wondering how the crew at the boathouse was enjoying those flat water July morning rows. And yes Maxie, I even missed your off key

chorus of "Onward Christian Soldiers" rending the otherwise peaceful idyll of a noontime workout. The seemingly ubiquitous mental images of UBC as we rode across the country made walking through the door at 144 Chestnut St. feel like the only continuum from my life on the road.

We are blessed to be members of a club with the tradition of a long and happy history, a club which since its founding has been populated by members who knew they were a part of something special and a club where today we know that no matter how long our absence, we can always come "home" to Union, as welcome as the day we left.

Speaking of always feeling welcome, it is my sincere hope that all members near and far will make the effort to join in the celebration of our 150th Anniversary dinner on the 10th of May at the Harvard club in Boston. It promises to be a very special evening.

Fall is a time for shaking off the summer doldrums and getting back into the rhythm of regular exercise and disciplined workouts. We have every piece of equipment you can think of in our gymnasium with which to mortify your flesh and the best of coaching talent to help you on your way to better squash and rowing. With the inspiration from the games of Sydney fresh in our minds, there has never been a better time than the present to get body and mind prepared for the onslaught of winter and the deleterious effects of the holiday season. If you can't get the motivation to "just do it" then join the armchair crowd and stop in to watch a match or two on the courts. It's a great time of year to be in and about the club. See you there!

Cap Kane, President ■



Cap Kane, Phil Hooper, and Jim Hooper, appearing exhilarated at having arrived at the high point of the trip, Bighorn's Granite Pass in Wyoming.

Squash News

The squash season is just about to get under way and the UBC looks to have another strong line-up this year. Squash captains this year are as follows:

- A Tyler Hindermann
 - B Gordon Cromwell
 - C John Jennings
 - D Tim O'Brien/Eric Vignes
- 50+ John Smith

Challenge matches have begun on each ladder and will continue until the season starts the week of November 6. Open squash clinics with Mark have returned on Tuesday nights from 6:00–7:00 P.M.

Mark Lewis is back after a successful tournament in Milan coaching the U.S. junior squad at the World Junior Championships. The U.S. team went further than ever before, finishing 17 out of 31 teams. Mark reports that there was a lot of carbo loading at meal time, but no Vino Rosso for the lads.

The Summer Doldrums tournament was held at the Club on August 26 & 27 and Tyler Hindermann gained the A-level finals, but lost in the 5th game. Other UBC members who played were John Hemenway, Ron Shaw and Will Schultz. The Summers Cup will be held at the Club on December 8–10. The U.S. Open returns to Boston starting on October 28 at the Harvard Club. Mark Lewis will be playing in the qualifying round on Saturday and will have strong UBC fan support. For tickets, call John Nimick at (617) 731-6874. ■

Rowing Update

These past several months have seen notable accomplishments by Union rowers:

- UBC sponsored Catherine Humblet's trip to the World Championships in Zagreb where she won a silver medal in the lightweight pair. We also sponsored Catherine Salomone in the U.S. Club Nationals where she won a gold medal in the lightweight singles.
- This September, twelve stalwart UBC oars travelled to Philadelphia for the annual UBC–University Barge Club Regatta. For the second time in fifty-three years Union won the regatta on University's home course. This was followed by a spectacular dinner in their Clubhouse.
- Union has had a very large number of entries in the fall head races. In the Green Mountain Head, Derek Siliera placed first in the men's open, Catherine Humblet was first in the women's open, followed by Catherine Salomone at third; Victoria Reeder was third in the masters. At the head of the Connecticut, Jon Moss was first in the masters singles, Catherine Humblet was second in the champ singles, and a UBC quad rowing under Wesleyan colors was second in the championship race despite crashing into a metal buoy and bending one of their riggers.
- In the Head of the Charles, Mike Perry finished sixth in the champ singles, Derek Siliera fourth in the club singles, Aleks Zosuls third in the lightweight singles, Catherine Salomone fourth in the lightweight

singles, Jon Moss fourth in the masters singles;

- UBC finished third in the club fours and fifth in the masters 50+ fours; Catherine Humblet and Kate MacKenzie finished fourth in the champ doubles. A total of forty-five members competed in the Head of the Charles which is a credit to the enthusiasm for rowing at UBC.
- Adam Holland and Catherine Salomone did outstanding work this summer as the sweep and sculling coaches.
- Tom Bohrer will start as the full time coach November 1, 2000. All the results for these and other regattas may be found in the results section of www.row2k.com

Health and Adventure

...continued from front

Full ergometer and rowing facilities are available (see photo). The first Asian counterpart of the CRASH-B sprints were held there this past February and are scheduled for 2/17-18 in 2001. Although the recreational shells are old, they are serviceable. Lockers typically are available.

Bring a towel and soap. The rowing is straight. Though usually calm, there is a strong current and the water can get agitated, even with a low grade 1 typhoon warning, which was the advisory posted when I rowed. A major public sports facility, the Hong Kong Sports Institute is nearby. The head coach of the "Strength and Fitness" Program is a former elite U.S. rower and Boston University student, Michael Tse, who will be delighted to see you. After your rowing, keep in mind that eating or drinking is not allowed on the train, so rehydrate yourself before boarding. ■

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Short Takes

Important Dates:

- Annual Meeting—Thursday,
December 7, 2000 at 5:30 P.M.
- 50th Annual Dinner—
Thursday, May 10, 2001

Head of the Charles

For those who wish to check on the race results for the Head of the Charles, the web site is:
www.hocr.org

Reminder!!!!

We still need help with the publication of the history of 150 years of the Union Boat Club. We need photos, articles, anecdotes, and memorabilia from you. Anything

submitted will be returned. This will also be a book written and edited by our members so anyone willing to write or edit should contact Cap Kane, Charlie Clapp or the club office.

Romeo Beaulieu

We noted with sadness the passing of our longtime, former custodian Romeo Beaulieu, who died on June 22 of this year. The club made a donation in his name to the Saint Joseph Cemetery Chapel fund in Biddeford, ME.

Staff Appreciation

The holiday season is when we

traditionally remember our wonderful staff for the incredible amount of hard work that they do on our behalf. Look for our appeal letter later this month and please be as generous as you can be. Thank you!

