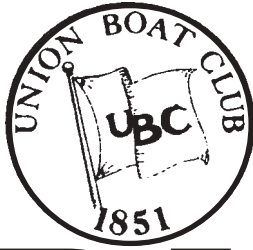


THE PUDDLE



Newsletter of the Union Boat Club of Boston

Spring 2001

Olympic Contender

UBC Member Personifies Excellence

Many of you are aware of the dramatic improvements to our squash and rowing programs these past few years. The most important of these has been the hiring of our superb coaches, Mark Lewis and Tom Bohrer (who was preceded by John Riley). We hoped that these investments in our facilities and coaching would help us discover the highest quality members/athletes that live, work and train in the Boston area. We have indeed been fortunate to have many delightful, high caliber, talented young men and women become a part of our squash and rowing programs. Several of them have the ability and the desire to compete at the World Championship and Olympic level. One of the young members that personifies this ambition is Catherine Humblet. Aside from being universally well liked, Catherine happens to be one of the finest rowers at UBC and in the USA in her weight class. Even



Catherine Humblet on left winning UBC GOLD at the 1999 Royal Canadian Henley with Cindy Bishop

with her enviable accomplishments to date, and a world of promise to come, she is always quick with a gracious smile and a warm "hello".

We would like to see Catherine able to continue rowing at an elite and Olympic level. With our help, she can be free from some of the financial burdens that could thwart these ambitions. To put it simply, Catherine has an excellent shot at making the Olympic Team in 2004. Last summer Catherine brought home a silver medal in the light-weight women's pair from the World Championships. This February she added the title of World Champion to her resume when she won the CRASH-B World Indoor

Rowing Championships. To achieve these results, Catherine has been doing two practices a day, six days a week, since she graduated from Brown University in 1998. In order to fit these practices around her job as an economic consultant, she greets the day at 5:00 A.M., rows from 6:00-8:00 A.M., goes to work, then returns once again to practice from 5:30-7:30 P.M.

The international rowing season lasts from May to August, culminating this year at the World Rowing Championships in Lucerne, Switzerland. During the summer, US National Team athletes leave their jobs and train full time. Some rowers move to the official US Rowing Training Centers in Princeton, NJ and San Diego, CA. Others prefer the independence and flexibility of training "outside of the System" with their own coach and train locally in clubs like Union. Having rowed last year at the Olympic Training Center in San Diego, Catherine has decided that this summer it is better to train independently with her new partner, Mary Obidinski. Athletes who

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President's Letter

As I sit down to write what is my first President's letter, one cannot help but be awed by the fact that we are about to reach our 150th year as a club. This existence has spanned three separate centuries, the 1800's, 1900's and now the 2000's. Just as the City of Boston in which we reside, and the Charles River, the banks of which we sit upon, have ebbed and flowed over those years, so too has our club. Our history is being updated in celebration of our 150th and it is plain to see the peaks and troughs that have made up our club's existence. Not to minimize the beautiful facilities at 144 Chestnut Street nor the boathouse with the finest fleet of boats on the Charles River, but it is the individuals that create the membership of the club. We have sustained it over these years and make up the true fabric of what the club is about. I appreciate that fact more than anything else and am looking forward to doing my part in guiding the club for what is already, and will only be more so, a very few years considering our history.

Much is going on at the club and much is on the way. The rowing facilities were abuzz all fall and over 40 members competed in the autumn classic, The Head of the Charles. Excellent performances were put in by everyone with noteworthy efforts and wins at numerous of the other fall regattas. Over 60 members showed up at Jim Sowles' house as he graciously hosted the annual mid-winter brag fest for the rowers among us as we bide our time waiting for the ice to clear the river. Nearly a third of that number are training under the watchful eye of our new rowing coach, Tom Borher, with ergometer sessions taking place three times a week at BU. Stay tuned for the Hour of Power and Gov Keyes Rowing Championships postings if inter-

ested in a carrot to help you get through the winter blues.

The Squash courts have been equally active with league and club play in full stride. Mark Lewis's capabilities, which we have come to learn first hand are second to none, have been recognized further afield as he will be coaching the Jr. National Team this summer. We are honored in hosting some of that activity and pleased to support him in raising the level of play at the club in any way that we can. The Summers Cup had near record turnout and great play. Keep an eye out for exhibitions that Mark has put together to entertain and raise the bar on all of our play.

With the club thriving in the day-to-day world, the clear focus for me as President and the club at large is to take mindful note and celebrate our 150th year of existence. It is an extraordinary accomplishment that we owe thanks to all that have come before us and can honor that effort by celebrating it and doing what we can to sustain the club as we head into the new year, decade, century and millennium.

The 150 Year History Project

Previous "Puddle" articles have alluded to the effort to publish a book about the 150 years of Union Boat Club history. We thought this would be a good juncture to more fully explain where we are in terms of progress and what additional help we need going forward.

Over the past several months, the committee (Steve Glick, Cap Kane, Nick O'Connor and Tony Philippi) have been reviewing many of the photos and memorabilia in the Club's archives for material to be included in the publication. It was decided that the book will be produced in a "coffee table book" format and thus will be biased

toward a visual history and less on the written history. The process of compiling this material has been a very enjoyable opportunity to look at the rich and storied past decades of the Club's existence and the members, past and present, who have made the club what it is today.

The editorial staff recognized that the Club's history has been written not so much by time but rather by its component parts that are the reasons people have joined the club since its beginning. Therefore the chapters in the book will be about various aspects of club life (rowing, squash, fives, regattas, the athletes, the buildings, personalities, coaches, Henley, etc.). Needless to say, with all of those activities having their own histories in the life of the club, there is a lot of work to catch the full flavor of each.

What help do we need at this point? Lots! On the writing front, we have asked certain members to write a chapter about which they have considerable knowledge. For example, Ed Woods will write about Henley, Kimo Griggs on the clubhouse and boathouse, Doug McCaig on ocean and long distance rowing. We need someone to tackle squash, fives, athletes, Head of the Charles, famous or infamous personages of the club and club employees through the years. There may be a bit of research left to do but the writing by necessity will be fairly brief and not too taxing for anyone wanting to help in the making of a little history of their own.

We will also need spell checkers and someone to edit the final drafts to get the writing into publishable form. If you can give some time to this "Historic" project, we'd love to hear from you as soon as possible.

THANK YOU!!!

Steve Glick, Cap Kane, Nick O'Connor & Tony Philippi

Olympic Contender

...continued from front

train outside of the training camps are responsible for all of the costs of travel, lodging, equipment, and food. These are high costs to bear in addition to the relentless workouts away from family, friends and other team mates.

Catherine is proud to represent Union Boat Club and has admirably and enthusiastically raced “under our flag” when not participating in National Team events. We have a long tradition of supporting our athletes, collectively as a club and individually as members. We are helping her in a variety of ways and wanted you as an individual member to be aware of her successes. An account for Catherine has been opened at the National Rowing Foundation, which exists in part to support elite rowers. All donations to Catherine’s NRF training account are tax deductible and the funds are used only to pay for training expenses. Should you be so inclined, a donation can be sent to:

**Catherine Humblet Training Account
National Rowing Foundation
67 Mystic Road
North Stonington, CT 06359**

We hope that those of you who believe in the dreams and hard work of Catherine will help her achieve her goal of a World Championship gold medal and a spot on our Olympic team in '04. Thank you for your support and generosity.

*Charles E. Clapp III
President*

Summers Cup Results

Summers cup results are as follows:
Jake Garmey won the main division, defeating Doug Hoffberger in 3

games. Jake did not lose a game during the entire tournament, and his victory marks the second year in a row we have had a UBC member win. Gordon Cromwell was the consolation champion. In the 50+ Dan Hogan beat Kent Parrot. This year featured the first 60+ division which was won by Lew Holmes. Dates for the tournament were December 8th through the 10th; we had over 30 participants.

At mid season the UBC was in very good position in MSRA league standings. The A team was in first place, and the D team in 2nd, and no team worse than 5th. All teams in good shape for playoffs.

Mark Lewis is busy not only with lessons and the free Tuesday night clinic, he is also playing in tournaments and exhibitions. Paul Ansdell, Concord-Acton pro, was at the UBC on February 22nd for a match with Mark at 6:30 P.M. On Feb 25th, Mark played against Marty Clark at the Murr Center at Harvard University.

Congratulations to D team captain Eric Vigsness on his victory at the winter thaw tournament at Concord-Acton. It was his first ever tournament!

Sign-ups for the handicap and club championships have been posted in the clubhouse—draws will be finalized by month’s end.

Winter Rowing News

The rowing awards dinner was held at Siddie and Jim Sowles house on January 26th. Sixty people attended this festive occasion and saw the club champions, Catherine Humblet and Mike Perry in the open division and Victoria Readers and Sib Reppert in the masters division receive their trophies, as well as

Alek Zosuls with 1612 and Victoria Readers with 1382, the mileage champions.

Notable times in the CRASH B sprints logged by UBC were: Catherine Humblet won the Open Lightweight division over several Olympians, and Catherine Salomone came in 8th in the same event. Tom Bohrer broke 6 minutes, followed by Nathan Kirk at 6:05, Derek Silveira at 6:11, and John Macuga at 6:29.

The winter training sessions three mornings a week at BU with Coach Bohrer have been both popular, and very intensive. The winter finished with the Gov Keyes, held on Wednesday, March 28th between 5:00 and 7:00 P.M.

From The Archives

The Union Boat Club, like so many other good things of this world, gave, in the beginning, little promise of its future importance. It came modestly into existence in the spring of 1851, when Mr. Daniel Webster Rogers and a few other gentlemen, interested in rowing on the Charles River, conceived the idea that they might increase their enjoyment of the sport by forming a club. Mr. Rogers, accordingly, prepared and circulated a paper with the simple statement on it:

‘We, whose names are hereto annexed, for the purpose of mutual benefit and enjoyment, enter into the following agreement for the formation of a boat club.’

‘First, that we will pay our respective shares of a sum necessary for the purchase of a boat.’

‘Second, that in regard to other matters relating to said club we will individually act as a majority shall determine.’

After enough signatures had

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From The Archives

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been affixed to warrant purchasing a boat, Mr. Rogers called the signers of the paper to meet one evening late in May in Braman's Bath Building. An organization was then effected and a constitution drawn up, the first article of which declared that the new club should 'be denominated the Union Boat Club.' There were to be three officers—a Treasurer, who was also the President, a Secretary, and a Coxswain. The last was not merely to steer what the first constitution called 'the Boat' of the Club—that is, the whole navy—but to have entire charge of it; in fact, to exercise virtually the authority at a later day vested in the Captain. These officers were duly elected. The constitution also provided for a business meeting of the Club every Wednesday, and

somewhat vaguely for the payment of dues and the use of 'the Boat' in the evening. That was all there was of the first constitution, with the adoption of which, on the twenty-sixth day of May, 1851—a day memorable in the annals of American rowing—the Union Boat Club was born.

The first quarters of the Union Boat Club were in Braman's Bath Building, where the organization had been effected. There the Club hired and duly furnished one room. 'Braman's Baths,' as the establishment was known in Boston, was a famous bath-house and boat-house, near the southwest corner of the present Brimmer Street and Chestnut Street. The main building rested on piles and extended for some distance over the water, which came up to what is now Brimmer Street.



Braman's Bath-House, Front View

Important Dates:

- **Annual Dinner**—
Thursday, May 10, 2001, 6:00 P.M.
- **New Member Cocktail Party**—
Thursday, June 14, 2001, 5:30 P.M.
- **Chicken Dinner**—
Thursday, August 9, 2001, 5:30 P.M.