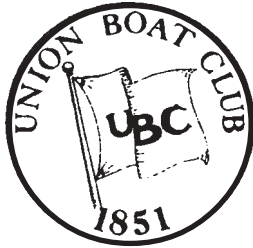


THE PUDDLE



Newsletter of the Union Boat Club of Boston

Summer 2001

150th Anniversary Dinner



This year's annual dinner to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the club had been a long and eagerly anticipated event on the

calendars of the 270 members who were in attendance. Those who came were greeted by a group of fellow members nearly double the

size of a "normal" annual dinner and the miles logged to get to the Harvard Club was no less

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President's Letter

While it is people that truly make a club what it is, it is often events that ultimately bind that fabric of personalities together. Nowhere has this maxim been more obvious than at two very recent events at the club, the New Member's Cocktail Party and the 150th Annual Dinner. The cocktail party allows the club to host its members admitted during the past year; it is our way to say "thanks" for joining our ranks. It is also a measure of how the club is doing. In our 150th year, it is evident that there have been many "generations" of the club, all of which have helped to sustain the organization through the decades. While these generations blended and blurred over the years, the sense of tradition and purpose that is imparted to each new group of people that join our club is clear. These new members will be among those that guide the club in 2010, 2020 and beyond. Knowing first hand the quality of the candidates that have been proposed and accepted to our club, I rest easy knowing that we are in great shape as we head into the future.

As a bookend to the above-mentioned function, the 150th annual dinner also spoke volumes. It was "sold out", with many traveling from far and wide to attend the celebration. The energy and enthusiasm of old friends in reunion was undeniable and born of a respect and affection of the institution and our fellow members. The club is clearly a special place for us to recreate, stay fit (both mentally and physically), surround ourselves with the best and challenge ourselves to be better. Without self congratulation, we nevertheless owe that "special ness" in large part to ourselves and preceding generations, as it takes each and every

one of us to collectively "be" the club, give our time and energy to sustaining it and propose new members who will carry the torch into the future. Enjoy it, give to it, take from what it has to offer and help to keep it the great place it is today.

Charlie Clapp,
President ■

Rowing News

Nick O'Connor

The UBC oarsmen and women have been exceptionally busy this spring both on and off the water. On the iron monster, the winners of the Gov Keyes were Jim Hughes in the open with a time of 6:24, and Dave Crosby in the masters with 7:26. The hour of power saw Sam Batchelor take the open with 16,260 m, and Paul Foley the masters with 15,424. Tris Dammin was runner-up in the maniacal persistence award, having done the hour of power four times. However, Jim Keating was not to be outdone, and erged a full marathon distance in just over three hours.

At the Mayor's Cup in Providence (home to Buddy Cianci) open May 12th, Mike Perry won the open single, and Mike and Sloan DuRoss won the open double. On the Charles at the Riverside Sprints on May 13th, Jim Sowles handily won the veteran's single, and Jim Hughes and Sam Batchelor won the open double. On May 19th at the Derby Sweeps and Sculls, Derek Silveira took the open single by open water, followed by Sam Batchelor and John Macuga, winning the open double by the same margin. In fact, said Macuga, the runner-ups were in another area code.

On April 28th at Princeton, Catherine Humblet, and partner Mary Obidinski became the first

American's to win a gold medal in the first World Cup Regatta held on U.S. soil. They won in the lightweight double. At the U.S. speed orders held in Princeton on May 19th, Catherine and Mary won in the lightweight double with Catherine Salomone and Ann Finke coming in second in the same event. Steve Tucker and Aleks Zosuls after rowing together for only two weeks, came in second in the lightweight double at speed orders.

Congratulations to all competitors for their outstanding efforts.

Tom Bohrer has been putting all rowers through vigorous workouts this cool spring. He has also started introductory sessions for beginners and returnees. The first session on May 26th was attended by eight enthusiastic stalwarts, and more are planned so keep an eye on the bulletin board for times. The summer members started on June 2nd, and were introduced to the club by Tom and Carl Nichols. They are an eager and interesting group, and we welcome them all. ■

Letter From Hong Kong

David Ellis

Hi Cap and Charlie,

Just wanted to say hello and let you know what it's like here on the rowing front. Well, I'm here, and much busier than I expected to be, but it's an interesting place to be. Very different from my memory of twenty five years ago, all in good ways, except the humidity, and the early return of summer, which I swear, started the day I arrived.

Rowing in Hong Kong: (I have not done any yet, as I really injured my back just before departure, but it now seems to be mending) Anyway,

it's a funny mix. I'm now with the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club, where most of the ex patriot rowers gravitate to. (Steve Monick is here, if you remember him.) It's basically Brits, Americans, and Australians. All with different styles. A lot of the Americans are former Harvard guys with the distinct Harry Parker stop and shop finish. The Brits row more like classic scullers, and are pretty clean and efficient. The Australians are monsters, and enormously strong. They have this very distinct hunch, almost collapse, at the catch. But they are also the best crowd by far, really great to hang out with.

The good rowing is done north of HK Island in the New Territories in an area called Sha Tin. It's flat water, about 4000 meters worth, but the water is pretty nasty smelling and obviously dirty. (Unfortunately it feeds into Hong Kong's main reservoir. Now I know why my colleagues here were so shocked that I drank tap water.) If you ever make it to HK, that classic American phrase holds true: don't drink the water.

Some of the other rowing is done on the southern side of HK Island. It's sheltered ocean, but is a bit rough, even on good days. The shelter is from another island called Middle Island, but it's the South China Sea out there, sharks and all. I'm not kidding! You know when a cargo ship has just passed, the wakes can be eight to ten feet deep. Apparently the RHKYC has lost a couple of eights in the trough from time to time, but no one's been eaten during a mishap.

I've tried my best (from HK, it's a bit awkward) to help keep things running smoothly with membership and rules, etc., for the start of the season at UBC. Hope all is going well.

Best regards, David ■



Photo of 5th Place Team out of 145 competing—David Ellis is 2nd from right, very back row

Dragon Boat Competition

Forwarded by David Ellis

Dear all,
 "Unbelievable", said our coach, Sunny. We have won a huge cup which is now temporarily residing in my room. Though the weather was rather unpleasant and the sea was choppy, it is unbelievable and amazing to come in 5th in the plate division out of 145 teams in the Stanley Open Dragon Boat Competition. We have beaten teams full of big and muscular men, and defeated professional teams. All I can say is that it was unbelievable!

I must express my deepest gratitude to the following rowers who have participated in the race: Sunny Liew (our "concentrated" coach), Joey (our pretty drummer), Rick (co-captain), David Ellis, Hoang, Tim Jay, Howard, Kenneth Chong, Cecily, Sing & Joe Kong, Kevin, Eva Wong, Crystal, Virginia, Tien, Donna, Nick, Erica, Sammy, Marybel, Barker, Nigel and Doner Wong. Without them, we would never have achieved this

amazing result! Well done, team! Love you all.

Special thanks to Tim O'Brien (and Chris who had tried but unfortunately could not quite locate us) for being there and taking lots of wonderful pictures for us. Also, Sammy (Rick's wife) deserves a special mention, as she has done a lot for our Dragon Boat event—organizing the food and all the general running around. Finally, we hope to see you all in the next Dragon Boat Race 2002! Keep up all of your wonderful good work.

Best Regards,
 Raymond Wong,
 Coudert Brothers
 39/F Gloucester Tower
 11 Pedder Street
 Central, Hong Kong ■



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impressive a statistic. Members came from California, Chicago, Georgia and Europe. Honorary member and Henley steward Angus Robertson came from Scotland to visit old and new friends in a week of reunion before the dinner. Simply stated, it was “the place to be”, made all the more elegant with one hundred percent of those who came attired in “Black Tie”.

Much of the credit for the enjoyment the evening gave to all goes to vice president Gene Clapp, who took great care to insure that the evening would be a complete success. Gone from our tables was the end cut of roast beef and in its place was a perfectly cooked tenderloin. Our palates were moistened by wines that Gene felt should be a cut above the norm and it's a testament to his abilities as sommelier that all attendees reported rising the next morning in the “pink of condition”.

In a tradition of after dinner speakers that smacked of déjà vu, National Public Radio's sports commentator, Bill Littlefield, waxed poetically and philosophically about all manner of athletic endeavor. It was not by mere coincidence that 25 years earlier, in celebration of the 125th anniversary of the club's founding, the speaker was another sports commentator, writer, and philosopher, George Plimpton. Throughout the evening, a slide show of photos from the archives ran continuously on the “big screen”. Thanks to Nick O'Connor for his research and technological capabilities. They were wonderful images of the club.

Vice president Clapp had one more new twist to an old tradition when he started the club song in four part harmony, with special lyrics for this rendition. He even recruited international songster Chris Parker to take the lead vocals. The rest of the members stood and sang the chorus with a

resonance that rocked the foundations of the Harvard Club and all agreed it was the best the anthem had e'er been sung!

The camaraderie and fraternity of the evening lingered well after the last note of music faded from the room as no one wanted to leave. Those remaining availed themselves of the post prandial offerings in the lobby outside of the dining hall and in familiar watering holes nearby until the early hours of the morning. It was an evening to remember and to all who could not attend we encourage you to put the “175th” on your calendars. We hope to see all of you as well at the November 3rd dinner and dance. Stay tuned! ■



Guest Speaker Bill Littlefield



President Clapp receiving a gift from honorary member Angus Robertson



left to right: Nat Coolidge, Toni Philippi and Bill Miller



Long time secretary Sam Perry



left to right: Henley Veterans Angus Robertson, Tom Cattell and Ed Wood

Squash News

Mark Lewis

The Union Boat Club squash season ended well. In State League play the UBC played well enough to compete with the best teams in the state but the teams were unable to capitalize on the overall improved play and take home a state championship. The A Team made it to the finals and lost to the Boston Sports Club. The B Team lost in the semi-finals to the eventual winner, the University Club. The C team played well all season but did not come through the playoffs and the D team lost a hard match to a very strong Andover team in the finals. All of the teams played extremely well all season. The experience acquired from this season bodes well for next year when the UBC teams will bring home the hardware.

In the state individual championships the club had 7 players in the finals. Because the UBC had such an overwhelming presence in the individual championships the Club was guaranteed some hardware. Tyler Hindermann was a finalist in the 'A' division and won the 35+ State Championships by defeating UBC member Philip Constable. Constable went on to win the 40+ State Championships defeating UBC member Chris Lutes. In the 'C' State Championships David Driscoll, a relative newcomer to both UBC and to squash, won without dropping a game. While in the 'D' State Championships UBC members David Page and Erik Vigsnes had a five game battle in which Vigsnes prevailed. Of the 10 possible state championship events the UBC brought home six championships, more than any other club in the state.

The in-house club finals night saw 10 members competing for five championships. In the Handicap finals Patrick Fiscoeder

continued on back...



left to right: Pranab Das, Chip Elfner and Tyler Hinderman join in the chorus



left to right: Past Presidents David Crosby and Al Townsend



More of the "Young Guard"



left to right: Songmeisters Clapp, Loring, Parker and Kane



The "Young Guard"



left to right: Chuck Goss, Chris Getch and Bob Lanigan admiring the wine coaster



Max Turner, "closing" the dinner

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defeated Clay Yonce. In the 'D' finals Steve Glick defeated John Hemenway. Philip Laird defeated distant cousin John Gates in the 'B' championships to earn family bragging rights and some club hardware. In the 'A' championships Tyler Hindermann defeated Russ Mucklow to reclaim the title Mr. Mucklow has owned for the past three years. The 50+ club championship went to Bob Loring. And in the 'C' club finals Dana Schmaltz defeated Sanjay Saini. Based on his performance throughout the season and his dedication to improving his game, Steve Glick received the Ray Rodriguez Award for the most improved player. Capping off a season of high quality play, the best UBC squash players competed in front of a large biased crowd and let their improved skills shine.

For members seeking an alternative to the summer heat and humidity there will be plenty of squash played on the UBC's air-conditioned courts. For those committed to taking their games to a higher level in the summer months, the UBC now possesses a squash ball machine. It's simple to use and available to all. If interested in using the machine call squash pro Mark Lewis at 617-720-2252. Squash events scheduled thus far are the clinics on Tuesdays from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM and the Summer Dol-drums tournament August 24th-26th.

Squash pro Mark Lewis will be coaching the US Junior Boys National Team in a test match versus Canada July 12-15 near Niagara Falls in Canada and he will be training hard for US National Team trials August 10-

12. He will be available for lessons throughout the summer and will be posting lesson sign up sheets in the weight room.

If you have any questions about squash at The Union Boat Club contact squash pro Mark Lewis at 617-720-2252 or email at LEWMARK1@mindspring.com ■

Important Dates:

- **Informal Boat House Cookout**—
Thursday, July 19, 2001, (RSVP to UBC Office)
- **Chicken Dinner**—
Thursday, August 9, 2001, 5:30 PM.
- **UBC Dinner Dance**—
Friday, November 2, 2001