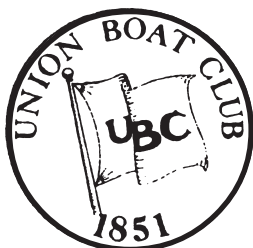


# THE PUDDLE



**Newsletter of the Union Boat Club of Boston**

**Fall 2004**

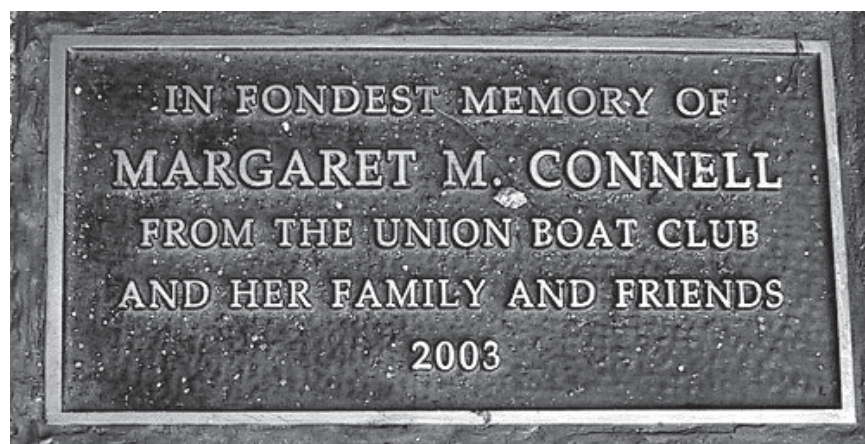
## ***Special From The Beacon Hill Times***

### **Esplanade Association Launches Bench Program**

*Suzanne Besser*

In 2001, Esplanade Association co-founders Linda Cox and Jeryl Oristaglio saw the need for new benches along the Charles River Basin and asked the Metropolitan District Commission for 75 of them. Because of a budgetary surplus, they received 266, enough to replace all the old ones and add new ones in some locations. Cox and Oristaglio subsequently started a sponsorship program, the proceeds from which go into a restoration fund to be used for capital and other improvement projects on the Esplanade.

Cox said that the bench sponsorship program has really caught on. "It's such a wonderful way to honor someone and make a



lasting contribution to the Esplanade. There are still many benches available in great locations, but they will go quickly," she said.

The benches, which were based on a design by Arthur Shurcliff, the landscape architect for the Esplanade, are located between the Museum of Science and the Boston University Bridge. For a donation of \$5,000, bench sponsors are acknowledged by a 4" x 8" cast bronze plaque installed in the lower-

right corner of the bench. Members of the Esplanade Association's bench committee, including Union's Charlie Clapp, are available to help sponsors choose a bench and compose the inscription.

Margaret M. Connell, who died last year at the age of 93, was employed as the Union Boat Club's secretary for 12 years until she was well into her eighties. "She was a real character with a great Irish sense of humor,

*continued on page 3*

# President's Letter

Fall has been a busy season at Union Boat Club.

On the rowing side, fall Head racing season followed quickly on the heels of the summer sprint season. Union had great participation at many of the major fall regattas, including the Textile, Housatonic, Connecticut, Schuylkill and, of course, the Head of the Charles Regatta. For more details, Nick O'Connor, UBC's Rowing Committee Chairman, has an informative column in this issue of The Puddle.

Don't think for a second that Coach Tom Bohrer goes into hibernation after the end of the racing season and cold weather forces all but the hardiest rowers indoors. Tom is available for personal training throughout the year as well as a comprehensive group training program that extends from late fall to early spring. For details about Tom's individual and group programs, contact Tom at [tom@tbfit.com](mailto:tom@tbfit.com) or 978-590-1650.

By the time that the rowing season reached its peak, the squash season was well underway. Open competition on the ladders is terrific preparation for upcoming League play. UBC will once again have a full roster of players on the A, B, C, D and fifty-plus teams.

While squash team members know where to find Coach Mark Lewis morning, noon and night, those new to the game or others who want some extra coaching might join Mark's group clinics on Tuesday eve-

nings as well as sign up for individual lessons. To schedule a lesson, purchase squash rackets and other gear or to seek advice on your game or an introduction to a player at the same level, contact Mark at [lewmark1@mindspring.com](mailto:lewmark1@mindspring.com) or 617-720-2252.

Throughout every season, Union Boat Club is fortunate to have two great individuals and coaches in Tom and Mark. Contact them and benefit from their expertise.

Enjoy the fall and the months ahead!

Gene Clapp,  
President ■

## Bench Program

...continued from front

and all the members adored her," said Jane Hester, who replaced her at the Union Boat Club. Eugene Clapp of Charles River Square, who is president of the club, agreed. "All the

mid-day squash players and exercisers were greeted by Margaret upon arrival and departure and were often engaged in conversation about some topic of literature, history or current events that happened to interest her at that moment. Our devotion to Margaret was unanimous and heartfelt throughout the club, and UBC was a better place from her good cheer, quick wit and thoughtfulness," he said.

To honor her, the club raised \$5,000 to participate in the Esplanade Association's Bench Sponsorship Program. They choose a bench under a blooming tree overlooking the Charles River basin in front of their boathouse and, with her family members present, dedicated the bench in her memory.

Please let Charlie Clapp know if you have any interest in obtaining a bench as he is acting as our club's liaison with the Esplanade Association. ■



Margaret's Family and Friends at Dedication in Front of Boathouse

## Squash News

Mark Lewis

It was a quiet summer for squash at the UBC. We fielded a team in the MSRA summer league, but did not bring home the state title. The Fall Season kicked off with the UBC hosting first round matches of the Best of Boston tournament, the winner earning a spot in the US Open Pro event featuring the top players in the world. We had 2 members playing, Mark Lewis and Tyler Hinderman. The event was well attended with members and guests enjoying the high quality of play. Mark represented the UBC nobly making it to the semifinals. The state league has started on the week of November 1<sup>st</sup>. The UBC will field five teams:

- A.— Patrick Fiscoeder
- B.— Bill Boardman
- C.— Spencer Macalaster
- D.— Tim O'Brien
- 50+.— Chip Elfner

If you're interested in representing the UBC in state league play, contact the above captains or Mark Lewis.

This year's Summers Cup will be held the weekend of December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. The Tuesday evening clinics will continue through the season. If you have any questions about squash at the UBC please contact squash pro Mark Lewis at [lewmark1@mindspring.com](mailto:lewmark1@mindspring.com) or 617-720-2252.

See you at the club. ■

## Rowing News

Nick O'Connor

This has been one of the busiest and most successful three months for Union rowing. This August two UBC oarsmen distinguished themselves in international competition. In the World Championships in Banyoles Spain, Rich Montgomery placed fourth in the **B** finals in the lightweight singles. At the Olympic Games in Athens, Steve Tucker and his partner Greg Ruckman placed first in the **B** finals of the lightweight doubles.

Here is an excerpt from the letter Rich Montgomery wrote to the club when he returned:

*Dear Mr. Clapp and fellow members: It has been a week since I returned from Banyoles Spain and the experience has still not settled in my mind. While I did not attain the same level of success that coach Bohrer attained during his much grander competition twelve years ago on Lake Banyoles, I am pleased with how I prepared, competed and raced at Worlds. Union Boat Club can be proud with how it was represented. I would like to thank all Union Boat Club members for their contributions and support for my trip. Without the Club's support I would not have been able to participate. On that same note I would like to thank Union for its support of all athletes attempting to reach that next level.*

Using the Union Boat Club account at the National Rowing Foundation we have supported both Steve and Rich and we applaud their outstanding efforts. The Club maintains an account at the National Rowing Foundation specifically to help club members who are competing at this world class level. We would encourage any member to make a tax deductible donation to the Union account at the NRF. Contact Cap Kane or Nick O'Connor if you have any questions or inclinations as this has been a meaningful way to advance rowing at Union and support worthy athletes.

## UBC-UBC

On a beautiful, sunny September 9<sup>th</sup> Mitch Budman, president of the University Barge Club led twelve spirited rowers to Boston for our annual regatta. A convivial lunch and dinner on the deck was interrupted briefly by twelve hotly contested races. Fortunately, Union crossed the line first each time, so in an odd twist the cup goes back to Philadelphia by rite of hallowed tradition. Mitch presented Gene Clapp with a series of framed photographs from a UBC-UBC meet of twenty years ago and they sit on the piano in the boat-house. The day was an outstanding success thanks to Laura Donohue, Aleks Zosuls and Dan Debonis.

*continued on next page*

## Commissioner's Cup

The Cup is an annual stakes race hosted by UBC every fall, and was due to be run on Saturday September 18<sup>th</sup>. Dan Dill and Tom Bohrer made extensive preparations except for the weather when a hurricane of wind and rain swept down the basin that morning. Despite the conditions three maniacal rowers came down from Cambridge and they were each awarded a UBC cap for their valiant effort. They then spent the rest of the morning trying to figure out how to get their boats back to Cambridge.

## Club Championships & Other Regattas

In the early dawn of October 2<sup>nd</sup> twenty-one sleep-deprived, over-trained members showed up in a head wind at the Mass. Ave. Bridge. The race is head style, and runs from Mass. Ave. to Anderson which is 4000m. Steve Tucker and Samantha Twardowski won the open, Doug Burden won the Masters and Jonathan Warburg won the veterans categories.

Thanks to the inspiration of Tom Bohrer, Union sent a record number of rowers to compete in the fall races. Some memorable results from those races follow:

- On September 19<sup>th</sup>, Joy Stark and Karen Chenausky came in second in the Megunticook ten mile mini-marathon.
- On October 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Textile River, Pat Rufo and Pete

Brown came in first in the open double and Jim Hughes and Steve McKiernan came in second in the masters double.

- On October 3<sup>rd</sup> at Green Mountain, Joan Campbell was second in the veterans, and Dan Debonis was third in the masters singles. Karen Chenausky and Becky Liddicoate were second in the open, and Mike Corr and partner were second in the masters doubles.

- On October 9<sup>th</sup> at the Housatonic, Tom Bohrer finished first in the open singles and Samantha Twardowski finished first in the women's open. UBC men finished first in the open fours and the masters quad and second in the masters eight.

- On October 10<sup>th</sup> at the Connecticut, UBC was second in the championship men's quads.

- On October 16<sup>th</sup> at the New Hampshire Championships Pat Rufo and Pete Brown finished first in the open double.

- On October 30<sup>th</sup> at the Head of the Fish, UBC men came in first in the open double and the open quad. On that same day on the Schulkyl, Aleks Zosuls and partner came in first in the open double.

And the biggest of all...

### ***the Head of the Charles***

At the 40<sup>th</sup> running of the Head of the Charles, *Union had an all time high of fifty-six participants*. A few of the notable results include:

Jen Sacheck came in fourth in the club singles one week after getting married. Dan Debonis was second in the masters, Aleks Zosuls was seventh in the championship and Rich Montgomery was

fourth in the lightweight singles. Mike Cataldo and Brad Smith came in third in the masters doubles. Derek Silveira, Tod Needham, Tim Timmerman, Sam Batchelor and Derek Cosentino were second in the club fours. Tom Bohrer and former coach John Riley in the Penn AC eight came in second in the masters eights. Anne Crawford, Catherine Humblet and Claudia Wagner in the Riverside eight came in first in the lightweight eights. Schuyler Laird rowing for Princeton came in third in the youth eights and Elliot Hovey rowing for Cal Berkley came in fourth in the championship eights.

Union also had a very large contingent of people volunteering to help run the Head with at least twenty of our members participating this year. We also host visitors from other clubs and provide two launches for this regatta which we all enjoy. Tom Bohrer has once again provided highly professional coaching and leadership to Union rowing this year and Aleks Zosuls has been a great asset in managing the boathouse. ■

## Other News

*John Laupheimer*

The U.B.C. burgee had a pleasant, if somewhat intense, summer vacation in the French Alps. I was honored to take the club colors on an 8 day bicycle tour through the alpine routes used by the Tour de France. With the U.B.C. flag in my pocket and my club cycling jersey in my backpack, I arrived in Geneva on July



15<sup>th</sup>, meeting two cycling friends and my uncle (gear driver for the trip.) We immediately hit the first, and only, snag of the trip—no bikes! Swiss Air and Alitalia managed to lose them. Two of us, Dave and I, were lucky, our bikes showed up early the next morning. James, the third rider, was not so lucky and had to wait another 3 days. Don't fly Alitalia—really, he should have known that.

The first day was a warm up ride to Talloires on Lake Annecy—modest hills and too much traffic. However, the town and the lake were fabulous. Dave and I had a first-rate swim that afternoon. The second day began the real climbing as we rode to Albertville over the Col de Aravis and the Col de Saisies. Col, I gather, is French for mountain pass. Albertville is not what you might think and this was our worst hotel. We had a Greek wedding in the dining room and a German soccer team in the bar. Small hotel, so not much sleep. We were scheduled to stay here on the way back—no way. The return trip found us in the Hotel Million—highly recom-

mended.

The next day had two major climbs, first 26 km to the Col de Madeleine and then 20km up to Albiez Montrand, an 8 dairy farm village in a 1600m high valley. I discovered the true meaning of Zeno's paradox climbing to the Col de Madeleine. Zeno noted that if with every step you get half way to your destination, you never get there. My experience was that the climb was 26km long and we started climbing at about 13km/hr. So I figured we had about two hours of climbing. However, about 40 minutes later, I had 20km to go, but I was only going 10km/hr – 2 hours of climbing left! Another 40 minutes goes by, 15km to go, 7.5km/hr – oh no, 2 hours of climbing to go. Fortunately, it didn't get any steeper until the very top and we did make it. The last couple of kilometers of these climbs are amazing—basically, a one lane, no guard-rail road switch backing up a rock face. The best advice is don't look up! We had a fabulous night in the high mountain valley. The next day was the highest climb, 35km up to 8600 feet over the Col de Galibier. The last km counts as the longest .62 mile I've ever ridden. From there it was about 40km of very fast downhill riding through the Col de Lautaret and into Briancon. In case you think the up-hills are the only tough part of these rides, the ride out of Albiez Montrand has a 10km decent with 52 switch backs. The next day we rode the Col d'Izoard in the rain—it was about 40 degrees at the top. We headed over to the Italian

border, turned around and came back. That was the only bad day of weather.

The rest of the trip was mostly a retracing of the ride out—you have to ride the mountains both ways. I took one day off and I think it made the rest of the trip enjoyable. The day we rode the Col de Madeleine again was the day that the Tour was taking the same route. We rode up in the late morning, through the crowds, campers and road painting. It was a great experience. The fans were shouting encouragement in French, German and Italian. At the top we left our bikes on the side of the road sat down and enjoyed the spectacle—parade throwing candy and gifts, and then the riders. That was great. As an aside, as I've been asked, the French were incredibly gracious hosts and we had a great reception. They certainly knew we were Americans – no one who has ever heard me speak French has ever had any doubt.

The Union Boat Club burgee and jersey went to every peak every day. I was proud to show the club colors. ■



# THE PUDDLE



*Newsletter of the Union Boat Club*

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## Have a New Member?

The membership committee reminds and encourages members to bring new candidates for membership forward who would enjoy and appreciate the UBC. The committee is structured and motivated to assist the proposing member and their candidate through the membership process. We welcome your support in building on our strong membership. Please contact David Page at [dpage@roadwaymedia.com](mailto:dpage@roadwaymedia.com) or Max Turner at 617-678-8322 for more information. Thank you.

### Important Dates:

- **Annual Meeting—**  
December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5:30 PM
- **Annual Rowing Dinner & Awards—**  
February 4<sup>th</sup>, Location TBD
- **Winter Ergometer Training at B.U.—**  
Starts November 29<sup>th</sup>, M,W,F—Call Tom!
- **Tuesday Squash Clinics—**  
6:00–7:00 PM weekly
- **Summer's Cup—**  
December 3rd-5th