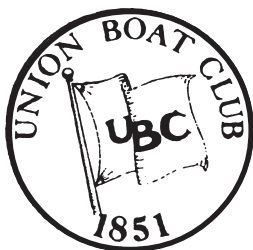


THE PUDDLE



Newsletter of the Union Boat Club of Boston

Winter 2007

Ocean Rowing

One Man's Experience



Jeb Besser & Josh Crosby

Congrats go to Rowing Chair Jeb Besser and Josh Crosby who rowed in an open water, 26 mile race around Bainbridge Island last fall, winning the race in 3:12 and breaking the course record by 8 minutes. Steve Tucker also participated in the cold Puget Sound waters participating in the 1st Annual Open Water Championships. Here's a glimpse of his experience:

The weather in Seattle was absolutely perfect; 70 degrees with a 7-10 mph north breeze

course look easy from the shore. But as soon as the first he knew the race was going to be difficult. The water was lumpy and white caps were brewing in the middle of the sound.

A shotgun start with 150 boats from Alki Beach was one of the coolest racing starts to be seen. It was loud and awfully messy so the leaders decided to sprint out in front as quickly as possible at 30spm for the first

5-6 minutes and held off all singles during the first 3.8 mile stretch. The water quickly became very difficult to row as waves from ferries and power boats were coming from all directions. The top four boats, of which our own Steve Tucker was amidst, were all within 4 boat lengths of each other the entire way across to the first turn at

continued on page 3



Cascade Mountains Loom Over 1st Annual Open Rowing Championships

President's Letter

It is with great pleasure and honor that I ascend as UBC president. It is my belief that as I assume this responsibility that Union has never been stronger. A credit to Gene Clapp, and the club's other recent presidents, a solid foundation has been established to allow this administration to further improve club life for its membership. It has been said that the Union Boat Club membership "doesn't like change, they like progress". As my term gets underway, the Executive Committee will continue to look at ways to build upon our traditions, and make club life more enjoyable. Much of this progress will be based upon the results of the 2006 member survey that many of you took time to complete. We learned a lot from this report, and we will focus our energies on implementing improvements to make the club an even more enjoyable place. Some of this "progress" has already occurred. The desire for more social events brought us our first holiday party, which was held on December 14th. Hopefully, you were one of the 170 guests who were able to attend, and would agree that it was a great success. Special thanks to Jamie McIntyre, our new social chairman and his wife, Noeleen who helped put together a great party. We look forward to more social events in the coming year to bring our membership and their families together.

On a separate matter, I wish

to encourage each of you to think of potential new members for the Club. While our membership numbers are as strong as ever, our ability to recruit members who you know will fit in is critical to the clubs overall financial health, and allows the club to provide 20 year members with a reduction in dues. Doug Irwin is our new membership Chair, and I ask each of you to help support him in this very important role.

As the year progresses, we will keep you apprised of our progress. In the meantime, feel free to reach out and offer suggestions as you see appropriate. Best Regards,

Bill Motley,
President ■

Winter Squash Update

Bill Boardman

The 2006-2007 squash season at the UBC has once again started with great enthusiasm and energy. New UBC Squash Professional Preston Quick has fit seamlessly into the Club and his presence has been greatly appreciated by all that have interacted with him on a variety of levels.

Preston remains the #1 USSRA ranked American squash player as well as the ISDA #5 individually and #3 ranked team doubles player with partner John Russell. A few of Preston's results this year include ISDA: (Pro Doubles) Finalist in the Maryland Open, Vancouver Open, and Boston Pro Doubles as well as Winner of the William

White Doubles and Hardball Singles Tournament. These credentials aside, Preston has demonstrated a great ability to teach squash to all skill levels and we are extremely fortunate to have him as a resource and friend of the UBC.

Preston also brings with him considerable technological expertise. He has already contributed greatly in upgrading and enhancing the UBC web site at www.unionboatclub.org. Now all skill level and age group ladders are updated regularly and managed by Preston from the site. These online ladder tags have direct links to each players email address and serve as a powerful tool for arranging matches as well as keeping the ladders current and active. Preston has also established a Blog on the site that can be used to facilitate the arrangement and availability of last minute squash games. Additionally members can post squash related commentary and pictures. For those members who like to pour over old editions of the Puddle in their spare time, an archive link has been added to the UBC web site for your convenience. We encourage you to visit the site to observe the recent upgrades and give us your feedback.

The draws for the Club Championship have now been posted at the Club as well as online at www.unionboatclub.org. We have record involvement this year (the club handicap tournament has nearly 80 participants). Finals Night for the championships has been set for **Thursday, May 3rd**, just one week before the Annual Dinner

scheduled for May 10th at the Harvard Club. While Finals Night is always a great night to see the best UBC squashers compete, it is also an ideal evening to bring a friend or prospective member down to witness UBC life at it's finest.

In the spirit of a robust squash program (and future development) UBC has hosted Hamilton College and Salisbury School for interclub matches. In both instances the UBC put forth deep and experienced teams and prevailed in the head to head matches. The coaches and members of both Varsity teams were greatly appreciative of the opportunity to play and practice at the UBC. We will look forward to other such matches in the months and years to come.

Just after the midway point in the season UBC squashers are well positioned to try and match the great accomplishments of last year's competitors. All league players are appreciative of the UBC membership's willingness to allocate such valuable court time in order to facilitate league play.

League Standings (as of January 2007)

- A (5.5) Team is in second place, one point behind T&R
- B (4.5) Team is tied for first place with T&R
- C+ (4.0) Team is tied for second place with BSC Waltham behind BRC
- C (3.5) Team is Just out of playoff hunt in 9th place
- D (3.0) Team is just below the

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Ocean Rowing

...continued from front

Bainbridge Island. The whole way across it was not clear if anyone was just cruising, biding their time before they pounced, or pulling with all they had. Whenever the conditons got really nasty, Steve would fall back a couple of lengths as his finer racing craft couldn't handle the water quite so well. But then he would come back very fast as soon as it flattened out. The competitors started to pray for bigger seas, and then it came. Two big power boats crossed right in front of the leaders and they were able to sprint across the first part of the wake and gather speed on the backside of the wake. After surfing it for almost 60 meters to the first turn, Steve knew his work was cut out for him.

After the first turn, all four contending singles and a double came back within a length of each other. The next turn was 90 degrees around a giant can so the leaders picked it up quite a bit to try to arrive first and execute a crazy Green Mountain turn driving the port blade under water. All of them had to pull in their inside oar so as to avoid hitting the can. The water looked nasty ahead and nasty it was so Steve put a charge on slipping solidly into second place. He would flail for

five or six strokes then hit three or four and move up two lengths on the leader; ocean rowing at its frustrating best. If it was flat, Steve would have rowed away from the crowd, but that day, the whole race was an adventure, as the seas were more agreeable to rowers in slower but more stable boats.

For the remaining three miles Steve was never more than 4 lengths back and as close as overlapping decks, back and forth. As the leader watched his GPS click down to 2/10th's mile to go, the water flattened out and Steve started coming really hard. The rate went up to 32 strokes per minute then to 35. Steve gained and gained but fell a mere *one* second behind the leader with third place a mere ten seconds back.

Next year the Championships will be held at the Blackburn Challenge which should create some interesting racing. ■

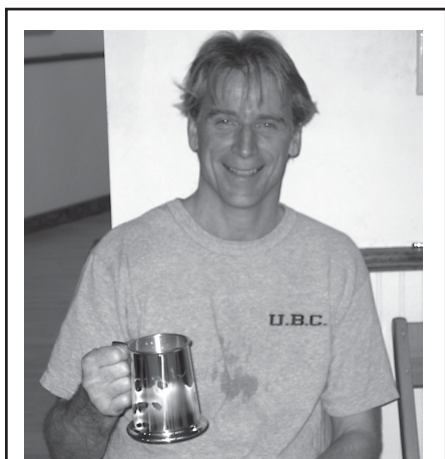


Less Than 1 Second Separates Steve From Victory

middle of the pack in 8th place
50+ Team is in second place

Summers Cup

The UBC hosted the Summers Cup Squash Tournament on the weekend of December 1st – 3rd. This was the second tournament of the MSRA Head Grand Prix season combined with the University Club of Boston. Twenty five competitors in two draws at the Boat Club had a great weekend of squash, food and socializing.



50+ Victory for Philip Laird

The 50+ draw had 7 entrants and which was won by Philip Laird in three games over Wayne Hodges. The consolation draw was won by Steve Steinberg 3-1 over Rip Hastings.

The 4.5 event, the true Summers Cup, saw almost 20 entrants battle for the coveted title. In the top semifinal we saw two seeded players, #1 Josh Greenhill and #4 Chris Choi play. Greenhill pulled out a 3-2 victory for a spot in the finals. The bottom half saw # 2 seed Andy Macalister reach the semi with relative ease to play unseeded Harrison Gabel. Gabel won in three



Josh Greenhill & Harrison Gabel

games to set up an all Princeton final. Once again the unseeded Gabel prevailed with a 9-6, 8-9, 9-6, 9-5 victory. The consolation draw saw #3 seed Adrian Gill (knocked out in the first round by Gabel) beat Chris Hesse in the finals 3-0.



Adrian Gill & Chris Hesse

Notes from the Pro-Shop

The first half of the season has been quite exciting. We've had great attendance in clinics and leagues and as usual, many of our league teams are in the hunt for State titles. In addition to continual growth and enthusiasm on the court we've also seen it off the court: We had a great turn out for the Ping Pong tournament, the pro shop inventory is continuing to build, we are improving the website and developing a more user friendly booking system and doubles

squash is becoming more available to UBC members.

The Tuesday night clinics continue to be a big hit. So come on out—it's never too late! The levels have been ranging from beginners to C+ players and we have had as many as 12 people show up for the clinics. During the clinics we are spending a lot of time doing drills and playing court situation games.

Need new gear, an upgrade or just more? The Pro-Shop is well stocked and growing with squash, rowing and UBC gear. Some new additions to the Pro-Shop have been UBC pint glasses and UBC duffle bags. Also, to name a few more, we now have dry-fit shirts with logos (short sleeve and long sleeve), lots of new Harrow Racquets and Asics squash shoes. Soon we will have items from Smart Wool, as well. And if you are looking to spice up your off court wardrobe we have a huge stock of UBC ties and bowties. Stop by the shop and check it all out! And please offer any suggestions that you may have. I'm trying to build the inventory and your feedback is always helpful.

As you know, Preston is a huge advocate of doubles squash and to help grow the hardball doubles game he has been offering doubles clinics at the University Club. These have been well attended every time the UC club has been gracious enough to offer us courts.

If you have any questions or would like to book a squash lesson contact Squash Professional Preston Quick at 617-720-2252 or prestonquick@unionboatclub.org. ■



David Thorndike returns to Union after 15 year absence

Whether it was the lure of The Back Bay all decked out for Christmas, a room at the Somerset Club facing the Common or just the chance to see some old friends at 144 Chestnut Street, David Thorndike and partner Deborah Haines finally paid a call to Beantown and the boat club. It was, according to David, well worth the wait and the persistence of Kimo Griggs, who has extended annual invitations to his friend to come visit since he left for the landlocked west in 1991. Taking full advantage of the agenda of the club in December, David attended both the annual meeting and the Executive Committee dinner immediately following. At the dinner, David recalled his days as chairman of the rowing committee, when the sport was in decline at the club. Despite then being a relatively

recent initiate to sculling, his enthusiasm knew no bounds as he set about upgrading the aging fleet of boats and the aging fleet of rowers. He actively recruited potential members from the local college crews, with guidance from boathouse residents Bill Miller and Brad Smith. He reinvigorated the annual competition between Philadelphia's University Barge Club and Union. He also hired the first rowing coach since the days of Kim Bassett in the 1960's. In sum, David was responsible for establishing the dynamics of the modern rowing program that have been so successfully employed since his departure from the scene.

While known around the club for his devotion to both squash and rowing (sustaining a broken jaw in the former convinced him of the relative safety of the latter), his happiest moments at the club may have been his daily practice of yoga in the gym, far ahead of his time in recognizing the benefits of suppleness and stress reduction. The image of David on the mats, happily contorted in some pretzel-like position under the shadow of his beloved shell "Rinda", is how he is best known to many members of his era at Union. Chris Lutes, a new member in the mid 80's, greeted David after this year's annual meeting with a hail of "hey yoga man, welcome back!"

At eighty-one, David has the features and physiology of a man 20 years his junior, a testament to his regime while at Union and the clean western living he now cherishes. But he also still cherishes Union, maintaining a deep interest in the

club's history and lore long after turning over the reigns of club Historian to Max Turner. He has paid close attention from afar to the writing of the club history and regularly offers up information about the characters and club life of his times here. He closes every conversation and letter with an emphatic "GO UNION". Aye, and we would add "Keep going David!" and come back soon. ■

CELL PHONE CALLS

Please be reminded that, for the enjoyment of the club by members, please refrain from using cell phones inside the Boathouse or Clubhouse. If needed, both facilities have a phone booth which can be used for the purposes of making a cell or wireline call.

HOCKEY NOTICE

Winter has been slow in coming but it is never too late to start thinking about lacing up the old Super Tacks. We have secured a great ice time which runs through March 2007! Come on over to the North End, Sunday at 1pm: Dec 3 thru March. Please contact me for more information:
Scudder.Sinclair@us.ing.com
Or 617-921-2634

Winter Rowing Notes

- **Tom Bohrer** is a presenter at the Joy of Sculling Coaches Conference in Columbus, Ohio, February 16-18.

- **The youth rowing camp** will change this summer. Instead of doing 4-2 week sessions, Coach Tom Bohrer will take 12-16 high school kids and train for the summer. We will compete in the local races as well as Nationals and Canadian Henley.

- Congratulations to all who raced at **FISA Worlds** this past fall. Union members rowed in over 30 events, with the Union 8+ racing down the course four times, the 4+ three times, the two quads a combined six times, the doubles pair a total of over ten times, and singles races totaling nearly ten. We faced some stiff competition but were able to put together some great pieces and garner many strong finishes including a number of close seconds. Congratulations to **Claudia, Olli, and Jen Wawrzonek** who all brought home gold medals. Thanks to all who helped make this trip happen—right down to the unloading of the trailer and re-rigging the boats!

- Belated Congrats to **Elliot Hovey**... his University of California crew won the PAC-10 Collegiate Rowing Championships last fall in Sacramento. Elliot was rowing 2 seat in the Varsity boat. They went on to win the National Championship race in a tightly contested race.

- After a frenetic fall regatta season that literally featured a race a weekend from September to the Head of the Charles and the condemnation of the dock, the winter began slowly. Tom's **indoor program** began promptly after Thanksgiving, and while the unseasonably warm weather has allowed many of us to continue to row until mid January, the activity level on the ergometers is finally starting to pick up. The Crash-B's are only four weeks away and our first regatta on the water is set for Philadelphia in March—so spring is practically in the air.

- We welcomed new rowing members **Kathleen Taradash** and **Hallie Preston** to the club in October and December respectively. (Hallie immediately endeared herself to our committed sweep rowers by driving two hours to the Housatonic to row in a mixed 8, and competed with UBC in the women's four at the HOOCR. Kathleen has bravely ventured out into the basin in the wherry, and is an enthusiastic single sculler.)

- The rowing committee is also pleased to announce a new, exciting format for the **Gov Keyes Club Erg Championship** event. In order to make the event more accessible and fun, the race has been shortened to 500 meters (1 1/2 to 3 minutes), and will be held in the squash courts on February 13th from 5:30 to 7:30. In other words, short enough to show off your power and have it all be over quickly. The new format will have a rowing and squash (non-

rowing) divisions, several age categories, the first ever Gov Keyes women's event, and a team event featuring the cumulative time of one male and one female rower and one squash player—feel free to organize your team before or during the race. As usual, beer, pretzels, and popcorn will be provided after the completion of a piece. We hope to see as many people as possible for this event, and spectators are welcome to attend. ■

A Holiday Gathering



THE PUDDLE



Newsletter of the Union Boat Club

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Important Dates:

- **Crash-B's**
Sunday, February 25
- **Hour of Power**
Month of March
- **Annual Dinner**
Thursday, May 10th
- **New Members Cocktail Party**
Thursday, June 14th
- **Chicken Dinner**
Thursday, August 2nd

Details and exact times available on our website
www.unionboatclub.org

Contributors To This Issue:

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