

A History of The First Trinity Boat Club

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1858

In the bumping races in 1858 new regulations came into force. The number of boats admitted to the races was raised to 42, but in order to give the C.U.B.C. authorities a better opportunity for getting together a representative University crew, the top ten boats did not race in the Lent Term. Their absence permitted also the appearance of some additional crews at the bottom of the second division, if that were wanted, and thus rendered unnecessary the continuance of slogging races. It is believed that no slogging races were held after 1859, and it is not certain whether any were held in 1858 or 1859. Henceforth (save in the year 1859) the top boats usually raced only in the Easter Term. The charts of the racing show this clearly, and a reference to them will give the reader the necessary information for any particular year.

In the Lent Term, T.B.C. was represented by third, fourth, fifth, and sixth boats all of which went up. In the Easter Term the first and second boats rowed, as well as the third, fourth and fifth, but the sixth boat was taken off. The first boat had the benefit of using a keel-less boat. After the crew had got accustomed to it they found it possible to diminish the time over the course by half-a-minute or more. T.B.C. went head of the river on the first night of the races, and remained so throughout the year. At the close of the races, the first six boats were T.B.C., Third Trinity, Trinity Hall, Lady Margaret, Second Trinity, and Caius; the T.B.C. boats finishing 1st, 10th, 17th, 30th, and 35th, the Second Trinity boats 9th and 15th, and the Third Trinity boats 2nd and 22nd. The Club sent a four to Henley which won the Wyfold and the Visitors Cups.

The race with Oxford in 1858 was won by Cambridge. The T.B.C. representatives in the boat were A. L. Smith and D. Darroch.

In the Michaelmas Term, 1858, the number of contributing members was 135, of whom 48 were elected during the term; 8 active honorary members were also in residence, besides 22 non-rowing members. This term the three Trinity Clubs rowed the rest of the University on December 1, and won with ease.

1859

The Oxford and Cambridge race in 1859 was marred by the weather. The race was over the usual course from Putney to Mortlake. Cambridge rowed in a very light low boat which was swamped by the wash from one of the steamers. According to the T.B.C. minutes the crew was an exceptionally fine and fast one, and was confident of victory, so the disappointment at the result was great. The T.B.C. representatives in the boat were N. Royds, A. L. Smith, D. Darroch, and J. T. Morland (cox).

In 1859 the Lent Term was unusually long, and it was agreed that all the boats in the first division should race that term. The Club entered six boats. On the second day in the races the first boat was bumped by Third Trinity. On this the Club altered the constitution of the crew, always a dangerous action in the middle of racing, and suffered by being bumped by Trinity Hall the next night. But the success of the Hall was only temporary, and in the Easter Term, T.B.C. recovered its place. The Club took off the fifth and sixth boats in May. At the conclusion of the races, the first six boats were Third Trinity, T.B.C., Lady Margaret, Trinity Hall, Second Trinity, and Magdalene; the T.B.C. boats finishing 2nd, 10th, 19th, and 25th, the Second Trinity boats 5th, 15th, and 34th, and the Third Trinity boats 1st and 24th. The Magdalene pairs were won by D. Ingles of T.B.C. and J. P. Ingham of Third Trinity: I mention the fact here because they rowed in a keel-less boat which improved their time over the course by 30 seconds.

In the Easter Term the Club discussed at length whether it should move from Searle's boathouse. But finally it was agreed to continue for the present with him, provided he improved the arrangements in various specified matters. He met the Club's wishes in these respects, and it continued to occupy the rooms until 1863, when he built a separate boathouse for the use of T.B.C.

The Club entered for the Ladies Plate and the Wyfold Cup at Henley, and won both events. The regatta was so late this year that T.B.C. and Third Trinity combined to spend a fortnight at Maidenhead prior to it.