

THE OTRC SPIRIT

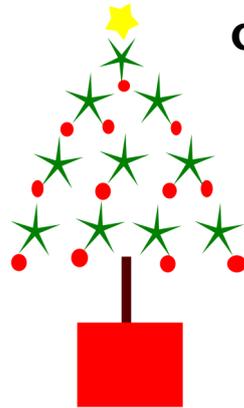
OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF OUNDLE TOWN ROWING CLUB

**December 2016
Edition**

Featuring:
*Quiz Night Special
Boat House Update
Lost & Found*

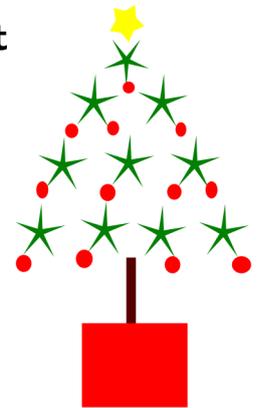
Introducing:
*A Paddle To The Mill
With ...*

**With special
contributions from:**
*Aunty Angela
Health & Safety Meads*



Captains Report

By
Simon Murray



The last couple of months has seen the new crews beginning to work well together, as demonstrated by encouraging performances at the recent Star Club head. A special mention, from the senior section the Ladies Masters E double (Angela/Claire) posted their quickest time over the course; and the new masters B double combination of Ian Bradshaw/Peter Cook, in their first event, showed real promise. From the junior section the junior girls (WJ14) and boys (J15) doubles both posted good times, despite not winning. Club bragging rights currently reside with the boys J17 quad who posted the fastest club time of the day.

With the next competition not until January, the training focus for the remainder of the year will be on technical improvements and implementing these at higher ratings.

The next date for your diaries is the Mulled Wine Cup. This is held on Boxing Day and like all good traditions, dates back at least 5 years. This is for all club members and is a turn-up-and-race event with crews formed on the day. Actual format will depend on numbers; winners have the bragging rights for the day and everyone gets to drink the mulled wine. The weather and river conditions do dictate whether the event can take place (last year's was cancelled due to high river levels).

In keeping with our aim to compete as a club once a month, our January event will as usual be at Northampton on 21st. We have a choice in February of either the South Yorkshire Head (Doncaster) on Feb 11th or Bedford (4's & 8's) on the following day. The latter is only for the larger crews, so those in small boats have the option to travel to Doncaster which is a 4k course. The keener crews will have the opportunity to do both.

There is as yet no suitable event identified for March; although there are some possibilities if we are prepared to travel further afield. For April we have identified Abingdon head – a chance to row on the Thames (date tbc); this will be followed at the end of the month by our club Spring Regatta. Details about these and other events will be circulated by email, so please look out for them.



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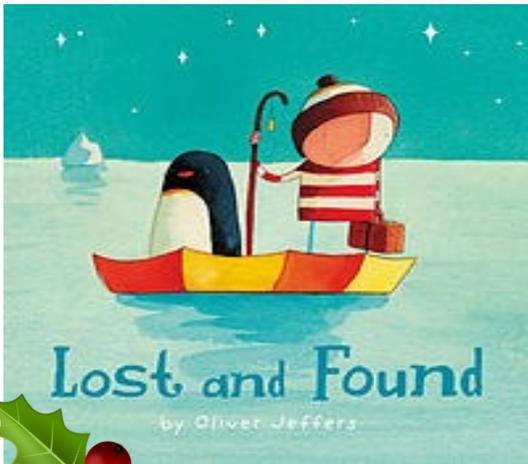
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Safety First!

BR have issued a new version of the RowSafe guide, which is available on the BR website, and all rowers, coaches, and helpers are strongly encouraged to read it. At nearly 200 pages, no one (except me!) is expected to read and remember it all, but there is something in there for everyone. Pick out the bits that are relevant to you, and it's ok to skip over the parts that are not.

However, everyone is expected to be aware of their own responsibilities to ensure that whatever activity you're engaged with (recreational rowing, launch driving, organising training sessions, maintaining equipment, competing, trailer towing, etc, etc) is done with the minimal risk to yourself and others.

If you have any questions, or suggestions for making OTRC a safer place to row, then please contact me, Dick Meads, your club Safety Advisor, in person or by email: safety@otrc.org



Please see below items that have been found. **Are they yours?**

Please speak with Claire or get in touch at Claire.izod@btinternet.com.

All washed and ready for collection.
Bonus!



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Clubroom Development

By Anita Dunn

History:

Our Boathouse was originally financed by grants applied for by Colin Bullock & others of the original Club Committee and incorporated outline plans for a Clubroom above but sufficient funds weren't available at the time. Dan Kantarowich designed the building and operated as architect-his sons rowed with the Club as Juniors.

What we're aiming for:

To complete the original plans for a Clubroom on the top floor with:

- Kitchen- coffee & a bacon sandwich
- Land Training area
- Views along the river
- Indoor Facilities for members & supporters.
- Loos
- Changing Rooms

This will give members & supporters a social area, somewhere warm & dry for a chat, a coffee & a bacon sandwich.

The Clubroom will be accessed both from a staircase on the riverside leading off the existing concrete apron and via a ramp from the Car Park.

The largest part will be an open space available for land training.



What has happened:

Anita raised over £55 000 from grant applications, £5000 was donated by the NDRA & £10 000 came from Club Funds.

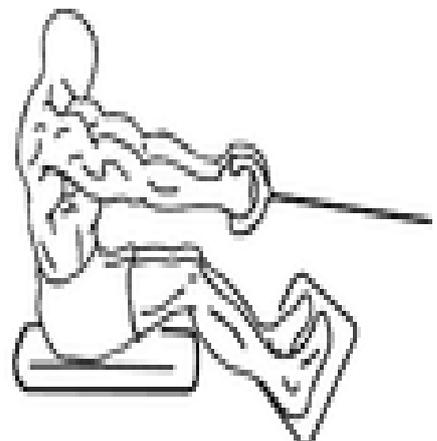
The Building Committee took the decision, on cost grounds, not to employ an architect and have progressed the project using our skills and experience within the building industry.

We divided the work into Phases for ease of specification.

Phase 1 Part 1 was to install the floor and suspended ceiling beneath it to comply with fireproofing requirements and this is almost complete- the gaps are to allow access for the next stage!

Phase 1 Part 2, the installation of the windows, doors & staircase will start as soon as possible. There are difficulties with the ramp design and discussions are ongoing- if you have particular expertise in this area, please let us know.

The completion of Phase 1 will give us a huge, well-lit, open space to use and for future fitting out.



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A Paddle To The Mill And Back With...

Simon Murray, Club (Senior) Captain



You are the current Club (Senior) Captain, what does the role involve? I see the role as having overall responsibility for the organisation of rowing across the (senior) section of the club, and making sure that members enjoy their rowing experience. I don't do this alone - as a group of captains and coaches, we meet regularly to discuss coaching issues, session planning, training programmes, which events to compete at, etc.

How long have you been rowing Simon? 15 years in Oundle after a gap of 29 years.



Where did you learn to row? At school in the late 1960's I never won anything though.

How did you get involved with OTRC? I did a coaching course at Peterborough and the course leader said they needed more people at OTRC so I came along one Saturday morning....and I'm still here.

How has the club changed over the years? It's much bigger; when I joined there were only about 40-50 members, and we had no boathouse. Boats were stored on a trailer in a field (now part of the new marina) and we boated from a makeshift wooden jetty. You can still see the remains, overgrown with trees and shrubs close to the end of the regatta straight. One thing that hasn't changed is the camaraderie, we talk often of the "OTRC Spirit" and it is noted by other clubs as well.

In your various roles at OTRC which element do you enjoy the most? Apart from the rowing itself, I really enjoy the coaching, especially when one can see a crew improve. And the social side of course.

Why do you feel the club is so successful? How do you measure success? Many rowing clubs look at the wins that they achieve and look for better results year on year. focussing their efforts on their elite squads. For us, success is creating an environment where all members can enjoy their rowing. Whatever your ability and aspiration, there is a seat in a boat for you. We have our fair share of winners as well.

What would you like to see happen in 2017/2018 at OTRC? It would be great finally to have a warm and dry club room, and bacon sandwiches. So completion of the upper floor of the boathouse will be a brilliant achievement and enable the club to develop in so many ways. I hope also that we can find ways to accept more members into the club without diminishing the experience for existing members.

Most memorable rowing moment? Everyone remembers their first win - mine was at the National Vets Regatta (now the British Masters) in 2009 in a coxed 4. But the peak of my rowing career (so far!) was rowing in a coxless four at the World Masters Championships in Italy. The weather and scenery were unforgettable; unlike the row (we finished last).

What would you like for Christmas? I think the must-have piece of kit is a GPS device so that I can measure speed on the water. But what I'd really like is a new record turntable so that I can finally play my old vinyl LP's.

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OTRC Quiz Night 2016

By Angela Hook

On 12th November, the best brains from the rowing club (yes really, there are some), Oundle and the surrounding countryside gathered to compete for honour and glory (we don't do it for the prizes) in the OTRC quiz.

Rhona had spent all year honing her usual tricky questions (and obscure Round titles which mean playing the Joker is always a lottery). She has a knack of making you think you're doing well and then hitting you with a couple of shockers, which ensure you don't get too big for your boots.

As usual, the atmosphere was great and the food plentiful and tasty. The beer, from NVB, slipped down a treat after being quality controlled by John and the Judge. Congratulations to all the winners on the Carpenters' table. Well done to you. Everyone was pleased for you in spite of overheard mutterings about "If we'd played the joker on a different round ..."



Thanks to the Primary School for the venue and to all those who turned up to help prepare the hall. They were so efficient that we were twiddling our thumbs for half an hour before the start. Thank you to raffle prize donors, particularly Joe Pendred for his beautiful wooden box and to Leslie for the Port.

Thanks for every one who helped on the night from bar tenders to raffle ticket folders and anyone who helped in any way. And the biggest thank you goes to those who turned up, spent their money and supported the club. May there be many more evenings like it.

A BIG

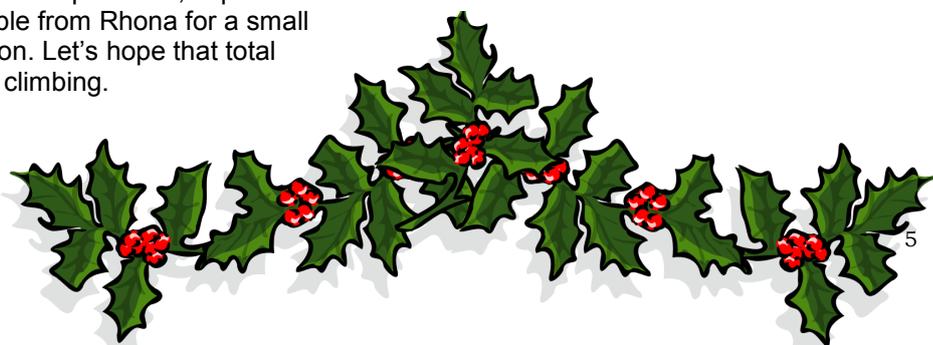
THANK YOU

to Joe Pendred for the
OTRC hamper.

Beautifully modelled here by
the winner Mariel's cat Fia.



The total raised at the quiz so far is nearly £900! If you would like a copy of the questions, copies are available from Rhona for a small donation. Let's hope that total keeps climbing.



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WE NEED YOUR HELP



A PLEA FOR HELP FROM THE BOAT HOUSE!

We are making great progress with the Boathouse development thanks to Anita's fundraising and the commitment of the Building Committee, **but there's always plenty more to do!**

Thank you to....

- Anthony Dodworth for organising the wiring for the lighting in the new suspended ceiling and for the generous donation of a large generator to run the show – which I will come back to later!
- Also to Martyn Dunkly for the manufacturing the magnificent new space saving oar rack, despite one or two setbacks!...can we have another one please Martyn?
- As always to Richard Box for dealing with the day to day repair of damaged boats.
- The long suffering Ron Hanson for maintaining the blades despite the fact that the paint gets scrapped off within days of being painted- **spoon side up on the Jetty please!** Ron's finally decided that he's had enough, so we could do with someone to take on this job.
- To Junior Members' parents Anna Sanderson and David Smith for offering to take rubbish to the dump and fix broken items.
- All those club members and parents / carers who lend a hand when it's needed

If you have metal working, woodworking, electrical or any other building trade skills or boat repair skills -we can use your help!

Contact Hugh McCormack or Richard Box at the club on a Saturday morning – we are usually doing jobs around the boat house between 10.00 and 12.00, or email [Hugh at hughmccormack@btinternet.com](mailto:Hugh@hughmccormack@btinternet.com)

URGENT TASKS THAT YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP WITH:

Concrete pads for new escape staircase – can you provide equipment, labour, expertise or materials to contribute ?

Our new 6 ½ ton generator needs to be collected from Stamford, transported to the club and installed along the riverside of the boat house...which is going to be quite a challenge. If you have access to a lorry and lifting equipment that could do this job or expertise on how to do the job, we would love to hear from you.

Painting the new first floor will need to be done once we have a door fitted to gain access – a simple task involving loads of paint and rollers – we need a team of volunteers to do this.

Do you know any specialist Intumescent painting contractors? (if this sentence makes no sense to you ...you don't!)

Once again contact Richard or Hugh about these jobs or anything else you can offer to help the Club

And finallysome of you might have noticed our J18 lads renovating Eric Davis one of our older boats, assisted by Richard...so the next generation of boat house volunteers are well on the way to learning the trade!



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Wanted - Someone Social

Do you enjoy club socials? Do you enjoy celebrating your triumphs and sharing your tribulations after a rowing event? Wetting your new pot? Would you like more club socials? Do you have an idea for a new type of club social? Would you like to be more involved in our club? Do you enjoy chatting to your fellow rowers and other halves, parents, taxi drivers etc off the water?

If any of your answers are **YES** then you could be just the person we need to be the new **CLUB SOCIAL OFFICER**, a position currently vacant on the committee. Please talk to any committee member if you are interested.



Dates for the diary



26th December 2016 —The Mulled Wine Cup—OTRC

21st January 2017—Northampton Head

11th February 2017—South Yorkshire Head—Doncaster

12th February 2017—Bedford—4's and 8's

April—Abingdon Head—Date TBC

End April—OTRC Spring Regatta—Date TBC



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ELECTION OF OFFICERS

as per AGM 18th Nov 2016

Chairman: Alan Mc Murdo

Treasurer: Rhona Murray

Club Captain: Simon Murray

Club Captain for Jnrs: Anita Dunn

Club Secretary: Sally Cheney

Membership Officer: Angela Hook

Publicity Officer: Zoe Smeeth

Site Manager: Phil Chandler

Equipment & Boathouse: Hugh McCormack

Fundraising Officer: Anita Dunn

Safety Officer: Dick Meads

Welfare Officer: Peter Cook

Rec Rowing Co-Ordinator: Marion Freeman

Junior Representative: Daisy Attley

Social Secretary post remains vacant, see page 7



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12 Rowing days of Christmas

By **Aunty Angela**

On the first day of Christmas, my true love gave to me...

A cox yelling "Firm in 3!"

1

On the second day of Christmas, my true love gave to me...

Two safety boats

And a cox yelling "Firm in 3!"

2

On the third day of Christmas, my true love gave to me...

Three freezing coaches (*well, it is winter*),

Two safety boats

And a cox yelling "Firm in 3!"

3

On the fourth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me...

Four sweep oar 'Babes' (*completely and utterly politically incorrect*),

Three freezing coaches,

Two safety boats

And a cox yelling "Firm in 3!"



4

On the fifth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me...

Five Racing Pots (*I wish!*).

Four sweep oar 'Babes',

Three freezing coaches,

Two safety boats

And a cox yelling "Firm in 3!"

5

On the sixth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me...

Six geese a-pooing (*only 8am rowers will understand this*),

Five Racing Pots!

Four sweep oar 'Babes',

Three freezing coaches,

6

Two safety boats

And a cox yelling "Firm in 3!"

On the seventh day of Christmas, my true love gave to me...

Seven swans obstructing,

Six geese a-pooing,

Five Racing Pots!

Four sweep oar 'Babes',

Three freezing coaches,

Two safety boats

And a cox yelling "Firm in 3!"

7

On the eighth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me...

Eight 'Coffin' rowers,

Seven swans obstructing,

Six geese a-pooing,

Five Racing Pots!

Four sweep oar 'Babes',

Three freezing coaches,

Two safety boats

And a cox yelling "Firm in 3!"

8

On the ninth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me...

Nine Juniors sculling (*but not all in the same boat, obviously*),

Eight 'Coffin' rowers,

Seven swans obstructing,

Six geese a-pooing,

Five Racing Pots!

Four sweep oar 'Babes',

Three freezing coaches,

Two safety boats

And a cox yelling "Firm in 3!"

9

On the tenth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me...

Ten Ship-Inn Socials (*hic!*),

Nine Juniors sculling,

Eight 'Coffin' rowers,

10

Seven swans obstructing,

Six geese a-pooing,

Five Racing Pots!

Four sweep oar 'Babes',

Three freezing coaches,

Two safety boats

And a cox yelling "Firm in 3!"

On the eleventh day of Christmas, my true love gave to me...

Eleven killer ergs (*thanks, John!*)

Ten Ship-Inn Socials,

Nine Juniors sculling,

Eight 'Coffin' rowers,

Seven swans obstructing,

Six geese a-pooing,

Five Racing Pots!

Four sweep oar 'Babes',

Three freezing coaches,

Two safety boats

And a cox yelling "Firm in 3!"



11

On the Twelfth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me...

Twelve 'vets' in Lycra (*ooh, nasty!*),

Eleven killer ergs,

Ten Ship-Inn Socials,

Nine Juniors sculling,

Eight 'Coffin' rowers,

Seven swans obstructing,

Six geese a-pooing,

Five Racing Pots!

Four sweep oar 'Babes',

Three freezing coaches,

Two safety boats

(*Rallentando - slow down here*)

And a cox yelling "Firm in 3!"

12



Merry Christmas All!