

The Blade

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

issue 1 – december 2000

To Keble College Alumni (whether rowers or not)

Five years ago, Keble rowing was in the doldrums and with great vision Robin Geffen (Keble 1976) conceived the Keble Rowing Society. Its aims were to assist rowing in the College in whatever way possible. At Eights Week this year, Robin retired and I assumed his mantle, and now write to you as President of the Keble Rowing Society.

The crews this summer acquitted themselves with distinction, the highlight being the magnificent performance of the Women's 1st VIII, who earned their blades after achieving a bump every night. The coming season has started with great enthusiasm (see Captains' reports later). KRS has identified and secured the services of a coach of international repute, and the foundations of a rejuvenated Boat Club are well and truly laid.

KRS has an active committee, has considerable support from the Warden, the Bursar and the Development Office, and has a membership of Keble rowers of all vintages. We are here to assist the College Captains and *not* to dictate to them, and we believe that all Keble alumni, rowers or not, have an interest in seeing their college excel on the river. **We are therefore keen to attract your support, whether you rowed or not.**

Our aim is not primarily to raise money, although membership fees and the sale of club ties allow us to fund the annual coaching costs. More importantly, we will provide news and views on the progress of our rowers through newsletters and will be organising social events where you can meet your old College friends while actively supporting Keble.

Do please complete the attached form and give us your support – after all it is good to be on the winning side!



Pete Saltmarsh

MEN'S ROWING

Last year, and particularly in Summer Viii's, Keble's men benefited immensely from the coaching techniques of two Canadian internationals, Leonard Diplock and cox Trevor Peterson. As a result, the men's 1st VIII remained perched at the top of the Second Division, bumping on the first day, then being caught by Oriol who had in their arsenal four Blues rowers, and rowing over for the remaining two days. The 2nd VIII also performed very well, bumping St. Catz and Linacre to rise to 11th in Division Three.



The social side of 1999-2000 was also hugely successful, with the annual Boat Club black tie dinner encouraging and enhancing the Keble rowing spirit, as well as introducing the new Boat Club Committee. Similarly, the Rowing Society Dinner provided an excellent opportunity for past and present rowers to reminisce,

as well as discuss strategy for the coming year. Michaelmas 2000 has proved to be highly successful, with 120 rowers signing up for rowing at Keble's Freshers' Fair.

Novice rowing is consequently the main emphasis for this term in preparation for the Christchurch Regatta held in 7th week. We are anticipating success from both our Men's Novice A and B crews due to their intensive training and high motivation. The men's Development Squad is currently training at Godstow in both IV's and VIII's under the supervision of our new German international level coach, Jürgen Ostermann, who we hope will help us achieve success in Torpids and Summer VIII's over the following year. We also hope to compete this term in various Regattas, and are currently training hard to perform well.



Rowing Society Ties

KRS pure silk bow ties and pure silk ties can be purchased at £27.50 each (including p&p) from James Maun, 38 North Place, Teddington, Middlesex TW11 0HN. Telephone 020 8977 9353

WOMEN'S ROWING

Summer Viii's 2000 proved to be a summer of unprecedented success for the Keble Women's 1st VIII. Boasting an impressive crew with two Blues, one Osiris rower, an ex-junior GB, and a former Canadian International as coach, there were always high expectations. After five weeks of intensive training, the VIII proved itself, chasing five 1st crews, (Exeter, Balliol, Trinity, Linacre and Oriel), none of whom managed to hold off beyond the Gut. The satisfying final bump against Oriel by Donnington Bridge ensured the deserved award of blades and the highest speed rating of any crew, male or female, on the water.



Such a remarkable summer has set a rather high standard for Keble Women's Rowing, but it is hoped that similar success will also be enjoyed by the crews rowing in the 2000-01 season. This Michaelmas, there has been a massive interest shown by the novices in anticipation of Christ Church Regatta in the 7th week. Unfortunately, poor weather conditions have adversely affected the progress of several of the five original novice crews, but the interest of over 50

women in the sport is a great encouragement for the coming months.

Training in preparation for Torpids has already begun for the Development Squad of experienced rowers under the guidance of new Head Coach, Jürgen Ostermann. His professional and enthusiastic approach to College rowing will be of paramount importance as Torpids draws near.

This season is one that should be regarded with great potential. It offers the Novice rowers, who currently outnumber the Development Squad by about ten to one, some fantastic opportunities to develop under a very experienced coach, just as it is providing experienced rowers a chance to improve and embrace new challenges, such as rowing in a four. While the performance of the 1st VIII this summer may be hard to emulate, Keble Women's rowers are determined to build on that success this year.



Keble Rowing Society : Membership Application Form

Name _____ Matriculation Year _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

I would like to become a member of the Keble Rowing Society. I rowed in the _____ crew

Please state whether College or University Crew, which VIII, Torpids or Eights and any other details of the crew

in _____ 19__/200_

Please state whether Torpids, Summer Eights, the Boat Race, Henley etc

I have sent a completed Banker's Order Form to my bank.

Signature _____ Dated _____

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Banker's Order Form

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

To the Manager _____ Sortcode ___ - __ - __

Address _____

Postcode _____

Please pay to National Westminster Bank Plc, Bloomsbury, Parr's Branch, PO Box No 158, 214 High Holborn, London WC1V 7BX (Sortcode 60-30-06) for credit to the account of Keble Rowing Society, account number 90104811, the sum of **fifteen pounds (£15.00) immediately** and **fifteen pounds (£15.00)**

annually thereafter, until further notice, starting on ___ 2001

and debit my account number _____

Please quote name as reference on all payments

Signature _____ Dated _____

Please send completed Banker's Order Form direct to your bank.