

COLLEGE SPORTS

Basketball Club

This season has been very successful for the St John's Basketball Team. After our strong performance towards the end of last year's League (marred only by a defeat by Trinity in Cuppers), we were hopeful of getting off to a good start this year.

Our optimism was heightened by the arrival of new key players. Mike Banach joined co-captain Will Critchlow on the Blues team, Zenon Severis provided much needed strength in the post (and later in the season was denied a place on the University B team by an ankle injury) and George Lentzas whose three-point range added another threat.

Last year Jesus won the League so we were excited when our first game provided an opportunity for revenge. Will and Kevin Troiano (the other co-captain) spent the build-up to this game implementing a full-court press defence used by the Blues. Jesus were clearly not ready for this and the first win of the season was recorded, 42-18.

From that moment on, the feeling was that this could be a break-out year. The remainder of the Michaelmas Term was spent playing some of the hardest teams in the League and wins were recorded over Anglia University B team, Trinity, Wolfson and Darwin. The Trinity game was particularly notable for the deadly accuracy of 'Big' George Lentzas from 3-point range. Estimates of the number of shots he made have increased ever since the game, but everyone agrees that his shooting carried us through the rough patches in that game.

By this stage, Eric Hand had started to make himself known. At the beginning of the year, he was just another mouthy American. By now he was an indispensable source of energy. Andy Nutter arrived as a tall inside force and everyone was wondering exactly how 'Little' George Petridis could take rebounds off the tallest players without seeming to jump.

The Lent Term began with some easier games. Everyone knew that we would coast through until our big game, Caius - the only other

undefeated team in the League. The hype before the game was incredible. Understandably nervous, the game was still close at the half. In the second half, the John's defence stepped up and an abiding memory of that game is Rangi Robinson (the strongest player on the Caius team) dribbling ineffectually around our zone defence trying to find a gap that wasn't there. Another victory was recorded 48-34 and the League title was effectively decided.

We went into Cuppers as the first seed, being the unbeaten League champions. The first round pool competition started easily with a 61-9 hammering of Trinity Hall where every member of the team contributed. This was followed by a somewhat more nerve-wracking game against Hughes Hall (whose point guard, Wayne Taitt, was the Blues MVP). With Zenon injured and only playing limited minutes, the game was still hanging in the balance with seconds to go as Mike and Will made a free-throw each (a rare occurrence in Will's case) to put John's up by 3 points with a second remaining. Hughes Hall ran Wayne off three picks to get him a fall-away 3-point shot that never looked like it was going in with our entire team leaping in his face. A slight scare but a win 40-37 put us through to the knockout stages. In the first round, Sidney Sussex declined even to face our team putting us to the quarter-final stages which is how the competition stands at the time of writing.

In all, the season has been defined by the lack of individual egos on the team coupled with the feeling that John's at its best was unbeatable. The season's Most Valuable Player award goes to Zenon, Most Improved was Big George, Best Defensive Player goes jointly to Will and Eric, Best Rebounder goes to Mike and Little George.

Will Critchlow
Captain

The Chess Club

The Johnian sporting reputation is not usually built on activities cerebral. However, this year it finally seems time for the Chess Club to stick its head above the parapet and blow its own trumpet a little, since we have achieved a feat at least equal to that of any of our compatriots on the field or the river, by emerging successful in both the inter-College League and in Cuppers.

We got off to a shaky start in the League, with a nervous 3-2 victory against City 2. However, a string of convincing wins followed, including a very satisfying 4-1 against Queens', winners of the League and Cuppers every year for as long as anyone can remember. This put us top of the table by the end of the Michaelmas Term. The Lent Term began well with a 4-1 score against arch-rivals Trinity, Tim Paulden engaging in some tense manoeuvring before, typically, blitzing out a win when down to his last few minutes. Konrad Scheffler gave the rest of the team fewer anxious moments, playing a very nice positional squeeze.

Alas we then crashed to defeat against mid-table Christ's, with Chris Bell's uncharacteristic failure to convert a sizeable material advantage being the final straw in an evening when several people's good positions went horribly wrong. But we bounced back the following week to defeat City 1, the then League leaders, by an astounding 4.5-0.5. Heading towards the close of the season, we needed to keep winning to maintain our narrow lead. Catz and Pembroke, both in the relegation zone, did not pose too much of a problem. Special mention should go to Chris Bell and Andreas Domnick, whose personal scores were outstanding: 8/9 and 6/7 respectively. Andreas' tally included a victory over a Varsity first team player from King's.

We sailed through the early round of Cuppers with wins over lower-division Peterhouse and Trinity Hall. Iain Dunlop, despite not having played a competitive chess game since he was in the Cub Scouts and being given all of 2 hours' notice that he was wanted for the match, took little more than twenty minutes to crush the hapless Trinity Hall board 5. In the semi-final we played confidently to defeat King's 4-1, setting

the scene for another tough battle with Trinity. Things were not looking at all promising until in the closing stages Chris Bell once more managed to baffle his opponent into making a fatal error, and the good guys sneaked home by the narrowest of margins: 3-2.

The only disappointment in the season was the early folding of the second team, reflecting the fact that our success owes itself largely to the dedication of a select few. However, their commitment made my captaincy very trouble-free. I hope this success is the beginning of many more!

Harriet Hunt
Captain

Cricket Club – 1st XI report

Having completed the season last year as Captain, I was looking forward to an inactive retirement this year in a non-legislative role within the cricket club. However, injury cruelly stepped in to rob me of my academic ambitions, as Richard Samworth entered his third year of hamstringing troubles, simultaneously stripping the batting backbone from the team.

And so the summer of 2000 will always be known as a bowling year. Despite what was in comparison a relatively sedate first two years, Neil Lomax chose his third year to give a much fuller account of himself, bowling with much pace and fire. When coupled with another old head, Mark Byron, the team rarely conceded many runs and always looked dangerous in the field. Indeed, the Hetairoi will be glad to hear that Mark has now completed his studies and so will not be returning to add to the eight wickets which he and Neil took against them this year.

However, what really set us apart this season was not performances of the few but the real depth and variation that a quality infusion of first year bowling talent provided. United with the irrepressible keeper Cam Grey, who continued this year to go from strength to strength both behind the stumps and in front of them, Chris Rice has learned a lot about the art of leg spin bowling and will next year no doubt be an even more potent weapon than he was towards the end of this season. As a foxed opponent once remarked: 'Tell him to keep those black trainers:

they're worth two wickets before he starts'. Barry Dent bowled like he had been at John's for years, easily being a member of the Cuppers bowling quartet. Another one who knows the great (poor) value of controlled line (leg) and length (short) bowling is Edward Kinsella. Sometime soon he will get the away swinger moving like in the good old days, so watch out future opposition: you have been warned.

Depite 'valiant' bowling when required from the skipper, the all-rounder slot was ably filled by Pablo Mukherjee. He only joined the College this year to complete his PhD but will be missed as sorely as any of the other leavers as his accurate bowling (5-12 against Jesus), driven batting (70 against West Norfolk) and affable nature made him a pivotal member of the team. However, he will be well advised to lose his ability either to self destruct or receive unplayable deliveries at the crease. Indeed the whole of the top order competed inconsistently. I was going to complete an averages table this year, but when it was realised how poorly I was to perform on such a stage I thought better of the idea. However, there were some remarkable individual efforts still. Most impressive was Mark Bartholomew. In our first round of Cuppers he made an unbeaten 110 not out to swell our total to a match winning 160 (the opposition made 142 in reply to show the value of this contribution). Dan Rees found time in his busy revision schedule to play for the old boys, and made what turned out to be the highest total against us by a visitor in two years (95). Kanishka Misra's best effort of the season was only one run less and was against the Hetairoi, finally showing himself to be the quality batsman I always believed. Other invaluable innings were made by Tom Williams and Jack Russell.

Farewells go out to 'Shabash' Lamboo, whose active gully fielding was never really tested this year; to Grumpy, who really must lighten up when on the cricket field; to Muckie, who is reminded that St John's play their Cuppers cricket at the SJC Oval, not in Aberdeen; to Fiery, who although being a stalwart of the middle order will never be a centurion; to Higgins, thanks for coming this season; to the Delhi Diesel, for hitting the length in his time at College about as often as me; and to Louganis, for really making a match of the majority of games he played in the face of our otherwise extremely strong bowling.

My thanks go to Alex Starling, for captaining the second eleven, and Frankie Whitelaw and Emily Longmore for taking the ladies. Despite being generously allowed through the first round of their Cuppers competition, their dream did not fare much longer and much is expected next year of a maturing side. Congratulations and good luck to Mark Bartholomew and Barry Dent on their elections to Captain and Secretary next year.

Lastly our thanks to all the Ellis family. Thanks to Catherine, who supplied excellent lunches and teas right up until the birth of her new daughter Hannah, for which we offer her our congratulations. Thanks to Henry, whose incessant enthusiasm for anything painful was a delight to all on their way back from the square. And thanks to Keith, the new Head Groundsman, for his willingness to allow matches to go ahead despite ominous weather forecasts. My personal congratulations are also sent out to Keith for professionally not allowing what would appear to many to be a superb year for his family to affect his demeanour when on the fields. He admirably slotted into the grumpy groundsman stereotype as if he had been doing the job for years.

Ben Cocker
Captain

2nd XI Cricket

After a season of relative inactivity, the powerhouse of St John's cricket (otherwise known as the 2nd XI) once again took up willow and leather to do battle over a few wicket thingies. Pre-season scouting had unearthed rare cricketing talent in the depths of the Physics and Maths departments, with the Purchas Society providing its own particular spin on matters of slow bowling.

Narrow defeats to Queens' I and Christ's I (the latter despite a Rick Symington half-century) allowed us to continue in our well-founded belief that we are the best 2nd XI in the university, while beating Jesus II by 83 runs provided enjoyment for all involved, not least for opening bowlers Sanders and Saravanamuttu who claimed 3 wickets apiece and

Steven Guest with an unbeaten 44. Addenbrooke's were overcome with 4 wickets to spare, including a rare flurry with the bat for the captain, who perhaps benefited from a slightly weak leg-side field. Another fixture played in a remote windswept savannah north of Grange Road resulted in a win for Emmanuel II with the St John's players suffering from a lack of acclimatisation to the adverse weather conditions.

The 2nd XI was able to call upon a large amount of cricketing talent this season. In such situations it is always hard to single out particular players for praise. However, congratulations go to Nagulan Saravanamuttu, who was awarded the Ash Notaney Trophy for 2nd XI Player of the Season for outstanding performances with bat and ball and unswerving commitment to the sport. Simon Adelman, another player with a bright future, has agreed to take over the captaincy for next season and I wish him all the best in his endeavours, including perhaps a half-century someday.

Alex Starling
2nd XI Captain

Women's Cricket

'Do women wear a box?' asked the Men's Captain with a puzzled expression at our first practice session. At times bemused and bewildered, Ben did a brilliant job coaching a group of highly enthusiastic but absolute beginner women cricketers. Our eagerness after just three practices culminated in us entering the six a-side knock-out Cuppers competition where we were out on the pitches at 9am to practise and drafted in some experience in the shape of Katherine McAleavy and Jennifer Guthrie before mounting our challenge. Well, it must have frightened our first opponents Magdalene, who failed to appear.

Bravely but perhaps naively we volunteered to take on a team we unofficially nicknamed 'Newnham Men'. Our strength was in batting although Kate Whittaker and Emily Longmore, batting first, steadily built up the runs and were so hard to remove that no one else was really

needed. A little more risk, however, might have been to our advantage and our fielding, with the exception of Meg Jeffries' valiant efforts, did leave a lot to be desired and we unluckily lost by three wickets on the last ball. Nevertheless, the game was not without its comedy moments; on one occasion Frankie Whitelaw came forward to bowl, tripped over her feet, uttered a minor expletive and literally dropped the ball which dribbled along the ground and the unlucky batsman took a swipe, allowing the ball to hit the wicket. Bowled. Also amusing was the moment's silence after a classic LBW in which Rich and Ben who were umpiring waited in anguish for someone to appeal; we did not realise you had to *appeal*, but fortunately a tentative 'how's that?' came from the wicket keeper at the last moment.

Despite being officially knocked out, we wangled our way back into the tournament through sheer enthusiasm when another team scratched but were beaten by strong Downing side with several University players and subs. Truly bitten by the cricket bug, however, we decided to continue our campaign that afternoon and we enjoyed a superb unofficial match against an eclectic group of random male John's cricketers and spectators whom we forced to play left-handed.

A fleeting and light-hearted but immensely successful cricket season for the women and we hope to build upon the enthusiasm of this year's participants next year. Well done to everyone who played Cuppers as well as to Jennie Rooney and Felicity Shaw who unluckily had to miss it due to exams, and a big thanks to Ben Cocker for all his coaching and support, as well as to Rich Samworth, Mark Bartholomew and Kanishka Misra.

Frankie Whitelaw

The Eagles Club

For 124 years the club has gone from strength to strength, unfazed by spinoffs or cheap imitations such as the Crescents, Fireflies or Hawks. This year, as always, was no exception and the Eagles encompass the true wealth of sporting talent in our fine College. Each member proving his worth not just for the college but in many cases on a university level.

However, despite the numerous university honours amassed on the rucker field by Eagles Hall, Blathwayt, Lacy, Lomax, Jenkins, Williams & Scott, they could not prevent Captain Eagle Williams' watertight ship from leaking a little. Resulting in the 1st XV taking a well-earned break from winning the League this year.

Captain Eagle Rees reaffirmed St John's Hockey Club to be, without a doubt, the most successful college sports club throughout the entire university. With the help of Eagles Angliss, Scott and in particular Seale, the 1st XI were able to climb atop any challenge to retrieve the League Trophy from the most precarious of positions.

Eagles Starling, Gower, Sanders and Captain Eagle Brown have continued the upward trend of the Football Club this year. In the true spirit of the club they have not limited themselves to one field and have enjoyed, amongst other sports, swinging clubs in college and, together with other Eagles, waving bats in rooms.

The true Johnian Spirit of combining excelling and loafing thrives in the cricket club. Led by Captain Eagle Cocker, whose love of all things small sends him to Cape Town in July where like a homing pigeon he aims to cycle back across Africa to his owner in Cambridge.

Diversity is the mark of the club. It is not just for those who excel in the major sports but also for those outstanding in the minor sports. Eagle Kemp has captained the Lady Margaret Boat Club with a watchful eye, and together with Eagles Bell and Jones was able to take the Men's 1st Coxless IV to unprecedented success on both the Cam and the Thames. It is on a sad note that we say goodbye to Eagle Jones, possibly the longest serving active member after Sir Scott, and whose future plans for Parliament success are sure to keep the tabloid press in business.

Special mention must be made of Eagles Samworth and Atkinson whose sporting prowess has not gone unnoticed only sorely missed through injury. However both always giving, they have supported college sport in all fields and have even struck up links with the boat club. The later joining a strong Eagle contingent in Eagle Livingstone-Learmonth's Lady Somerset 1st VIII, who successfully managed to battle their way to the top of the 4th division in the May Bumps.

Blues this year are: Ehlers – Rowing
Coulthard – Swimming
Messman – Golf & Navigating the Gobi
Rajagopalan – Tennis
Sheikh – Cricket

Half Blues were won by Eagles Blathwayt and Lomax for rugby league, and University Colours were awarded to Eagles Angliss, Bostock, Lacy, Rees and Sanders for hockey, squash, rugby, golf, and football respectively.

It remains for me to announce my successor, Mike Mayes, whose cool, affectionate temperament will ensure the continued growth of the illustrious Eagles Club.

Nunc Est Bibendum

Jim Scott
Eun Mor

The Flamingoes

Once again, the strong tradition of women's sport at St John's has ensured the health of The Flamingoes. With seven Full Blues, four Half-Blues and a wealth of University and College Colours, the Club remains a force to be reckoned with.

This year's 'chosen ones' included Clare Gaskell (Rugby), Lucy Sheard (Netball) and Nancy Priston (Lacrosse). Their initiations proved as riotous an affair as usual, resulting in the President being Deaned – let's just say it involved too much whipped cream, bare chests and ping-pong balls for some to cope with!

The highlight of the year was the inaugural Eagles and Flamingoes dinner held in the Combination Room in March. In the Dean's speech he talked about room cricket, which we were pleased to be able to revive later in the evening in the Master's Lodge. Captaining the winning team will remain my fondest memory of Cambridge. Shame on Jim Scott.

The large number of sporting achievements across a wide variety of sports will ensure the Club goes from strength to strength. Special note of congratulations to Andrea Bull an outstanding sportswoman, who added a football Full Blue to her eclectic collection of Half-Blues and University and College Colours.

Megan Jeffries
President

The Football Club

The summer was over and the management was well aware that a large number of stars from the previous year's squad had been wooed to the City. The SJCAFC simply could not retain them, not even with precious gifts in the form of our coveted black-sponsored fleece. The recruitment process would have to range on world-wide scale, so the Captain set up the first web site for the club (<http://www.joh.cam.ac.uk/societies/football>). The best talent we wanted and the best talent we got. Our efforts were amply rewarded when over sixty players turned up to pre-season training to showcase their skills at the October trials. The newly formed team rolled over their neighbours, Magdalene, in a pre-season friendly and was now hungry and eager to put its teeth into some real opposition. Girton provided just the pie. Our first official match would reveal a pattern that repeated itself in the many matches to come. We went down 2-1 with a dubious penalty awarded against us and had a player sent off. In dire straits, the fighting spirit of St John's came out with a flourish. The bewildered Girton team could only stare at the spirited St John's 1st XI fighting back and putting a few goals past their keeper, with Nick Gower, Alex Starling and Paul McMahon on the scoresheet and Samir Sheikh curling in the fabulous winner in the dying minutes. The final score was 4-3 but, most importantly, on that day we developed into a Team. A team eager and able to swing difficult matches in their favour.

The Cuppers draw had set up a clash of titans by pairing us with Trinity and the encounter certainly lived up to all the hype. St John's captured an early 2-0 lead, only to see it wither when Trinity pulled back three

goals. However, an outstanding performance by the team, with our Falcon players (Oli Maddison and Lee Sanders) leading the way, saw John's overcome the old enemy 5-3. Gower put his personal signature on the match with a cool hat trick. Victory inebriated the minds of our young team and, in the next match, Churchill took advantage of our attitude, handing us our first defeat. This was a harsh reminder of the unforgiving reality of College football. We toiled during the week on the training pitch with lots of three-touch football, in order to wipe out the shortcomings of the Churchill match. Our mission, now, was to hunt our opponent down, until we snatched the coveted spherical possession off his feet and then make sure we passed the football well between us. We were hungry for revenge and Christ's were our victims. They were dispatched 4-0 with Starling scoring his annual hat trick and Jack Russell, David Tompson and Jon Bungard doing all the damage down the wings. Paul McMahon and Sean Hartnoll stamped their authority in the middle of the pack and there was simply nowhere to go for the previous year's winners of the Cuppers trophy.

Top-of-the League Jesus was our last opponent in the Michaelmas Term. St John's was up for the battle on the day. The four-men defensive lineup of Daniel Hobohm (player of the season), Olly Wright, Lee Sanders and Jon Bungard was especially brilliant. Despite Jesus scoring twice, we managed to level the game on both occasions. Our prolific Golden Boot, Gower, energised by a cold half-time shower, stuck it into the back of the net on both occasions. In the closing minutes of the game, our University 3rd XI goalkeeper, Andrew Bond, made an impressive last-minute save to deny Jesus a win.

Lent Term saw the 1st XI adopting the 3-5-2 formation with Harry Horsley, Viv Gulati and Ryan Lindberg providing the three at the back and, most importantly, a clean sheet against Fitz who were sent back home with goals from Sheikh (on Simon Adelman's assist) and Gower. A double header against teams of Old Boys was scheduled for the beginning of February. Although the outcome of the two matches was different (the combined score was 10-4 in favour of the young guns), the post match celebrations were equal in fun and frivolity.

As an old adage of football says, a match isn't finished till the ref blows the whistle. In second round Cuppers, St John's proved the wise old

men of football right once again. We conceded our customary early goal in the first half and had to claw ourselves back into the match as usual. We managed to level the game, but we conceded a second goal 10 minutes from the final whistle. As time was running out, we adopted a flamboyant all-attacking 3-4-3 formation. The pressure we exerted finally cracked Anglia's resistance. Sanders dribbled their defence, including the keeper, and slotted the ball into the onion bag. Sheikh finished off the game by waiting coolly for the football to drop slowly onto his left foot (time seemed to have stopped for everybody on the pitch except for him) before he walloped it into the back of the helpless keeper's net. Football is about glory and we relished every moment of it (and the ensuing celebrations in the College Bar)!

League action soon followed against Pembroke. Again, we conceded an early scrappy goal. However, we eventually learnt that gifting the opposition with a goal and then scoring a bag-full to win the match is certainly thrilling, but is also a risky game. Despite all our efforts, we ended up not scoring for the first time in the season.

Cuppers quarter-final game against Long Road followed exactly the same pattern, with Bond making sure we had only one goal to recover. However all hopes vanished when Thomas Brown's shot was tipped onto the crossbar by the opposition's goalkeeper. It is now three times in the last four years that the schoolboys have interrupted our progress in Cuppers. Future St John's 1st XIs will have to avenge us! Our next league match was against Trinity, who were on the verge of relegation. We *gifted* them just the three points they needed to stay in the first division and in the process guaranteed the survival of the ancient derby. St John's-Trinity will be a much awaited match for at least another season! We also slipped against Robinson College, another side trying to avoid relegation. Goals by Thomas Brown, Owen Oliver and Stuart Gale were simply not enough on a day when St John's defence was in its most generous of moods. The match vs. APU was a different matter altogether. We did concede two early goals, but the team had enough of mucking about and scored 5 to secure the three points and third place in the League. The curtain was brought down on SJCAFC's season on a lovely spring afternoon with a friendly against our generous sponsors Deloitte & Touche.

The highlight of the year was certainly our tour to Rome. We played three matches against local teams, all invariably ending in a draw. I am sure that if the unlucky Owen had not had passport problems and had actually made it to Rome, we would have clinched those games. Accommodation (we are grateful to the Captain's Grandmother for offering bed/floor space) was a football's kick away from St Peter's Square and we had the privilege of actually playing *calcio* in Campo dei Fiori on a warm Roman spring night. I am sure none of us will forget those days spent in the Ancient City and the luscious pizza (or wild boar as Asterix and the tourists would call it) feasts we had. St John's 1st XI finished honourably amongst the top-three best teams of the League and, with lots of new players in this side, who have now experienced the raggedness of College football, things are looking extremely good for next year. There has been great interest in football all over College this year with more students eager to play than there are teams able to accommodate them. This resulted in St John's fielding four strong College sides, which have all done well in their respective competitions. I am grateful to all the players for contributing in making this season such an adventurous one. A special mention goes to Secretary Stuart Gale and Treasurer Alex Starling for all their help and organisation. John's decided to go for young blood and elected Harry Horsley as the 2000-2001 Captain, Simon Adelman as Secretary and Jack Russell as Treasurer. I wish them the best of luck and hope Harry leads the team past Long Road and on to Cuppers glory! Now I conclude with the three words which have been adopted and embraced by St John's Association Football Club this season, 2047 years after being first proffered by Julius Caesar: *Veni, Vidi, Vici*.

Thomas Brown
Captain

Women's Football

The women's team entered the season in the hope of avenging what had turned out to be a disappointing season in the top flight in 1998-9. Unfortunately, we generally continued to underachieve this year, our

mediocre results belying some very skilful play and individual flair. Our main problem early in the campaign was a seeming inability to put the ball in the back of the net; despite some intensive practice sessions in training, goals continued to elude us until it was too late to fight back from mid-table obscurity. While our League results were mixed, the emergence of Jennie Rooney and Andrea Bull as a strong goal-scoring force in the second half of the Michaelmas Term boded well for Cuppers after Christmas, and we had a successful run into the semi-finals. Unfortunately, a tense and exciting extra-time victory over arch-rivals Trinity was followed by defeat at the hands of Hills Road, continuing the recent trend of Johnnians being tormented by pesky kids. Nevertheless, there was a clear improvement over the season which manifested itself most clearly in our League match against Jesus and Cuppers match against Trinity, when we rose to the occasion to reassert Johnnian superiority.

Velda Elliott donned the keeper's gloves for some important matches, showing great confidence and presence, especially in our Cuppers run. In defence, Hwei Fan Liang made an important contribution in her cover of the left wing and her long throw often put attackers through. Anushka Asthana had an excellent season playing in right or central defence. Tash Nair lived up to her reputation as a Land Economist, adding another sport to her repertoire in very successful fashion. Hannah Fuller played well at the front of the defensive line-up, displaying a fearsome tackle. Anna Silvester and Neg Yazdi also made important contributions on the right of defence and completed a strong defensive unit. My main contribution at sweeper was vocal, although I occasionally kicked the ball quite hard and unfortunately sometimes found myself in goal . . .

In midfield, Amanda Fuller was an accomplished play-maker, providing links and putting in some great passes. Julie Gonzalez-Torres's impressive ball skills continued to be crucial to our play and Juliette Malley always made her presence known, whether through her penetrating runs or her frequent calls for the ball! On the left wing, Chantal Conneller showed her considerable skills in running the ball up the line and putting in some accurate crosses. Sophie Allebone-Webb,

playing up front, continued the improvement she made last year with some incisive passes. Jennie Rooney was our wizard on the right wing; when not scoring herself, she put in some great crosses which resulted in goals for others. With five goals each in the League and Cuppers, Jennie won the Golden Boot award this year, and should also be proud of the 'silver service' she provided to Andrea Bull, who scored most of our other goals. Andrea's contribution was not limited to goal-scoring, however; her brief on the pitch was to play 'everywhere', and she was largely successful in doing so, playing a crucial part in our Cuppers victory over Trinity by dropping back into defence. Andrea has also represented the University this season, playing in the Light Blues' victory over the Dark Side and winning Full Blue status in doing so.

Unfortunately, this season also saw the demise of the second team; there simply was not enough interest to keep a team afloat. My thanks to Tammy Holmes, who tried valiantly to stir up enthusiasm and who put a lot of effort into putting a team out on the rare occasions when we were not forced to concede. I hope that a second team can be resurrected next year, as I believe it plays an important role in fostering interest in football amongst those who have not had the opportunity to play before.

Many thanks to Alex Starling for his dedication in training us this year, to Stuart Gale for his willingness to ref, even at a moment's notice, and even away at Downing, and to the men's Committee for procuring the sponsored fleeces and caps. Thanks also to Keith, the groundsman, for his enlightened view of women's sport and, finally, best of luck to next year's co-captains, Hannah Fuller and Jennie Rooney – a wealth of talent is staying on and I think the team has the potential to do very well.

Clare Gaskell
Captain

Men's Hockey

The record of the Hockey Club in recent history has been phenomenal. I believe I am correct in saying that the Club has won Cuppers 5 times in the 90s. Indeed those of you who frequent that hallowed meeting place of sportsmen (the College Bar) may have noticed the SJCHC Cuppers Shield from the late 80s and early 90s, which was engraved with A.N.Other when somebody else won. Now this is certainly open to criticisms of arrogance but there are few A.N.Others. In my first year we won the League, and last year the glory of the League and Cup Double – certainly more of a Man Utd than a Watford. Alex Ferguson, though, doesn't have to contend with all his players leaving after 3 years, and we had suffered the heavy loss of Captain Darren James, and C.U. Wanderers Captain Colin Johnston among others. However, the admissions tutors are skilled in such matters and when it came to the freshers trial in early October it became clear that contract negotiations had gone well and we had some fine new talent to inveigle in the Johnian way.

The defence was once again the proverbial rock of our team with Steve Seale a tower of strength in the sweeper position, coupled with Stephen Griffiths (playing for the 8th season) in central defence. Alex Walsh performed admirably in goal in what is a very difficult situation – shielded from action for the majority of the match and then called to make the key saves at crucial times. Tom Thompson, who will surely be one of the key players of the future, was a reliable influence at right back while the left back position was filled by a variety of players. One of the key problems of College sport is the 101 different influences conspiring to make people unavailable, from supervisions, to practical classes, and even from my point of view, rugby matches. So the back four was completed by 2nd team Captain Graeme Coates, Rugby Captain Tom Williams, the reliable (if rarely sure-footed) Pete Jenkins, and Will Critchlow, who all did excellent jobs at various times when they came in. The most telling of statistics is that in a high scoring sport, we only conceded 14 goals in 15 matches.

Flowing, passing hockey has been our trademark, and that was no different this year. Richard Clarkson may not be as young in years as the

other new faces but he more than makes up for this with experience of playing league hockey at a very high level, skill, reading of the game, and high work rate. He controlled the game for us on many occasions, and showed us all a thing or two. Rick Symington provided a much used route down the left-side, dribbling into the heart of opponents' defences, and showing a ferocious hit whenever he got near the D. Meanwhile Simon Adelman brought a new look to the right side showing off his skills to go *round* opponents – Jim Scott watch and learn!

Forwards are that rare breed who snatch up half-chances to turn games with either exquisite skill or great pace and a powerful hit. Sadly, since Oscar Stewart, Johnny Mayer, and the injury stricken Richard Samworth, we haven't had any, and have relied on goals from a variety of sources. Jono Angliss was played out of position up front so that he could fulfil his boastful claims, and he turned out to be a source of many fine goals, although his effort for the top spot was beaten into second place by Rick Symington whose 18 goals in 14 matches will surely see him on a lucrative transfer deal. Ric Hull and (Dr) Baylon Kamalarajan were regulars up front, neglecting the hospitals of East Anglia, and no doubt the patients, to represent the College.

We had our usual rocky start to the year with a draw against Queens' which we were fortunate to salvage with a last minute goal. After that the pre-Christmas league then proceeded very serenely with easy wins against Catz, Clare, and notably 9-0 against Pembroke, with Downing and Jesus setting the pace at the top of the table.

Cuppers starts early in the season with the traditional grass fixture, before moving back to the astroturf. Trinity Hall and Magdalene were duly negotiated and we were able to move on to the semi-final and more serious games ahead. Roger Wilcock and past Captain Colin 'Zimmer' Campbell bolstered our ranks for the remaining rounds. Zimmer can certainly do a lot of bolstering with that low centre of gravity and we were confident that the cup could be returned to its spiritual home. Our clash with Emmanuel in the semi-final really was a 'clash' with poor umpiring allowing Emma's 'vigorous' tackling to frustrate us as well as breaking Roger's finger. In the end a 2-0 win reflected the fact that they

never looked like scoring and we failed to take any number of chances. The final was against a very strong looking Jesus team, numbering 7-8 University players, who were determined to win a trophy against the old enemy. Crucially, Richard had pulled a hamstring in the semi-final, and was only able to be active from the touchlines. Events went against us and despite giving our all we went down 5-1, in a more competitive match than the scoreline gives us credit for.

We were even more determined to make sure of the League when we returned in the New Year, but this looked an uphill task with both Jesus and Downing having won all their matches so far. They had both yet to play us though, so we knew it was all still in our hands. With several key players missing we fought out a 3-3 draw against Downing, coming twice from behind in one of our best matches of the year. Then came our most satisfying result of the year when we avenged the Cuppers final defeat to beat Jesus 3-1. As the season drew to a close finish with Jesus losing their way, and Downing having dropped points elsewhere, it came down to our last match needing a draw or better against Fitzwilliam to retain the title. Needless to say a draw is not in the Johnian spirit and a comfortable win rounded off the season in style.

It has been said of Manchester United that it is their spirit which makes them so successful, and the same can be said of SJCHC. Persistence, will to win, allied with talent and flair, are a potent mix which is the true secret of the Club's success.

Congratulations to the members of the Club who represented the university this year: Roger Wilcock once again earned his Blue; Jono Angliss was a key member of the C.U. Wanderers; and Rick Symington part of the C.U. Squanderers team that narrowly missed league promotion. Rick will be next year's Club Captain with Graeme Coates as Secretary. There is no doubt who our outstanding player has been and so Richard Clarkson was awarded the inaugural 'Player of the Season' award – I hope we find somebody good enough to stop him winning it again next year.

Finally it gives me great pleasure to thank everyone for contributing to another extremely successful year, and especially to those people who

came in to fill the gaps when needed. They are as important in their way as the regulars. I must thank Steve Seale, my Secretary, for his help and wish the best of luck to Rick and Graeme for next year.

It has been an honour and a pleasure. God Bless the Hockey Club.

Dan Rees
Captain

Results:

League Champions

Won: 9; Drew: 2; Lost: 0

Goals for: 48; Goals against: 9

Cuppers – Losing Finalists

Won: 3; Lost: 1

Goals for: 15; Goals against: 5

2nd XI Hockey

The season proved, yet again, to be a topsy-turvy one. Our first match was against Anglia, a strong team relegated from Division 1 after not playing a single game all last year. However, this season (after a change of captaincy), they managed to turn teams out regularly, and showed their strength by beating us 6-1. The consolation goal came from Graeme Coates who took the ball 50 yards, round 3 opposition and scored. These previously unknown stick skills were soon put down to the bouncy grass pitch and suspect umpiring. A notable mention must go to Mark Bartholomew who played his first game of hockey in this match, and continued to impress throughout the season and rightly deserved the award for Most Improved Player.

Next came Trinity Hall, who turned up dressed as netball players, and proceeded to perform as such, losing 6-1 to a strong John's team. The practice of 2nd XI players scoring on their debut was again apparent as "J" Hyun slotted home in the second half.

As the season moved into November, we were faced with the prospect of a strong Robinson team who scored 7 past the injured Coates who had elected to play goalkeeper. A consolation penalty flick from the longest standing member of the team, Baylon Kamalarajan, bought the score to 7-1, but the result was not going to echo the previous year's performance.

One of our high points of the season came against Trinity. After arriving with only 9 players, we fought hard to stay in the game, but with excellent performances from Dennis Leung and Ben Cocker (another first-timer) the first half ended 0-0. The second half went more in our favour (despite being reduced to 8 men) and a free hit on the edge of the D saw a Rich Hull deflection go into the goal via the keeper's shoulder. This was to be the final result, after Will Critchlow made an important save on his debut in goal to keep us ahead.

After receiving a walkover from Peterhouse at the end of the Michaelmas Term, we started Lent Term well, emphatically beating an under strength Cambridge City 7-0. Simon Adelman scored three and Rich "Topper" Hull scored four, which included the worst goal of the season . . . After poaching from Cocker from 12 inches, he proceeded to take three touches to get the ball across the line. They all count I suppose . . .

This was followed the next week by a 4-1 victory against Sidney, despite playing with only nine players for the first half. Seemingly on a roll, we moved into 2nd Team Cuppers, which, thankfully, was actually played before the end of Term this year. However, this confidence was not translated into finishing power as we struggled to beat a much weaker Pembroke II side. A 4-2 win provided us the chance to meet Jesus II in the semi-final in a repeat of last year's final.

Preparation was not ideal, losing to Churchill 2-1 the Wednesday before (due largely to some dubious umpiring decisions), and our relative lack of experience on Astro turf may have contributed to a two goal deficit at half time. However, we emerged for the second half a different team, and pulled a goal back thanks to Hull soon after the restart. Spurred on by this goal, a period of sustained pressure followed, leading to an

equaliser by Lamarr. However, this was to be the last goal of the match in normal time, and a pressing blues practice led to penalty flicks for the second year running.

Lamarr and Hull both saw their flicks go in (just!) and Critchlow then managed to save the second Jesus flick to take us to 2-1. Then after an explicable miss by Coates, another great save by Critchlow and a confident flick into the corner by Kanishka Misra, we were within touching distance of the final. The fourth Jesus flick would prove to be the last, as Critchlow made a superb diving save to win the match for us. This was a truly great result to a great match.

The League dragged to a rather unsatisfying end due to a lack of time for matches to be played. With only Cuppers final remaining, we came up against a questionably strong Caius team, who went away with the invisible cup thanks to a single goal, leaving us with a disappointing end to a hectic season.

With league results of "played" 11, won 5, lost 6; our final League position of 7th, behind Churchill and Magdalene on goal difference, did not really do justice to the effort shown during the season. We still managed to finish above our main rivals Trinity and Jesus II, showing that John's II hockey is still a force to be contended with in the College Leagues.

My thanks go to all that have played this year – several of whom had not even picked up a stick before, and also to the groundsmen for preparing the pitches we play on throughout the year. My best wishes go forward to next year's team, and I hope that they continue to have success on the pitch; and in particular Baylon who left us this year for the big wide world after managing to play his 100th match for the club.

God Bless The Hockey Club.

Graeme Coates
Captain

Women's Hockey

Having been (narrowly) relegated to the 2nd Division last season, confidence abounded amongst the women's hockey team. Fresh new talent in the form of Anna Seale, Katharine McGill, Sarah Langslow, Velda Elliot, Lucy Hughes and Suzannah Ritchie-McLean ensured not only a large pool from which to draw a team, but also plenty of hockey men selflessly offering their services as coach, umpire or physio.

Our first match justified such confidence, with Andrea Bull and Lynda Hewitt securing a 3-0 victory against Jesus II. This scoreline was emulated a week later, with Rachel Isherwood, Hewitt and Bull putting the ball in the net; and Sarah Langslow (Sweeper) and Velda Elliot (Goalkeeper) skilfully keeping the ball out at the other end of the pitch. This back formation, alongside Clare Palmer, Aideen Silke and Jennifer Guthrie (plus the star appearances of Nancy Priston in goal and Nicole Armstrong as Sweeper) proved formidable throughout the season. In November, Emmanuel and Newnham both experienced seeing the ball fly past their goalkeeper from the sticks of Isherwood and Hewitt, with Jenny Allen providing energetic support on the wing. Thus John's were deservedly top of the league at the beginning of December.

Unfortunately, however, our luck was to change. The evils of University football lured away our star striker, Andrea Bull, as matches clashed; and further catastrophe struck as College rugby left injured Isherwood and Hewitt – hence wiping out our goal-scoring trio.

Lacking in numbers, our 1st round Cuppers match against Division 1 League leaders, Catz, was never going to be an occasion to celebrate. Although several more defeats ensued, not all was lost. In the absence of the older players, Anna Seale and Lucy Hughes really began to gain confidence and take control of the game, and the determination of Katharine McGill to win every ball possible was remarked on by daunted oppositions (and even more daunted umpires!). Furthermore, it was unanimously agreed that if there was no cause to celebrate on the pitch, we may as well celebrate off the pitch. Social evenings with the University Men's Lacrosse Team, Clare Men's Hockey team, and indeed some fine specimens from our own College provided us with plenty of

tactics talk, hockey tips, and, for some, the opportunity to score finally as a member of St John's College Ladies' Hockey Club!

Perhaps due to this renewed team spirit (but also credited to the return of Isherwood and the signing of Caroline Boddy from Newcastle United), the end of the season saw victory once again. With goals from Anna Seale and Lucy Hughes, and Anuska Asthana providing the vital quality link between defence and attack, Trinity Hall, Queens' and Robinson all failed to defeat us. The final League Table placed John's fourth – a respectable position after a tumultuous season.

On a personal note, I would like to thank a team that is now unrecognisable from the eleven players that turned out to play hockey on a rainy October morning. Not only has skill and teamwork vastly improved, but enthusiasm and commitment never waned, even in the face of defeat. My thanks especially to Rachel Isherwood and Clare Wolfenden, who took over captaincy whilst I was injured; and to Anna Seale (Secretary) who helped with the organisational aspects.

Finally, our appreciation is offered to Ric Symington, Graeme Coates, Will Critchlow and Ric Hull, who umpired through rain, hail and snow (with some wearing more aftershave than others!).

Good luck to Anna Seale and Lucy Hughes, co-captains for next year – I hope you have more success than this year, although I doubt you could have as much fun.

Lynda Hewitt
Captain

Lady Margaret Boat Club – Men

Henley 1999

By finishing fourth in the 1999 May Bumps and losing only three members of the crew to other commitments, LMBC were fortunate again this year in not having to qualify for Henley Royal Regatta.

After enjoying the pleasures of Fitz's traditional Wednesday picnic, supporters were able to witness the rare sight of a Maggie victory in the Temple from the Stewards Enclosure, thanks once again to the generous ticket donations of old Johnnians. The crew were drawn against Nottingham University 'B' and led from the start, winning by a margin of two lengths.

Trinity College, Dublin, proved more difficult opponents on the Thursday, winning comfortably and progressing to the quarter-finals where they were knocked out by a Goldie crew who went on to win the event.

The Henley VIII

Bow	Tom Leake
2	Rob Pagnamenta
3	Andy Nutter
4	Chris Bell
5	Rob Milner
6	Mark Brand
7	Andy Jones
Str	Alex O'Reilly
Cox	Linda Haxby

Thanks must be extended to the Arlidge family for their excellent hospitality and also to the Old Johnian Henley Fund and all its members for financing the campaign and continuing to support the club in so many ways.

Michaelmas Term 1999

Once again the Lady Margaret Boat Club was bolstered in the Michaelmas Term by a wealth of new faces, and was able to boast six men's novice crews of varying competence – two more than any other college. The first ever defeat for the 1st Novice VIII in the Queens' Ergo Championships brought concern among the crew that perhaps this year our run of winning form in the novice events would be ended; fears

soon relieved by a win in the Cambridge Winter Head, and a win for the fourth successive year in the Clare Sprint Regatta, beating Jesus by 11/2 lengths in the final.

Only a change in entry rules prevented the 2nd Novice VIII retaining the Plate, although by reaching the semi-final of the Cup competition, where they were beaten by a verdict of three feet, they demonstrated that they were not only faster than all other 2nd VIIIs by a considerable margin, but almost all 1st VIIIs as well.

Jesus crews have traditionally shown a remarkable turn of speed in the week between the Clare Sprints and the timed Fairbairns race, and so it was with some anxiety that the crew and coaches took their positions on an early December morning to defend a title held for four years. When the results were announced, it emerged that the Jesus timekeepers had recorded identical times for the Jesus and LMBC crews, and so the title this year had to be shared.

Congratulations should be given to the Lower Boats Captains, Christoph Rummel and Eric Kerrigan, for maintaining the successful run of the mighty LMBC novices, and thanks to all those who gave their time to coach.

The Senior Club was significantly depleted this year by a number of losses to the working world, but was glad to welcome an ex-Eton and GB Junior oarsman, Tom Edwards-Moss. His aspirations to trial for CUBC were ended when it was discovered he only had one fully functioning lung, and concerns over the proximity to a hospital prevented him travelling to Ely for training. CUBC's loss was LMBC's gain, and not being so sympathetic to such technicalities, he soon found himself a seat in the Light IV.

The decision to race in the coxless event was due mainly to the commitment of coach Richard Kollek, who raced for three years in the University Light IVs, winning as steerer in 1986. He was especially pleased to discover that despite our best efforts to find an alternative, we would be racing in the very same boat in 1999.

A win at the Autumn Head gave three members of the crew their first trophy for LMBC and inspired confidence for the University IVs. In the event the crew was never really pushed, and with the assistance of veteran Andy Jones as steerer, the crew won the event comfortably. The 2nd IV faced tougher competition in the coxed event, and were knocked out by 1st & 3rd in the second round.

Light IV		Coxed IV	
Bow	Andy Jones*	Bow	Alex Goldsmith
2	Chris Bell	2	Christoph Rummel
3	Tom Edwards-Moss	3	Chris Greenroyd
Str	Jim Kemp	Str	Mark Brand
*steerer		Cox	Rebecca Thornton

Competition for the Light IV in the Cambridge Winter Head the following week came from a Cantabrigian crew containing two past LMBC oars. The boat had to be shared, but racing in the earlier division, the LMBC IV won by a margin of 33 seconds. The Cantabrigian crew complained of steering problems.

Two coxed IVs were entered for the Fours Head of the River on the Tideway, and in difficult conditions recorded the fastest times for both 1st and 2nd IVs from any of the Oxbridge Colleges. This boded well for the Fairbairns, and moving into an VIII only two weeks before the race, the boat gelled quickly and had a very realistic hope of taking the Fairbairns title. The opportunity was cruelly stolen by bad weather, and after enjoying calm conditions for the Novice event the day before, the Senior Fairbairns was called off due to fallen trees and breaking waves on the Reach.

Eton Training Camp

The dawn of the new millennium saw a squad of ten return to Eton for a week's training camp under the expert eye of Guy Pooley. As usual the camp enabled members of the 1st and 2nd VIII to benefit from extended periods of training away from the academic pressures and distractions of college life.

The week proved a great success, and the final night saw the traditional beers and curry, where we were lucky to be joined by several old boys who had helped coach during the week. The smell of the dormitory and the standard of rowing the following morning were testament to their kind generosity!

Thanks are due to the OJHF for their financial support, and to Guy and boatman Baz for their help on and off the water.

Lent Term

Where other colleges benefited from the strength of returning triallists, the beginning of the Lent Term saw the senior squad weakened by the loss of Tom Edwards-Moss who was recovering from a lung operation. Exams disrupted preparations for the rescheduled Fairbairns, and so it was with some regret that a crew which looked capable of winning the race seven weeks earlier finished a disappointing 6th, 49 seconds behind the winners, Caius. The rescheduled race enabled 5 fortunate novices to row the course for a second time, this time for the 2nd VIII, and finish in a respectable 20th place.

A strict land-training regime imposed by 'social' secretary Tom Leake yielded personal best ergo scores for six members of the 1st VIII in the Lent Term, but despite the return of Tom Edwards-Moss, results on the water remained disappointing. The 1st VIII trailed Caius by 46 seconds at Peterborough Head, where they were also beaten comfortably by Bumps rivals 1st & 3rd and Emmanuel. The margin closed at Bedford Head as the VIII began to approach race-pace, but it was not until Pembroke Regatta that the crew really demonstrated its potential.

In a first round draw against giants Caius, the chances of progressing further appeared slim, but whether it was the adrenaline rush of side-by-side racing or a start which for the first time in memory gave a Maggie crew the lead, the crew took the Caius scalp in the closest fought race of the day. Later rounds saw more comfortable wins over Clare and Wolfson, before meeting Emmanuel in the final. Unfortunately the crew

were unable to repeat the events of the morning, and lost to an increasingly impressive Emma crew by a length.

The welcome turn of pace gave the crew confidence to attack the Headship, and although Bumps predictions did little to favour LMBC, the crew remained hopeful of causing an upset. Starting in second place, the first night saw us close the gap on Caius with another fast start, pulling away from 1st & 3rd behind. Whether 1st & 3rd were saving themselves for an attack into the Reach, or we simply lacked the race fitness to see us over the course remains a mystery, but with a push that saw them gain nearly two lengths in a minute, the Trinity crew took second place just beyond the railway bridge and in effect our hopes of the Headship. 1st & 3rd went on to take the Headship the following night in similar manner, while we rowed over behind. Unable to catch Caius on the third night, a tiring crew fell to the blade winning Emmanuel boat on the final day, finishing in fourth place.

The Bumps proved a disappointment for all the men's crews, lacking the depth of experienced oarsmen enjoyed in previous years. The 2nd VIII fell three places, avoiding the dubious honour of spoons with a spirited row-over ahead of Kings on the final night. The 3rd VIII had hopes of catching the 2nd VIII when they bumped on the first night to move further into the second division, but were over-bumped on the second night by Corpus I and also ended down three.

1st Lent VIII

Bow	Alex Goldsmith
2	Christoph Rummel
3	Chris Greenroyd
4	Chris Bell
5	Tom Edwards-Moss
6	Mark Brand
7	Tom Leake
Str	Jim Kemp
Cox	Diana Wilson

2nd Lent VIII

Bow	Alex Weber
2	Chris Fox
3	Paul Milligan
4	Johann Duramy
5	Andreas Domnick
6	Zenon Severis
7	Adam Johnson
Str	Oli Choroba
Cox	Jemma Mindham

York Training Camp

Arriving in York for the Easter training camp, it was hard to imagine that flood gates 5m above the river level would ever be used, and the first four days allowed us the rare opportunity of many miles of steady state paddling in calm conditions. The end of the week saw the water level rise 4m in two days, and while some of the local crews abandoned outings, the fearless LMBC continued to train under the watchful eyes of Jamie Macleod and his children. The crew demonstrated the benefits of the training on the final day by holding their own against a strong York City crew despite difficult conditions and a few sore heads.

The OJHF should be thanked once again for subsidising the two training camps which were thoroughly enjoyed by all.

May Term

The racing calendar had to be curtailed somewhat in the May Term to accommodate exams, but once again the Lady Margaret Boat Club was represented in a number of events both on and off the Cam.

A coaches meeting at the start of term enabled final selection of the first two boats, strengthened by a single change to the 1st VIII and a number of returning faces to the 2nd VIII. Entering both crews for the Cambridge Head-to-Head, the Captain refrained to mention the quality of the opposition, and with a guest appearance from Rob Milner, the 1st VIII recorded a first leg time only 4 seconds slower than the course record and won the event by nearly 90 seconds.

Lured by the prospect of prize money totalling £5000 and the chance to demonstrate the superiority of Cambridge college rowing over our Oxford counterparts, the following weekend saw the crews travel to Oxford courtesy of MarchFirst who sponsored the first Oxbridge colleges regatta. Losing to Wadham I in the first round, the 2nd VIII entered the Plate competition, where they progressed to the final by beating New College III, St Edmund's II and Christ's II. Rumours on the towpath reinforced suspicions that a strong Exeter College crew might

have 'thrown' their first race in order to win the Plate competition and take the £550 prize. As runners-up, the 2nd VIII were perhaps more deserving winners of their £300 cheque.

The 1st VIII beat Lincoln and St Edmunds in the first rounds of the Cup to meet Oriel College in the semi-final. Currently Head of the River, they were clearly the crew to beat, and despite a gutsy performance in front of a hostile crowd, the LMBC were unable to take the Oxford scalp, losing by just over a length. Cambridge pride was restored when Caius won the final by a length and a half, although the news was not so welcome on the domestic front.

The final excursion before the Bumps saw the crews travel to Peterborough for the rare opportunity to race in a multi-lane regatta. With both crews entering two events, Lady Margaret Boat Club was represented in Senior 2, Senior 3 and Senior 4 finals that day. Based on times from the heats, the 2nd VIII looked set to win the S4 final, but grounded their rudder on the way to the start and finished a disappointing 4th. The two LMBC crews met in the S3 final, separated by only 3 seconds in qualifying. In the final, a fast start enabled the 1st VIII to control the race ahead of UWE and Marlow, with a tiring 2nd VIII finishing 4th. Reaching the S2 final through a reparation for first round losers, the 1st VIII were pleased to finish runners up after a very close race for second place - the bad news being that the event was won by Jesus College.

Six men's crews entered the May Bumps this year, with varying degrees of success. Defending 4th place on the river, the 1st VIII very nearly escaped a fast Emmanuel crew on the first night by moving to within four feet of the Trinity crew ahead by Grassy corner. Unable to take the opportunity, Trinity held their position up the Plough Reach, and were rescued when Emma bumped us on the exit of Ditton. The second night was reminiscent of the first night of the Lents. Still on station at Ditton, Downing steadily gained ground in the long reach, eventually bumping at Peter's Posts - only a minute before the finish. Rowing over on Friday and Saturday restored some pride, although we were disappointed not to bump a strengthened Trinity crew on the final evening and remain in 6th place.

The 2nd VIII demonstrated the benefits of race practise, an excellent coaching line-up and a strong crew spirit by bumping Caius II on the first night against all expectations. They went on to bump Sidney I, and finished 3rd in the second division. The 3rd, 4th and 5th VIIIs found themselves defending positions beyond their ability, losing a total of fourteen places between them. Despite this, the crews should be commended for their efforts in difficult circumstances, especially since the 4th and 5th boats retain their respective headships.

The Fellows VIII returned to fill the sixth and final position on the river, and with three early morning outings a week, they reaped the benefits of a strict training regime imposed by Prof McCave and Dr Gull. At an average age of 42, they bumped four times (including two Trinity crews) to take the sixth boat headship and move into the fifth division, making them the most successful men's crew this year.

1st May VIII

Bow	Chris Bell
2	Chris Greenroyd
3	Christoph Rummel
4	Tom Leake
5	Jim Kemp
6	Andy Jones
7	Mark Brand
Str	Tom Edwards-Moss
Cox	Diana Wilson

2nd May VIII

Bow	Andy Veitch
2	Rob Pagnamenta
3	Alex Weber
4	Chris Fox
5	Andreas Domnick
6	Oli Choroba
7	Alex Goldsmith
Str	Eric Kerrigan
Cox	Jemma Mindham

Fellows' VIII

Bow	Dr S Clarke
2	Dr Y Mao
3	Dr T J Bayliss-Smith
4	Rev D S Dormor
5	Dr H R Matthews
6	Dr R E McConnel
7	Dr S F Gull
Str	Prof A W Woods
Cox	Dr N S Arnold

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Committee, John Hall-Craggs, Roger and all the coaches for their support this year, and also Catherine Twilley who, as Senior Treasurer, has helped to ensure the boathouse extension finally happens in this the 175th anniversary year of the LMBC. I wish my successor, Tom Leake, the very best of luck for next year and look forward to returning for the anniversary dinner in September.

Vive Laeta . . .

Jim Kemp
Captain

Lady Margaret Boat Club – Women

At the beginning of the year a certain member of the men's boat club told me that he had only ever seen two women's boats go fast: one had an engine and one had a sail. In the traditional LMBC spirit of rivalry between the men and the women, I must start by pointing out that the women's boat club saw an unprecedented seven boats out during Michaelmas Term (and yes, they all had rowers in them). Building upon the talent and enthusiasm of last year's huge influx of novices, it has been a highly successful and enjoyable year with some impressive results to mark the 175th Anniversary of the Club. As we move into the Millennium, the Boat Club has also seen various changes – a 'revamp' of the web site, the launch of a new women's 1st VIII – LM2000 – and we look forward to the refurbishment of the boathouse offering a new spectrum of opportunity to succeeding generations of rowers . . .

Henley 1999

We were able to take seven members of the 1st May VIII to Women's Henley, 'borrowing' the 1st Men's cox and a member of the 2nd VIII. The first round proved somewhat eventful; we were drawn against a United Hospitals crew who rowed into us causing both crews to stop. We

recovered and rowed on until the other crew was disqualified. In the second round, drawn against a strong Nottingham University 'A' crew, we rowed well but pushed a little too late and lost by three-quarters of a length. Nevertheless, much fun was had by all and many thanks are due to the OJHF for their financial support.

Bow	Camille Gatin
2	Cath Twilley
3	Jo Griffiths
4	Simone Kohler
5	Melissa Bolton
6	Lucy Malenczuk
7	Karen Hartshorn
Str.	Emily Greenwood
Cox	Linda Haxby

Summer 1999

Four members of LMBC (Sophie Hill, Camille Gatin, Emily Longmore and Frankie Whitelaw) attended the CUWBC Development Squad, held for a month in the Long Vacation. Training and racing on the Cam, at Peterborough and Bedford and finally competing at the National Championships in Nottingham, this experience proved extremely enjoyable and valuable and it has a knock-on effect, contributing to dedication and to the standard of rowing throughout the club.

Michaelmas Term 1999

Novices

As ever, the pressure was on to produce a set of the scariest novices seen on the Cam and yet again LMBC managed to oblige. With our Lower Boats Captains fresh from Adrian Cassidy's coaching course; blades and bumps videos galore at the Freshers' Fair, and some new lurid looking cocktails at the squash, courtesy of the social secretaries, we succeeded

in enticing more than three VIII's worth of women into rowing. This was a considerable achievement given that the ratio of women to men matriculating was much lower than in previous years. LMBC's enviable record in terms of quality as well as quantity was maintained and indeed advanced; winning the annual Queens Ergo Competition 16 seconds clear of the next fastest crew, the 1st Women's Novice VIII, nicknamed 'Heffers of Cambridge', proved themselves a force to be reckoned with. Demolishing our long-term novice rivals, CCAT, for the first time in 11 years, they took the cup in the Clare Sprints Competition and were second only to Jesus (well-known for their creative stopwatches) in Novice Fairbairns. The 2nd VIII put in creditable performances throughout the term, reaching the quarter final of the Clare Sprints Plate, losing only to Pembroke who went on to the final. Despite catching one or two crabs, they also finished a respectable 15th in Fairbairns. The 3rd VIII were delighted to beat the 2nd VIII in this competition and finished 11th – only two seconds and a place behind the lower boats winner, a fitting end to what was an impressive term for the 3rd VIII.

Thanks must go to the Lower Boats Captain, Nathalie Walker, for her hard work and commitment to the novice boats and to all those who helped with tubbing and coaching throughout the term.

Seniors

In what is traditionally 'novice term', the Seniors were not to be outdone and there were an unprecedented number of Senior boats on the water during Michaelmas, despite the fact that we had lost several coxes and oarswomen to University trials and to other commitments. Two crews entered the University Fours, the 1st or 'super' IV braving a 'typhoon' in the Reach when they were beaten by a tough Emmanuel crew in the final of the competition. The 2nd IV had a storming race against Jesus but were beaten by Trinity Hall in the semi-final who went on to win the competition. This crew, becoming the 1st Fairbairns IV, suffered from injury and a sheer lack of bulk in the boat and fought a hard battle on the Tideway but gained valuable rowing experience during what became quite an eventful term.

The 1st VIII showed great spirit and determination throughout the term putting in a solid performance in the Cambridge Autumn Head which provided the building blocks for their win in their division of the Winter Head. As Roger commented, they looked set to cause quite an upset in Fairbairns had it not been postponed due to high winds. An eclectic bunch of rowers also came together to form a Ladies VIII – virtually unheard of in the cold and dark of Michaelmas – and their commitment sums up what was a superb term for women's rowing.

University Fours – 1st IV

Bow	Jo Griffiths
2	Karen Hartshorn
3	Melissa Bolton
Str	Anna Turk
Cox	Joasia Zakrzewski

Fairbairns – 1st IV

Bow	Frankie Whitelaw
2	Amy Warren
3	Nathalie Walker
Str.	Helena Shaw
Cox	Will Addison

VIII

Bow	Aideen Silke
2	Claire Palmer
3	Eleanor Boag
4	Fiona Learmont
5	Gillian Phillips
6	Lizzy Steynor
7	Uli Forster
Str.	Katie Hughes
Cox	Jemma Mindham

Ely Training Camp

Unable to join the men in Eton due to the river conditions, and with CUWBC training in Miami and CUBC in Spain, the 1st women were not to be deterred from finding their own 'exotic' off-the-Cam location for a January training camp. Ely proved perfect. Braving sub-zero temperatures, a squad of 11, under the auspices of Rob Milner, spent a week rowing twice a day, up and down Ely's unforgettable, never-ending river. Bleak though the conditions were, the value of such a training camp cannot be over-emphasised. Strength, fitness and standard of rowing improved immeasurably; with the use of a catamaran, we were able to video continuously and at various angles; we spent a day doing race pieces with Cantabs Rowing Club; and the shelter of the local tea shop (not to mention the scones!) did wonders for crew 'bonding'.

A testament to the success of the week was the fact that the crew, although relatively inexperienced and a lightweight crew, were placed 5th in the previously postponed Fairbairns Competition at the very start of the Lent term. Particular thanks must go to Rob for his dedication over training camp, and for his commitment to coaching women throughout the year.

Lent Term 2000

'Fresh' from the belated Fairbairns Competition, the Lent crews had an appetite for racing and Robinson Head, Bedford Head and Pembroke Regatta, provided opportunities for Lady Margaret to reveal her mettle. The Lower Boats entered Robinson Head, the 2nd VIII coming 7th overall, beating a significant number of 1st VIIIs and winning the Lower Boats category. The 3rd VIII destroyed all 3rd boat opposition as well as a number of 2nd boats. A beautiful day out at Bedford also saw some impressive performances as the 1st VIII won their division, with the 2nd VIII trailing only nine seconds behind. Side-by-side racing always delights the crews and this year was no exception and all the crews entered Pembroke Regatta. The 1st VIII picked up a relatively easy win

against Catz and were unluckily drawn against Emmanuel, a notoriously strong crew who subsequently took the Headship in the Lent Bumps; labelled the 'giant-killers' by Roger, we managed to frighten the crew, however, beating them off the start and holding them until the Railway Bridge where they just managed to slip away. Both the 2nd and 3rd VIIIs took complete command of the course and of all opposition and each won their category, giving us confidence for the bumps.

Spurred on by successful term, the 1st VIII were eager to bump and with a captain determined not to row over behind Christ's for the fourth time in succession, we acquitted ourselves well and hit Christ's on Ditton Corner. Two tough row-overs followed, the second in a horrendous headwind which resulted in a trip to hospital for Frankie Whitelaw who injured her shoulder. Jo Griffiths came to the rescue filling the bow seat on the last day and we adjusted the gearing to help our campaign. Nothing could have stopped the extremely fast blade-winning Caius crew behind us, however, and we went down again to no disgrace as we held our place, 8th on the river. The 2nd VIII were out for revenge after the boat, lacking experience, was awarded spoons last year. With experience and appetite abounding this year they obtained apt vengeance, moving up three with ease and, with repeated overlap, they were desperately unlucky not to bump on the last day. Spirit, drive and bumps excitement filtered through the club and the 3rd VIII clocked two bumps and were deprived of going up any further only by a freak gust of wind which blew them into the opposite bank off the start. An exemplary Lents campaign did not allow a single women's crew to go down overall and provided a firm foundation upon which to build for the Mays.

Having found the boiler-room usurped by another society, the bumps this year culminated in a post-dinner celebration on the Riverboat Georgina. There was a degree of irony in our spending the evening yet again cruising up and down the Cam but the event was a roaring success and, amusingly, it was only walking home that the Men's Captain 'fell' into the river.

1st Lent VIII

Bow	Frankie Whitelaw
2	Fiona Learmont
3	Amy Winter
4	Amy Warren
5	Sarah Langslow
6	Lizzy Steynor
7	Nathalie Walker
Str.	Katie Hughes
Cox	Aleks Kowalski

2nd Lent VIII

Bow	Margaret Haworth
2	Jo Barnsley
3	Lucy Nell
4	Aideen Silke
5	Felicity Shaw
6	Gillian Phillips
7	Eleanor Boag
Str.	Uli Forster
Cox	Will Addison

Women's Head of the River Race 2000

Unfortunately, due to unusual term dates, the WHORR on the Tideway this year clashed with the Lent Bumps and we were unable to enter a crew and, to our disappointment, the same situation was to arise with the Mays and Women's Henley. After careful consideration by CUCBC, it was decided that there was no way around the clash and we must simply look forward to mounting our challenge next year.

CUWBC Henley Boat Races

Having been elected Lightweight President of CUWBC, Karen Hartshorn unluckily had to resign her position as academic commitments took her off to Taiwan for several months. We were, however, represented in CUWBC, by Sophie Hill who became spare cox and Emily Longmore who deserves enormous congratulations for stroking Blondie to victory in the Henley Races this year.

May Term 2000

After highly successful Michaelmas and Lent Terms, the May Term became fraught with unexpected difficulties. Hampered by injury, and

unavoidable work commitments and travel plans, we were not able to put together an VIII for York, and the water was considered too dangerous for a IV. The impact of this was clearly felt at the beginning of term where we had fewer people trialling than usual. Added to this was an atmosphere of 'academic work panic', and rumours about the possibility of an organised 'Ladies boat' option caused ongoing problems and controversy throughout the term.

Despite this, the crews, once settled, worked hard and spiritedly in true Maggie style. The 1st VIII, which might otherwise be called 'welcome to stroke-side', lacked sheer bulk in the crew as well as stroke-siders and also suffered from necessary subs throughout the term. However, armed with Karen Hartshorn's killer land training plan and a brand new Janousek, we determinedly prepared ourselves for what was to be a difficult challenge. From our position 5th on the river in front of a very fast Jesus crew, we flew off the start with Roger's new 'super-start' but flagged a little in the Gut and were unfortunately bumped at Ditton. Spirit and commitment, however, combined to produce a strong row-over the next day with Jesus bumping out ahead of us in the later stages of the race and Trinity Hall some distance behind us. Stepping up a gear each day, we had a storming row on the Friday coming within a length of a gritty Pembroke crew who simply refused to be caught by another crew and we rowed-over again. All set for another attempt on the last day, we were unluckily surprised by a Clare crew on their way up and, not helped by the fact that the cox was completely inaudible due to the crowds, we were unable to hold them off and they caught us coming out of Ditton.

The 2nd VIII did not have the experience or preparation of last year's crew and yet they fought an admirable battle during the bumps, showing exemplary determination and commitment. Starting 14th in the second division, they held their place in a hard row-over on the first day. On the Thursday they could do nothing to avoid a very quick Wolfson 1st VIII but this was followed by two more difficult row-overs on Friday and Saturday. Rowing over is fast-becoming the fate of the 2nd May VIII and wry smiles from anyone who has ever rowed-over meet one of the Lower Boats Captain's Hall-Craggs-esque comments: 'Rowing-over is never easy but it is an honour.'

The 3rd VIII was undoubtedly and unfortunately rather a 'stacked' VIII, containing crew members who would have made a positive difference to the 2nd and even the 1st VIII. Nevertheless, they showed abounding crew spirit, and while all four bumps came relatively easily, they did well to achieve the 3rd Boat Headship and showed tremendous improvement during their few outings before the bumps.

The Red Girls formed an eclectic VIII, largely composed of novices and they enjoyed their outings but when it came to the getting-on race, the wind (and the water!) proved too great an obstacle and despite a hard row, they did not manage to win a place in the bumps.

1st May VIII		2nd May VIII	
Bow	Frankie Whitelaw	Bow	Amy Winter
2	Nathalie Walker	2	Margaret Haworth
3	Eleanor Boag	3	Sophie Lunn-Rockcliffe
4	Sarah Langslow	4	Felicity Shaw
5	Mel Bolton	5	Jo Barnsley
6	Jo Griffiths	6	Nadia Godin
7	Karen Hartshorn	7	Uli Forster
Stroke	Emily Longmore	Stroke	Katie Hughes
Cox	Sophie Hill	Cox	Rebecca Thornton

It only remains for me to express my sincerest thanks to the OJHF for their ongoing financial support; to Cath Twilley and Roger Silk for their unfailing help and advice throughout the year and likewise to my fellow officers - Nina Champion (Vice-Captain) and Nathalie Walker (Lower Boats Captain) - and good luck to next year's officers: Karen Hartshorn (Captain), Amy Winter (Women's Vice-Captain) and Felicity Shaw and Margaret Haworth (Women's Lower Boats Captains).

Vive Laeta . . .

**Frankie Whitelaw
Women's Captain**

Netball

This year was a good one for netball in John's. A large intake of first years with interest in playing meant that for the first time in years we were able to enter a second team. The first team had a slow start in match winning which soon recovered and we have finished in the middle of the First Division far from any relegation dangers! Cuppers was a big success. At the start of the day we were just hoping to get through the morning round robin and into the afternoon knockout matches. This we did and then faced a couple of tough matches, one against Downing that we really had to fight for. Happily we made it through to the semi-final where in a surprise defeat we were knocked out by Magdalene! The day was enjoyable none the less. Well done to a great team. Colours go to Lucy Sheard, Louisa Wood, Natasha Nair, Kathryn Wright, Kate Whittaker, Catrina Murray, Jennie Rooney, Emma Wallington, Nicola Daybell and Sarah Hull.

The second team had resounding success largely related to the fact that when entering a new team they have to start in the Fifth Division! A Second Team Captain, Katie Lambert, was appointed and all but one of the matches played was won, the other being drawn. Hopefully next year we will win the Fourth Division in similar style.

I hope that the netball team does as well next season as this. Next year maybe Cuppers and the League will be ours!

**Sarah Hull
Captain**

Gentlemen's Rugger

Good things don't last forever. This harsh reality hit us hard as it turned out to be the season that St John's College allowed an impostor to engrave their name on the league trophy. One never likes to make excuses, but the frustration was clear to see as many commented on the fact that we had an extremely useful side on the touchline due to injury.

The season promised much: the core of St John's College rugby for the past two years were coming in to their third year with two League trophies and two Cuppers finals to their names and the worrying holes in key positions left by Sion Jones and Jamie Goldberg seemed to be filled naturally by the born front row, Iain de Weymarn, and any number of contenders for the fly half role. However, it was the versatility and strength in depth that the likes of Luke Kevan, James Inch and Mike Rennoldson provided that we were really to miss. Having said this, the intensive pre-season training on Jesus Green highlighted Ben Poynter's considerable flair for a second row and the fact that the Admissions Tutor had again made some positional errors in that we had a fifth quality scrum half in Pete Jenkins and a fourth sizeable and skilful centre in John Lacy. Dan Cooney, Mark Allan, Richard Mole and Jeremiah Smith added their considerable talents to the pack.

The first game of the season had been hyped up as the League decider, but this was not to be as we had to pull out all the strings to gain a replay, after we could not field a team due to injuries sustained in a pre-season LX's Club fixture. The following week's traditional walk-over from Christ's gave our injured players some breathing space before opening our account with a convincing win over Peterhouse, in which Jim Scott showed a great change of direction which continued throughout the season both on and off the field. Trinity should never have posed us any problems, but an inexperienced pack were outplayed in the second half, where we showed a worrying tendency to slacken off when in control to allow them to win 8-5 from 5-0 down with 5 minutes to play. Fortunately Catz were not so lucky, but again our imprudent generosity showed and it was to be our downfall against Jesus. The best side we managed to put out all season squandered a ten point lead to go down 32-22, after Jesus scored a charged down try. With the season of goodwill approaching, our generosity befell us and, having earned a hard-fought victory away to Downing with a last-minute Lomax penalty, the players who don't usually score were rewarded with early Christmas presents away at Christ's.

The Lent Term promised the return of many of the injured and the chance to concentrate on a Cuppers campaign. However, after conclusive victories against Pembroke and Trinity, in which Andy

Jenkins showed his flair and versatility and the team put together some more traditionally Johnian Rugby, we were to be dashed again in a scrappy encounter with Catz in which we lost both present and former Captains to injuries that were to put them out of action for the rest of the season. This was not the ideal build-up to our home game against Jesus, and having lost Theos and Lacy in the first ten minutes, the latter with a dislocated shoulder, it became clear that this was not to be our year. It was only the heroic team commitment that kept the scoreline to 17-0 against a far superior pack. This left us having to accept second place having not played the three remaining games for fear of more injury before Cuppers.

Our first round warm up against Corpus became a game of unopposed as they could not field a team, and this, and a slight error in the seeding, left us with a quarter final showdown against Jesus. The return of a number of players and the unrivalled commitment of every man from one to fifteen was not enough to halt a Jesus side bolstered by Blues backrow. It was an heroic performance and one of which every player could be proud, but this did not stop the frustration of thinking how different it could have been. Thus it turned to the annual sevens tournament for our only chance of silverware. It was clear that this tournament suited our depleted squad more as we wiped the floor of all undergraduate opposition. But once again it was a St Edmunds team of dubious eligibility that denied us in the game of the tournament.

The season culminated in usual style, and our celebrations were not thwarted by disappointment as Nottingham and Bristol were more than generous hosts to the Red Boy invasion. Unfortunately our commitment from the end of term seemed spent as we faced a slightly over exuberant Nottingham Law School side, but this was undoubtedly made up for on the dance floor of the event that evening. As usual our rigorous pre-match preparation for the game against the Bristol Bandits proved our undoing as the players seemed exhausted by the time they reached the pitch. However a notable performance was recorded and did not prevent us from enjoying all the other wonderful utopian experiences Bristol has to offer. Thus fully cleansed we made our way home.

I would like to thank everyone from the squad for their commitment in what were not always perfect circumstances. Many demonstrated their

ability by being able to excel when required to play out of their normal positions and others showed great commitment by being able to perform day, in day out for both College and the U21s. The difficulty of both is highly underestimated. I would also like to thank those without whom none of this could have been achieved: Tom Blathwayt, as Vice-Captain, lead from the front with unrivalled determination; James Butler, as Secretary, organised everything with great efficiency; Keith and his team of groundstaff produced excellent pitches and were always there to give us a helping hand when we needed it; and Booz. Allen & Hamilton for their continuing sponsorship of the men's and women's teams. I would like to make a special mention of Stan Moorhouse who still, after ten years supporting the Red Boys, never fails to miss a game, and is always there to help when we need him most.

Tom Williams
Captain

John Lacy represented the LX Club against Oxford.
 Matt Hall, Tom Williams, Pete Jenkins, Mike Mayes, Tom Blathwayt and Jim Scott played in the U21 Varsity Match.

Women's Rugby

As Captain of the only unbeaten side in the League and with Nancy Priston as Captain of our successful 2nd Team, the aim was obviously to continue the Johnian domination of the women's rugby in Cambridge into the next millennium. However, having lost 5 first team members from last year, all of whom had played for the University, the challenge was always going to be tough.

The start of the year proved to be promising as after a successful recruiting campaign we had enough talented new members for both teams, many of whom were converted football and hockey players. However then disaster struck as injuries plagued us early on and throughout the season. Having lost 5 players, including the second team captain whilst playing for the Blues in her one, and as it resulted, only match for them, it was always a struggle to put out a full second team. Despite one win and many brave performances, with only 5 players on

one occasion, we had to make the tough decision to dissolve the 2nd team after the first term. My thanks and commiseration go to the team: Charissa Gooch, Kate Whittaker, Amanda Fuller, Jenny Rooney, Linda Hewitt and Eleanor Boag (the super-sub). Above all thanks must go to Nancy, whose dedication and enthusiasm kept the team going for as long as possible. Not only has she become one of the few Johnian sports captains unable to play in a College match all season, but maybe the only one who didn't have a team either!

This year we again had a strong first team, consisting of many experienced players. We welcomed Andrea Bull and her golden boot back from travels abroad, who not only converted all our tries this season, but also scored many sensational ones as well. Jenny Allan, who provided valuable experience and control of the game at fly-half and whose flair 'double-dummy' against Emmanuel, will go down in Red Girls' history. Special mention must also go to Tash Nair who became our most versatile player, invaluable in both the backs and forwards and to Clare Gaskell, who became the only Red Girl this year to play for the Blues team in the Varsity match. We also discovered new talent in Rachel Isherwood and Anuska Asthana, both of whom played for the first team throughout the season, and whose determination and aggression was inspirational to us all. Kate Whittaker and Amanda Fuller also became successful members of the team later in on in the season.

The season went well from the start with large victories over Emma, Christ's and Newnham, but as the season progressed we faced increasingly tough opposition in the form of Queens' and Jesus. Queens' were new to the first division and were not only taking it by storm but also took us by surprise. After being 0-0 at half time we pulled out all the stops and the final score was 21-0 in our favour. Jesus, however, were the team to beat right from the start, and having only beaten them narrowly last year, they were out for revenge. We rose to the occasion and despite neither team putting out their strongest side we managed to hold our own and win 21-0. A special mention must go to Jenny Rooney's try when she out-paced the opposition by running virtually the whole length of the pitch to score our second try.

Having won the League resoundingly, Cuppers was the next challenge. Our opening match against Christ's was said by many to be the match

of the season, showing the flair and talent we had been promising all season. This set the precedent for our following victories on our way to the final, which was unsurprisingly against Jesus. By half time we were 12 points down, a serious shock having never been in a losing position before. However in the second half, with unrivalled determination and pride we came to within 3 points and on the final whistle were denied victory when held up less than a metre short by a stretched Jesus defence. The nail-biting end to the season, whilst not being the victory we would have hoped for, provided the overwhelming proof that across the University, women's rugby is more hotly contested as it gains more respect, and in future the Red Girls will have to continue to raise their game in order to maintain their dominance.

Special mention must go to Rich Samworth, the most dedicated coach, and Matt Hall, who proved to be the best referee in the League (biased opinion). Their time, patience and perseverance made us what we are. I'd also like to thank Keith and his groundsmen for keeping the pitches in top condition throughout the season, and making space this year for a sports plaque in the pavilion to commemorate the girls' sporting success. Finally thanks must go to other members of College who have supported us throughout the year: in every single match we've outdone the opposition in both noise and number.

I feel very proud to have been the Captain of the Red Girls, one of the most successful Johnian sports teams, in a year which, despite its low points, has had many more high points and we still remain the unbeaten champions of the League. I'd like to wish Kate Whittaker, as Captain, and Anushka Asthana, as Vice-Captain, all the best in the forthcoming year.

Christine Worth
Captain

Swimming

Since my arrival in 1996, little, in fact nothing, has been written about St John's annual summer excursion to the Cuppers Swimming Gala. I therefore believe I owe it to those who have competed so honourably that our successes are put down on record.

Over the years the faces may have changed, but the Men's Team just keeps on winning – achieving numerous individual, relay and overall titles along the way. Noticeable individual performances have come from Rob Ranson, Andy Bloxam and Rachel Compton. Furthermore, before joining the Blues, I was able to set a number of records.

Whilst other Cuppers titles have been won and nearly missed, St. John's has defended the only event which really matters, the Men's Freestyle Relay, with ruthless pride. Many colleges have tried in vain to gain the title of 'The college with the quickest men in Cambridge', some loading their teams with university swimmers, but ultimately this has only led to disappointment. For each year the same questions are asked: 'Can we break our own record?' and 'How many of our competitors will we lap?'. Also our tactics have remained the same: swim the quickest men first and let the competition swim through our waves. The role of honour includes Jeremy Ip, Rob Ranson, Andy Bloxam, myself, Mark Chiu, Mark Ellis and our ever dependable anchor man Alex Starling, who has become accustomed to having at least a lengths head start on his nearest competition. Captain Mark Chiu knows he will have to play the summer transfer market wisely if he is to continue our success.

Stephen Coulthard

Tennis Club

"What happened to John's? You always used to be at the top of the First Division. We never had a chance against you!" As has so often been observed by our opponents this season, tennis at John's is experiencing a lean spell. Enthusiasm around College and accounts by numerous Johnians of their past tennis glories have failed to produce anything more than a mediocre team. Yet, despite the shortage of players and absence of raw ability, those who did participate were dedicated, eager and determined.

The season began with two long-established friendlies against UCS 'Old Boys' and the Bar Lawn Tennis Society. Having retained none of last year's team, it took quite a while for us to work out who in fact UCS 'Old

Boys' were, and why we were due to play them. Unfortunately, it did not take them long to dispatch us with relative ease, capitalising on the fact that half the John's team were hungover from the previous night's Ent. It was rather embarrassing for a student team to lose to both the UCS team and a week later to the Bar, considering that both teams barely possessed a player born this side of the war between them. Perhaps we became complacent when the Bar's Captain greeted us with the news that this was his 51st appearance in the fixture. Despite such defeats, we were not too proud to join both sets of old boys in celebrating the completion of the fixture in the usual way, namely down the pub.

Reassured by the knowledge that friendlies count for nothing, we were foolishly optimistic when our League fixtures got underway. Early losses to Queens' and Robinson, due mainly to the temporary absence of our already fragile squad, many of whom failed even to find the Queens' courts, were not allowed to dampen our promising progress in Cuppers, in which we advanced to the second round, by virtue of a bye. Obviously, news of John's tennis' decline had not reached the Cuppers Seeding Committee. As night follows day, and 0-6 followed 0-6, we promptly lost our second round tie against Pembroke.

Just as the prospect of life in the 3rd division was appearing on the horizon, our season changed. We stopped losing. It might take the shine off this transformation if I reveal the reason – we actually stopped playing. Yes, for ten days, due to two postponements, John's Men's Tennis Team was undefeated. This new feeling, not enjoyed since the Easter holidays for the dozen or so who formed the core of the squad, was an experience which we grew to like and a couple more tactical postponements were made. With this period of reflection under our belts and a few new acquisitions to strengthen the team, a couple of players from the footie team, a croquet player and the squash captain, John's prepared to take on Darwin. The fixture was played in appalling conditions, having had five days of pure sunshine, a promising Thursday morning was replaced by a torrential downpour almost in tandem with the two teams hitting the courts. Was another postponement on the cards? Would our undefeated streak continue? Our over-aged opponents were not keen to play and proceeded to recite chapter and verse out of some

imaginary rule book in a desperate attempt to call the match off. Having made the trek to the back of college, the John's team were keen to play and were not prepared to let their opponents' killjoy attitude stand in their way. Confronted by both the elements and some quite disgraceful line-calling from Darwin, somewhat remarkably, John's overcame both to notch up their first victory of the season. The players' commitment was typified by American hero Ryan Lindberg, whose Connors-esque dogged performance clinched the result in the final singles match. It is hoped that the team can build on this momentum with numerous successes in the rearranged fixtures and earn a place among the dizzy heights of mid-table security.

Colours are awarded to Andrew Mold, Andrew Nutter, Owen Oliver, Sudhakar George, Mike Thompson, David Atkin and Ryan Lindberg. Thanks must go to the groundsman, Keith Ellis, for his continuous supply of second-rate balls.

Andrew Mold
Captain

Water Polo

After two years of rampant victory in the lower divisions, the Water Polo League finally saw an unbeaten St John's side come crashing into the First Division this year, ready to flex its new – tried, but as yet untested – muscles. The squad was little changed since its effective revival at the bottom of the Third Division two years previously, and was becoming a confident, coherent and increasingly skilful side. It hadn't lost in two years.

It was unfortunate, then, that the Addenbrookes' club side happened to be offering a masterclass in exactly that. It was a spectacular defeat – we scored roughly no goals for every seventeen of theirs – and our team was still slightly in shock by the time we played Trinity Hall a week later. Still, Trinity Hall is not known for its sporting prowess, and we were reasonably confident of victory even though we were playing with a depleted side

that week. But they had a secret – light blue – weapon, and we were beaten by one goal. It was a dark time indeed for St John's Water Polo.

Fortunately, this early upset proved to be exactly that – and we soon reasserted our dominance with solid victories against Churchill, Christ's and St Catharine's, applying the tactics which had worked so well in previous years. Our defence was tight and aggressive, simultaneously closing in on every player in the pool, and few teams had the necessary depth of skill to pass coherently under this pressure. Any 'secret weapons' were comfortably shut out of the game entirely by swimming hard man, Steve Coulthard, and stray shots were easily handled by the John's Keeper, Alex Starling. A tough and reliable season from Adam Johnson reinforced a solid defence, and the game was dominated almost entirely by fast and stylish St John's counter-attacks.

We had our own secret weapon here – Timo Nurminen, ex-Swedish police, Hughes Hall import. With his fast and sharp breaks, Timo spear-headed our attacks and with frequent flair and support from next year's captain – 'Nigel' Smythe, a crowd pleaser both in and out of the pool – we reaped.

But undoubtedly, this team's great strength has been its lack of a weakness. All of this season's players have been powerful, fast and disciplined, and in the end, it was simply lack of size which limited our progress in such a physical sport. We drew 8-8 after a memorable match against a violent Leys under-19 side, and finished fourth in the League after a narrow defeat by Caius' powerful, quadruple Half-Blue side. Addenbrookes won for roughly the seventh year in a row. We were the second-highest placed College side.

In the past three years, St. John's has risen from the bottom of the League to finish near the top of the First Division. Its players comprise nearly half of the University Barracudas – the Men's 2nd team – and it has been an honour to Captain this side. I wish Jonathan Smythe the very best of luck next year, as Captain of both St John's and the Barracudas. And this time, he may wish to be a little more careful on tour, I suspect . . .

Rob Starling
Captain

COLLEGE SPORTS

Men's Badminton Club

We won Cuppers. We beat Trinity (twice). Both the Second and Third Teams won promotion from their divisions (twice). So did the Women. Quietly, and without the self-congratulatory fervour afforded to some other teams, St John's established itself this year as the pre-eminent Badminton Club in Cambridge.

A combination of the undeniable skill of our Blues players, Mike Thompson and Hiroyuki Kuribayashi, the commitment of our Second and Third Team Captains, Joerg Lepler and Paul Brione, and the boundless enthusiasm of our Club Secretary Iain Dunlop laid the foundations for such an unprecedented all-round success.

Success, not only in winning, but being as open as possible to anyone in College wishing to play badminton. The year began with a more active approach to recruitment of male players (not in small part due to the insistence of our much-loved Women's Captain Vicky Downes!) which led to a massive increase in our player base. This gave the opportunity to create up to four steady teams, although court space forced a limitation to three male teams only. Hopefully though, with the Club having obtained funding for courts in Kelsey Kerridge for the first time, we will be able to establish a Club night not only for those in teams but also anyone else who wants to play. In addition, the Secretary organised a mixed-doubles tournament in the Easter Term that was enjoyed by all and it is hoped that it will continue to be a great success.

1st Team focus was kept razor sharp throughout the year thanks to our 'MVP' Barry Dent's diplomatically relaxed, yet unrelenting, demand that players attend practice sessions. The arrival of several great fresher players also gave us an added edge. Baoqiang Xiao and Thomas Treibel were constants of the First Team, Rajeev Matthews and James Lee gave us the depth we needed at the end of the season while the remarkable new Fellow, Jin Yun, gave the team an added dimension. Jin, discovered almost by chance, deserves a special commendation for postponing his prestigious move to Harvard by two weeks in order to play in Cuppers. The College Council quite rightly agreed that this was a most adequate

excuse and wished him luck in the tournament. Jin intends to fly back in time for next year's final.

Losing in the final of Cuppers last year to Trinity was disappointing but having defeated them in the League the team was looking confidently to a rematch. While the Cuppers preliminary was more awkward than it should have been with the unfortunate temporary loss of key players Barry and Mike, Cuppers on the day went to plan as the quality of our Blues players came through. After taking out Darwin, Corpus and Pembroke we faced Trinity once again in the final. Trinity, who have dominated Cuppers in recent years, went home without the cup. Johnians are, of course, ever gracious in victory and we thanked them kindly for turning up.

The Second Team was particularly strong this year and was limited only by the inferior standard of the teams in their divisions. Particular mention goes to mainstays Chris Griffiths and Dan Wood. The Third Team also climbed rapidly (if not without incident!) up the ranks this year thanks to the likes of Paul and Boon Teh's continued efforts.

Many, many thanks to our regular supporters who created such a great atmosphere at our home games (you know who you are!) and a big shout out to the '10pm onwards' players! Good luck to our Third Team Captain, Boon Teh, for next year: enjoy it as much as I did!

Stephen Moran
Captain

Women's Badminton Club

Whilst badminton has always been a popular sport with the males of St Johns, it has sometimes been a little more tricky to persuade the fairer sex onto the courts! This year however has seen a huge growth of interest with over 30 women signing up at the Freshers' Fair, encouraged by the presence of our Men's Captain!

After a struggle last year to put together one team, it was great to be able to set up a B team and get more people involved. However, with two women's teams and three men's teams, court time in the Fisher Building

was in great demand. Luckily we were able to persuade College to offer us the funds to book a weekly practice session in Kelsey Kerridge which has proved a great success. The regular attendees have really benefited from shot and game practice under the knowledgeable eye of Iain Dunlop.

Thus with a couple of new and impressive players and several old stalwarts, we set forth to show the other Colleges what John's women were truly capable of.

The Michaelmas Term saw success for both our A and B teams in the League. The A team started the season in the lowly fourth division, but we soon put that right, winning all of our games, thus beginning the Lent Term in the third division. Our newly created second team, under the capable leadership of Laura Trelford also managed to move up from the bottom division.

After the success of the first term we knew that our matches would get harder, but both teams lived up to the challenge. The A team successfully dispatched Churchill, Kings, Caius, Selwyn and Fitzwilliam, finishing top of the third division and thus gaining promotion into the second division. The B team defeated St Catharine's, Trinity and Downing B teams and Trinity Hall's A team, scraping up to the third division.

Our second challenge for the Lent Term was Cuppers. Having been knocked out in the first round last year, and with no Blues players, we weren't too optimistic, and decided to increase our chances by visiting the Valentines ent the night before! This resulted in much team bonding, but also a few sore heads! Despite this, and much to our surprise, we managed to beat Wolfson in the first round, going on to defeat Magdalene in the quarter-finals. In the semi-finals we were up against Trinity. There was some inspired play from all involved but unfortunately we narrowly lost, the deciding game going to 17-14.

Overall it was a very successful season, and thanks to our Social Secretary, Jo Barnsley, we had a few interesting nights out! We also organised our first ever badminton photo which was hugely popular. I would like to thank all of the team members for making it such an enjoyable and rewarding year and wish the best of luck to Amy Gillham

and Rachel Williams who will be taking the reins next year and leading us on to even greater heights.

Victoria Downes
Captain

The Basketball Club

Coming into a new season as unbeaten defending champions is not quite as attractive as it sounds... As 'the team to beat', every opposition came out in full force, determined to get a piece of the champs. On our side, we had lost 3 key players (due to graduation), and found ourselves lacking options on the offensive end of the court. Our defence however, was still tough as ever, and that carried us through the first half of the season.

Our first opponent was in fact Caius, who had finished second last year, and an impressive 62-37 set us off to a great start. Life got harder after that, as seemingly easy games against Hughes Hall and Corpus Christi were only wrapped up in the dying minutes. The Michaelmas Term ended with us leading the League, 4 wins in 4 games, after a comfortable 20-point victory against Darwin. Despite occasional offensive difficulties, our half-court press left the opposition struggling to get the ball to an open man. With solid rebounding throughout from 'Little' George Petridis, and impressive man-to-man defence from Will Critchlow, shutting down their main scorer every time, we went into the Lent Term feeling confidently on track to repeat our success.

At that point, there were 3 contenders for the title: Trinity, Emmanuel and ourselves. The first game of the Lent Term was undoubtedly the most memorable one of the whole season...against Emma. We went into the game very aggressively, playing strong defence, and connecting on the other end. Soon, we had a comfortable 6-8 point lead. By halfway through the second half however, Emmanuel had levelled the score. With 2 seconds remaining, and the score level, they had two free-throws. They missed the first, but the second was on target . . . We were down one, facing our first defeat in the League in over two years. I picked the ball up, and thought: 'Damn. Now what? 2 seconds???' Mike Banach managed to get himself free just past the half-way line, and I

threw him the ball. Still, he was about 9 metres from the basket, no time left. It didn't look good. Mike obviously thought otherwise. Catch. Turn. Jump. Release. Swish. John's win by 2. I can still remember the look on the opponents' faces . . .

Unfortunately, things didn't go quite as planned, and a loss the following weekend to Trinity, who undoubtedly fielded the best squad this year, left us in second place. Morale dipped quite low after that, and our performance went down with it. As a result, we only narrowly beat Trinity Hall, and suffered another defeat at the hands of Queens'.

Losing to Queens' did work in our favour however, as the team came together and we suddenly realised that not only were we not the best team around, but that we could also be knocked off the second spot! We became more focused and took a more aggressive approach to the following games, beating both Wolfson and Jesus to finish the season in second place, laying solid foundations for a good run in Cuppers.

Overall, interest in basketball seems to be on the rise, with John's being the only College to enter two teams for Cuppers this year. Cuppers starts in a week from the time of writing, and we are looking to go all the way this time.

As with every season, the team members voted for outstanding performances, and they are as follows: The season's Most Valuable Player award goes to Zenon Severis, Best Defender to Will Critchlow and Most Improved Player goes jointly to Andy Nutter and George Petridis. On the whole, the season was characterised by its many ups and downs, by the determination which has grasped us all after losing to Trinity, (and Queens') and by the large number of people attending practice. Many thanks to all those who hung in there when it got rough, and on behalf of everyone on the basketball team, I'd like to wish the best of luck to two invaluable assets to the team, Jaime Royo-Olid and Andy Nutter, who, having played for the team for three years, are now graduating and moving on to pastures new . . .

Zenon Severis
Captain

The Chess Club

Eight Johnians set out this year to defend the honour of St John's on the chess board. A rather small team it was! However, those who thought that we could not stand up to the other Colleges in the Inter-College League and Cuppers tournaments, that Trinity with its four teams would turn us over, know little about the subtle sport of chess.

Expectations were high at the start of the season, since the team which had won both the League and Cuppers for John's the year before re-entered the ring virtually unchanged. Our confidence rose after a crashing 4:5 - 0:5 victory over our neighbours from Magdalene in the first match of the year. Already in the second round, however, we ran into difficulties against Queens', as our top player, Harriet Hunt, played for the British women's team on the Olympiad in Istanbul. You will appreciate the loss this meant to us when I tell you that, over the whole season, Harriet won every single match she played - eleven in total, on board one! Thanks to Nick Harmer, who helped us out with a convincing victory on board three, we managed to save a 2:5 - 2:5 in this tight battle.

Already in round three, we met Trinity. They had been our opponents in the last match of the previous season, and we had only just managed to beat them in the Cuppers final. With Harriet back on board one, a solid 3:5 - 1:5 victory over our arch-rival set us on a winning streak which none of the other College teams was able to break. City II came closest, at the beginning of the Lent Term, when Tim Paulden on board four fell victim to the clock in a better position and Chris Bell, our faithful board five, lost his only game in nine matches. However, on top of Harriet's quick win, Konrad Scheffler on board three (10.5/13) and Andreas Domnick on two (8.5/13) both demonstrated the power of two bishops very convincingly, in remarkably similar end games, and secured victory.

So the League went very well! We kept sailing away from the other teams, and won uncontested. The Cuppers tournament, which is a knock-out competition, naturally caused more concern, as any mistake there can be fatal! Additionally, Chris Bell was not allowed to play, depriving the team of one of its pillars. Luckily, Ezzeri Esa and David Thompson were able to help out. Magdalene, Girton and King's were beaten without great difficulty. In the final against Peterhouse, things went like in a dream - just a pity that lack of concentration in the end

phase lead to a draw in my game, preventing the first 5 - 0 success of the team . . .

On the whole, the year has been not only a very successful one, but also a very pleasant one, and my captaincy was made easy by the commitment of all the players. Hopefully the success of the last two years will attract more Johnians to this old and beautiful game, so that we can claim titles not only in the first division and Cuppers, but also in the lower Leagues – and, most importantly, that all those who love the game get a chance to play from time to time!

Andreas Domnick
Captain

The Cricket Club

Hopes were high at the start of this season. The majority of the team from 2000 were still around, and several promising players were emerging in the nets. There was even talk of us having a decent chance of winning Cuppers. Unfortunately however, this was not to be. The 2001 summer has been one of good bowling and indifferent batting, with a mixed set of results to accompany this.

The backbone of our batting was again stripped before the season had started as it became clear that Vikram Kumar, our best first year, would become a regular member of the Blues team. Other people have batted extremely well throughout the season, but the performances have been somewhat inconsistent, ranging from a dismal 75 against the Jesters to a much more impressive 234-7 against a strong Bill Boyes XI. Pablo Mukherjee has been perhaps the most effective batsman, with 77 against Bill Boyes, and 84* in our first round destruction of Fitz in Cuppers. With his easy going and extremely committed attitude he will be sorely missed next season, as he takes a long journey north to further his cricketing (and teaching) career.

Olly Wright has been the find of this season. Having hidden last season with a broken hand, he has emerged to show himself to be an extremely

useful all-rounder, scoring 73 against West Norfolk and taking 4-16 against Gents of Suffolk. I am sure he will develop even further next season, as long as he sees the error of his ways and realises that the cricket pitch is a far better place to spend a summer's evening than the chapel. Tom Williams finally scored his first fifty for College this season, and bowled some slow out-swing with surprising success. His wickets in the second round of Cuppers helped us restrict Pembroke to only 95, before our batting showed its usual resilience as we collapsed to 90 all out. We were a touch unlucky, with the last wicket falling to a freak catch, but the game should have been won a long time before that.

Tom Thompson also scored an invaluable fifty this season, along with bowling his medium paced off-spin very tidily. Graeme Coates continued in his usual vein, looking extremely impressive until reaching 15, and then getting out. Tim Hall, one of our trio of quality wicketkeepers, looked immediately at home in the openers slot, although again failed to ever go on to a big score. Pete Jones, Jack Russell and Rick Symington also chipped in when needed.

This year we have been overwhelmed by the amount of 'keeping' talent available. For the majority of the season Cam Grey has been bubbling away behind the stumps, 'keeping' extremely tidily, and always being there to offer numerous words of encouragement. His batting has rescued us from embarrassment on at least one occasion, and he will be missed when he moves to the US next year. However, we are lucky to have a couple of first years waiting in the wings. Both Tim Hall and Rob Hewitt have shown themselves to be more than competent on the few occasions they have had a chance to strut their stuff.

The bowling has been extremely good this year. Neil Lomax has again bowled fast and straight, causing a large amount of discomfort among opposition batsmen. They will be a lot happier to see him leave than we will. At the other end, Barry Dent, when not busy with revision and playing for the Crusaders, has bowled very intelligently, and has gained a couple of yards pace on last year. When this pair was bowling together, the attack looked formidable indeed. They were backed up admirably by Simon Adelman, who thundered in with real venom, and

caused problems for some very good batsmen. Against Stoics he had their opener, a very good bat, dropped in consecutive balls in the slips, so decided to finish the job by himself and trapped him lbw with the third ball. The rest of the match unfortunately did not go so well, with Stoics reaching 251-8, and then dismissing us for 107.

Ed Kinsella has also bowled well at times, taking three wickets against Fitz. Andy Wildsmith has settled into the side with his solid medium pacers. Those of you following Chris Rice's rise in John's cricket will be pleased to learn that he has still been wearing those magic black trainers. While his footwear has remained unchanged, his bowling has not, and he is now bowling much flatter and has managed to cut out a few of those familiar wides and long-hops, and he is fast becoming a stalwart of the John's bowling attack.

Finally, Ben Cocker has been showing his commitment to College Cricket, taking the field against Bill Boyes XI hours after returning from his cycling trip across Africa. However even his skills were not enough to win the match, although in what was easily our best performance of the season we were desperately unlucky, with rain in the last half hour leaving us needing only one wicket for victory at the end – a great team performance against a side who have comfortably beaten the College in the last two years.

Congratulations go to Tom Thompson and Tim Hall, who take up the positions of Captain and Secretary. Thanks to Simon Adelman for the excellent job he has done in captaining the 2nd XI in a very successful season. Also, thanks to Keith Ellis, the Head Groundsman, who has battled against some dreadful weather at the start of the season to provide his usual quality pitches, and to his wife Catherine who, as always, has provided us with some of the best lunches and teas in Cambridge.

Mark Bartholomew
Captain

The Eagles

2001 has seen the Eagles reach their 125th year and coincides with a membership that may be more diverse than ever. The Club continues to represent not only the best performers within the college teams but also encompasses Blues in sports as varied as golf, cross-country, rugby, football, tennis, basketball and rowing.

On the rugby field of St John's the experience of Eagles Hall, Williams, Bartholomew, GY Grant-Peterkin and Lomax supplemented the exuberance of a youthful side. However, they could not prevent Captain Eagle Mayes' side sliding to second in the League and the semis of Cuppers. Eagle Lomax won his Blue and we understand Eagle Jenkins represented a Bracknell invitational XV.

Eagle Slymington ably captained the Hockey Club and managed to snatch survival from the jaws of relegation. A highlight on an otherwise disappointing campaign was a 4-0 home victory on the Captain's birthday during which Eagles Williams and Angliss played key roles. Eagles Symington and Angliss switched roles for the University Wanderers Club where Eagle Angliss captained the squad to a Varsity Match victory. Eagle Critchlow also dabbled for the college teams and Eagle Jenkins jibbed.

Captain Eagle Horsley was the sizeable foundation on which a talented football side was based. His ability to play himself was notable along with his commitment to meticulous preparation including his trade mark dietary recommendations. Those to benefit included the three Blues Eagles Dimmock, Harding and Hall, top scorer Eagle Gower as well as Eagles Sharma, Brown, Starling and Mayes. Eagle Harding contributed a goal in the victorious Varsity Match whilst Eagle Dimmock was the Blues man of the season.

The all singing all dancing Eagle Grey was a key member of Captain Eagle Bartholomew's cricket XI. His passion for cricket is only matched by his admiration for 80s pop icons and his enthusiasm was always appreciated. Eagle Bartholomew, at the time of writing, was amongst the runs helping the team ease their way through Cuppers first round.

Eagle Edwards-Moss overcame the health worries of last year to gain his inevitable winning Blue in the Boat Race. Eagle Leake captained the Boat

Club and with the aid of Eagle C Bell carried on Lady Margaret's excellent form of recent years. However, rumour is that Eagle Leake is considering a transfer to the prestigious Lady Somerset in a coaching capacity.

Eagle M Bell was awarded his first Blue for golf and was grateful to the old guiding hand of Eagle Messman who gained his third Blue. Eagle Rajagopalan continues to excel on the tennis court and captained this year's Blues squad whilst Eagle Critchlow participated in the Basketball Varsity Match to win his first Full Blue. Eagle Green showed superhero qualities in winning a cross-country Blue in his first term of residence thus swelling the Blue Eagles in College well into double figures.

Eagle Williams and the enigma that is Eagle Jenkins were integral parts of the rugby league varsity team, both gaining Half Blues. Eagle Grant-Peterkin demonstrated that you cannot teach an old dog new tricks and therefore returned to The School's Fives court to win his second Half Blue. His pursuit of a Blue in cycling was cut short by the knockout blow of failing to negotiate Norwich's heavy traffic. We all wish him luck in his driving test.

I would finally like to welcome my successor, Eagle Tom Williams, to the post. I have every confidence that he will take the Club from strength to strength with his fun loving attitude and jovial demeanour.

Nunc Est Bibendum.

Michael Mayes
Big Bird

The Flamingoes

The number of undergraduates playing sports at St John's and the facilities available make John's a College known and feared by all others on any pitch and on the river. This year the sportswomen have yet again been successful at a high level and in many different sports.

The rugby Red Girls romped through the Leagues, winning the first division, second division and a Cuppers' winners match against the best team Oxford Colleges could manage. Susie Grant, Kate Whittaker, Camille Gatin and Emily Longmore all joined the University teams. Emily Longmore adding even more University sports to her achievement of rowing in Blondie last year as well as joining many

College teams including hockey. This year the Boat Club produced more Blondie Rowers with Nathalie Walker and Sarah Langslow enduring a gruelling trialling season, made even tougher by the weather, to win their seats in the boat. The canoeists have paddled through hell and high water (often the same thing) to prepare for BUSA in May and have high hopes of a medal there, good luck! The footballers are some of the best in the League, coming third or fourth this year. The hockey team narrowly missed promotion to the first division. The women's badminton squads have both been promoted two divisions and the squash squad has also moved up a division, with Theresa Biberauer continuing to play for the University. The netball team had two University players this year - Jenny Verdon and Sarah Samworth, with the first team narrowly missing promotion and the second team being promoted a division.

This year the Eagle and Flamingoes dinners have been as fun and riotous as always. The sumptuous dinner in the SCR was followed by a very generous offer from the Master to continue celebrations at the Lodge. This led to great distress as bats were swung and balls bounced around the panelled room. 'Dreadful' declared the Dean as he ducked. 'Must practice more than once a year' mused the Master. 'Perfectly permissible' pronounced Prof McCave as he moved the wicket. 'Lbw is legal? Now I really don't understand cricket' lamented Lady Margaret.

The age-old tradition of room cricket is making a comeback. The Dean has expressed an 'urgent need for an established Room Cricket Pitch. Knowledge of its principles is fading fast among junior members. Their almost universal ignorance, not to mention their over-stepping of the mark at every opportunity has left me seriously concerned.' (This last sentence will no doubt become his catchphrase!) The Old Music Room was promptly acquisitioned, an inconvenient piece of furniture ousted and the tradition lives on in full glory.

Cath Twilley has arranged some spectacularly successful sports dinners this year. The 175th Boat Club anniversary dinner saw almost three hundred boaties past and present attend. The General Athletic Club dinner was held after a sunny afternoon of matches, including an Old Girls' rugby match. The dinner was a chance to appreciate the history and obvious superiority of sport at John's - followed of course by room cricket on the new pitch. As a current undergraduate it is easy to forget,

and there is almost no evidence in everyday life, of how recently women came to John's. This is a testament to the support of College for women's sports and the talent and the determination of the students.

**Anna Turk
President**

Men's Football

Much was expected of the Football Club in the season 2000-01. With both the Hockey and Rugby Clubs in decline due to poor leadership, the sporting hopes of the College were pinned firmly at the feet of the men with the silky shorts and silky skills. Expectations rocketed following a flurry of transfer activity in the close season. In came Goalkeeper Rob Hewitt to replace the departed Bond and Centre Back Chris Weeks to compensate for the lack of city-bound Sanders. Then the cream was added to the cake. Midfielders Sion Lewis, Chris Lane and the returning Sunil Sharma came to add competition in midfield. Tim Jablonski came to give the rest of the squad something to laugh at. But all the talk was of the big money moves. Paul Dimmock was enticed from Australia and Tim Hall transported his mullet up the M11 from Barnet. Dave Harding travelled down from Birmingham in a car's glove compartment before completing his transfer from Aston Villa. Thus everything was in place. Strength throughout the Squad for an assault on the League, with a sprinkling of University Blues players to bolster the Cuppers Squad.

Early results did not match expectations. Despite taking the lead against St Catharine's (who would eventually run away with the title) we eventually went down 2-1. A poor 1-0 defeat to Jesus led to calls for the Manager's head. The troops rallied. Against Gonville and Caius in Cuppers the John's supporters were treated to their first glimpse of the big summer signings. They did not disappoint, as Tim Hall starred with two goals (one a spectacular overhead kick) in the 3-0 victory. With confidence growing, Pembroke were destroyed 6-1 in a result that sent shockwaves through the League. Owen Oliver orchestrated the result with a magnificent hat-trick, but was ably assisted by goals from Nick Gower, recovering alcoholic Jablonski, and a first for the Club from Dave Thompson. Michaelmas was then finished off with 4-1 and 2-1 victories over Darwin (in Cuppers) and Homerton respectively.

Lent mirrored Michaelmas. An early 3-2 defeat to Fitzwilliam put paid to any faint title hopes and enabled us to concentrate on our nemesis: Long Road. Three times in the previous four seasons the school children had ushered us to the Cuppers door. This time it looked as though it would be different as we took an early lead through Oliver. This proved to be a false dawn as, despite outstanding performances from Blues Dimmock and Harding, defensive lapses cost the team dear and a 3-1 defeat left us with only a relegation battle to play for. This battle was shortlived. A 1-0 defeat of Anglia Polytechnic University (Gower with the only goal) was followed by a satisfying 2-0 victory over neighbours from hell, Trinity. Girton were our last victims and were mocked in a 4-1 win. These results, along with a walkover against League-whipping boys, Robinson, saw us climb to a very respectable position of second in the League.

The Football Club has a lot to be positive about. It has a fine young Goalkeeper in Rob Hewitt, whose unwavering self-confidence in his own abilities as both a Keeper and a Centre Forward is his best asset. Hewitt is also a record breaker. No other player in the history of football has achieved such a long distance 'thanks for coming' award. Having travelled 12,000 miles to Bangkok on the University Football Tour, he played a total of 15 minutes in one match, conceding three goals. A remarkable achievement! The Club can also boast the most psychopathic player in Cambridge. Natsci Daniel Hobohm is considering a change in subject to Medicine because he has heard doctors are allowed to chop people's legs off and not be shown a yellow card. John's footballers will also breathe a sigh of belief in the unlikely event of Tim Jablonski proving to be as adept at passing exams as he is at passing a football. This ready-made team clown provides the rest of the squad with a fine example of how to score great goals . . . sorry, goals. In Player of the Season Sion Lewis S.J.C.A.F.C. has an easy target for Welsh jokes as well as an exciting prospect who will surely represent the University at a level higher than the Third Team he achieved this year. With the presence of goal machine Alex Starling in the squad the team will never struggle to score. That is until the day hell freezes over, which is when Alex will finally leave St John's. Worm lover Nick Gower (top scorer for the second year running with an impressive 8 goals) provides the team with cultural diversity as well as a predatory scoring touch. Most importantly the team has a fine new Captain in Owen Oliver. As well as a fabulous array of skills, he may not have the same penchant of

the outgoing skipper to select himself for every match regardless of form or fitness.

However, not all the news is good. Several members of the playing staff are on their way, leaving behind a gaping hole in the Club. Sunil Sharma, having recovered from his eight month nose injury, leaves to pursue a career as a model and part time barrister. Chris Lane, who would have been an ever present in any team except that with a freakish number of midfielders, leaves us after only one year. We also say 'Au Revoir' to Simon Adelman who is going to Boston for a year to improve Anglo-American male-female relations. Geordie Boy Oli Maddison departs after a fine season which was capped by a wonder strike in his last game for the Club. Paul McMahon swaps his John's fleece for a sharp suit and is off to earn his fortunes in America. Finally, pillar of the Club and former generalissimo, Thomas Brown, completes his PhD. 'Three cheers for Thomas Brown ...'

Thanks go to the outgoing Committee of Jack Russell and Simon Adelman whose organisational skills have proved invaluable, especially in the smooth running of the money-spinning event Doctors and Nurses. Good luck must go to the new Committee comprising Owen Oliver (Captain), Sion Lewis (Secretary) and Sudhakar George (Treasurer). Best wishes must also go to Paul Dimmock, Dave Harding and Tim Hall in their respective roles as Blues Football Captain, Vice Captain and Secretary. University football is fast becoming dominated by the John's presence. With the crop of players still at St John's, it is surely only a matter of time before the Football Club achieves that same dominance at inter-collegiate level.

**Harry Horsley
Captain**

Ladies' Football

I feel that this year has really seen a shift in the attitude to women's football at John's. I've been pleasantly surprised by the overall level of commitment and enthusiasm shown over the year. As a result, the practice sessions and matches have been a real pleasure to play a part in. With regard to our success, we were a tad slow off the mark, not really feeling at ease in our positions nor finding our optimum form

until after the first three matches had been played (and not exactly won!). Our footing was found just prior to the end of the Michaelmas Term when we thrashed the pants off Trinity - our arch rivals.

The Lent Term continued as the Michaelmas Term had left off, and with our newfound form we crushed Catz with a 3-1 defeat. At present we seem destined to avoid relegation, but highly unlikely (really meaning not) to be promoted. We were then thrown into Cuppers. Having been awarded a bye through to the second round (obviously an acknowledgement of our superior status) we claimed our revenge on Clare, who had narrowly scraped a victory against us in an earlier League match, by scaring them into submission with the most awesome goal of the season, courtesy of Miss Helena Shore. This carried us into the third round, where we faced our biggest challenge yet - Downing - who looked so formidable that we were forced to question the sex of some of their players. But we were fearless and matched them in all they did, including a goal. The full time whistle blew and the score rested at 1-1. Extra time was called for but concluded with the same score as before. It was now down to penalties. Five strikers were chosen and stepped forward to carry out this daunting task. The tension was immense - personally I couldn't even watch, apart from to take the first penalty, which I can proudly say was delivered with great finesse into the bottom left corner of the goal! Downing clearly had the weaker hold on their nerves and the star player (query bloke) fluffed the first penalty. It was 1-0 to us. Then followed 2-1, then 3-2 and then 4-2! WE WON! WE WON! WE WON!! It was so exciting and so exhilarating for all involved. A day to remember.

I think that match was our climax, as Jesus, who we met in the quarter-finals, were just too much for us and we succumbed 2-0, including a comedy penalty given away by myself, due to inadvertently using my netball skills instead of my football skills to prevent the ball from going into the goal! Oops! I might also add that the score would have been considerably worse were it not for the formidable goal-keeping skills of our guest player Cathy.

It has been a great year, and I hope those who remain will ensure that the team goes on to conquer where it previously fell and that a good time is had by all.

**Hannah Fuller
Captain**

Men's Hockey 1st XI

As we all returned to St John's in late September with memories of the third successive year of victory in the College League, hopes were high of engraving another notch in the proverbial bed-post of College hockey. Sadly the Fates were not to be with us this year, though it may be said that it was not all our fault as the story unfolds.

Every year the Club must reorganise with the ins and outs of personnel. The departure of the solid back pairing of the two Steves, Steve Seale and Steve Griffiths, was certainly a great loss, though this year's Vice-Captain and player of the year, Graeme Coates, fell into their boots admirably, marshalling a largely inexperienced back four. It is testament to him that we only conceded a couple more goals than we did last year. The side, however, looked as if it would remain largely unchanged from the victorious outfit of last year if injuries were avoided... The Admissions Tutor had their rugby colours on more this year, though as is always the case a few hockey players made it through the net. We were unlucky to be without Pete Jones for the first half of the season, who was still recovering from a broken leg, though we did enjoy the services of Tim Botterill, whose stick skills somehow managed to confound everyone, unfortunately sometimes even himself. At the back, though generally floating around higher in the ether, was the resolute figure of Geoff Ball who grew stronger with every game as his confidence grew in the gladiatorial arena that is College hockey. The side got more of an international edge to it with the arrival of the Antipodean graduate, Mike Shuter, who ran endlessly down the right and combined very well all season with the ever dependable Tom Thompson, making incisive attacks on opposition defences.

Added to this motley crew was the appointment of Commodore John Harris, the new Domestic Bursar, as President of the Club. He played for the Navy and Combined Services and is keen to reach the pinnacle of his career and get a game for John's if he can find time in his busy schedule.

The season started as we had left off last time round with resounding victories over Anglia Polytechnic University (5-2), who would later in the year cause many an upset with well-fancied teams and a 5-1 victory over a poor Girton side. Things had started well and there were high hopes of success in the Cuppers tournament that was generously loaned to our

friends at Jesus last year. After our customary bye through the first round, our second round attempts against Churchill were initially thwarted by poor weather conditions which meant that we had to delay the fixture for a couple of weeks. With a very much weakened side that included cameo appearances for the Football Captain and some of the girls' side, we limped rather than strode to a 2-1 victory. Our quarter final against Catz was to prove our most thrilling and satisfying result of the season. Against a side jam-packed with University level players, we also were able to put out a good side including Rog Wilcock, a Blue from last year and three Wanderers (myself, Jono Angliss and the ever reliable Rich Clarkson). In the last minute of full time, after a tight match, we were 2-1 down but were granted a last gasp opportunity through a short corner. The sight of Rog Wilcock's drag flick burying itself in the corner of the goal was a sufficient enough blow to the Catz team to ensure that we scored a further goal in extra-time to secure a 3-2 victory.

Due to the poor conditions the remainder of Cuppers was pushed into the Lent Term, which unfortunately was to be our downfall. Rog Wilcock, a crucial part of our attack, was unable to play due to the further enhancement of his Blues closet (this time squash and real tennis) and the loss of Rich Clarkson to injury meant that we lost some of the balance and level-headedness that he always brought to the side. The semi-final was to be against Jesus, so a victory here against our self-styled rivals would be a satisfying result.

Over the 70 minutes both sides fought hard and fast and neither was willing to give an inch and we were unfortunate not to receive a flick after the goalkeeper illegally punched the ball away during play. At the end of normal time the sides remained deadlocked at 0-0 and it was to be extra-time again. The further loss of Jono Angliss to injury in this period lowered spirits sufficiently to let Jesus sneak a goal: the final score line of 3-0 did not do us justice.

Back in the League we had a very close game with League favourites Queens', which after going 1-0 we were unlucky to draw. A couple of weeks later, Nemesis, aroused by our unjust Cuppers defeat, came to our aid as we defeated Jesus 1-0 in an extremely close game that saw keeper, Alex Walsh, make some fine saves to deny the swift Jesus attackers. In the final few games of the season we were unable to find our form in front of goal despite long periods of pressure, and we sorely missed the injured

Rich Clarkson and the extra angle of attack that Jono Angliss, ever the stalwart of College gave us, who broke his foot. Our lack of goals was highlighted by the fact that the Captain himself was the highest scorer with just 6 goals and that was achieved from playing a largely defensive role.

On the University front Rich Clarkson and myself played under Jono Angliss for the Wanderers side that won its Varsity Match for the first time in 6 years.

I would like to thank Graeme for his services as Secretary; the new shirts finally arrived on the last day of the Lent Term! I would also like to thank the many others: in particular, Will Critchlow, Jay Hyun and Billy Palmer, who regularly rearranged supervisions and missed practicals to fill in for others - sometimes even in goal!

Finally I'd like to wish Tom Thompson good luck for the coming season when, no doubt, the League and Cup double will return to their spiritual home.

God Bless the Hockey Club.

Rick Symington
Captain

League:

Played 10; Won 4; Lost 5; Drawn 1

Goals for 17; Goals against 16

Cuppers Semi-finalists

Played 3; Won 2, Lost 1

Goals for 5, Goals against 6

Women's Hockey

The sunny start for our first League match against Clare College was the beginning of a good season for John's Women's hockey. It saw the arrival of some fresh new talent in the form of Alice Courtney, Katherine Helm, Rachel Marsh and Lesley Finn to build on and strengthen the team from the year before.

Our first match resulted in a 1-0 victory against Clare College and was swiftly followed by victories against Emma, Jesus II, and Newnham in the Michaelmas Term. The return of Emily Longmore, the injury-free Lynda Hewitt, Katherine McGill and the new striker Alice Courtney

seemed an unstoppable combination, in conjunction with excellent goal-keeping from Velda Elliot and the experienced defence of Aideen Silke, Helena Shore and Clare Palmer.

Our Cuppers draw went well at the first stage, with a bye straight through to the second round. Perhaps luck was going our way? It was certainly a surprised and shocked Churchill which left the second match, their plans for the quarter finals unnecessary following an excellent victory for John's.

We returned in the Lent Term hoping that things would continue to go our way, but frozen pitches caused the cancellation of the first match of the Term against Fitz, so our first match was Cuppers Quarter Finals against Girton, held at John's. Suddenly, a plague of illness and clashing matches left the team at half strength.... and a match result that we would all rather forget.

Out of Cuppers, our attention turned to the League, where promotion looked promising. Victory against Sidney Sussex restored our somewhat shaken confidence but it was with some trepidation that we again faced Girton. A competitive match, with excellent play in defence, restored respectability, but unfortunately failed to secure a victory.

The last match of the season had come all too quickly, we were facing Fitz, one match away from promotion. Despite some excellent performances and commitment, the match went their way, and we narrowly missed promotion back to the First Division.

What most would consider a successful season could not have occurred without the commitment and enthusiasm of the team and supporters. In the midst of Cambridge's year of flooding and freezing weather there were some particularly devoted men - Jay Hyun, Simon Adelman, Rick Symington and Graham Coates, who came out to referee; thank you.

The team which finished the season was a long way from that sunny morning at Clare. Thank you for all the time and enjoyment that you put into John's hockey this year. The best of luck to Alice Courtney, Captain for next year: may you enjoy it as much as we have.

Anna Seale and Lucy Hughes
Captains

Lady Margaret Boat Club - Men**Henley 2000**

Having finished sixth in the May Bumps and rowing with a depleted crew, LMBC were asked to qualify for the Royal Regatta. Despite having only three days to recover from the Ball, the crew performed well and managed to progress through.

The large crowd of support on the Wednesday was rewarded with a good Maggie victory: the crew beat Hampton School II by 31/2 lengths. An excellent day was completed by Fitz's wonderful picnic. Thursday saw LMBC facing next year's tenants: Robinson College. In a heated race Robinson flew off the start and stretched out a lead of nearly a length. The Maggie crew refused to get flustered, and relying on a series of pushes, eventually won comfortably. In doing so Lady Margaret progressed to the Friday for the first time in recent years. The reward, however, was a row against Brown University, USA. Giving away a stone a man, LMBC were easily beaten.

The Henley VIII

Bow	Oli Choroba
2	Chris Greenroyd
3	Alex Goldsmith
4	Thomas Leake
5	Jim Kemp
6	Rob Milner
7	Mark Brand
8	Tom Edwards Moss
Cox	Sophie Hill

The week was very enjoyable for the crew and thanks must go to Roger Silk whose coaching skill was best demonstrated by the excellent results. The Arlige family's wonderful hospitality was most appreciated and special thanks to the LMBC Association and its members who make the entire experience possible.

Michaelmas Term 2000

The term started excellently with a well-attended reunion regatta marking LMBC's 175th anniversary. The racing was of a high standard, with the crew from the 1990s narrowly beating that from the 80s. Both crews were faster than the two boats formed from current members! Visitors and current students were also pleased to see progress on the now completed Boathouse extension. Generous funding from the College has provided a superb new facility. With more space for weight training and the ability to house Robinson College's boats too, Lady Margaret now has the best boathouse on the river.

The largest floods in living memory form an unfortunately large part of this year's report. The Novices particularly suffered; the five crews selected were unable to get on the water until half way through the term. The resultant intensive land training was particularly useful in preparation for the Queens' Ergo competition, the traditional start to the Novice racing season. LMBC came 3rd and also won the individual event, Baz Fine pulling an impressive 1:23.8 for 500m.

All crews competed in the Clare Novice sprint regatta. However, the lack of water work showed, with crews dropping out in the early rounds. The end of term saw improvement and the good results at Fairbairns were well deserved: the 1st Novice Eight coming third, and the Second Boat being the third fastest second crew.

Chris Greenroyd and Alex Goldsmith, the Lower Boats' Captains for this year, deserve great credit for keeping crews positive despite all the setbacks. Thanks also to the many senior members of the Club who coached.

With a shortage of schoolboys, the senior Club was particularly pleased to welcome Ewan Robson, a good postgraduate rower. We may even be able to forgive Ewan his win against the LMBC Henley Eight whilst rowing for Trinity College Dublin in 1999!

Good participation throughout the Club allowed us to field three IVs and a development VIII. After two weeks of unseasonably hard training all crews raced in the Autumn Head. The light four was easily the fastest College crew and the remaining fours performed well. Indeed both coxed fours would have collected their members' first pennants but an unfortunate error by the Captain left them disqualified.

Light four

Bow Thomas Leake*
 2 Rob Milner
 3 Chris Greenroyd
 4 Ewan Robson
 * steerer

1st Coxed four

Bow Pete Fry
 2 Oli Choroba
 3 Andreas Domnick
 4 Christoph Rummel
 Cox Simon Leslie

At the 11th hour the University Fours races were cancelled due to flooding. This inclement weather continued through to one week before Fairbairns meaning two virtually scratch VIIIs were entered. Performing badly the first boat came 8th and the second boat 23rd.

Lent Term 2001

The start of the year saw a large squad of 14 returning to Eton for a pre-term training camp. With a brand new rowing lake only a 11/2 mile run away, and the excellent Guy Pooley as coach, the crews got down to some serious training. Guest appearances by a number of senior coaches were extremely useful, as was a series of talks given by Ron Needs. Thanks must go to all our coaches and also the LMBC Association for their generous financial support.

Throughout the rest of term, the 1st Eight developed under the tuition of Jon Rhodes and Roger Silk. Gradual improvement saw us coming 3rd in the Robinson Head, and confident of holding our position in the bumps.

1st Lent VIII

Bow Adam Johnson
 2 Oli Choroba
 3 Chris Greenroyd
 4 Baz Fine
 5 Pete Fry
 6 Ewan Robson
 7 Andreas Domnick
 8 Thomas Leake
 Cox Kate Fielder

2nd Lent VIII

Bow Benedict Russell
 2 Sam Birch
 3 Al Webb
 4 Chris Fox
 5 Alex Weber
 6 David Martin
 7 Steven Block
 8 Steven Egli
 Cox David Singleton

With the weather improving, and the last Bumps cancellation being in 1963, hopes were high of finally having some normal racing. However, frustration was to strike again with racing suspended on the Thursday because of the Foot and Mouth outbreak. The first two days had seen the 1st boat hold off a determined Christ's crew and the 2nd eight bumping King's. The lower divisions suffered from a lack of experience with the problems from the Novice term continuing; both the III and IV boat fell two places.

The crew was determined to have at least one serious race so training continued in earnest for the Eights' Head. Starting 372nd, the crew overtook 9 others to be placed 115th in the country and more significantly 3rd out of the Colleges. This excellent result has made up for an otherwise frustrating term.

Lady Margaret was represented by Tom Edwards-Moss at this year's boat race. Congratulations to Tom on winning his Full Blue, but perhaps greater discretion with the nation's media is a further target to aim for.

May Term 2001

The term started with an excellent training camp under the careful tuition of Jamie Macleod. Good conditions saw a development squad covering a lot of miles and, perhaps atypically, doing some academic work. Thanks go to the LMBC Association for making such a useful camp possible.

Upon return to Cambridge, crew selection was greatly facilitated by a coaches' meeting. Lady Margaret is very well supported by alumni, who generously give their time to coach. This assistance is vital in allowing both the 1st and 2nd crews to fulfil their potential.

After a period of coaching by Andy Jones and Richard Kollek, the 1st Eight raced at the Metropolitan Regatta. The standard of racing was high, with Lady Margaret recording the 3rd fastest time in Senior 2 Eights. The final result of fifth in the final was a little disappointing. Good speed continued to develop under the coaching of Sandy Black. This improvement was aided by the delivery of a new Eton Eight. Paid

for by the LMBC Association, this new craft is better designed and lighter than any Lady Margaret have enjoyed before.

The 2nd May Eight benefited from the input of Phil Mayne, Phil Clatworthy and Mark Brand. Suffering from inexperience, with only two previous Second May Colours in the crew, they nevertheless developed well and improved towards the Bumps.

1st May VIII

Bow	Thomas Leake
2	Chris Greenroyd
3	Christoph Rummel
4	Pete Fry
5	Baz Fine
6	Andreas Domnick
7	Ewan Robson
8	Tom Edwards-Moss
Cox	Kate Fielder

2nd May VIII

Bow	Steven Block
2	Sam Birch
3	David Martin
4	Chris Fox
5	Adam Johnson
6	Daniel de Carcenac
7	Alex Goldsmith
8	Steven Egli
Cox	David Singleton

The first boat performed well during the May Races, bumping Trinity on the first night, and then falling just short of bumping Jesus on the Saturday. Although we finished fifth, LMBC had the 3rd fastest May boat on the river – something the club is justifiably proud of, and a distinct improvement on recent years.

Short of consistency, the second boat went down two, although there were some good rows during the week. The 3rd eight ended up one after an exciting week – being bumped by three members of the Blue Boat on the first night and then catching crews on Friday and Saturday. The fourth and fifth boat suffered from inexperience and fell three and four places respectively. Unable to recreate the drama of last year, the Fellows' boat, rowing as the sixth eight, also fell four places.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the coaches and members of the Club and Committee who have made this year a success. I also would like to wish Mark Brand, next year's Captain, the best possible luck.

Tom Leake
Men's Captain

Lady Margaret Boat Club - Women

Summer 2000

This year, unfortunately, Women's Henley clashed with the May Bumps, so we were not able to go. Amy Winter and Nathalie Walker participated in the CUWBC summer development squad, with Sarah Langslow having to withdraw because of injury.

Michaelmas Term 2000

The Michaelmas Term was a difficult one for the entire Boat Club this year. With much needed renovation to the boathouse going on well into the term, we had to boat mainly from Queens' boathouse and move land-training into College. Then Mother Nature decided to bestow the worst floods Cambridge had seen in about 25 years, and the river ended up being shut for a majority of the term. Despite this, there was a good band of keen and eager rowers willing to put up with it, and they did perform well.

Our thanks go to Queens' Boat Club and Paul Knights for putting up with us for a term.

Novices

With Great Britain storming through the Olympics, rowing looked like a pretty favourable option for many first-years, and we had a very strong novice turn out. We managed to put four women's novice boats out, even though some of them only managed about three outings before racing began. Despite this, our women's first novice won both Clare Novices and the Novice Fairbairns, and came in a very close third in the Queens' Novice Ergos.

Thanks go to Mags Haworth and Fi Shaw, the Lower Boats Captains, for the incredible amount of work they put into to Novice Term, and dealing with one of the most difficult ever novice terms.

Senior Rowing

A fresh influx of first-year talent meant that we were in a good position from the beginning of the year. Two fours began training for the

University Fours races, little realising that they were soon to become members of the Lady Margaret Land Training Club. Credit goes to all the rowers, for putting up with weeks of no rowing, and the postponement of most of the racing, including the University Fours.

A Fairbairns VIII was selected and able to train and race the Fairbairns, and after finishing fifth in the Autumn Head, also came in a very respectable fifth place on the day.

1st Four

Bow Gill Phillips
2 Amy Winter
3 Karen Hartshorn
4 Clare Paddison
Cox Kate Fielder

2nd Four

Bow Aideen Silke
2 Helen Pattinson
3 Anna Seale
4 Mags Haworth
Cox Claire Mitchell

Fairbairns VIII

Bow Amy Winter
2 Eleanor Boag
3 Helen Pattinson
4 Gill Phillips
5 Clare Paddison
6 Kat Helm
7 Jo Griffiths
8 Uli Forster
Cox Kate Fielder

Eton Training Camp

The floods having not subsided in time for Lent Term to begin, eight rowers and two coxes turned up for a week of training on the Eton Rowing Lake, under the guidance of Roger Silk. The combination of experienced and novice rowers turned out to be a very good one, and much improvement was seen over the week of double outings, particularly in our ability to turn round and row in Force 10 gales.

The training camp crew was:

Bow Sophie Lunn-Rockliffe
2 Amy Dymock
3 Ros Tandler
4 Hannah Fuller
5 Amy Winter
6 Kat Helm
7 Clare Paddison
8 Karen Hartshorn
Cox Kate Fielder and Claire Mitchell

Thanks to the LMBC Association for helping out with the costs of the training camp, and to Amy Winter (Vice-Captain) for organising the training camp.

Lent Term 2001

Fresh from our week in Eton, the ladies returned to Cambridge, and into a shiny new boathouse, determined to improve on results from the first term. The new boathouse provided the perfect venue for land training and crew meetings.

Again, nature conspired against us and races were cancelled, though the first ladies did manage to pull off a respectable fifth place in the Robinson Head. When Bumps finally rolled around, we were starting in eighth place, behind a fast Caius crew. Luckily, two of the first year rowers, Kat Helm and Clare Paddison, never for one second doubted that if we didn't get to Caius before they got to Queens', then Plan B was to overbump Pembroke in fifth position. After the Captain and Vice-Captain had finished chortling at this, that's exactly what happened, with a spectacular bump happening after half of Pembroke's boat had already crossed the finish line. On the second day of Bumps, the ladies were certain they could accomplish anything, and bumped Newnham just after Grassy Corner. Unfortunately, our chance to hit the Emma women and go up to third was denied when the towpath was shut down due to foot and mouth, and Bumps was cancelled after just two days of rowing.

The ladies 2nd VIII turned out to be one of the fastest 2nd VIIIs on the

river, winning Pembroke Regatta, finishing second in the Robinson Head in their category and beating a slew of college first eights. After the promising beginnings, the 2nd and 3rd VIII's did not have the same sort of experience in the Bumps, with almost every disaster that could be envisaged happening to the second eight, including collisions, rerows, and fractured ribs. Despite this, they finished as the second-highest second eight, at sixth in the second division. The third eight were the highest placed third eight on the river, and were unlucky to go down two.

1st Lent VIII

Bow	Sophie Lunn-Rockcliffe
2	Jo Barnsley
3	Ros Tendler
4	Amy Dymock
5	Amy Winter
6	Kat Helm
7	Clare Paddison
8	Karen Hartshorn
Cox	Will Addison

2nd Lent VIII

Bow	Amanda Salter
2	Rachel Marsh
3	Camilla Waugh
4	Margaret Haworth
5	Madeleine Bry
6	Helen Pattinson
7	Fran Frame
8	Felicity Shaw
Cox	Claire Mitchell

CUWBC Henley Boat Races

Due to the combination of flooding and foot and mouth disease, the Henley Boat Races were in fact held in Nottingham on 1 April. Sarah Langslow and Nathalie Walker represented the LMBC, rowing in the reserve Blondie crew. Both deserve congratulations for their hard work, and we wish Nathalie Walker best of luck in her role as CUWBC Vice-President in 2001-02.

May Term 2001

The pre-term festivities normally held at York were this year moved to Ely, so that more people would be able to attend. In effect, the week of training camp proved to be a good trials week for the first VIII, with 13 rowers and 2 coxes attending and rowing two outings and many miles a day under the direction of Roger Silk. The week was very beneficial and useful, and everyone who took part felt that they had improved

their rowing (as well as their cake and scone eating). Once again, thanks must go to the LMBC Association for their financial help.

Moving training camp to Ely meant that we could start on the Cam from week one with more or less selected crews, or so we thought. In fact, the May Boat has had a total of 15 people row in it throughout the course of the term, due to injuries. After both Nathalie Walker and Kat Helm's backs packed in, Emily Longmore agreed to make a last minute entry into the May VIII the week before the Bumps. After four slick outings with the third incarnation of the 1st May VIII, it was suddenly Wednesday, the first day of the Bumps. The first day was very nerve-racking: we had no idea of the speed of Trinity Hall chasing us, though thought they would close on us, and the mission was to row down Clare before that happened. The gun went at 7pm, two minutes later we were pulled in, having bumped Clare just after First Post Corner. The rest of the week did not go entirely according to plan in what turned out to be a stagnant women's top division: we rowed over behind Pembroke on Thursday, were bumped by Trinity Hall on Friday at the pink house (the only boat in the women's first division to make any significant advances), and rowed over on Saturday with the other top ten women's boats to finish seventh.

The second eight never had to row past Ditton Corner the entire week. They bumped Corpus Christi I in spectacular style just before First Post Corner on Wednesday, Emmanuel II in First Post Reach on Thursday, Wolfson I on Friday, and finished by bumping Newnham II on Saturday to earn their blades. They finished one place behind Jesus II, the only boat between Maggie and a second boat headship. The third eight rowed over on the first day, then spent the rest of the week bumping, getting Queens' II, Churchill II and New Hall II to retain their position as highest 3rd VIII on the river. The fourth eight just missed a qualifying spot in the getting-on race, finishing as the second highest non-qualifying boat.

1st May VIII

Bow	Sophie Lunn-Rockliffe
2	Uli Forster
3	Amy Winter
4	Emily Longmore
5	Sarah Langslow
6	Jo Griffiths
7	Clare Paddison
8	Karen Hartshorn
Cox	Will Addison

2nd May VIII

Bow	Aideen Silke
2	Margaret Haworth
3	Jo Barnsley
4	Helen Pattinson
5	Gill Phillips
6	Ros Tendler
7	Amy Dymock
8	Katie Hughes
Cox	Aleks Kowalski

3rd May VIII

Bow	Rachael Marsh
2	Beth Stoker
3	Catherine Heyrendt
4	Susy Di Felicianantonio
5	Amy Davis
6	Madeleine Bry
7	Liz Gunnion
8	Kate Digger
Cox	Claire Mitchell

4th May VIII

Bow	Jo Price
2	Dani Turner
3	Camilla Waugh
4	Rachel Lloyd
5	Frances Robinson
6	Gill Gillespie
7	Velda Elliot
8	Jo Tacon
Cox	Padraic Brick

This year has been eventful for everyone, particularly with the floods in the first term and foot and mouth in the second term. However, it has also had some excellent results, with the opening of a fully refurbished boathouse, generously funded by the College, wins for the Novice First Ladies in the first term, and the success all the way through the women's squad in the May Bumps. Thanks must go to the LMBC Association for their continued financial support, to Roger Silk and Cath Twilley for constant support and dedication, and to the other Officers, Amy Winter (Vice-Captain) and Margaret Haworth and Felicity Shaw (Lower Boats' Captains) for their incredibly hard work this year. I also wish the new Committee the best of luck for next year, particularly Kat Helm (Women's Captain), Clare Paddison (Women's Vice-Captain), and Amy Dymock and Ros Tendler (Women's Lower Boats Captains).

Vive Laeta . . .

Karen Hartshorn
Captain

Netball

There was great enthusiasm at the beginning of this season, so much so that John's could proudly boast three teams, a feat no other College could achieve.

After the disappointment of relegation to the second division last year the firsts were keen to make amends and were confident, especially in view of the two new University players from the first year, Sarah Samworth and Jenny Verdon. Among the League fixtures a memorable derby match against Magdalene stands out. Owing largely to extremely hung-over performances from the whole team John's narrowly lost 13-12 but displayed an excellent show of comedy netball. The team suffered from inconsistency, never really fulfilling their true potential and finished third in the League, just missing promotion.

Clearly in a league of their own John's second team easily won the fourth division title. Conversely, the results of the thirds, under the captaincy of Kate Scott, did not reflect the commitment and team spirit of the squad members as the team finished last in their division.

Cuppers was disappointing this year. Both the firsts and the seconds had tough draws and exited early on. The firsts lost narrowly to Girton in the second round.

On the social side, a fixture was organised with Clare football team which proved the theory that netball girls are a lot more interesting and could drink a lot more than football boys. However, the night improved as the girls ditched the boys and headed to Life in search of better entertainment. The annual trip to the theatre (classy girls), preceded by a meal at Pizza Express, was very enjoyable despite immense headaches from the rugby dinner the night before.

I would like to thank Kate Scott and everyone who participated this season, especially those who helped me organise. Colours are awarded to Alix McCollam, Jenny Rooney, Kat Wright, Catriona Murray, Kate Whittaker, Emma Wallington and Jenny Verdon for their commitment to College netball and amazing playing! I wish the best of luck in the upcoming season to the new Joint Captains Catriona Murray and Jenny Verdon and I hope that the enthusiasm continues to remain in John's.

Natasha Nair
Captain

Gentlemen's Rugger

Charged with returning to the heady successes of years whence the St John's rugby season of 2000-2001 will go down in history as one of relative disappointment. The slide of the previous season was halted and the wind seemed once more firmly in our sails but as the tides gradually turned the merry ship Garçon Rouge succumbed again to faulty jibbing. The story goes...

T'was six bells on a dank evening in early October. Suddenly the room was filled with vibrant colour. The surge towards consumables was irresistible and whilst those of fresh face and wide eye marched onwards the old hands scoured the room for new talent. At once, and alas once more, they realised they were destined for disappointment. Their minds swiftly turned to rugby.

The figure of a man rather squat in stature and comedy in figure pointed forth to a group of hardy spirits. To him they seemed candidates of the highest calibre and with the confidence of a Spanish adventurer he went over to make friends. The others looked on with interest.

On that night the outline of a crew was formed. The exuberance of the young was only matched by their startling inexperience and thus with haste the Cardinal was summoned to educate and cajole.

With training completed they were ready to set sail. A successful first month saw battles aplenty with several victories coming their way. Notable amongst the new recruits was a future skipper in the making, young Michael Bell. With experience of smaller more nimble vessels he immediately embraced his new role with gusto and undoubtedly grew in stature throughout the campaign. He was ably assisted in what must be described as the powerhouse of the crew by veteran stowaway Matthew Hall and the cool and collected Dan Cooney.

By the time the mighty fleet Jesus drifted their way, a force to be reckoned with had been formed. The opposition were overrun from all directions with the talented and often mercurial trio of Tom Williams, Edward Flint and the unfortunate early casualty Nial D'Arcy playing key roles. Whilst the battle plans were perhaps over used and one dimensional they saw us revel in victory albeit wounded by the exertions.

The unfortunate presence of the ominously named Downing loomed large on the horizon and was indeed with us in little under forty-eight hours. A vastly depleted crew took to arms with many performing roles not suited to their abilities. The situation had reached crises levels requiring the drafting in to duties of the ships pet, trained monkey Sir Lacious Crumb - who performed admirably. In defeat, brave and gallant performances were recorded by all but in particular the tenacious Adam Brown and the hard grafting Mark Bartholomew.

The ship was not however sunk and with dogged determination sailed on knowing that one-day they would meet Downing once more. By the time the Christmas Islands came into view another victory had been recorded whilst alas another defeat had been inflicted. The ship was still afloat but a rest was needed. The crew had learnt quickly and fought hard and everyone had their part to play. Graham Goodey, Rob Wells and James Butler had all put in the hard hours to keep the ship at full steam and Ben Poynter was a stylish executioner of all that he did.

Following the much-needed break that saw dock for the first time in two months we were able to pick up two lost souls. Neil Lomax was jaded after a brilliant campaign for the mythical 'Blues' but would soon be available for duties whilst Peter Jenkins also came on board but promptly got sea sick.

An unfortunate defeat to Jesus followed by which time morale had reached its lowest point. Running repairs had to be performed quickly but were aided by the lack of opposition at sea due to inclement weather. By the time Downing re-emerged the crew had regrouped and old hands such as Lomax and the Greek Alex Theos had been fully integrated. In a breath-taking battle Huw Lewis-Jones benefited immensely from a quality of cannon ball service not before witnessed and with a sparkling performance almost single handedly downed the old enemy. The only black spot on the day was the unfortunate Mike Bell dropping oh so short of his high standards. This was to be our finest hour and confirmed the Garçon Rouge as second only to Downing in the league of Naval excellence (despite Tom Williams' continued efforts).

Onwards we preceded but alas the heady days of Downing could not be relived and following subsequent easy victories against Trinity Hall and St Edmund's a very strong and able Hughes Hall saw them off and thus

the last remaining hope of finding any loot was dashed. During this time James Grant-Peterkin who remained at the stern throughout the campaign showed masterly skills in both defence and attack and confirmed his status as the campaign's most influential member. Also of note were the brave and assured performances of James Tibbatts who had evolved throughout although was suspected of involvement in the disappearance of Sir Lacious Crumb.

Other performances of note were posted by Adam Jackson who took to the Garçon Rouge like a fish to water, Vikram Kumar, Andy Mold, Linus Park, Kieran Reynolds and Allan Clayton who deserves special mention for organising rations. Mention must also be made of first mate Ben Corlett who not only performed gallantly throughout almost every battle but also took responsibility for the general maintenance and condition of ship and crew. It shall never be forgotten the hours he spent in the kitchen one quiet Sunday morning crafting a delectable chocolate log. Without Ben the ship may never have stayed afloat.

So they limped back to their home port battered and bruised. To meet them was a gaggle of support that had viewed progress keenly throughout and to whom all were very grateful. However, ultimate victory had not been achieved. Those who have not seen their last campaign can look forward to perhaps more success in years to come. I wish them every good fortune.

Vive Les Garçons Rouges!

Michael Mayes
Captain

Women's Rugby

The difficulty of being the best in a fiercely competitive sport is often underestimated: being expected to win, week in, week out, when every other side is particularly determined to beat you, is not such an easy task. Taking over as Captain, it was a massive worry to have only two remaining players from last year's successful team. Fortunately, we had a good intake with lots of keen people, so despite the lack of experience, the potential was there.

Within the first few matches the potential became a reality, as we broke the 50 - 0 barrier by the third match. The season continued in true Red Girls' style, with the first team not conceding a single point in the whole League and scoring 422 points in the 10 matches played. The second team showed that they were as talented as the firsts, also winning every League game, scoring 206 points in their nine matches and only conceding 10 points in a game that was, for many, their first ever taste of rugby. I am pleased to say that the Red Girls are champions of both the first and second divisions. The second team will be promoted to the first division next year, where the firsts will have to watch their backs!

Cuppers was a different kettle of fish, with every team determined to beat the Red Girls. We won our group with two aggressive matches that left the team bruised, in agony, and exhausted. However, everyone was eager to finish what we had started the next day. We met Girton in the quarter-finals on a pitch better designed for mud wrestling, and it was a joy to silence their fans (although we're still struggling to get over the chants of 'Girton, at least you're not ugly'). Our toughest match of the season came next, in the semi-final clash against Jesus. They were seeking revenge for the recent 38 - 0 defeat by the Red Girls in the League match. However, it was a grudge match for us too, after they defeated us in the final of Cuppers last year. Their line-up consisted of 6 University players, two of whom had international experience! I have never been so proud of the team for giving it 110% for the entire match. For the first time in the season, a team spent a prolonged period of the match within our own 22 (even Mike 'who ate all the pies?' Bell said he was scared). However, our defence was as strong as ever, and we won 5 - 0, securing our place in the final. In the final, we beat Queens' convincingly, and carried on the Red Girls' style in the celebrations that evening.

I would like to thank all of the team for their commitment and effort - it was immense. We thought it would be impossible to replace Andrea 'sporting genius' Bull but we did with Susie Grant. She was an excellent player with pace, skill and aggression, consistently playing for the University first team, being one of their strongest players, and definitely ours. Emily Longmore also had a brilliant season, as she combined with Susie to control the lines and show us all her continental flair. The forwards were as strong as ever, showing grit and determination in

every tackle, ruck and scrum. Camille Gatin proved to be a valuable and versatile player capably switching between hooker and prop. Kat Wright was consistently an all-round excellent player, which, combined with her pace, gave us those invaluable 5 points against Jesus. Anushka Asthana added experience to the scrum, and her determination and aggression was inspirational to us all. As for Jenny Verdon, well what can I say, feisty would be the polite way to say it!!! We had a secret weapon in Jacqui 'leg it' Le Geyt: her pace was unbelievable with many tries being scored in a roundabout way via our own 22! (Though secretly we know that Mike 'I'm fast' Bell could take her on any day).

A special thanks to Frankie Whitelaw for leading the second team to all their victories, and keeping order on the pitch. The combined strength of Jo Eastwood, Velda Elliot and Sophie Allebone-Webb in the forwards showed that they could beat any scrum and were dedicated to making every tackle in every match. The back line of Frankie, Lucy Hughes and Cat Murray showed exceptional handling skills, pace and strength and they all made valuable contributions to both teams.

So as League Champions and Cuppers Winners we thought there was nothing more that we could do. However, when contacted by an Oxford sports rep about a 'Cuppers Winners Tournament' how could we refuse! After the Easter break and 5 weeks without sport, we travelled down to Oxford where we met St Edmund's Hall. Scoring our first try within the first minute, we showed them that we meant business. They were a strong team, but we defended boldly and went on to beat them 35 - 0, proving that we are not only the best in Cambridge but also the whole of Oxbridge. A particular mention to Lucy Hughes, for a fantastic match as scrum half.

A special thanks to Mike 'Total Rugby' Bell for all his time, patience and perseverance that made us what we are. I would also like to thank Rob Wells, Graham Goodey and Matt 'unbiased ref' Hall for all their tips and coaching help this season; Anushka Asthana for her invaluable support as Vice-Captain; Keith and his groundsmen for keeping the pitches in top condition throughout the season; and finally to the support we have received throughout the year from other members of College - in every single match we have outdone the opposition in both noise and numbers.

I feel proud to have been Captain of the Red Girls, one of the most successful present Johnian sports teams, in what has been a fantastic

year for us. I would like to wish Kathryn Wright, as Captain, and Jenny Verdon, as Vice-Captain, all the best for the forthcoming year.

**Kate Whittaker
Captain**

Colours were awarded to: Anushka Asthana, Camille Gatin, Jenny Verdon, Kathryn Wright, Kate Whittaker, Susie Grant, Emily Longmore, Jacqui Le Geyt, Lucy Hughes, Frankie Whitelaw, Catriona Murray

University Colours were awarded to: Emily Longmore, Kate Whittaker, Camille Gatin

A Half Blue was awarded to: Susie Grant

Swimming

Ahhhh . . . It's good to retire when you're on the top of the heap. It's been a great year for swimming, with sterling performances put in by all our College swimmers. All our men swam clear of the opposition in the heats, ensuring that every single men's final had a Johnian in it. With such talent in our team, it was no wonder we won the men's overall title, though feeble calculations by some of the Cuppers officials put a momentary doubt in our hearts. For the first year in living memory, we managed to enter a women's team for the relays, a start for a new tradition.

With such a great year, the heat is going to be on our next year's Captain and veteran swimmer, Alex Starling. He will, however, have the benefit of a team with many rising stars, of which two deserve special mention. The fastest man in Cambridge, Angus Murray, and our most gutsy and versatile swimmer, Desmond Foong. Unfortunately, three of us, Adam Johnson, Juliette Malley and myself are going into retirement after many years of winning points for College. However, I am confident that with his charm, Alex will bring in worthy replacements, and use his winning smile to bring more Johnian ladies into the pool.

Thanks for the great year guys!

**Mark Chiu
Captain**

Men's Tennis

After a very disappointing season last year, the tennis fraternity in College is determined to make amends. Although the season has yet to properly get underway, there are signs that the glory days will return after an intake of fresh talent was discovered in the team trials and the dead wood of the past has been eased into retirement. These promising signs were evident during the two pre-season friendlies played during the first weekend of the summer term against the Bar and UCS Old Boys. Having been trounced by both collections of old men last time, we were determined to restore some Johnian honour and ensure that we were no longer the laughing stock of British intermediate tennis. Despite a narrow loss to the Bar's team (10-8) we beat UCS Old Boys quite convincingly (11-7). The match against the Bar was typically enjoyable, played on a beautiful afternoon in a mild mannered and humorous way. As is customary, we did not object to our senior opponents fuelling us with alcohol in preparation for the night's event in College. We were somewhat surprised when one of our visitors' middle aged wife showed great signs of enthusiasm at the prospect of attending the evening's event, especially since it was the night of Club Tropicana and (as we informed her) bikinis were mandatory!

On the serious side of things, we have a full diary of League fixtures and Cuppers has already been drawn, seeing us fifth and granting the team a bye in the first round. Unfortunately, we do find ourselves currently in the Third Division, which is frankly ridiculous for a College of this size. However, I am confident that promotion is a very realistic aim for the season and a good run in Cuppers is also on the cards.

I would like to thank all the squad members especially Will Eckersley who is acting Vice Captain and David Atkin for his offer to help out in the organisation of the hectic fixture list. Keith Ellis, the groundsman, also deserves thanks; he continues to be mean with his provision of tennis balls but has at least cheered up a bit since last year. We are also grateful to his wife, Katharine Ellis, for her delicious afternoon tea.

Andrew Mold
Tennis Captain

Waterpolo

My predecessor as Captain of the Waterpolo once famously compared waterpolo to a fine wine, but this year I would compare our season to the situation of the College Bar. Like the bar the team underwent a season of rebuilding which went through an incomplete temporary phase before ending up as a refurbished team in time for the season end and Cuppers.

At the start of the season only four players from last year's team were still around, meaning that Freshers' Fair was a nervous wait to see if we would get the players to maintain our position in the top division. Fortunately some experienced players signed up including Blues trialist Angus Murray who impressed us with his experience if not with his mental sharpness ('I am trialing for the University would it be ok if I played for you as well?'). This year saw the starting of College training, which gave the team water time to enable us to gel as a unit and allowed new players to take up the game. The ranks were swelled by many second years who, after having no idea about my ramblings in the bar during their first year, decided, after varying amounts of arm-twisting, to give it a go.

The League season started with a match against Peterhouse, our best result of the year but ironically our worst performance. The defending was generous to a fault, whilst the passing and movement up front were below our average. However we prevailed 9-2 due to the twin factors of moments of individual class by Alex Starling, Simon Maller and Angus Murray (TJ) and the fact that Peterhouse were mainly clueless swimmers who really did not capitalise on the chances our defending allowed. However we had an opportunity straightaway to improve with a match against Sidney, when in a tight game we ended up squandering a lead to lose 6-5 with the last goal being scored in the last second.

After a little more training on defence, we then had a chance to examine our discipline against Leys' U19 team. In the first two quarters we had been ruffled by the physical, illegitimate tactics and were trailing 6-1. However the team showed incredible desire in the next quarter to make a game of it and pulled the deficit back to only 2 goals, when a 'miss of the year' contender from TJ led to a break and the lead being extended. The final score of 12-7 showed the team was making progress in both offence and defence.

A fixture rearrangement for the next set of fixtures resulted in a black day in the history of SJCWP, forcing us to play an under strength team, due to rowing minibus breakdowns, TJ getting stranded in London, and basketball matches. The opposition, not so hampered, were two College teams full of University players, Barracudas (University 2nd team) as well as experienced College League players. Unfortunately the man from the Grolsch advert did not show up and say, 'Wait, this team is not ready yet, you can not rush these things, play the match later' so we had to play. The resulting mauling, sadly, did not reflect the effort and commitment shown by the players, most of whom were expecting to be on the bench at the start of the game.

The final game before the Christmas break saw us travel to Addenbrooke's. Expectation was low before the match, as we were aware the Addies team had destroyed the Barracudas a week before. However the best performance of the term combined with outstanding discipline and commitment saw the team restrict Addies to a hard fought 8-4 win. Special mention must go the goalkeepers, Dan Cooney and Kiyoo Tanaka, for a sequence of excellent saves.

The new term had just two League matches and we knew that we needed one win to stay up. Caius were looking nervous until their star non-College quadruple Half Blue appeared, then went on to create almost single handedly a 3-0 half time score. Once again the second half comeback fell a little short with the final score 4-2. The quality of play improved and a contender for 'goal of the season' increased confidence in our own ability before the final match. Christ's, however, did not know what had hit them; the team defended magnificently then broke with flair and speed. Christ's, despite their Captain's claims to the contrary, would have been thrashed if not for nerves getting the better of players several times in front of goal. Thankfully David Martin did not have these nerves and calmed down mine with a finely timed brace. We settled for 5-2, the scoreline befitting the end to the season, and finished mid-table.

League safety assured, our minds turned to Cuppers. The draw was kind to us and we knew if we played to our ability we would go far. Trinity and Fitz seemed to know this and both withdrew rather than play. This meant we only had to beat Pembroke to move on to the knockout stages. In games of just 5 minutes, Pembroke were seen off

3-0 with an amazing performance from Mark Chiu, Peterhouse were dispatched 2-0 and then Christ's were blown away 4-0. Unfortunately we were knocked out in the semi-finals by Leys' U19 2-0, despite a performance from 'keeper', Kiyoo, which caught the eye of the Blues Captain.

I am hoping to create an Old Boys' list to invite you to the annual dinner and maybe create an Old Boys match on the calendar. If there are any Old Boys reading who would be interested in getting in touch please email me (jas86@cam.ac.uk).

The Cuppers team was Angus Murray, Alex Starling, Adam Johnson, Mark Chiu, Simon Maller, Richard West, Daniel Cooney, Kiyoo Tanaka, David Martin, Daniel Hobohm and myself.

Awards for the season (for those who do not remember from the dinner)

Player of the Year:	Alex Starling
Most improved player:	Alex Starling
Rookie of the year:	David Martin
Goal of the year:	Alex Starling against Peterhouse/ Jon Smyth against Caius.
Miss of the year:	Angus Murray against Leys' U19

I have enjoyed captaining this side and look forward to more progress next year. I would like to congratulate Angus on getting his Half Blue and Alex for playing for the Blues in the majority of the BUSA matches and I wish Angus, Alex, Simon and myself good luck in trialing next year. I would also like to congratulate Mark and Adam for making the Barracudas Squad and Daniel Cooney and David Martin for making their debuts this year for the Barracudas. The bulk of this year's squad will be available next year which means that next year's Captain should have a more experienced team at his disposal and I look forward to playing in it. I would also like to thank Dr McConnell for providing the team with training time which benefited the team and has meant several of the players could now make the step up to the University Seconds squad if they so desired.

Jon Smyth
Captain

COLLEGE SPORTS

Men's Badminton Club

As the Captain, I am delighted to be able to say that our Club has had an extremely successful year! We won Cuppers, defeating Trinity in the final round with relative ease, making it our second consecutive year of Cuppers victory. For the University Leagues, the First Team managed to gain promotion to the top division and has secured its place during the course of the year. Both Second and Third Teams were promoted as well. In short, it has been a great year!

The funding from the College, granted this year, enabled the Club to offer four courts in Kelsey Kerridge every single weekend for two hours. This has attracted College members interested in badminton, in addition to providing training for team members. No other College teams have anything quite like that for their Club members. This is one reason why St John's Badminton Club is undoubtedly one of the best in the University.

These sterling achievements were, of course, the result of hard work by many, especially our Club Secretary Joerg Lepler. Joerg has played an important role in the Club and he will be sadly missed when he leaves next year. I would also like to take this opportunity to say a big 'thank you' to him for supporting the Club over the years. Chris Griffiths and Boon Kong Teh, as our Second and Third Team Captains respectively, also did a great job and laid the foundations for our success.

For the First Team, Stephen Moran and Barry Dent who both Captained the Team in previous years carried on as 'big daddies' and frequently embarrassed our opponents with 15-0s. Tai-Ho Hung, who was new to the Club, immediately became my favourite team member by replying to my emails within 5 minutes. James Lee kept on amazing us with his wrist action despite the fact that he never practised this year. And of course, my doubles partner, Rajeev Matthews, who totally wasted my Titanium racquet with a beautiful smash..... Many thanks also to Cameron Saxby and Chris Greenroyd who often played for the First Team and gave great performances. Last, but certainly not least, Blues

players Mike Thompson, Hiroyuki Kuribayashi and John Cumming were definitely the architects of our Cuppers victory.

The following are comments from the Second and Third Captains:

Chris says: 'We only conserved our 3rd division status in the first term, but with hard work, determination and no training, the Lent Term saw us promoted. With Cuppers success more elusive than Peter Crawford, a season as long as Joerg Lepler's warm-ups was inevitable. Excellent performances from Cameron 'Judas' Saxby and 'Osama' Tai-Ho saw them elevated to greater things, leaving the extravagant Ezzeri Esa to flourish. Meanwhile, veteran Chris Greenroyd's strokes improved, much to the delight of Ben Humphreys who subsequently reached his peak – 'it was a joy to watch' exclaimed Crawford whose perspiration was only controlled by his ever present headband. Everyone played an equal part in our success – especially the Captain.'

Boon says: 'The thirds this year have been a most enthusiastic and spirited bunch, drawing on members of all seniorities. Among our crop of first year talent were the likes of Frank Hsieh, a stalwart of badminton quality, and Stuart Moore, the resident master of drop-shots. Later on in the campaign, following the disappointment of demotion from the heights of the Seventh Division, the Team was refocused and augmented by Jason George and Alan Cunningham, two more utterly dependable Johnian ambassadors. Jason, I believe, is still on an unbeaten run! Coupled to the experience of the old timers namely myself, Ronnie Davies, Richard Wallace and Paul Brione, there really was no looking back in the Lent Term. With Richard's undeniable returns, Paul's unstoppable smashing and Ronnie's ability to cover seemingly every square inch of court, a Captain could not have wished for a better team. I want to take this opportunity to thank all of the guys mentioned above for their commitment and more importantly for making every sporting occasion a 'laff' as a certain someone would say.'

As the outgoing Captain, I would like to say my heartiest thanks to all the players who have made this one an unforgettable year. Best of luck in the coming year.

Baoqiang Xiao
Captain

Women's Badminton Club

This has been a really good year for women's badminton in St John's. Following the successes of our teams last year under the captaincy of Vicky Downes, we have continued to go from strength to strength.

Once again College has funded considerable court time at Kelsey Kerridge for our practices, and this has been very beneficial. More people than ever have attended these practices, forgoing their Sunday morning lie-ins!

In the Michaelmas Term the A Team went up a division for the third term in a row defeating Clare, Homerton, Newnham and Queens'. We finally made it to the First Division of the League – quite frankly where any John's sports team should be!! At the start of the Lent Term the prospect of the first division was a little daunting. Unfortunately we lost our first match against St Catz, but only by one game. We soon put this behind us and went on to win the remaining matches against Emma, Robinson, Jesus, Clare and Trinity (a walkover). Not all the results for First Division matches have been handed in yet, but if our calculations are correct then we have either won the League or at worst drawn with Trinity. This is no mean achievement for a team that was in the Fourth Division last year! Many thanks to all the players who put in the time and effort to get us to where we are now.

The B Team has been Captained by Chia-Ling Phuah who has done a fantastic job. Due to the popularity of women's badminton this year, many different players have taken part in B Team matches. In the Michaelmas Term they beat King's, Fitz and Trinity II and lost to Girton. They would have moved up to Second Division if it hadn't been for some problematic navigation in a taxi on the way to play Sidney Sussex. Chia-Ling arrived at the right place and valiantly offered to take them on single-handed but they saw it as too much of a threat and refused! The Lent Term has been more successful. The B Team defeated Wolfson, Downing, Christ's and Sidney (walkover) but lost to Girton and Homerton. Again the results have not been finalised but moving up to the Second Division is a possibility.

The Cuppers Team this year was made up of Vicky Downes, Nancy Priston, Katie Digger, Jamilah Meghji, Rachel Williams and Amy Gillham. We defeated King's but then lost to Selwyn in the semi-finals. We then played, and won, a deciding match against Homerton and came third over all. We were the highest ranking team not to have the advantage of Blues players on our side.

This has generally been a very successful year and we wish Nancy Priston the best of luck for the coming season as Captain. We hope that Ladies' Badminton will continue to be as popular as it has this year!

Amy Gillham and Rachel Williams
Captains

The Basketball Club

With most of the starting five from last year's team still around, and the addition of three new players, St John's College Basketball Team started the season in high spirits, aiming at nothing but the top. The additions of post-grads Shlomi Azar, Johannes Bauer and Alex Simpson, and also veteran Nebojsa Radic, gave the team exactly what it lacked last year: attacking options. With our team now able to strike from all five positions on the court, from long range and from under the basket, to penetrate and to play nerve-wrecking defense as well, we were certainly a force to be reckoned with. Finally, we had the perimeter shooting that would open up opposition defense and hopefully lead us to regaining our title from two years ago.

The season's start was rather bumpy, with an unconvincing win over newcomers Churchill and then a thumping defeat to Darwin, who seemed, at the time, to be the main contenders for the title. The bumpy start was an early wake-up call, however, and the team came together to produce an impressive display of basketball through the rest of the season, defeating all of our six remaining opponents solidly, including Trinity and Emmanuel, to finish the regular season in second place.

According to the new play-off system, we faced seventh-placed Caius first. Our first-half performance was one definitely not to be

remembered – we found ourselves being taken apart by a Caius team, who came out with a new-found arrogance and aggressiveness that had us well and truly surprised in the early stages of the game. By half time we were down by 12 points! What happened next is probably one of the things I will remember forever about SJC Basketball. The team came together like never before, the defense was tighter than it's ever been, and the offence was executed beautifully. Frustrating our opponents immensely, we managed to creep back into the game and even go ahead with less than a minute to go. The game ended a draw, and we went into sudden-death overtime. With the efforts of the entire season on the line, we laid out a plan to get that last basket. It was executed brilliantly, passing the ball around patiently and giving Neb an open shot, which he drained, sinking Caius and sending us to the semi-finals, 46-44.

We knew Emmanuel were not going to be an easy opponent. Well-known as one of the toughest (defensively) teams in the College League, their roster including two Blues players, they didn't forgive any mistakes. The game was yet another close one, but we held on to our lead at the end, winning by three, and securing a place in a dream final against . . . Trinity.

Trinity, defending champions, had already beaten favourites Darwin, and boasted what in my opinion was the deepest squad I've seen in my three years of College Basketball; an ex-Blues captain, two current Blues, one University Second-Team player, and a plethora of very capable players on the bench too. Having said that, we went into the game and managed to contain all of their stars and maintain a lead throughout, right up to the end, but they eventually managed to edge past us, 47-45, leaving us in second place overall.

Albeit slightly bitter at the way we lost the title, I think we have proved that we are more than deserving of our position, consistently among the elite of College Basketball. It's been a very exciting year, and a great season for all of us. With Cuppers coming up in Easter Term, we aim at nothing other than bringing the trophy to John's Bar!

Given the opportunity, I would like to thank Dr McConnel for putting up a rim in the squash courts for us to practice on. I'd also like to thank everyone who has made this season a success. The Most Valuable Player

Award goes to Nebojsa Radic, Best Defender jointly to Alex Simpson and Zenon Severis, and Most Improved Player to Shlomi Azar. This year also sees a great change in the guard as Mike, Will, George and myself are all leaving this year, after three years of wearing red. To those who are staying on, we wish them the best of luck in continuing the Team's success and taking it to new heights. Oh, and log onto the CUBbC website after June – mark my words: We will be winning Cuppers!

Zenon Severis
Captain

The Chess Club

There were high expectations for the team at the start of the year, after winning both the Cuppers title and the League for the last two years. Plans were made to set up a Second Team, due to good response from the Freshers, but none seemed willing to play competitive chess against teams from other Colleges. In fact, it was a smaller team compared to the year before as our top player, Harriet Hunt, was unable to play due to academic commitments.

We got into a bad start in the Michaelmas Term, the team getting accustomed to playing one board up, losing to Magdalene 1.5 – 3.5 in the first round of the League. A win was then needed for confidence boosting. Alas, the next League match scheduled was against Trinity I, one of the strongest teams in the League. We defeated them in the Cuppers final two years ago, in the League last year, and it seems now they're back with a vengeance. We lost 1.5 – 3.5 in the away game, our defeat cushioned by Nic Harmer, who won the game against Trinity I's Captain.

Things got better as we secured a convincing 4 - 1 win over Girton. However, moving two boards up, in the absence of Andreas Domnick, proved to be painful as we lost the next game to City II. It is worth noting that Tim Paulden ran into time-control problems, but, with quick thinking, managed to pull through with a draw on Table 2. Also, Mike Dudley made a good start in his first game for the team with a draw. The Term ended with a 3.5 – 1.5 win over Emmanuel.

The Lent Term gave us a better track record, as we won all but one of the League games, winning against Queens', Christ's I and Fitzwilliam I, and losing to City II. However, this was insufficient for us to defend the League title. It was a very close contest that produced a victor only after the final round had been played, unlike last year when St John's won the title virtually uncontested.

The start of the Lent Term also marked the team's return to Cuppers, the inter-College knockout tournament. Unfortunately Chris Bell, one of the team's key players, was not allowed to play.

We obtained a bye in the first round, being defending Champions. Our opponent in the second round was Churchill, who looked menacing enough after a 5 – 0 win against Magdalene in the first round. In fact, for us it was the most closely fought match of the year. We were down 1.5 – 2.5 after 4 boards, but Konrad Scheffler kept his cool and secured the much-needed win for John's. We made it through to the next round on board count.

In the semi-finals, we were pitted against Trinity I. It was fortunate that David Tompson was able to help out, strengthening the team on Board 3. This proved to be effective as we won by a safe margin of 3.5 – 1.5. With the main opposition out of the way, victory seemed close at hand.

The final round against Emmanuel on 11 March 2002 was the last game to be played this academic year. Things went amazingly well. The opposition was humbled one by one, starting with Ezzeri Esa's win, followed by David Tompson, Tim Paulden and Andreas Domnick. In the end, St John's emerged victorious with a crushing 4.5 – 1.5 win, securing the title for the third year running.

Our proposal for a new trophy for Cuppers was approved by the Cambridge University Chess Club, and the list of winners will read:

2000 St John's
2001 St John's
2002 St John's

All in all, it was been another good year for St John's College Chess Team. Great commitment from the players, a hallmark of the Johnian

sporting tradition, was evident throughout the period. Special thanks to the Library staff for allowing the Seminar Room to be used for matches when the conference rooms were unavailable. I hope the Club will continue to flourish, perhaps with a second team next year.

Ezzeri Esa
Captain

The Cricket Club

It was a fantastic way to finish the season. Having slumped to 60-6 and batting in drizzle it didn't look like there were going to be great memories produced for John's, but flair batting from Pete Glenday, Debs Halder and then Andy Wildsmith suddenly saw John's reach 190-9 off the forty overs. Then after Halder fried himself some Poulet, Christ's hugely talented opener, the batting crumbled under the clinical bowling of the John's boys. It was a wonderfully precarious victory that was grasped from the jaws of defeat. John's had won Cuppers. The delight of everyone at winning bore testimony to the great team spirit that had developed throughout the season.

It was great to know that we batted down to 9 (Barry and Janek might claim down to 11!) and that we had at least 5 quality bowlers to call upon to dismiss troublesome batsmen. As regards batting Barthez once again showed his abilities on a regular basis, and his 111* against Hetoirai was a truly magnificent innings. Tim Hall also scored 111* in the semi-final Cuppers win over Downing. Ill, and having just finished an exam, he batted brilliantly and surprised everyone by finally scoring more than 23. Vijay Ahuja opening the batting with stability, managing to time the ball well despite his weak frame. Rob Hewitt gave some good chat.

When bowling 'Debs' fired it up and bowled excellently especially at the start of the season. Janek Alles improved massively to cause even the best batsmen some problems and could be a very great talent next year. Pete Glenday troubled everyone with his nippy leg-spinners and

Andy Wildsmith got good reward for bowling a nagging line and length. Tom Williams was used as a special decoy and using the law of averages he worked out that the more balls he bowled the more likely he was to take a wicket. It was Barry Dent, though, who was the pick of the lot and it is no wonder that he also opened the bowling for the Crusaders. Barthez also chucked a few pies down and quite amazingly picked up a wicket - cricket is such a strange game at times. Oh yeah, and Rob Hewitt gave good chat.

I really enjoyed the season. The game against Hetoirai was our best result, reaching 212-2 and then bowling them out for 106. They were a good side and the manner in which we beat them reveals the great ability there was in our team. With only three of us leaving this year the prospects for next season are very good indeed. Thanks to Keith and Catherine for great support and help to me as Captain and us as a team. Thanks also to all who played for us on the odd occasion when exams or work were getting in the way. Vijay Ahuja will Captain the side next year and Barry Dent will once again be Secretary. It would not surprise me if we have several more players joining Vik Kumar (Blues Secretary) and Barry Dent representing the University. I hope next year goes even better than this year has. Keep up the chat Rob.

Women's Cricket

The women's cricket team played only one game this year, which saw a good performance against Trinity. Simone Jacobs captained the side, and Sudhaka George top scored with 13*. Although we lost the game good fun was had by all, especially by Owena Oliver who took two wickets in one over.

Tom Thompson
Captain

The Eagles

Having lost many fine Eagles last year, the 126th year of this fine institution had much to live up to. But, with dogs now running free and most of the coffee-houses in Cambridge out of business, the Eagles spread their wings once more and remain *the* sporting club of the University.

On the rugby field Eagles Williams, Blathwayt, Jenkins and Tibbatts ably assisted Captain Eagle M Bell in imposing a spirit of true Johnian flair on the team, and leading them back to where they belong, the top of the table. Eagle Jenkins showed off his natural talents for the Blues, expertly carrying the water bottles and warming the bench. In imposing his own flair on the Colleges' XV he led them to an inspiring 7-0 win. Having destroyed Oxford with the LX club, Eagle Blathwayt proceeded to take over where Eagle Jenkins had left off and slice the oranges for Twickenham. Unfortunately, not even an impressive display of handling skills in the dead ball area could persuade the uninspired coaching staff to bring him on.

The Lent Term brought lessons in 'Northern' for Eagles Williams, M Bell and Jenkins who switched codes to play Rugby League under the watchful wing of Captain Eagle Blathwayt. After an inspiring team talk (if we're going to win – dramatic pause – we've got to win), Blathwayt led the University side to a devastating victory ably cheered on by the injured Eagle Jenkins.

The imposing presence in defence that is Eagle Horsley helped Captain Eagle Oliver's soccer side off to a flying start to the season. Their top of the table position and the addition of four of the Blues team (Eagles Dimmock, Harding, Hall and Lewis) ought to have been enough to scare Homerton out of turning up for the Cuppers first round tie. However, an aura of invincibility is never helpful and the defence looked homeless whilst sliding to a shock defeat. The side then slipped to a disappointing third in the League with Eagle Gower once again top scorer. In the Varsity Match Eagle Harding stole the Man of the Match Award, as Captain Eagle Dimmock's Blues side retained the trophy in an eventful 0-0 draw at Loftus Road.

Captain Eagle Thompson bravely took on the onerous task of leading both the Hockey Club and the Cricket Club. Although ably assisted with the Hockey Club by the Wandering vagrant that is Eagle Symington, he could not help them slipping out of Cuppers to the eventual winners in the semi-final. Although heckled mercilessly by the Oxford crowd for his sizeable nature, Eagle Symington produced a posh performance in his Varsity Match to silence the scum and retain the trophy.

At the time of writing, the Cricket Club has just powered its way through the second round of Cuppers with strong performances from Eagle Thompson and Hall, definite highlights from Eagle Bartholomew and some intelligently mixed bowling from Eagle Williams. Eagle Kumar continues to donate generously to the 'Charity for County Bowlers Averages' in some fine displays for the Blues, whilst following a trend set by ex-Eagle Andrew to take his holiday mid-term; on this occasion touring with the British Universities to South Africa.

In the minor sports, Eagle Robson stroked his way to a University Colour with Goldie; Captain Eagle Brand helped row LMBC to victory in the University Light IVs and, together with Eagle Edwards-Moss, helped produce the fastest eight on the river for the Lents. Unfortunately, this was only quick enough to make it to second from four down at the start.

Eagle Tibbatts used the length of his arms to his advantage in winning a University Golfing Colour, assisted round the course by Caddie Eagle R Bell who won his second Blue. Eagle Grey managed to drag out his PhD just long enough to add his enthusiasm to an Aussie Rules Varsity Match played in the freezing February hail of Oxford, and then adapt his skills slightly for the return Gaelic football match in sunny Cambridge. Eagle Green gained his second Cross-Country Blue with a super human effort after gashing his leg half way round the course, Eagle Jewitt continues to excel on the University tennis courts and Eagle Starling swam his way to a Half Blue in Waterpolo. Eagle Poynter was also seen throwing something resembling Eagle Horsley a rather long way in the University Athletics Match.

It leaves me to thank Eagle Horsley for his assistance on the social side of things and Eagle Jenkins for improving relations with the domestic staff. Finally I would like to welcome my successor Eagle Tim Hall who, as the University's most eligible bachelor, will, I am sure, take the club from strength to strength.

Nunc Est Bibendum

Tom Williams
Big Bird

Flamingoes

With our flock depleted to a meagre six pink-feathered friends it looked as though the Flamingoes Club might not make it through to another summer migration. However despite such a shaky start the Flamingoes have gone on to have a great year, thanks mostly to the influx of new talent from around the College.

Although it has become rather a cliché, I have to admit that it's been another typically good year for women's sports at St John's. The rugby Red Girls have exerted their dominance over the rest of the University once again, winning both the League and Cuppers. Susie Grant and Kate Whittaker continued to represent John's in the Varsity Match with both Cambridge Teams pulling off a fantastic victory – the first time they've ever done the double and the first time the First Team have won in 14 years.

Off the field and on the river Sarah Langslow rowed at Bow in the Women's Boat Race, unfortunately missing out to Oxford by two lengths. The College Boats, Captained by Clare Paddison, have had a successful couple of terms with the LMBC Novices winning Queens' Ergos, Clare Sprints, Novice Fairbairns and Winter Head. The First Lent Crew went up one place in the Lent Bumps to third place on the river and look set to do well in the Mays.

The Netball girls have done brilliantly under the Captaincy of Jenny Verdon and Catriona Murray, winning both the Second and Third

Division and making it to the semi-finals of Cuppers, only losing to the eventual winners. Jenny and Sarah Samworth also played for the University in a tense match against Oxford, which they only narrowly lost. Likewise the Badminton Team has had yet another storming year, having been promoted two divisions last year, they went up another division this year and eventually won the League. Meanwhile the College Tennis Team is in the First Division where it is hoped they will have another successful year. Cat Murray is playing for the University Tennis Team, and, though the season is yet to get underway at the time of writing, I'm sure she'll do well. Unfortunately College Squash hasn't been quite as successful but Theresa Biberauer has once again played for the University, beating Oxford for the third year running with a completely clean sweep for Cambridge this year. Although the Varsity Athletics is yet to be played, Jaquie le Geyt has already represented the University in the 'Varsity Field and Relays' event, with her relay team winning the 4 by 100m and breaking the record.

Off the pitch, the Flamingoes have enjoyed preening their feathers for the odd night out. The Eagles and Flamingoes dinner and desserts have been as fun and riotous as ever. Following the delightful dinner in the SCR a game of room cricket was indulged in, as has become the tradition in recent years, and is always enthusiastically played, especially by the more senior members of the Club. As well as the more formal dinners the Flamingoes have managed to get together on a few occasions to go to Hall with some other societies and no doubt the May Week garden party will be as enjoyable as ever.

The end of this year bids a sad farewell to another large proportion of our flock, but judging by the standard of women's sport in College at the moment I don't think it will be too hard to restock the Club for next year, and no doubt John's sportswomen will go on to uphold the name of the College wherever they compete.

Nancy Priston
President

Men's Football Club

The season promised to be a good one for the First Team, as the core of last year's team were staying on to fight for silverware. However we did lose, amongst others, the talents of Oli Maddison, who went abroad on a TGFL scheme [Teach Geordie as a Foreign Language], and Sion Lewis, whose excellent form last season propelled him to join Dimmock, Harding and Hall in the Blues Squad, and eventually to the lofty heights of Loftus Road for the Varsity Match. Very annoying for John's, but llongyfarchiadau Sion.

Yet these blows were softened somewhat by the new Fresher intake which provided two valuable additions to the Squad, in Tim Froydenlund and Richard Horrocks. It was also a year for many of last year's Second Team to shine. Chris Griffiths, Sudhakar George and James Bryan quickly established themselves, although Bryan was almost banned from the team for cheekily scoring twice against us for a University side in a pre-season friendly.

We began our campaign defensively with 0-0 draw at Fitz, and a titanic battle against Jesus, in which a dubious offside decision allowed Oliver to win the game 1-0. Having played two of the better teams, we were in an excellent position, and our good form continued against Long Road. The teenage dirtbags gave us a lesson in passing and movement in the first half, but in the second half, Starling's powerful header from Griffiths' cross set us on our way to a 2-0 victory, finished off from close range by Gower.

And so, top of the League, we headed confidently into our first round Cuppers' match with Homerton, fielding a team made up almost entirely of University players. Petrified, Homerton defended in numbers, and against all the odds, their tactics worked and they won 2-1. The assembled product of our all-star line-up seemed far less great than the sum of its parts; hopefully next year's mathmo Captain Rob Hewitt will be able to find the right formula for picking the right Cuppers' line-up.

However, optimism remained high going into the Lent Term, as thoughts returned to the League. As neutrals were beginning to suggest

our tactics were a bit dull, we needed some goals. Nick Gower duly obliged, scoring 4 goals in each of 2 consecutive matches, as John's shook off the 'boring' tag.

The first 4-goal haul was in the 5-0 mauling of Girton, which featured perhaps the best footballing moment of the season. At 1-0, Hewitt's penalty save down to his right was of the highest order, and his immediate clearance was flicked on to Gower, who ran through and shot emphatically in off the near post. By the end of the game, we had scored five, and just as importantly, achieved a fourth successive clean sheet in the League. This was simply an excellent achievement by anyone's standards and a tribute to the spirited performances displayed all season from our defence, the 5 Hs: Hewitt (keeper), Hobohm, Horsley, Horrocks, and, er, Weeks (the Hyypia of St John's).

Gower then destroyed Trinity, as John's came from 2-0 down to win 5-2, several of the team suggesting it was the best match they had ever played in. On this form, we were unstoppable, and Gower had already scored enough goals to make him the League's eventual golden boot winner, and the rest of the team showed their appreciation by voting him Players' Player of the Year.

Sitting top of the table, we faced mid-table Queens'. As we all sat in the changing rooms, Harry Horsley went for a wander around the Pavilion before the match, to look at the records on the walls. 'John's haven't won the League since 1974!' We all grinned, and imagined ourselves in celebration of League victory and ending those 28 years of hurt. But Queens' then thrashed us 6-0, and the League campaign came crashing to a halt. Despite having many players injured, including the influential Dan Hobohm, we only had ourselves to blame. The defeat meant that Jesus and Fitz would battle it out for the title.

There was still plenty of football to be played. Further League matches against Catz, Pembroke and APU produced a loss, a win, and a draw respectively. The Plate campaign was also very enjoyable, the high point being the 4-0 victory over Emma, featuring some excellent football, although Churchill ended our hopes in the Semis.

So it was a season of highs and lows, again ending without silverware. But if there is one person who can motivate the side to go the extra

distance, it is surely this year's Player of the Year and next year's Captain Rob Hewitt. His enthusiasm in Captaining the University Kestrels this year has been unquestionable, even if he did manage to pick a disproportionately large number of John's players during the season. If he brings even half of that energy to the John's Captaincy I'm sure we can put up with him being a United fan, although the Barthez shirt has to go.

One major loss next year will be the absence of Nick Gower, whose pace and precision up front has been a priceless asset and made him a highly important and influential member of the team. He has always been top scorer in his time here and will be very difficult to replace. On the positive side, the defence remains very strong. Chris Weeks in particular had a fine season and can look forward to another season in the University sides. The midfield too should be amply prepared for the loss of this year's Captain, with minor footballing genius Tim Jablonski waiting to step in, although his effectiveness may depend on the success of the alcohol-related aspects of his transformation into the 'new' Jablonski.

Next year's Committee is completed by James Bryan as Treasurer and Jack Russell, taking over the Secretary's position from Sion Lewis, who takes his talents in this capacity to the Blues Committee. And we all wish Johnian Dave Harding the best of luck as he takes over the role of Blues Captain from Paul Dimmock.

Finally, I'd just like to give thanks to my committee, to Keith, and to all the players for making it a very enjoyable season.

Owen Oliver
Captain

Ladies' Football

After losing half of last year's team to the 'real world' or further studies elsewhere, matters looked somewhat dire for the Ladies in Red in October. However, professional recruitment brought an influx of third

years and graduates, who rapidly got involved to create a full team. As usual, the team took a while to get used to playing together and so the season kicked off rather poorly on a 3-0 loss to Emma. This was followed by another defeat to our arch-rivals Trinity, which was particularly disappointing in view of the whipping we gave them last year.

Adversity led to decisive action – our shortcomings in defence and goal scoring were addressed in practice and led to our first victory in the League against Homerton. A successful 4-2-4 formation that was to last had finally been found. In goal, our irreplaceable Keeper Cathy Midmer kept up last year's star performance and egged on the defence, where newcomers Es Iyamu and Katharine Lingwood (who also bravely volunteered in goal occasionally) kept us all amused with their shouts, and put their long legs to good use. They were complemented by the small but fearless Gemma Drew, the reliable clearer Katie Furness and myself as sweeper. In midfield, the unapologetic Amelie Knapp regularly surprised the opposition into surrendering the ball by her display of sheer energy, while fellow European Frieda van Bellen displayed a whole host of nifty tricks and proved a great playmaker. This season also saw the natural migration of Emily McKenzie and Amanda Fuller onto the wings, where they made penetrating runs and provided great crosses. Up front, our major goal scorers Alice Coopman, winner of this year's Golden Boot award, and Camilla Waugh, whose cool and collected hat trick vs Trinity Hall deserves a mention, carried on in last year's deadly (for the opposition, that is) style. Credit goes also to our multitalented players who contributed in a variety of roles; Juliet Hewish, whose talented left foot was quite an asset, and Kate Whittaker, whose tendency towards rugby moves on the pitch gave us a huge advantage.

Sadly, despite this killer formation, destiny was against us and the next three League matches were drawn, belying our performance on the pitch. Our next challenge was Cuppers, and the first match against Trinity an opportunity to avenge the previous term's humiliation. Unfortunately, despite some champagne football on our behalf, the fickle ball ended up in our goal more than theirs. College pride was

unsullied, however, thanks to our men's 5-2 victory over Trinity in a breathtaking match that very afternoon.

Smiling in the face of adversity, we resolved to do well in the Plate. Not for one moment did we think New Hall would obstruct the path to victory, and this was painfully obvious in our apathetic first half. Despite the Manager's effective half time pep talk, Alice's left footed goal, and Kate's star performance on right wing, New Hall scored the deciding goal minutes before the end, and so our plans for glory were foiled once again.

We could have easily hung our heads for the remainder of the season, but there was still the thrice-postponed League match versus King's to be played, our one chance to redeem ourselves with a score to match our performance. To boost confidence and maintain fitness, a couple of friendlies were played and won in the interim, providing firm evidence that we were born to play 7-aside. On the great day of the match, a force ten gale and an incomplete team boded ill, and matters got worse as we conceded two early goals to King's. So we adopted more drastic measures, consistently injuring one striker and knocking their Captain out of play, until Alice scored our first goal just before half time. The arrival of Amelie to pad out the midfield gave us the necessary impetus to score an equalising goal, and then another from the corner (courtesy of Amanda) which granted us our well-deserved victory and caused us to end the season with an uncharacteristic bang.

Perhaps this season's results are not much to boast of, but the general level of performance and improvement (despite multiple injuries), both as a team and individuals, certainly is. It's been an absolute pleasure to be Captain this year; I wish next year's Captain Amanda Fuller and Secretary Alice Coopman an equally fun season, and perhaps a little less bad luck regarding scores. Finally, I'd like to thank everyone involved for making this such a worthwhile season, in particular Emily McKenzie (Secretary) and Katie Furness (Social Secretary). Thank you also to the 'honorary ladies' Dave Harding, Tim Hall and Mike Lacquiere for inspired coaching, unbiased umpiring and loyal support.

Julie González Torres
Captain

Men's Hockey

Theorising that one could time travel within their own lifetime, Dr Richard Clarkson stepped into the Quantum Leap accelerator and vanished . . . He woke to find himself trapped in the past, facing mirror images that were not his own (Neil Tennant from the Pet Shop Boys to be specific) and driven by an unknown force to change history for the better. His only guide on this journey was Rick Symington, who appeared in the form of a clinically obese hologram. And so Dr Clarkson found himself leaping from season to season striving to put right what once went wrong and hoping each time that the next season would be the one that brings the championship home to John's. Sadly his quest still continues as, dressed in his black leggings and mumbling 'It is all about the shirt', he moves from one pitch to the next, always hoping, always trying, but not yet managing to bring the title home.

The moment he stepped into the room they knew things were going to change. A few eyebrows were raised, a few mouths gaped open. He flicked his hair and strolled towards a group of chattering girls; 'Hi ladies' he said 'the name's John, can I teach you a few skills?' Botterill rose awakened with admiration and anticipation, sensing that a long-awaited counterpart had arrived to usher in an era of hockey played with flair and panache, a blend of skills and style that would later be dubbed 'sexy hockey'. Dibben strolled up to join the right side of midfield, combining skill and pace to leave many opponents only with the whiff of his previous night's alcoholic excesses, while Richardson tried hard to undercut the ball into the goal from every corner of the field. He often failed.

Man of the Season was Max Parry, who, despite extreme deprivation and unfortunate social circumstances, proved to be a rock in defence and a great player. Henry 'interior-decorator' Addison donned the Keeper's kit with acumen and ability, saving many shots and providing much entertainment at the curries. Mike Shuter was as bullish as ever, making excellent runs down the right wing, and providing equally excellent crosses for Jones to miss. Somehow the Curry Captain bagged 15 goals, with three consecutive hat-tricks in Cuppers' games, and some

inspired runs into the D. Geoff Ball, this year's Secretary, was effective in defence but later in the season was shunned by his peers for wearing lycra and failing to produce stash. Billy Palmer, who is to take over the Captaincy next year, thought that he marshalled the defence effectively but often suffered from illusions of grandeur and hopefully will never attempt anything so stupid as the 'Inverted Christmas Tree' ever again. Other contributors to the cause were Gordon 'the animal' Cookson, Alastair Pilgrim and Tom Hardcastle. Dr Rick Hull came straight from a night-shift at Addenbrooke's to knock a couple in, Jay Hyun put in some fine performances, although his 'special move' never proved special enough, Barry Dent made some literally amazing saves when substituting in as Keeper, and Ed Flint sparked off controversy with his Chest of God incident.

In the League we finished fourth, although we should really have done better, being the only team to defeat Emma and that with a much depleted team. Our run in Cuppers took us all the way to the Semi-Finals where a team bonding session of watching 'Get Over It' highlighted Palmer's poor taste in films and infantile sense of humour. We lost the game to Catz, and once again came away feeling we had not lived up to our potential. Having said that, the hockey we played was at times unbelievably good, and we ripped asunder many decent teams. The greatest aspect of the season though was the great team spirit that pervaded the entire season. The practices, the curries, the tray bashing and the monumental Dinner are all times I will remember fondly. Thank you to everyone who was involved with John's Hockey this season, especially Rich Clarkson and Rich Hull who both bow out of long and illustrious hockey careers. I am sure that next season the Team will reach higher and go further than we managed this year. God Bless the Hockey Club.

Tom Thompson
Captain

Women's Hockey

This year's Ladies' Hockey looked to be set to follow the successes of last year. Having lost a substantial part of the team, it was with great enthusiasm that we welcomed the first-years, whether hockey enthusiasts or long-ago players. Freshers' Week saw the recruitment of many new faces, which would later become so familiar in the red team colours of our College.

With the new academic year, our team underwent some dramatic changes. The loss of the speedy Katherine McGill, and less frequent appearances from those in the third year, meant the average age of our team members must have fallen by a couple of years! This by no means resulted in a fall in standard, with talent showing at many levels including that of our University hockey player, Victoria Argyle. We were pleased to have her skill on our side for the first few matches before the demands of University sport dragged her away.

Included in the first-year recruits was goalkeeper Charlotte Pawlyn, who showed us (especially the defence) time and again how to do the job well. Attackers in the team were strong and numerous, with the likes of Sarah Kitson, Kirsten Dettman, and Caoimhe Ni Dhálaigh giving us some spectacular goals. New players in the defence included Marion McMillan, Frizz Punt and Megan Morys.

Our first match was early in the season and was somewhat eventful. It was incredibly demanding playing with many players who have never played together, and may even not have played for a few years. Despite losing not only the game but also Megan Morys to a broken thumb, the experience taught us how to work better as a team. This showed in the next match against Magdalene, which we drew 1-1.

The Michaelmas Term proceeded to see skill developing both individually and as a team. Other Colleges this year had the edge over us, with more experience, but this did not stop us enjoying every game, win or lose, rain or shine. Our matches were not without goals either, and included a close game with Homerton ending 4-2. Sadly this term saw us lose our first round Cuppers and Plate matches to Christ's and Robinson respectively.

Lent Term saw us return with great determination to increase our standing on the League tables. By this term, we were seeing regular appearances from many of the first years, and together with experience from the likes of Lucy Hughes and Anna Seale this gave us some exciting matches and close results. Pembroke and Emmanuel both just managed to fire a single goal past our keeper. Our last two matches saw the best action of the year, both resulting in 3-3 draws.

As a grand end to the season, our last match was against our so-called 'rivals', Trinity, accompanied by our other rival, the rain. But putting these two minor details aside, we played our best and came out the equal winners with 3 goals each and a good soaking to go with it. In this game and all the rest our players showed great enthusiasm, determination and the all-important sense of humour that made playing hockey so enjoyable. Good luck to Sarah Kitson, next year's Captain, and a huge thank you to all the many players and our umpires.

Alice Courtney
Captain

Lady Margaret Boat Club – Overall

The reconstruction of the new boathouse has been a most striking mark of the generosity of the Club's old members and the College. This has been the first year that members of the Club have had continuous use of all that the new boathouse has to offer. The improvement in training, boat storage, changing and meeting facilities has contributed immensely to members' continued enthusiasm and achievement.

The boathouse facilities should be further improved in the coming year by the necessary addition of a new Fours' Shed, standing separate from the main boathouse. Ongoing projects include the installation of air-conditioning in the boathouse gym and an exterior window in the coaching room.

The generous answer of old members to the appeal to raise an endowment fund for the ongoing financing of the Club's activities will continue to be greatly valued by Lady Margaret's members. The LMBC

Association's growing support for the Club, through the purchase of boats and blades, facilitation of training camps, and the gift of the experience of racing at Henley, is deeply appreciated by its oarsmen and women.

The dedication of the Club's old boys and girls in returning to coach on the Cam or coaching on training camps elsewhere is central to members' enthusiasm and commitment to the Club and its traditions. This is particularly valuable to individual members who often recall this coaching as a key part of their enjoyment of their time rowing at Lady Margaret.

Roger Silk, as Lady Margaret's Boatman, has been central to the Club's achievements. Roger's role in coaching, planning training, making possible training camps at Henley and elsewhere and maintaining the boathouse and the boats within it has continued to assure the Club's smooth functioning. He retires from over forty years of full-time employment with Lady Margaret later this year. On behalf of all current members of LMBC, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Roger for his help and encouragement and wish him all the best for the future.

Lady Margaret's members have also been thankful for the generous financial support of UBS Warburg, our sponsors. UBS Warburg's contribution towards Club dinners, the purchase of rowing kit and a great deal of the Club's ongoing operational expenses is greatly valued by the members it directly supports. The members draw some pride from the interest UBS Warburg has shown in wishing their name to be displayed by our crews in our mutual colours!

Finally, an LMBC Collection has been established this year in the College Library. It is hoped that this collection will bring together books about rowing, current or historical, and records relating to the Club, whether they be pictures, photographs, Captains' Books, letters or published material. If any old members have any items of Club interest or unwanted books on rowing they might wish to donate to the collection I would ask them to contact the Senior Treasurer, Catherine Twilley, at St John's.

Lady Margaret Boat Club – Men

Henley 2001

Having finished fifth in the May Bumps and losing two of the 1st May VIII, LMBC faced a difficult task to qualify for the Royal Regatta. The one-third reduction in competitors accepted for the Temple would have made qualification difficult. Furthermore, the crew's Blue was excluded from this event, as ineligible under its rules.

Rather than attempting a weakened reformed VIII and losing a willing competitor, LMBC entered a light IV for the Visitors' and a coxed IV for the Britannia. Neil Holzapfel, one of LMBC's Robinson College tenants, joined the strong Visitors' IV. Despite excellent coaching from Roger Silk, a brief training period from the May Bumps until the event left both crews with insufficient pace to qualify in very strong fields.

Visitors' IV		Britannia IV	
Bow	Ewan Robson	Bow	Peter Fry
2	Andreas Dominick	2	Alex Goldsmith
3	Neil Holzapfel	3	Christopher Greenroyd
4	Thomas Edwards-Moss	4	Thomas Leake
		Cox	Kate Fielder

In modifying its rules over the last few years the Regatta has made it increasingly difficult for LMBC and other collegiate boat clubs to compete. The reduction of competitors in the Temple, exclusion of Blues from the Temple and Britannia and the increasingly high quality of competitors in these events, and in the Visitors' has made qualification very challenging. Producing competitive crews will probably involve the reinforcement of continuing 1st May VIIIs and stronger Visitors' IVs with oarsmen from other Colleges. This should allow LMBC crews to continue to compete and to enjoy the great hospitality given by the Arlidge Family and Fitz's fantastic picnics. Thanks go to the LMBC Association for their continued generous financial support and encouragement at Henley.

Michaelmas Term 2001

The academic year began well, with the superb training facilities in the new boathouse available from the outset. Happily, the weather and river conditions throughout the year were to prove generally good, but when forced from the river, crews made highly beneficial use of the ergos and weights in the boathouse training room.

The Senior Club started the year looking weak, with only a single oarsman returning from the previous term's 1st VIII and a pair from the 2nd VIII. This impression was compounded by a continuing lack of schoolboy oarsmen joining the College. This made the Club all the more pleased to welcome the oarsmen Martin Tolliver and Patrick Buckley from MIT, regrettably only with us for the year on the Cambridge-MIT exchange programme.

A small, but enthusiastic, senior squad fielded two IVs and a development VIII. The crews raced in the Autumn Head, with the Light IV winning the Senior 1 competition easily over the full field of College Light IVs.

Light IV		Coxed IV	
Bow	Patrick Buckley*	Bow	David Martin
2	Peter Fry	2	Amir Nathoo
3	Mark Brand	3	Geoffrey Ball
4	Martin Tolliver	4	James Paget
	*steerer	Cox	Kate Fielder

The Light IV won the University Races, aided by steering superior to that of our competitors by Patrick Buckley and by the coaching of Roger Silk and Andy Jones. Thanks go to the LMBC Association for helping to make the purchase of the superb new Light IV possible.

The Coxed IV made great progress in training, under the tutelage of Tom Edwards-Moss. The crew also made some progress through the competition, but lacked consistency after the brevity of the crew's training before the Races, held earlier than usual in term.

Ten days of flooding on the Cam once again reduced the period available for training on the water prior to Fairbairns. However, with few outings and much use of ergos in the boathouse LMBC performed well. The 1st VIII came 3rd amongst the Colleges and 6th overall, while the 2nd VIII were rewarded with a disappointing 30th place for producing a good course time.

LMBC regained its reputation as the dominant Novice Club on the Cam. The Lower Boats' Captains, Stephen Egli and David Singleton, managed to assemble five novice VIIIs of a decent standard, coached by a dedicated team of seniors from across the Club. The 1st VIII took a clean sweep of the Novice Races, winning the Winter Head, Clare Novice Regatta and Fairbairns. The lower VIIIs also put in a strong performance at all the races.

The term ended with LMBC Trial VIIIs Chases on the Cam, bringing the Club's novice and senior oarsmen together in crews for a foretaste of the Bumping Races to come.

Lent Term 2002

The year started with a squad of 12 returning to Eton for the Club's annual pre-term training camp. With the Eton Rowing Lake frozen-over for the camp, the squad used the good stretches of river nearby. The camp concluded with the very well attended and useful inaugural annual coaches' meeting. The coaching of Chris Atkin, Andy Jones and Dirk Bangert guided the squad through useful training. Guy Pooley once again made the Eton camp possible and provided excellent coaching. Thanks go to the LMBC Association for their continued generous financial support of the camp.

A strong 1st Lent VIII was brought on by the coaching of Andy Jones, Jon Rhodes and Roger Silk. The VIII defeated the full field of highly-placed Lent VIIIs by winning the Robinson Head, even doing so twice by rowing two divisions back-to-back! After further races at Bedford Head saw us defeat all Oxbridge College crews present, the crew had its sights on the Lent Headship.

1st Lent VIII

Bow	Christopher Greenroyd
2	Amir Nathoo
3	Geoffrey Ball
4	Mark Brand
5	Thomas Edwards-Moss
6	Andreas Dominick
7	Martin Tolliver
8	Patrick Buckley
Cox	Kate Fielder

2nd Lent VIII

Bow	Nick Kemmer
2	Tommy Keeling
3	James Paget
4	Ben Symonds
5	Jamie White
6	David Martin
7	Gareth Lane
8	Benedict Russell
Cox	Caroline Page

Having moved up from 4th to 2nd on the river in the first three days of the Lent Bumps, the 1st Boat fell short of the Headship by a few feet at the finishing post despite some spirited racing.

The 2nd VIII, coached by Joanne Pascall, Roger Silk and John Durack, distinguished themselves as the fastest 2nd VIII on the Cam and amongst the fastest few 1st VIIIs. Unfortunately, victories at Robinson and Bedford Heads and Pembroke Regatta failed to translate into Bumps success, as bad luck meant that the crew rose only one place in the Lents.

The lower VIIIs performed well, demonstrating in racing at Robinson Head and Pembroke Regatta that LMBC fielded the fastest 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th College VIIIs. The crews maintained good positions in the Bumps, despite the 3rd and 5th VIIIs falling and the 4th VIII rising just one place.

A composite crew from the 1st and 2nd VIIIs raced at Kingston Head and the Eights' Head. The crew did well to come 15th and win the Colleges' Competition at Kingston. Unfortunately, a lack of experience on Tideway, and a poor race, saw LMBC finish 205th, a place from which to improve next year.

Ewan Robson deserves congratulation for representing the Club by stroking Goldie in this year's hard-fought Goldie-Isis Race.

May Term 2002

The term started with the annual training camp at York for those competing for seats in the 1st May VIII. Excellent conditions saw the squad cover many miles under the invaluable guidance of Jamie MacLeod. Thanks go, once again, to the LMBC Association, for facilitating this very useful and enjoyable experience.

The Mays coaches' meeting was once again a great aid to crew selection and planning training for the term. The quality of LMBC 1st and 2nd VIIIs throughout the year continues to depend upon the generosity of old members in making time to coach.

The 1st May VIII began the term well, progressing rapidly as the result of highly effective coaching from Andy Jones. The first fortnight ended with impressive wins in Senior 2 and 3 VIIIs at Thames Ditton Regatta. Paul Wright guided the VIII through a difficult middle fortnight of changing equipment, accidents, exams and illness. Paul's patience and determination saw the crew come on well despite these set-backs. The VIII demonstrated the fruits of this progress by making the final of Senior 1 VIIIs at the Metropolitan Regatta on Eton Dorney Lake and staying in touch with a very strong field. Our thanks must go to Jonathan Alexander, of CUBC and Girton College, for subbing into the crew for this regatta and several outings with excellent humour. Sandy Black once again helped the crew build racing cohesion in preparation for the Mays with consummate skill.

The 2nd May VIII had a difficult start to the term, with the crew benefiting from only one experienced stroke side oarsman, after desertions from the 2nd Lent VIII. Tim Fisher-Jeffes managed to skilfully develop a hard training VIII within a week. Phil Mayne then guided the VIII as they rapidly built a strong technical base. With the crew now properly formed, the excellent Bill Budenberg added a great degree of cohesion and confidence. Tom Leake finished the crew for the Mays, preparing the crew well, in spite of their lack of race experience.

1st May VIII

Bow	Christopher Greenroyd
2	Amir Nathoo
3	Martin Tolliver
4	Mark Brand
5	Andreas Dominick
6	Ewan Robson
7	Thomas Edwards-Moss
8	Patrick Buckley
Cox	Caroline Page

2nd May VIII

Bow	David Martin
2	Tommy Keeling
3	James Morton
4	Alex Weber
5	Ian Martin
6	Geoffrey Ball
7	Gareth Lane
8	Benedict Russell
Cox	Stephen Egli

Starting 5th on the river, the 1st VIII were determined to climb towards the head of the river on every opportunity. Bumping Jesus just around Ditton on the first day provided a promising start. The second day, however, saw the VIII deprived of a target early on, after Caius pounced upon a lacklustre Emmanuel in the Plough Reach. The third evening saw the crew derive some satisfaction from catching Emmanuel earlier down the Plough Reach than Caius had the previous day. A solid but uninspired row-over behind a strong Downing on the Saturday left LMBC 3rd on the river, the Club's highest placing in over a decade and a platform from which to launch an assault on the headship in the coming year.

The 2nd VIII suffered from their lack of racing experience and the very strong form of their immediate competition. While an exceptionally strong Caius 2, a speedy First and Third 2 and a powerful and lowly placed Wolfson I caught the crew on successive evenings, these results do not do give a just impression of its high standard of racing. A strong and assured row-over under great pressure on the Saturday was a clear demonstration that the crew had matured impressively, if only sadly in time for the final night of the Mays.

The 3rd VIII benefited from a standard of coaching higher than that of recent years, with Donald Reid, Alistair Boyd and Chris Bell moulding a superb crew. The first night saw the crew make a good bump on Girton II. On the second night the crew overbumped Downing 3 at the Roy Meldrum Shelter after a spectacular row to gain the 3rd VIII

headship. Sadly, an equipment failure meant that the crew were caught by a St Edmund's I, stacked full of CUBC oarsmen on the third night. It is a testament to the impressive quality of the 3rd VIII that St Ed's were disappointed by their bump, having been counting on a rapid LMBC bumping out to allow for their over-bumping ahead! A good row-over on Saturday ended the strongest 3rd VIII run for some years.

The 4th and 5th VIIIs suffered from their high placing and both gained their spoons, falling to stronger crews. They would do well to take note of the skilled and courageous example of the Fellows' Boat, rowing as the 6th VIII. Despite being caught by a rapid Sidney III on the first night, the Fellows rowed over the course the next three nights, holding off crews in fierce pursuit, some even overlapping them early in the course. The cause of the 2nd VIIIs difficulties and the want of power in the 4th and 5th VIIIs could be diagnosed by the strength of the 'Gentlemen's Boat', rowing as the 7th VIII. Some academic pressures, but in larger part a lack of commitment, hindered these oarsmen from joining higher boats. The crew rowed on in the getting-on race and gained a disallowed over-bump, a double over-bump, a row-over and another over-bump in the races. Hopefully, such easy success will lead to the desire to gain greater satisfaction from more competitive rowing next year.

I would like to thank all those who coached and competed for the Club. I would also like to thank this year's Committee, who have made so much possible by their dedication to the Club. My greatest thanks go to Catherine Twilley, without whom I would undoubtedly have been lost. I would like to wish Geoffrey Ball, next year's Captain, the best of luck.

Vive Laeta . . .

Mark Brand
Captain

Lady Margaret Boat Club – Women

Summer 2001

Women's Henley this year didn't clash with the Bumps so we were lucky enough to have the opportunity to go. It was a bit of a last minute decision and a scratch crew was put together in May Week. Despite the limited experience we had as a crew, we raced well and beat University College London by 2¹/₂ lengths in the first round and then went out to a strong Durham University crew in the second.

Henley Crew

Bow	Katie Hughes
2	Amy Winter
3	Ros Tendler
4	Uli Forster
5	Sophie Lunn-Rockliffe
6	Jo Griffiths
7	Clare Paddison
8	Emily Longmore
Cox	Will Addison

Nathalie Walker and Sarah Langslow participated in the CUWBC summer development squad with Nathalie fulfilling her new role as CUWBC Vice-President for the 2001-02 period. Nathalie left St John's to do a fourth year in Management Studies at St Edmund's College in 2001-02.

Michaelmas Term 2001

With the memory of last year's floods still fresh on everyone's minds every rainfall this term had us on edge and when 87mm of rain fell on October 21 and flash floods swamped Cambridge everyone was pretty devastated. However, our fears that Lady Margaret Land Training Club would have to be re-founded were unnecessary. The floods passed relatively quickly and rowing resumed in a matter of days.

Novices

Once again, Lady Margaret had a very strong novice turn out with three (and a bit!) women's novice boats out on the river. Our first novice women were unstoppable, winning everything we could enter them for. You could see the senior squad itching to get their hands on them for the Lent Term. They won the Winter Head, Queens' Novice Ergos, Clare Novices and Novice Fairbairns. For their efforts they were awarded their novice blades. The second novice boat also deserve a mention for their very impressive fourth place overall in Queens' Novice Ergos, being beaten only by our first boat and Selwyn and Trinity's first boats.

A big well done and thank you to Amy Dymock and Ros Tendler, the Lower Boats Captains, for all their work in such a successful novice term.

Senior Rowing

The senior squad in the Michaelmas Term was a mixed bunch which produced boats containing the full range of experience levels. Two IVs trained for, and raced, in the University Fours and both were unlucky to be knocked out in their first races. Unfortunately our Fairbairns results were not particularly good, with the VIII coming in at 13th and the IV placed 18th.

1st IV		2nd IV	
Bow	Amy Dymock	Bow	Beth Stoker
2	Ros Tendler	2	Jo Tacon
3	Jo Barnsley	3	Camilla Waugh
4	Clare Paddison	4	Catherine Heyrendt
Cox	Claire Mitchell	Cox	Elen O'Leary

Fairbairns VIII

Bow	Beth Stoker
2	Jo Tacon
3	Camilla Waugh
4	Catherine Heyrendt
5	Jo Griffiths

Fairbairns IV

Bow	Marianna Brungs
2	Rachel Lloyd
3	Lauren Killian
4	Anne Schunck
Cox	Elen O'Leary

6	Ros Tendler
7	Amy Dymock
4	Clare Paddison
Cox	Claire Mitchell

Eton Training Camp

After a spell of very cold weather over Christmas we arrived at the Eton Rowing Lake to find about six inches of ice on it. Having not brought our ice-skates with us we were relieved to find that there was alternative water to row on and we used the river instead. We had glorious sunshine for most of the week and that, coupled with great improvements accomplished over miles of rowing, made it a very enjoyable training camp. The squad was a 50:50 mix of novices and seniors.

Training Camp Squad

Will Addison (cox)
 Clare Paddison
 Ros Tendler
 Fran Frame
 Camilla Waugh
 Catherine Heyrendt
 Beth Stoker
 Clare Philbrick
 Rachel Williams
 Frieda van Belle
 Alix Freeman
 Louise Fisher
 Lorna Gratton

Thanks go to the LMBC Association for subsidising the training camp and also to the very helpful people who rented out their converted barn to us and put up with us for a week.

Lent Term 2002

With the Lent Headship within our reach and having just arrived back from a successful training camp the first boat spirits were running high. We trained hard and entered several races to help prepare us for the Bumps. Our first race was the Winter Head to Head and the weather was pretty dreadful. In one direction it was a raging head wind and in the other it was the corresponding tail wind. We were especially pleased to win given the difficult conditions, and we beat Emmanuel by eight seconds. Peterborough Head was again cancelled this year due to high winds but we did get to race at the Bedford Head where we won Novice and Senior 4 eights. In Pembroke Sprints Emmanuel got revenge by beating us the final.

After our success in the Lents last year, we were determined to improve on our position at fourth, especially after being denied our four days of racing last year due to foot and mouth. On the Tuesday of Bumps, however, the decision was made to cancel the day's racing due to the high winds. Despite our initial worry, the rest of the week went ahead as normal and everyone except the First Division had to put up with only three days of Bumps. Unfortunately we didn't quite get to the Headship position we were looking for, but we did go up one place, bumping Trinity Hall on the second day. So that leaves us in third position with only Emmanuel and Jesus ahead.

The second ladies boat had a successful start to the term, winning their category in the Newnham Regatta and in the Robinson Head. They then had their own private competition with Magdalene first boat in the Bumps. They bumped them on the first day and rowed over in front of them on the second, only to have a technical bump awarded to Magdalene on the third. The third boat also had a promising start to the term and in the Bumps got bumped by, but then bumped back, Girton second ladies.

1st Lent VIII

Bow	Frieda van Belle
2	Lorna Gratton
3	Camilla Waugh
4	Catherine Heyrendt
5	Clare Philbrick
6	Ros Tandler
7	Rachel Williams
8	Clare Paddison
Cox	Will Addison

2nd Lent VIII

Bow	Beth Stoker
2	Jo Tacon
3	Sara Vero
4	Rachel Lloyd
5	Charlotte Pawlyn
6	Fran Frame
7	Alix Freeman
8	Louise Fisher
Cox	Rob Davies

CUWBC Henley Boat Races

Sarah Langslow represented LMBC, rowing in the Blue Boat. Congratulations go to her for her hard work throughout the year.

May Term 2002

We rowed for a week at Ely again this year before the start of term. The week was very beneficial with everyone getting back into the swing of things after the Easter Holidays. We rowed many miles under Roger Silk's watchful eye and rewarded ourselves with daily jam and cream scones. Thanks go to the LMBCA again for their financial help.

On returning to Cambridge the crews were selected and started to train hard for the term ahead. The first boat went to Thames Ditton Regatta where we were all very excited to lose our novice status after beating Thames Rowing Club and then University College London.

When Bumps came around things didn't quite go to plan for the first boat. We rowed over on the first day getting to within half a length of Trinity Hall. On the second day we rowed the race of our lives but unfortunately it just wasn't good enough and we got bumped by Downing. The next day we also got bumped, this time by St Catharine's and on the last day we rowed over on station with them, until they bumped out in front.

The second boat rowed over on the first day getting to within half a length of an overbump. Over the next three days they met some very good boats

making their way up the division and sadly went down three. The third boat win the prize for the most interesting bumps. They rowed over on the first day and then bumped Corpus I to move into sandwich boat position on the second. They were then overbumped by Downing II and finished off by bumping Corpus I on the last day again, giving Corpus I their spoons and denying Girton II their blades. The fourth boat had a technical bump awarded against them on the first day and a technical row-over on the second. On the third day they got a real bump on St Catharine's III but on the last day they got a technical bump when the crew in front scratched.

1st May VIII

Bow	Alix Freeman
2	Frieda van Belle
3	Camilla Waugh
4	Fran Frame
5	Clare Philbrick
6	Nathalie Walker
7	Rachel Williams
8	Clare Paddison
Cox	Will Addison

3rd May VIII

Bow	Phillippa Bennett
2	Laura Spence
3	Fran Robinson
4	Kathryn Carrick
5	Velda Elliot
6	Lucy Nell
7	Phillippa Hannaby
Stroke	Louise Fisher
Cox	Claire Mitchell

2nd May VIII

Bow	Helen Woodward
2	Jo Tacon
3	Marion McMillon
4	Jo Woolley
5	Charlotte Pawlyn
6	Margaret Haworth
7	Beth Stoker
8	Sara Vero
Cox	Ben Davies

4th May VIII

(Grads and Fellows' boat)	
Bow	Dr Sue Colwell
2	Dr Susanna Sallstrom
3	Dr Janet Lees/ Amber Alsop
4	Dani Turner
5	Marianna Brungs
6	Catherine Heyrendt
7	Susy di Felicianantonio
Stroke	Libby Saxton
Cox	Gemma Drew

I would like to round up by once again thanking the LMBCA for their financial help this year. Without it many things would not be possible. I would also like to say a big thank you to Roger Silk, to Cath Twilley and also to the Committee for their help and hard work this year, especially Kat Helm (Vice-Captain) and Amy Dymock and Ros Tandler (Lower Boats' Captains).

Best wishes go to next year's Committee, especially Camilla Waugh (Women's and Overall Captain), Rachel Williams (Vice-Captain) and Francesca Frame and Beth Stoker (Lower Boats' Captains).

Vive Laeta . . .

Clare Paddison
Women's Captain

The Netball Club

An extremely full sign up list and packed first practice promised two very keen netball teams this year.

After last year's disappointment of just missing promotion and losing out to the village, the First Team was highly motivated for a movement back into the Premier League. A strong squad was formed comprising old experienced players and fresh blood from Freshers Jo Woolley, Clare Philbrick and Maria Datsopoulos. Maria's strong shooting complimented Alix McCollam and Kate Whittaker's great circle positions and gave rise to some immense score lines. Particularly memorable is the 36-0 defeat of APU in 20 minutes and 19-1 thrashing of Sidney Sussex. With only one loss at the hands of Tit Hall, we won the League and are now ready to make a mark on the Premier League.

In Division Three, the Seconds faced some tough matches but their excellent team-work and determination paid off with impressive victories against First Teams from Christ's, Emma and Clare. With one nail-biting match against Trinity 1, which ended 5-5, and only one loss, the Seconds were Third Division winners and so are also promoted this season. There were outstanding individual performances from Katie Lambert, Nicola Daybell, Amy Dymock, Charlotte Pawlyn and a special mention should go to Alice Coopman, who at Centre amazed everyone with her boundless energy.

Cuppers was a highly eventful day. Both teams were feeling confident at the final practice, so much so that we turned up an hour before all the other teams. The First Team draw was interesting with the team facing a weak Clare side, Catz 2 and Newnham. With no real threat we walked

easily into the play-offs where we had to meet the Second Team. After an initial thrashing from Catz 1, the Seconds showed great strength of character to win their subsequent two matches, resulting in a place against John's 1 in the play-offs.

After a tough, emotional game the First Team made the Quarter-Finals where we met old favourites Sidney Sussex and gave them a thorough send off with 19-3, although this could be debated as Jenny Verdon managed to put one of their players in hospital.....! The Semi-Final had us drawn with the strongest side, and eventual winners, Pembroke. The team fought to the end, with Alix performing brilliantly against the Blues' GD and we narrowly lost 10-13.

We'd like to thank all those who helped us this season, particularly Jo for all her umpiring. Colours are awarded to Alix McCollam, Kate Whittaker, Maria Datsopoulos, Jo Woolley, Sarah Samworth, Kat Wright and Clare Philbrick for a brilliant season and Cuppers performance. University Colours went to Jenny Verdon this season.

We would like to wish the best of luck to the new Captains Jo and Maria with plans to win the Premier and First Divisions next season.

Jenny Verdon and Cat Murray
Captains

Ladies' Rugby Club

St John's is the only College inscribed on the Women's Rugby League Plate and like every Captain before me I hoped that this would not be the year to change that. Our chances were good. With the majority of the team remaining and a good intake we began the season in what we thought was a strong position.

This was rather rapidly questioned, however. Barely a few seconds into our first match against Clare and we were watching, slightly embarrassed, as they scored. Whether it was a result of complacency, the long summer break or the aftermath of a heavy night I'm not quite sure but if we needed a wake up call this was it. Finally switched on,

although not in time to prevent another try, we went on to win the match convincingly 43-12.

After this rather poor start to the season our game quickly picked up and we went on to easily win the rest of our matches in the Michaelmas Term. Similar success continued into the Lent Term as we proudly defeated arch rivals Jesus 30-5. Unfortunately our good performance did not quite last the season. Playing in a rather haphazard combination as a result of injuries and the Blues ban, we failed to pull our talent together losing frustratingly to Churchill 10-12 in what turned out to be our last League match. Queens', our only contenders for the title, backed out in fear and we won the League with a few points to spare.

Following promotion into the First Division the Second Team had a tough season. Largely consisting of new players and confronted with the same opponents as the First Team they faced a difficult challenge. Yet they tackled it with determination and, although they didn't win any of their matches, their enthusiasm and commitment did not waiver. The standard of the team improved dramatically over the year with the forwards in particular showing impressive strength.

The hostility towards St John's and the determination to beat us is always far greater in Cuppers. This was only too clear by the number of mixed teams that entered. Some did so legitimately but others seemed to be abandoning the point of College sport in an attempt to draw together what they believed was the strongest talent and the only way to win. Of course they were wrong. After defeating Emma, Christ's and Girton in three excellent matches on the first day, we came to face Trinity in the quarter-finals. Adrenaline and aggression were clearly pumping as all but myself scored at least one try. The semi-finals brought us the opponents we'd been waiting for. Having lost to Churchill in the League we were determined not only to defeat them but to crush them in the process. Fired up, the team went into what was by no means an easy match. Yet we won it well and so were once again through to the final. Our challengers were 'Newquay' a corruptly concocted mixture of Newnham and Caius, consisting entirely of Blues, and by the looks of them forwards. The match was a painful one but their strength and

aggression was not enough. Winning 19-0 we once again became Cuppers Champions proving that the ability to play together is what counts (in addition to the pace and flair of course!)

Once again we walked away with the double and I would like to thank all the team for the commitment and effort that made this possible. Our back line was once again remarkable showing quick handling, pace and flair time after time. Susie Grant continued to show inspiring talent in every game and was an invaluable member of the team. Yet even in her absence we found a new fly-half, in Lucy Hughes who had an excellent season not only excelling as fly-half but also demonstrating her versatility in a variety of positions. Kate Whittaker continued to hold the team together and finally proved she had pace impressively chasing Churchill to the try line to prevent them from scoring during Cuppers. A key weapon in the back line was Jackie Le Geyt who continued to run loops around us all, scoring an infinite number of tries. This year she was supported by the arrival of Frieda van Belle who brought additional pace from foreign lands. Meanwhile the forwards having played together last year only grew stronger. Anushka Asthana, now an old accustomed member of the team, continued to be the backbone of the scrum, firing up the team and generating much aggression on the pitch. Jenny Verdon adopted similar tactics successfully retaining her psychotic and feisty reputation for another year.

I would like to say a special thank you to the Second Team who not only fought hard in every match but who were there supporting the First Team when we needed it most. The experience of Jo Eastwood and Velda Elliot proved invaluable to the Second Team and both were an asset to the First Team on several occasions. Together with Kathryn Griffin they formed an undefeatable scrum that consistently put in enormous tackles. Caoimhe Ni Dhálaigh, Kirsten Dettman, Caroline Page, Gill Gillespie, Megan Morys and Miriam Horrocks all played in the back line providing a versatile and skilful squad that grew both in terms of ability and aggression over the year.

A special thank you must go to Rob Wells for all the coaching and support he has given us this year since without the commitment of such coaches St John's Women's Rugby Club could not be what it is. I'd also

like to thank Ben Poynter and Mike Bell for all their referring; Jenny Verdon for her support as Vice-Captain; Keith and his groundsmen for keeping the pitches in top condition and to all those that have supported us this year.

I feel proud to be have been the Captain of such a terrific team in what has been yet another successful year. I wish Kathryn Griffin as Captain, and Susie Grant as Vice-Captain, all the luck for the forthcoming year.

Kathryn Wright
Captain

Men's Tennis

Writing at the very start of a new season lends itself well to basking in the glories of last year. Under the careful guidance of Andrew Mold we climbed out of the Third Division and more notably starred in the Cuppers' Final. How exactly a College of St John's size found itself languishing in the Third Division beggars belief but credit must be given to Bryan, Starling, Treibel, Boterill, Holler and Dimmock amongst others for consistently turning out to dispatch generally weak opponents. The highlight of the League season came when a strong College Team turned out in stunning May Week weather to trounce what we believed to be a surprisingly strong Jesus Second Team. In the only League match that remotely stretched us we played with aggression and a competitive edge to win 12:3 – only to subsequently discover Jesus fielded their First Team, and we claimed a 15:0 whitewash. Considering Jesus sat comfortably in the First Division this match only heightened the sense for all concerned that being in the Third Division was just plain silly.

Cuppers proved to be an excellent run of games for us with Jewitt supporting more regular League players in the top spot. The tournament culminated in May Week as we eased past the second seed Emmanuel and up against the might of Churchill. As close as we all felt it could have been, we were left feeling dejected, having been thoroughly outplayed by an excellent, consistent and professional team.

The new season has started in a positive mood with the traditional friendly games on consecutive days against the Bar and UCS Old Boys. College has had a fresh intake of talent in the first year and eleven different players were fielded over this weekend. Rain forced the abandonment of the latter match and our older opponents at the Bar beat us convincingly. Nonetheless it was a great afternoon for all, which extended into the evening as they yet again showed great generosity in fulfilling our student desires of tea and post-match drinks. Glenday, Cumming, and Richardson have joined the ranks and we all look forward to their performances over the coming years. This year we start with a team of some depth and the aim of promotion into the First Division and a solid performance in Cuppers.

William Eckersley
Captain

Swimming

Receiving the Captaincy of a winning team can often be a poisoned chalice, but thankfully this did not prove the case this year, as a strong John's squad shrugged off stiff competition and the lingering remains of a few hangovers to successfully defend the Men's Swimming Cuppers Trophy. The pick of the individual events saw man-of-the-match Des Foong touch out a swimmer twice his size from Selwyn to win the butterfly final, while fresh-faced newcomer Ainsley Mayhew-Seers and grizzled old hand Andy Young both competed in the A-finals. A glorious day for St John's would have been made complete by reclaiming the men's freestyle relay title; however, the John's quartet of Murray, Roberts, Foong and anchor-man Starling had to be satisfied with beating Trinity – boasting two Swimming Blues in their team – by a couple of metres to second place, Churchill proving too powerful with an all-star cast in their line-up.

We almost managed to enter a full Ladies Team this year, but, as Captains past and present have found, female Johnian swimmers are hard to come by. Alix Freeman swam well in the individual medley, and fantastic commitment was shown by Frieda van Belle and Sarah Kitson to fill in at very short notice.

To the victor, the spoils; to next year's Captain, Gareth Roberts, the unenviable pressure of trying to attain a hat-trick of victories, as well as sweet-talking some ladies (into the pool). Swim on!

Alex Starling
Captain

Water Polo

In last year's article I stated that the College team was not quite ready to compete with the First Division big boys and in the end only stayed up on the final day of the season. The squad was bolstered this year by one very experienced player in Ben Poynter and by Gareth Roberts, a rookie blessed with good pace and a rugby playing background (always useful in this physical sport) and most of last year's squad were still at College, so the signs looked promising before any matches were played.

The first League matches of the season were against the Ladies' Blues team and Causis. Our preparations were hindered by Simon Maller managing to fall over and break his already weakened leg and injure himself for the entire season, but other than that we were at full strength. During these matches slight match rustiness impeded our attacking play; however the team remained well marshalled and solid at the back to run 5-2 and 5-3 winners respectively. During these matches a few trends which remained with us for the rest of the season emerged – Ben's incredibly hard shooting but with a tendency to launch it at 45° and over the bar, and some just generally woeful shooting from myself. These problems were overcome in slightly differing manners. Ben was reminded that he was not throwing the javelin when in the pool and to adjust his sights accordingly – he followed the advice and went on to score most of our team's goals. The other problem proved harder to treat so we overcame it by deciding that I should just not shoot too often – possibly my not scoring would be a blessing as last year I only tended to score in matches we lost.

The next match of the season was against an Addenbrooke's side that had won the League for the last 3 years. However we felt that we could give them a good game, and in the end we were in the lead for the majority of the first half of the match before Addies broke clear in the third quarter. Nonetheless it was a promising performance against one of the best sides in the division.

Next up were the Leys U19 side. Unfortunately our goal keepers could not make the match due to a combination of illness and a dinner that had already been paid for. The Leys started strongly and fired themselves into an early 4-0 lead, but then a superb backhanded goal from a ridiculous position from Ben inspired us to trade goals with them for the middle two quarters till they stretched their lead in the final quarter. Possibly the best way to describe Ben's goal of the season is from what I was thinking and trying to shout at him during the goal.

(thinking) ok we have the ball up front let's get there and help out. OK Ben has got the ball out wide, let's help him out. What, he is going to shoot? From the side of the pool with back to goal on seven meters????

(Shouting) What the hell are you thinking, Don't shoot from there

(The ball flies into the far top corner)

(Slightly more meekly) Again.

The next set of matches were against Churchill, Christ's and Catz which went a long way to deciding how our season would turn out – if we won all three we had a good chance of going on to finish as top College side, but if we lost all three then another season hovering around the relegation places loomed. The first match was against Churchill who were fielding the Blues' goal keeper. The first half went to plan with keeper Dan Cooney making a sequence of fine saves and, on a break down the left by Kiyu, a superb pass was played into the hole and we scored. However, in the first 3 minutes after half-time, slack defending at the back meant that we went 3-1 down (I knew my scoring was cursed), and, despite laying siege to the Churchill goal for the rest of the

match, we were only able to breach the goal once. The match finished a disappointing 3-2. The test of a side, though, is always how it responds to defeat and when its pride is hurt. This squad of players is made of stern stuff and Christ's were beaten 7-0 before Catz were dispatched 9-1. The whole team played fabulously in defense as well as in attack and to single any players out would be grossly unfair. Daniel Hobohm is getting mentioned, though, for his goal celebration. After previous efforts to score his first goal had faltered, with balls judged to have not quite crossed the line (a German suffering from a linesman's call surely not), he slammed the ball home from a well worked move before screaming 'yes!' and swimming to the side of the pool to get out before walking back to the bench clenching his fist and shouting. Stirring stuff and all the more surprising as the goal put us 5-0 up.

Next on the horizon was Cuppers. For this the College side was rated by some punters as one of the favourites and we even entered a second side for those who wanted a bit of fun and could not make the First Team. Unfortunately for whatever reason the First Team could not find their normal flowing attacking water polo and the defence was not its miserly self. We progressed through the group stages by a win and a draw to the knockout stages till a combination of bad refereeing, bad defending, and awful shooting led to a 2-1 defeat to the eventual runners-up, the Ladies' Water Polo Team. The Second Team, who were superbly Captained by Paul Brione, were unfortunate to have in their group the eventual finalists, Churchill, and the Ladies' Blues Team. However, they played gamely throughout and got their just rewards in the match against Sidney where, in an awesome display of counter attacking (or possibly goal hanging) polo, they won 2-0.

The final League games of the season saw the chance to win both matches and finish as the second placed College side. However things were put into perspective with the news that Dan Cooney was seriously injured on a train crash on his way back from London. In quiet sombre conditions, the John's team prevailed 7-1 and 5-3 against Selwyn and Robinson respectively. The matches were full of flowing passing moves leading to good quality goals and in my final match for John's I did manage to get onto the score sheet. Unfortunately it was in the wrong

net, with my attempt to block a shot with my head leading to me flicking the ball past the despairing arms of keeper Kiyo. In a desperate attempt to prevent that being my last contribution for the John's team, just before the final whistle I attempted a lob. Alex Starling described the effort as 'shocking' and that is probably about right.

Finally, I would like to thank my players for making it an easy job to Captain this year. It would have been a privilege just to play in our most successful season, yet to Captain it was an honour. The team's achievements should be set in the context that the standard of polo in Cambridge has increased over the last couple of years, and this has affected the College teams by making the standard of the First Division this year very high. The guys have all flogged their guts out for their team mates whenever they have played and that is a trait that all top sides need. Skill and Flair are vital ingredients to success but without a solid foundation created by hard work they are destined for failure (compare Arsenal to Chelsea this season in the Premiership). I want to wish Dan firstly a speedy recovery from his injury and secondly every luck in Captaining this side next year. However I am sure they will be successful as they will no longer have to carry this unfit bad shooting player. Anyway here are my awards of the season.

Player of the year	Ben Poynter
Most improved player of the year	Daniel Hobohm
Rookie of the year	Andy Young
Goal of the year	Ben Poynter (against Leys)
Miss of the year	whole squad against CULWPC and my miss against Robinson (what a way to sign off!)

Congratulations to Alex Starling and Angus Murray for playing for the Blues this year in the Varsity defeat of Oxford and in the side that came second to Cardiff in BUSA.

Jon Smyth
Captain

COLLEGE SPORTS

The Basketball Club

The returning players commenced the year with a degree of apprehension. Last year's Cuppers champions and League finalists lost the services of MVP Nebojsa Radic (now coaching the Cambridge Blues Team), Most Improved Player Shlomi Azar, Johannes Bauer, and Blues players, Will Critchlow and Zenon Severis. Fortunately, a number of new players joined the ranks filling the void admirably, with Stelios Elia, George Messener, Terrence Tow and Markus Gabrysch all making invaluable contributions to the team.

St John's' regular season nemesis again turned out to be Darwin College. We played Darwin at the outset of the season, and our lack of cohesion was evident early as we quickly fell behind 15-0, rapidly becoming frustrated by the referee's refusal to call fouls, and concentrating on retaliating rather than the game. To the team's credit, we fought back in the second half and ended the game trailing by only eight points.

This loss was a turning point for the squad as we grew as a group. Teamwork and our uncompromising support of one another became the hallmarks of the side. Following numerous victories, including tough wins over Queens' and Trinity, St Johns ended the regular season in second place on the ladder. The team sailed through the opening rounds of the playoffs and, after a hard fought semi-final win against the always competitive Trinity College, reached the League final and faced Darwin College once again.

St John's efforts in this game, despite the loss of veteran guards Will Lo and Brian Tom to injury prior to the game, personified the spirit of the team and demonstrated the degree to which we had come together as a group. John's raced to an early lead. Fierce and uncompromising team defence as well as unrelenting rebounding from Geroge Petridis consistently forced turnovers from a team well known for its scoring potency. Whilst Darwin struggled offensively, John's offensive game

was sublime. Excellent ball movement led to open shots as Mike Banach, George Messner, Stelios Elia and Terrence Tow demoralised the opposition with a clinical shooting display. After 45 minutes St John's emerged victorious, winning comfortably by 17 points.

Throughout the year Mike Banach demonstrated great basketball skills, commitment, leadership and sportsmanship and is a deserving winner of the MVP award. Defensive Player of the Year goes to Alex Simpson, and Markus Gabrysch was, without question, the Most Improved Player. Also important to mention are the contributions of Vice-Captain, George Petridis, and team Secretary, Will Lo, whose efforts were invaluable. Special thanks should also go to those who have been involved with the team on a part-time basis, including Martin Kom and Alex Navid as well as our loyal supporters.

St John's has commenced this year's Cuppers campaign with a decisive win over Churchill College. The squad is hoping to become only the second team in League history to win both the League and Cuppers title.

On a personal note, I would like to thank the team for the effort and commitment each member has shown throughout the season.

Alex Simpson
Captain

The Chess Club

St John's entered two teams in the League and Cuppers this year. This was thanks to an influx of players in the new First year who made up a competitive Second team in the Third Division. The First team however, was weakened compared to previous years due to the academic commitments of a number of key players. This was despite three Johnians eventually playing in the winning side against Oxford in the Varsity match.

The season started with the Cuppers first round. After an early win from Andreas Domnick, and a draw from Owen Jones on Board Four, a

last minute victory from Petros Wallden on Board One saw John's defeat Trinity II on board count. The Second team were not so lucky, losing 3-2 to King's.

After this early scare we managed to field a stronger team in the League against Trinity I. The final score of 4-1 to Trinity did not fairly sum up the match after Chris Bell and Ezzeri Esa lost early advantages in their games. Due to academic commitments, Andreas was only available for Cuppers' matches and Tim Paulden's draw in this game was the only match for which he was available.

As the season continued, Petros became a regular source of points for the Club, and with a number of late blitzes, also testing the nerves. Chris, Ezzeri and Owen also put in good performances with the first victory coming against Magdelene after Christmas.

After losing to Trinity again to exit Cuppers, John's seemed to be in trouble in the League also. Thankfully, Andreas stepped in to help the team avoid relegation and soon after, wins against Emma and Christ's helped the club to 7th.

In the meantime however, Bruce Stocker had lead the Second team to second place in their division and promotion for next year. Performances throughout the year from Matthew Gunton, David McGlade, Stefan Kuppen, Colin Leung, Rob West, David Birch, Jason Davies and Conrad Williams left the team with only one defeat against the eventual winners, Christ's II. These players should make both teams competitive next year.

Michael Dudley
Captain

The Cricket Club

With three teams cancelling due to a failure to field a team, two games rained off and one game cancelled due to exam commitments, the St John's 2003 Cricket season was unusually short. However, the most

notable absentee from the fixture list was Cuppers final. This was due to a semi-final defeat at the hands of Churchill.

'Twas a glorious sunny day but on winning the toss, the John's Captain elected to field, expressing doubts over his batsmen's current form. Unfortunately, Churchill amassed 200 off their 40 overs, which, although very attainable, was far more than their mediocre line-up deserved. Dent and Alles bowled with control but Glenday, Malloch and Ahuja were all slightly expensive. Glenday, coming in at six, was the only batsman to score over 25, but when he was run out, the required run rate escalated. A cameo from Dent and a late flourish from Hewitt nearly yet won us the game, but we were finally bowled out on the fourth ball of the last over, just five runs short. So near and yet so far.

The season had begun with a similarly tense encounter at Jesus. John's notched up 179 off their 40 overs, Hall top-scoring with an impressive 63. However, on this reasonably flat wicket we were probably a few runs short and Jesus squeezed home with three wickets in hand. Relatively comfortable Cuppers victories against Hughes Hall and Pembroke followed, before our annual friendly with the Stoics.

With several of the team injured, we took to the field with a slightly makeshift side. However, our newer members excelled and a highly efficient bowling and fielding performance saw us dismiss our opposition for a paltry 91. The game seemed all but won, yet our batsmen fell like flies such that we levelled our opponents' score with only one wicket remaining. With Yiangou left to face just the final ball of the penultimate over, a tie seemed the most likely result. However, he kept it out, allowing Hall to score the winning runs the following over. We had made something of a meal of our run-chase, but had in the process produced a very exciting game of cricket.

Over the season, Hall led with the bat, being the only batsman to score consistently. Haldar bowled with pace and accuracy while Alles always looked dangerous, though often erratic in his opening spell. Glenday and Malloch bowled with guile and took wickets, but perhaps conceded more runs than they would have liked. In the field, Picardo exhibited a

unique ability to turn ones into twos, while with a bat in his hand he did quite the reverse. And in an era increasingly dominated by physical prowess and aggression, Hewitt made a refreshing change in the field, throwing as he did with an unashamedly feminine grace. Charlwood, Martin, Humphreys and Linton also all made useful contributions.

Finally, I would like to thank Keith for all his support and for his tireless efforts on the pitches, and his wife Catherine for all the delicious food she provided. I'd also like to wish the best to those members of the team who are graduating this summer.

Vijay Ahuja
Captain

The Flamingoes

This year, for the first time in many, saw the flamingo flock back up to its full number of 22 members. With last year's Club only having six members, and many then flying off to the outside world, this expansion is testament to the standard of our women's sporting ability.

As usual, the Flamingoes have strutted their stuff on their various pitches. Perhaps the most impressive achievement was that of the Lacrosse team. Despite only being formed last year, the team, captained enthusiastically by Chip McClure, went on to win Cuppers. Chip has personally had an amazing year, having been selected for the British Universities squad, and achieving her first Senior Cap for Scotland in a victory match over Wales. She is now training for selection for the World Cup 2005 squad. Chip competed in this year's triumphant Blues Lacrosse team, and has been elected Blues Captain for next year. Sarah Kitson's Hockey team managed to win promotion from the Third Division by winning the League, and then went on to the semi-finals of Cuppers.

Unfortunately, the infamous Red Girls were not their usual success on the Rugby pitch this year, having to start with almost a completely new team. They did manage to come middle of their table playing some

good games, despite crippling injuries including Captain Kathryn Griffin's spiral ankle fracture, Susie Grant's knee injury, and Velda Elliott's back injury. The year has seen growing talent from many players, promising a good year next year.

Many Flamingoes have been excelling out on the river. Clare Philbrick rowed at Number Five in this year's Blue boat in Henley. Karen Hartshorn was the CUWBC Lightweights Captain, where she rowed at bow for her Lightweights crew. She then went on to win Silver at the BUSA Indoor Rowing Championships. Clare Paddison, last year's College Captain, also trialled for CUWBC, and was selected as reserve. The coming summer term promises to be a very successful one for Captain Camilla Waugh and her ladies.

John's Netballers have had a very successful season, with Jo Wooley's First team placed fifth in the Premier Division, and her Second team third in the Second Division. Jenny Verdon's contribution to the University Netball team doubtless helped in their impressive and fairly one-sided victory over Oxford, and in becoming League champions and BUSA finalists. Jo Wooley's University Korfbal team also had a Varsity victory with an impressive score difference, and she has since been made Captain of the team. College Captain Nancy Priston's Badminton team reached the Cuppers semi-finals, and expect to come out in the middle of the League's first division. With the Athletics season just starting to get under way, Jacqui Le Geyt hopes to triumph over Oxford in the forthcoming Varsity match, after the narrow defeat at the recent 'Varsity Fields and Relays' event.

With these as examples of what our Pink Ladies can do, it is clear to see the standard and range of women's sporting talent at St John's. It has been great to see the Flamingoes Club back up to its full numbers, and I hope the Club continues to strengthen over the coming years.

Jacqui Le Geyt
President

Ladies' Rugby Club

As much as I would love to be able to say that the Ladies' Rugby team followed in the footsteps of their predecessors and won the double once more - well, I'm afraid I can't!

It was always going to be a hard season with the loss of so many of our First and Second team players to the world of work, but I don't think any of the Freshers who signed up for "the Red Girls" knew that they would soon be playing two matches a week (at least) for the First team! The thing is...it all started so well!

Both our initial First and Second team games were won convincingly with a 24-0 win over Emma and a 24-5 win over Sidney Sussex. The Second team looked like being frightening opposition with Gemma Farrell proving that size isn't everything in girls' rugby, and for the Firsts, Suzie Grant (as usual) proving that she really is in a class of her own.

Training continued in earnest despite administrative errors preventing many matches being played in the first few weeks of term and, despite the loss of Jenny Verdon to the University Netball team, we felt ourselves to be in a good position to emulate the successes of previous years.

Unfortunately on 10 November disaster struck during an innocuous "sliding" training drill when I managed (no one is yet sure how) to fracture my ankle, tearing a number of ligaments in the process and rendering myself wheelchair bound for the remainder of the term. Here I owe many thanks to Rob Wells (for heroically trying to carry me off the pitch!) and to Velda and Suzie for taking over as match Captains in my absence.

As we lost other new recruits to rowing and other sports our numbers were dwindling rapidly and the losses of the Second team to Trinity II (5-17), Christs (7-12) and Trinity Hall (0-21) reflect the inexperience of the side rather than any lack of effort or commitment.

A shock defeat for the First team and yet another loss for the Second team meant that we had to do something drastic and I took the decision

to pull the Second team from the Second Division in order to concentrate our efforts and training on the First team. A mid-week training session was instated and a one-off fitness session with the Men's team revealed where our problems lay! With resolve to get fit over Christmas we left College still in contention for the title of League champions, but much more was yet to happen!

The beginning of term brought with it a new recruit in the form of Kirsten Smith, a First year who had played rugby at school, and who has proved to be a crucial member of our team. Lorna Gratton and Megan Morys began training with the University team and as January began, the Red Girls looked to be "on the up".

With February, though, came snow and an accident, which robbed us of our star player, Suzie Grant, who having slipped in the snow ended up having a knee operation, meaning that she was unable to play in the Varsity game and that we had to do some serious "re-jigging" in our team line up. Jules and Lorna, I thank you for being so versatile and for being able to play any position at the drop of a hat, sometimes without any previous scrummaging experience!

Games-wise we were having less luck without Suzie but the front-row (Velda, Fran and Megan) especially were relentless in their tackling, rucking and mauling and we made every opponent work for their points. Administration within the League was less than organised, prompting frantic emails and text messages at all hours but eventually we finished mid-table with Queens' taking the title we had previously dominated.

Fuelled by the success of the Men's team we went into Cuppers with the slogan "Annihilation with Flirtation" as our new aggressive policy. Unfortunately we were knocked out of Cuppers by Trinity but everyone played very well with special mention going to Megan and Velda who put in some outstanding tackles. As usual Rob was there to support us, and myself, Suzie, and (the now injured) Lorna shouted encouragement from the sidelines as the girls battled bravely.

The Cuppers trophy eventually went to Queens' but the end of the tournament heralded the beginning of our annual "dinner", this year held at Chopsticks with a drunken visit to the College Ent to follow.

I'd like to thank all the girls who played this season for being so enthusiastic and committed in the face of such difficult circumstances and would like to wish Kirsten Smith (Captain) and Lorna Gratton (Vice-Captain) all the best for next year. Rob Wells, Tom Sayer and Mike Bell did an amazing job coaching us (Tom will take over as Head Coach next year), and I'd like to give a special thanks to Gareth Roberts who refereed for us on a number of occasions and spent a long time teaching Kirsten how to drop kick! Thank you so much for making my time as Captain so enjoyable and good luck to the Red Girls for next year.

Kathryn Griffin
Captain

Ladies' Tennis

Ladies' Tennis in John's has been steadily improving over the last few years. This has been achieved despite tennis being an exclusively summer sport, making it hard sometimes to co-ordinate with the revision that necessarily mars the Easter term. Tennis, however, provides a good break from all that and enthusiasm and dedication is generally high.

Under last year's Captain, Amy Dymock, we had a successful year. The First team finished second in the First Division of the League and reached the quarter-finals of Cuppers. Well done to Liisa Lahti, Caoimhe Ni Dhalaiigh, Charlotte Pawlyn, Amelie Knapp, Jamilah Meghji and Shweta Banejee who were awarded Colours!

As I write we are only at the very start of the new season, so few matches have been played, but another strong first year has again provided the team with a number of good players and a Second team to

rival most College First teams. This should help us maintain the position of the First team in the First Division and hopefully enable the Second team to move up from the Fourth.

This year three members of John's, Liisa Lahti, Caroline Mather, and Charlotte Pawlyn are playing for the University Second team, which should give us an added advantage in the Cuppers tournament.

Charlotte Pawlyn

Lady Margaret Boat Club – Overall

The current members of the Lady Margaret Boat Club continue to enjoy and deeply appreciate the tremendous facilities of the new Boathouse. These facilities should be further improved in the coming year by the addition of a new Fours' Shed, the installation of air-conditioning in the Boathouse gym and an exterior window in the coaching room.

The generosity of old members in contributing to the endowment fund for the ongoing financing of the Club will ensure that Lady Margaret's future remains bright. The LMBC Association's growing support of the Club, through the purchase of boats and blades, facilitation of training camps, and racing at Henley, is deeply appreciated by its oarsmen and women.

The dedication of the Club's old boys and girls in returning to coach on the Cam or on training camps is central to members' enthusiasm and commitment to the Club and its traditions.

Roger Silk, as Lady Margaret's Boatman, has been central to the Club's achievements over the past forty years. He retired in December but continues to be involved with Lady Margaret. He still shares his coaching expertise with Lady Margaret crews and makes off-Cam trips possible. On behalf of all members of LMBC, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Roger for his commitment and wish him all the best for the future.

This year has seen the dawn of a new era for the LMBC with the arrival of our new Boat Club Manager, Gerald Roebroeks. Gerald is a 29 year-old Dutchman who comes to us from West Virginia University in the USA, where he coached their women's squad, whilst reading for a Masters in coaching.

Lady Margaret's members are also grateful for the generous financial support of our sponsors, UBS Warburg. Their contribution towards Club dinners, the purchase of rowing kit and a great deal of the Club's ongoing operational expenses is greatly valued.

Finally, if any old members have any items they might wish to donate to the LMBC Collection in the College Library, I would ask them to contact the Senior Treasurer, Catherine Twilley, at St John's.

Camilla Waugh
Captain

Lady Margaret Boat Club - Men

Henley 2002

Having finished 3rd in the May Bumps, LMBC was well placed to qualify for the Royal Regatta, despite losing Ewan Robson to a Goldie IV, and the crew's Blue, Tom Edwards-Moss, being ineligible for the Temple event.

Despite the reduced numbers in the event, a profitable composite with Robinson College Boat Club saw the crew qualify comfortably into the Temple Challenge Cup, the only boat from Cambridge to do so. Unfortunately, a spate of illness just before the race saw LMBC lose to Reading University on the Wednesday by just over a length.

The crew was accompanied by a Spare Pair, also coached by Roger; the Pair made good use of their time at Henley and were narrowly beaten in the final of the Spare Pairs' race, a considerable achievement considering neither of the two had been in anything smaller than a Coxed Four before the camp.

The Henley VIII

Bow	Chris Greenroyd
2	Amir Nathoo
3	Rob Baxter (Robinson College)
4	Mark Brand
5	Andreas Domnick
6	Tom Gommersall (Robinson College)
7	Martin Tolliver
Str	Patrick Buckley
Cox	Caroline Page

The week was very enjoyable for the crew. The Arlidge family's wonderful hospitality was most appreciated, and special thanks must again go to Roger Silk for his (again) excellent coaching, as well as the generosity of the LMBC Association and its members who make the entire experience possible.

Michaelmas Term 2002

The Senior Club again started the year looking weak, with only last year's Captain returning from the 1st May VIII. Fortunately, the depth of the Club last year allowed us to field three IV's and a development VIII.

Light Four

Bow	David Martin
2	Mark Brand
3	Geoff Ball
Str	Ed Clay

1st Coxed Four

Bow	Steve Block
2	Chris Taylor
3	Ben Symonds
Str	Gareth Lane
Cox	Sophie Pickford

The Light Four set to training hard, with the addition of schoolboy Ed Clay and last year's Captain, Mark Brand. Coached by Roger Silk, they produced a decent time at the Fours Head and then followed up with winning the University Races.

The 1st Coxed Four, coached by Gerald Roebroeks, had a chequered time, with a changing crew and some very bad luck losing their rudder after just 2 minutes in the Fours Head. They were knocked out in the first round of the University Fours.

The 2nd Coxed Four performed very well considering the inexperience of the crew, beating Clare comfortably before being knocked out by a very strong Emmanuel crew.

The development VIII produced a good time in the Autumn Head, and made some good improvements through the 1st half of term.

The club then reformed for the Fairbairns. The 1st VIII unfortunately lost both Mark Brand and Ed Clay due to sailing and work commitments, but set to training with gusto. Thanks must go to Pete Mallin-Jones who coached a very successful week. Unfortunately the 1st VIII performed poorly in the race itself, coming a disappointing 13th amongst Colleges, 16th overall. The 2nd Senior VIII came together very well, and comfortably won the 2nd Boat trophy – beginning a trend of domination amongst the field of 2nd VIII's, which was to continue throughout the year.

Once again Lady Margaret produced some very successful Novice crews. Despite severe restrictions on Novice rowing, which greatly disadvantage larger clubs from giving their Novice crews morning outings, four crews were formed. The 1st Novice Men were coached by Gerald Roebroeks, the new Boat Club Manager, for the whole term, and developed an excellent crew spirit and, despite a disappointing knockout in the Clare Novice Regatta, came back to win Fairbairns by a clear margin. The lower Novice crews were unable get as much water time as they would have liked, and never fully reached their potential.

The term ended with LMBC Trial VIII Chases on the Cam, bringing the Club's Novice and Senior oarsmen together for a sample of the Bumping Races to come next term.

Lent Term 2002

The start of the year saw a squad of twelve rowers going to Eton for the pre-term training camp, four of whom only came to the College this year. Excellent coaching from Guy Pooley, Chris Atkin, Andy Jones and Pete Mallin-Jones saw the crews make large improvements in a very short time. Thanks must go to the LMBC Association for making this extremely productive camp possible, as well the Eton Dorney centre, for once again providing excellent accommodation and food.

1st Lent VIII

Bow	Tommy Keeling
2	Chris Crawshaw
3	David Martin
4	Chris Milton
5	Ben Symonds
6	Gary Olney
7	Geoff Ball
Str	Gareth Lane
Cox	Sophie Pickford

2nd Lent VIII

Bow	Andy Fenn
2	Dave Wilson
3	Tom O'Mahoney
4	Chris Taylor
5	Peter Scott
6	Steve Block
7	George Wallis
Str	Ben Russel
Cox	Elen O'Leary

An inexperienced 1st VIII made large improvements under Gerald Roebroeks, Roger Silk and John Rhodes throughout the term. An excellent result of 3rd in the Robinson Head showed the crew had potential; unfortunately a string of illnesses led to poor results in Bedford Head and Pembroke Regatta. The crew fell from 2nd to 4th in Bumps despite some spirited racing.

The 2nd VIII, coached by Gerald Roebroeks, Roger Silk and John Durack built on its success of the previous term. With a number of seats in the 1st and 2nd VIII taken up by ex-novices the crew was strong, and quickly established themselves as a dominant force on the Cam. With victories in the Head to Head, Robinson Head and Pembroke Regatta, they were set for blades, but very bad luck on the third day saw them rise only three places, ready for an assault on the 1st Division next year.

The lower VIII's had a varied performance. The Fourth Men fell four places after a difficult term, and the Third Men were unlucky to end up down two after an impressive bump and a series of frustrating row-overs.

The return of May Colours Andreas Domnick and Mark Brand to the 1st VIII delivered a good result at the Kingston Head, coming 5th in S3, but outing and illness troubles resulted in a poor placing of 216th in the Head of the River race. The Second boat also came to Kingston, coming an impressive 6th just 2 seconds behind the 1st VIII!

Ewan Robson once again deserves congratulations for rowing for Goldie for the second year running.

May Term 2002

The term started with the annual training camp at York under the superb tutelage of Jamie MacLeod. Despite the loss of two of the VIII that went to Kingston, the camp was a success, with excellent weather and water on which to cover many miles. Again, this experience would not have been possible without the assistance of the LMBCA.

With a wealth of people to choose from, the May's coaches' meeting was a great aid to crew selection and planning the term as a whole. The 1st May VIII started training well, with Ed Clay covering outings until Ewan Robson could join the crew later in term. Excellent coaching by Andy Jones saw them progress rapidly, and race nicely at Thames Ditton, unfortunately going out to a strong Canford Crew in S3 and losing the final of S2. Roger Silk then took over, and unfortunately, poor communication and crew unavailability saw the crew fail to race at both the Metropolitan and Peterborough Regattas before Sandy Black began to finish them.

The 2nd VIII, although having lost a number of oarsmen to a Gentlemen's VIII, was still strong from last term, and again put in an excellent time at the Head to Head – along with Caius II they were well ahead of the field of other 2nd VIII's. Coached by Tom Edwards-Moss, then Gerald Roebroeks, the crew made progress before being handed over to the capable hands of Bill Budenberg.

1st May VIII

Bow	Tommy Keeling
2	Gareth Lane
3	Geoff Ball
4	Chris Crawshaw
5	Gary Olney
6	Mark Brand
7	Andreas Domnick
Str	Ewan Robson
Cox	Sophie Pickford

2nd May VIII

Bow	Tom O'Mahoney
2	Dave Wilson
3	Chris Taylor
4	Ian Martin
5	Peter Scott
6	Steve Block
7	George Wallis
Str	Ben Russel
Cox	Elen O'Leary

Geoff Ball
Men's Captain

Lady Margaret Boat Club – Women

Henley 2002

Almost the entire May VIII raced together at Women's Henley, coached by Roger Silk. We drew Southampton University A in the first round and despite a strong row, lost by two lengths to a very good crew. The experience of racing at Henley continues to be valued by LMBC oarswomen. We appreciate the generous support of the LMBCA in making this possible.

The Henley VIII

Bow	Alix Freeman
2	Sara Vero
3	Rachel Williams
4	Francesca Frame
5	Clare Philbrick
6	Nathalie Walker
7	Camilla Waugh
8	Clare Paddison
Cox	William Addison

Development Squad

Karen Hartshorn was elected Lightweight's President 2002-2003. She was joined in the CUWBC Development Squad by Clare Philbrick and Clare Paddison.

Michaelmas Term 2002

It seems customary to begin the account of Michaelmas term with an appraisal of the weather. Well, let this year be no different. The weather fared reasonably well, with only a brief period of flooding. However, the wind caused more of a problem, blowing down branches (read trees) into the river. Thanks to the less than speedy actions of the Cam Conservancy the new look Cam obstacle course for coxes lasted rather longer than was convenient for crews training for University Fours.

The Senior Club started the year looking quite healthy, demonstrated by the fielding of two VIII's for Fairbairns. The 1st VIII initially split into two, to train for, and race in, the University Fours races. The First Four, helped considerably by the new boat purchased by the LMBCA, and coached by Roger Silk, came 460th in the Fours Head of the River Race. We easily beat St Catharine's in the first round of the University Fours recording the fastest time of the day. We met Clare in the quarter-final and were about half a length down when Clare crashed into a branch on their side of the river. A re-row was ordered but due to time commitments we were forced to scratch. The Second Four, coached by our new Boat Club Manager, Gerald Roebroeks, suffered somewhat from lack of outings but, despite an early clash, rowed well and were unlucky to be beaten by a strong Downing crew.

Shortly after the University Fours races my Vice-Captain, Rachel Williams, resigned her post. Ros Tendler was welcomed as her replacement. The First VIII then recombined and reshuffled for Fairbairns. It lacked crew consistency and actually consisted of 12 people; as Roger rather too accurately put it, "it's just like musical chairs, when the music stops grab a seat." The final racing VIII put in a strong performance and finished seventh, a credible result which may have been improved further if circumstances had been different. The

Second VIII, was a "low-commitment" development VIII. They put in a solid row to finish 21st as the second fastest Second boat.

1st IV

Bow	Francesca Frame
3	Camilla Waugh
2	Sara Vero
4	Rachel Williams
Cox	Bethany Stoker

2nd IV

Bow	Louise Fisher
3	Jo Barnsley
2	Jo Wooley
4	Uli Forster
Cox	Amanda Salter

1st Fairbairns VIII

Bow	Petya Blumbach
2	Bethany Stoker
3	Francesca Frame
4	Rachel Williams
5	Louise Fisher
6	Camilla Waugh
7	Jo Griffiths
8	Alix Freeman
Cox	Kate Fielder

2nd Fairbairns VIII

Bow	Raga Krishnakumar
2	Helen Woodward
3	Grainne McKenna
4	Phillippa Bennet
5	Rebecca Walton
6	Jo Wooley
7	Charlotte Pawlyn
8	Marion McMillan
Cox	Ben Davies

Novices

Despite the new early morning restrictions on Novice boats that seem biased against large clubs, the LMBC Novices continued their dominance. We had just over four successful Novice crews this year.

The First Women won the Queens' ergo competition by two seconds in an enthralling re-row after a dead-heat with Robinson College, and won the Fairbairns Cup. The Second Women came a respectable 13th in Fairbairns. The Third Women reached the finals of the Clare Sprints Plate competition having narrowly beaten the Fourth Women in the semi-final. The Fourth Women did incredibly well, coming 11th in Fairbairns. This success is a credit to the Lower Boats' Captains, Bethany Stoker and Francesca Frame and to the dedicated team of LMBC rowers who coached the boats so admirably.

Eton Training Camp

Due to flooding over the Christmas period, we were unable to use the river at Eton, as planned. Instead we moved on to the Dorney Lake, one of the few places in the country still rowable, and enjoyed a productive week's training despite the snow. Gerald Roebroeks kept us working hard and improving all week, with special guest appearances from Anna-Marie Phelps and Claire Sweeney. Our thanks go to the LMBC Association for subsidising the training camp.

Lent Term 2003

The Lents Headship was once again within reach this year, with the First Boat starting third on the river. However the number of returning Seniors and continuing Novices was disappointing and this impacted on all three crews. The First Boat was somewhat inexperienced, but worked hard. We were coached for the majority of the term by Gerald Roebroeks, with Roger Silk finishing us. Once Bumps came along we realised that our realistic goal would be to maintain our high position. We knew we'd have our work cut out for us with very fast Caius and Downing crews behind us.

On the first day we rowed better than we ever have and held off a big and fast Caius crew to Ditton, after they went for the bump round Grassy and missed it. They went on to take the Headship from Emmanuel on the Friday. On the second day we fell quite quickly to a speedy and determined Downing crew but were determined that the slide was now over. On the following two days we were chased by Newnham, the crew that defeated us in Pembroke Regatta. We put in two solid row-overs and were never really challenged by them. We ended the Bumps in fifth position, which leaves us within reach of the Headship next year.

The First Boat also entered the Women's Eight Head of the River Race and came 107th improving drastically on our starting position of 196th and beating most Cambridge colleges, including Jesus and Emmanuel, the two crews that started ahead of us on the river in the Lents. The Second and Third boats were hampered somewhat by lack of experience

and outings. While the Third boat missed out on a place in the racing in the getting on race, the Second boat narrowly avoided their spoons, going down three to Robinson, Downing and Peterhouse after rowing over on the first day.

1st Lent VIII

Bow	Bethany Stoker
2	Tamsin Rees
3	Kim Maynard
4	Sophie Doran
5	Camilla Waugh
6	Sara Vero
7	Renee Hope
8	Francesca Frame
Cox	Henry Addison

2nd Lent VIII

Bow	Katie Leah
2	Kathryn Carrick
3	Rebecca Walton
4	Laura Spence
5	Shiela Davis
6	Gabi Maas
7	Catherine Slattery
8	Petya Blumbach
Cox	Caroline Page

CUWBC Henley Boat Races

LMBC had three representatives in CUWBC this year. Clare Philbrick rowed at five in the Blue Boat, Karen Hartshorn rowed for the Lightweights and Clare Paddison was a spare. Unfortunately all three CUWBC crews were defeated by their Oxford counterparts. Well done to all three for their hard work and dedication throughout the year.

Colquhoun Sculls 2003

This year the Colquhoun Sculls were won by Daniel Barry from Caius.

May Term 2003

An enthusiastic squad of rowers returned to Cambridge early to start training for the Mays under the expert eye of Roger Silk. With the three triallists returning to the Maggie ranks, three promising crews were promptly selected and began training hard for the Mays.

The First boat favoured the element of surprise this year, entering no races before Bumps and doing stealth training sessions at unorthodox times of the day. Thanks to a tremendous coaching team consisting of Roger Silk, Richard Marsh, Tom Edwards-Moss and Beth Davidson, we

began Bumps looking smooth and fast. We bumped Trinity Hall on the first night at Grassy corner, moments before Trinity Hall would have reached St Catharine's. On the second night we quickly dispatched St Catharine's at First Post corner. However, we must have used a lot of our luck up on the first night because by the third it had run out and Downing bumped Jesus as we were overlapping them, just out of Ditton corner. On the last night, we easily bumped Jesus, giving them their spoons, and finishing the week sixth.

The Second boat contained some promising oarswomen who could supplement the first VIII in the coming year. They were awarded a technical row-over on the first day due to carnage ahead of them. On the second night, they were forced to row-over again as Wolfson bumped Homerton ahead. They followed Wolfson up the Bumps chart by bumping Homerton at Grassy corner on the third day. They rowed over on the final day, to finish up one; an improvement on an already very high position. The Third boat was very highly placed and went down three to Girton II, New Hall II and Churchill II after rowing over on the first day. However they retain the Third boat Headship.

1st May VIII

Bow	Tamsin Rees
2	Renee Hope
3	Francesca Frame
4	Uli Forster
5	Camilla Waugh
6	Clare Philbrick
7	Clare Paddison
8	Karen Hartshorn
Cox	Henry Addison

2nd May VIII

Bow	Marion McMillan
2	Rebecca Walton
3	Phillippa Bennet
4	Aubretia McColl
5	Sophie Doran
6	Kim Maynard
7	Joanna Wooley
8	Helen Woodward
Cox	Tom Hardcastle

I would like to thank everyone involved with the Club this year, especially all those who coached or competed. I thank the Committee whose hard work and dedication have made so many things possible. On behalf of all the oarsmen and women who benefit so much from their help, I would like to thank the LMBC Association. Finally, I

would like to express my enormous gratitude to Cath Twilley for her constant and unfailing support. I wish Tamsin Rees, next year's Captain, the very best of luck.

Vive Laeta...

Camilla Waugh
Captain

Men's Badminton Club

In my time at John's, I have watched the Badminton Club go from strength to strength and this year was no different. Having lost key members of last year's team, the Club looked under threat, but little did we know that this would be the most successful year in College Badminton history. The First team were crowned League and Cuppers champions, the Second team gained a place in the top division, and for the second year running the Third team was promoted.

For the First team, the season had a tumultuous start with a heavy defeat very early on. But some hearts, like evening primroses, open more beautifully in the shadows of life; with intense training in the following period, we finished the term undefeated with a team characterized by commitment and determination. The earring and tattoo-clad Tai-Ho Hung brought a level of ferocity to the courts that none had seen before and with the flourishing talent (when we could get him away from his girlfriend) of our future Captain Cameron Saxby, won some of the most crucial games in the season. In addition, the team was strengthened by the return of Hiroyuki Kuribayashi and Jin Yu, who both defined speed and style. Veteran of the club, Stephen Moran, continued to frustrate and confuse opponents with his pinpoint accurate serving, and with myself, formed one of the League's strongest partnerships. Despite being hampered by a lack of a partner and continual injury, Christophe Griffiths put in some excellent performances, and his singing of inspirational music no doubt took the rest of the team to higher levels - but then again maybe not! I would like to thank John Cumming whose awesome display for Cuppers played a big part in our third successive defeat of Trinity in the finals. Thanks

also to James Greene, who provided on and off the court entertainment with his badminton and 'break-dancing'. Below are comments from the Second and Third team Captains:

James Lee: 'Well, it was certainly an interesting term of Badminton for the Second team, this time up there with the big boys in the First Division. While it was always going to be an uphill struggle to maintain top-flight status (especially with a couple of our players leaving us for the heady heights of the First team), our players battled valiantly and managed to avoid any whitewashes. We can all safely say we can look forward to an easier term next Michaelmas in the Second division, and we'll hopefully be back battling in the First division again soon. Thank you to all the people who turned out to play for the team (sometimes at somewhat short notice), and hopefully we'll be back and stronger next year.'

Frank Hsieh: 'John's Badminton Third team once again did the College proud, having an unbeaten record in the Lent term and moving up one division this year. However, it wasn't the number of matches that we won that made the year memorable: the highlight of the year was the fateful match against arch rivals Trinity in the depths of the harsh, cold winter. Although our team faced considerable environmental stress imposed by Trinity, who thought they could secure an undue advantage by refusing to turn on the heater, the team still prevailed, thrashing them with a score of 7-2. If you're keen on sharing the glory, do consider joining the badminton team.'

The development of the Badminton Club to its present status, owes much to the hard work of two individuals. Stephen Moran, who was the League Secretary this year, has given members of all teams training, and has been a mentor and guide for me. Also Jorg Lepler has organised the provision of shuttlecocks and badminton rackets and is known by all for his great love of the sport. I would also like to thank our College, which has generously provided the Club with the funds necessary for booking courts in Kelsey Kerridge and for equipment. Finally, I would like to thank our supporters, who over the years have added to the fun and excitement of matches. With the quality and commitment of this year's

members, it has been one of my greatest privileges to be the Captain, and I wish the Badminton Club every success for the future.

Rajeev Mathew
Captain

Men's Football

It has been a very successful season for the Club. The 1st XI won the League and Cuppers, the Seconds were promoted to the Second Division and reached the final of the Shield, while the Thirds were unfortunately relegated after a brave season, playing against mostly college Second teams.

The season started with the excitement that Freshers' Week and a new intake brings. Mike Gun-Why was signed on a free from Byker Grove, James Verdon brought his Fernando Couto locks over from Lazio, Alex Ford took on the role of First team gay icon, while Vinny Cheung and Mike Adams drove down from Liverpool in a stolen Vauxhall Astra, hand in hand. In fact Mike told us proudly that he'd picked up a few striking tips from wonder kid Wayne Rooney himself, who used to baby-sit Mike's girlfriend.

Following trials we set off on a pre-season excursion to the Dark Lands, where we took on the might of St John's, Oxford. The slipper was duly administered, and a 3-1 victory was followed by an entertaining evening, during which Jack Russell was mauled by the College wolf.

The Fresher intake and our pre-season performances gave me much confidence that a successful season was to come. Team spirit was high as we entered the opening League fixtures. The 4-0 drubbing of less capable neighbours, Jesus, was followed by a tight encounter against a solid Darwin side, who were finally put to bed, 1-0, by a mazy solo run and finish by Ford. Then came a blow, which brought us right back to earth. A terrible performance against a spirited Girton side saw us lose 2-1, and left us with a mountain to climb in the League.

However some fine performances in the early rounds of Cuppers, 5-0 against King's, 10-1 against CCSS, including four goals from Starling, which he afterwards dedicated to his three year old god-daughter Britney. An excellent 4-1 victory against the sterner opposition of Hill's Road raised spirits and saw a turnaround in our League fortunes.

A good 2-2 draw away at Long Road rejuvenated the League campaign and was followed by hard-fought 2-1 wins against Queens' and reigning champions, Fitz. The Fitz game was marked by another headline-grabbing wonder goal from Ford, a fine headed goal from a corner from Harry Horsley, and a breathtaking, one-handed save in the closing minutes from Hewitt. All this after going 1-0 down, displayed our great character and team spirit.

This was all followed by comfortable 3-0 wins against title-pretending Trinity and relegation-threatened Homerton. This set us up for a supposed title decider against Catz, a game in which a draw would be enough to crown us Champions - we lost the game 2-1. We missed a number of chances, played poorly and were not aided by some dubious refereeing. Catz, however, had left four League games for the last week of the season, and having previously claimed two walkovers, failed to engineer any more, and we were crowned Champions. Although this was not an ideal way to win the League, over the whole season, we were the best team. We played some tremendous football, scored some goals of sheer class and were always defensively solid.

This left just the small matter of Cuppers to complete a perfect season. With four Blues coming into the team, we were firm favourites and were living up to that tag. Weeks and Lewis marshalled the back line, Harding and Dimmock dominated mid-field, while Hall's trickery and downright cheek complimented Adams's blistering pace and lethal finishing up front.

We faced Downing in the semis, a Second Division team who won every single game this season, until they met us. With 0-0 at half-time, it took another wonder strike from Ford and a typically outrageous goal from Hall to give us a victory in which they did not have a single shot on goal.

This set up a final clash against Girton at Grange Road. The crowds came in their droves, hoping for an upset. This time however, Goliath truly swallowed up David and spat him out over the bobbly Grange Road surface. Hall put us 1-0 ahead before half-time, then after the break a Mike Adams double, followed by a Sion Lewis header, saw us coast home easy 4-0 winners. In our five Cuppers matches we scored 25 goals and conceded just 2, which emphasised our dominance in this season's competition.

The season was rounded off with a successful tour to Edinburgh, where we defeated the University Third XI 5-3. A number of characters emerged during our few days together, but none more so than Billy Fane, whose antics will become the stuff of legend, and he will surely bring much to the role of next season's Honorary Vice-Chancellor.

A couple of emails and a phone call from New College, Oxford, the winners of the Oxford College League, and we were summoned to Iffley Road to represent Cambridge in a 'League Winners Varsity Match'. Despite a depleted squad and no substitutes, we played our usual flowing, attacking football and raced into a half-time 4-0 lead through goals from Hobohm, Verdon and Adams (2). After the break, Adams took his tally to four, and Harding added a seventh, before injuries left us playing with nine men, allowing New College to grab a couple of consolation goals, leaving us worthy 7-2 winners.

Although many people played a huge part in this historic season, a few have stood out with their magnificent performances.

Chris Weeks enjoyed another fantastic season, the team's Mr Reliable, who never seems to have a bad game, even when we lose. His reading of the game and aerial power, and his partnership with Horsley, Hobohm and Russell gave us the solid base on which to build a successful team.

James Bryan was the mid-field Marshall in the League side. Sitting in front of the defence, doing Jablonski's running, he chased, tackled, won the ball and passed, often turning defence into quick counter attack. He linked up well with Griffiths, whose expert crossing and passing was

expected by nobody, Gun-Why, who will surely go on to represent the University at the highest level, if he can shake off his injury-prone tag, and Vice-Captain Jablonski, a reformed tee-totaller who will be joining a monastery after graduation.

Down the left wing, Alex Ford's ability to dribble at pace at defenders and score spectacular goals brought us a number of memorable moments. After his well-documented Christmas fitness programme, he seemed to become more consistent and developed the defensive side of his game. He is a real man for the ladies, who is never reluctant to make a fool out of himself in the bar or at Ents.

In attack, Mike Adams forged a prolific partnership with Nick Gower, who was the League's leading scorer for the third successive season with six goals, despite missing two games through injury. Adams managed eleven goals in all competitions, and was a regular scorer for College and the Falcons, for whom he started in the Varsity match. He would have surely gone on to score more goals, were it not for the Captain's cruel streak in twice subbing him when on a hat-trick. His electric pace and eye for goal were always a threat for the opposition. He could always be relied upon to grab us a goal when we really needed it, and was deservedly voted Player of the Year by his team-mates.

All in all, it has been a fantastic season, in which a wonderful team spirit and a glut of talent and application has given us the most successful season in the Club's recent history. Thanks must go to Keith and his team for their time and effort in preparing a 'rare quality College pitch' (*Varsity*), and always being keen supporters. Also thank you to this year's Committee: Jack (Secretary), James (Treasurer), and Jabs (HVC) for their effort in making everything possible on and off the pitch, and to Paddy and Alex for their excellent Captaincy of the Seconds and Thirds respectively. Finally, I'd like to wish next year's Committee good luck, and I'm sure the new Captain James Bryan can look forward to more success next season.

Rob Hewitt
Captain

Men's Hockey

In years to come, when historians look back on St John's Hockey Club season 2002-2003, they might well compare it to Devon Lock's run in the Grand National in the early 1960s. It is always a travesty when the best team in the League doesn't win, and this season's failure to take the title will rank alongside England's 1986 world cup quarter-final defeat as one of the great sporting injustices in history. The promising intake of Freshers augured well for the season and, with a 14-1 thrashing of 'binson opening our account, the omens were good. Captain Palmer made it clear from early on that only sexy hockey would be tolerated, although this ethos was not carried through into 'Blackadder's' rather hypocritical right-back selection policy. However with a generally solid defence, a strong mid-field and an (occasionally) lethal set of forwards, there were times when our hockey was the epitome of flair.

The defence included last year's Man of the Season Pikenog, Fresher Charlie Linton at left-back, Snoznog marshalling things from right-back, and the talented if lanky Alex Beard at sweeper, whose continental warm-up technique did more harm than good, often leaving him red raw and worn out. With CPO Goodey in goal pulling out some breathtaking saves, and the more than able Tom Mustill (disHon), who didn't concede a goal in the six matches he played, deputising superbly when called upon, these four were the basis of our early success.

It was in mid-field, however, that we so often dominated. The experienced (read old and fat) '\$lick' Rick Symington controlled the left, Fresher's Fenn, and the enigmatic but gobby (should that be Dobby?) James Sym - the personification of flair hockey and next year's Captain - complemented each other well in the middle, and with Mike Shuter and Bruce Stocker, on his day unstoppable, vying for right-half, there were times when the quality of hockey was very high indeed.

Up front Fopnog and Adelman, despite their best efforts, scored many goals with occasional (thank god) contributions from Ladiesnog, Missnog, and GJ. It is a testament to the quality of the team that players of this calibre can be left on the bench. Jones, who only scores in multiples of three, was again the season's top scorer and this year's Man

of the Season. He perfected the 'swing and hope' approach which led to some very fine goals but many, many more 'three of the tee', whilst Adelman, despite his tendency to fight with the opposition, managed to spare a few minutes of his time to score some crucial goals. He leaves us next season to concentrate on his amateur boxing career.

Highlights of the season include the 12-0 thrashing of Trinity, and 2-1 win over Pembroke in Cuppers, after being 1-0 down to a team which included several Blues. Our attitude towards this match, and the way we played for each other, epitomised our team spirit. It was a shame that we couldn't build on this success in the semi finals against Catz, where we lost 4-0 to a team including six Blues, having been the better side for much of the first half. How different things might have been if James Sym's woefully camp penalty flick at 0-0 had gone in.

In the end we finished second in the League to Jesus, having led all season, winning our first 9 matches and losing the last 2, including the one against Jesus. Our goal difference of 41, by far the highest in the League, is impressive, as is the fact that two teams opted to take a 3-0 walkover rather than play us. However it was our failure to win the big matches that eventually cost us and, as Palmer so eloquently plagiarised, "if there is no peril in the fight, there is no glory in the victory." In reality it's all about schooling Trinity. To next season. God Bless The Hockey Club

James Sym
Captain Elect

Men's Tennis

After years of languishing in the lower divisions, St John's has finally returned to the top flight of College Tennis. The team were runners up in the Second Division last year, enough to clinch a deserved promotion. It had come as rather a shock to myself, and I'm sure many others, to be told two seasons ago that the team were in the Third Division.

Fortunately those days are long behind us and we are looking forward to another extremely successful year.

Before looking ahead I would like to dwell on the successes of last year. The side had always looked good enough to advance into the First Division and collected 59 points to gain promotion. In Cuppers, the team reached the final for the second successive year. On a glorious day in May Week we played Queens' in the final at Fenners. Once again the Cuppers trophy eluded us and we were convincingly beaten 5-1. For many this was their second loss in the final and it was a disappointing way to finish the season.

Individual performances of note came at the top of the order from the somewhat cavalier paring of Richardson and Glenday. The mature members of the side, Dimmock and Starling, form a formidable partnership that went unbeaten throughout the season in League and Cuppers. However, the undeniable strength of John's tennis is its depth of talent, with great credit going to Eckersley, Treibel, Holler, Ismail, Boterill, Cumming and Goodlet for their committed performances throughout the season.

Having retained all of our players from last year, hopes are high for another year of success. We have already played our traditional 'friendlies' against the Bar (lost 5-4) and UCS Old Boys (won 3-1). Once again Fresher talent has been forthcoming with Martin and Stocker impressing, and second years Imam and Malies have increased our strength in depth. An early season 13-2 victory against Fitzwilliam confirms our intention to challenge for the First Division title. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Groundsman Keith Ellis for his continuing support. The club is in a very healthy state and it would be tremendous if these successful years could be crowned by a League or Cuppers triumph.

James Bryan
Captain

Men's Rugby

The first practice for the Red boys boded very well for the rest of the season as over 35 players turned out. This provided us all season with people willing to step in when the inevitable injuries took place. Thanks especially to Duncan Brydon, Dom Long, Will Kirby and Steve Shorter.

The foundation of the team definitely came from the front row. The front row union was Mike Bell, Ollie Tetlow, Matt Maitland, Vijay Ahuja and Lenny Picardo. Mike was a massive weapon for us all year; his throwing in the lineout was exceptional and provided us with a very good attacking platform. The props, Ollie and Matt, were both excellent in the scrums, providing us with several pushover tries including one crucial one against a very strong Catz team in the Cuppers semi final. Matt's tackling around the field was awesome.

The back five in the scrum caused the most selection problems all year. Tom Sayer, the unit, was awesome in rucks and mauls and Gareth Roberts showed great knowledge of the shadier aspects of the game. They both provided us with much needed second phase ball. Mark Colley was peerless in the lineout taking his own ball and more importantly a substantial amount of the opposition's as well. As the season moved towards Cuppers, Rob Wells got injured and Dan de Lord stepped in. Dan improved with every game gaining the confidence to really crunch people in the tackle, and proved more and more of a ball carrying threat. The open side type flankers, Graham Goodey and Adam Brown, were both amongst the older members of the team, and both took to this role very well. Adam was dominant on the floor and Graham's gutsy defence, especially in Cuppers final, set a great example to the rest of the team in a match where for the first time we were physically outmatched.

The half backs, Pete Jones and Graham Busby, proved a great contradiction, Pete seemingly impervious to injury while Graham seemed unable to avoid it. Graham, when fit, kicked very accurately and was tactically very astute. The return of George Humphries from a dislocated ankle last season gave us added depth to the kicking position. The outside backs all played in many different positions,

especially the always flexible Fraser Thomson who even had a stint at flanker when injuries required it. The Vice-Captain Huw Lewis-Jones was a good strike runner, initially in the centres and later on the wing. During the Cuppers run the centre pairing of Charlie Linton and Pete Jenkins, our returning Blues player, were phenomenal in defence, turning over ball like flankers. Vikram Kumar was a solid early season choice at full back and finally earned his College Colour. The pace outside was supplied by Tom Dye, Chris Dibben, Georg Ell and Chris Kelly. Tom showed a great side step and was very vocal in his encouragement of the forwards. Chris Dibben, when not knocking people down, seemed intent on hunting down a piece of stash from every University team going. Georg scored two excellent tries in Cuppers final to finish off two years of hard work at his rugby; he was definitely the most improved player.

For the first clashes with our main rivals, Jesus and Downing, we needed extra support, so we looked no further than the Blues' Football team. Tim Hall and Sion Lewis stepped in. Sion, in addition to having good aggression and a great pair of hands, was also a debater of the highest order. This and Tim's mercurial running proved just the boost we needed to overcome our main rivals, Downing, 39-10. In summary, a great season, undefeated League champions and Cuppers finalists. The thing I will remember about this team is the great spirit and involvement throughout the Club, not just in the first XV. This is the achievement I - and I hope the rest of the team - am most proud of. Finally thanks go to our supporters for being present in greater numbers than the opposition at every game, to Keith who provided the pitches all year and to Richard Samworth for his coaching and advice throughout the season.

Rob Wells

The Swimming Club

The main brief of this year's Captain was to try and sweet-talk some ladies into the pool. The result was John's fielding a full Ladies' side for the first time, thanks to the supreme chat of 'el Capitan'. The women had a good success rate of 1 A and 5 B finals and seventh overall in a

tightly fought Ladies competition, with a notable performance by Alix Freeman both in and out of the pool. In the Men's competition John's dominated for the third year in a row, qualifying for all individual A finals, with Angus Murray coming first in the crawl and the team winning the blue ribbon event of the freestyle relay. The Men's title returns to the safety of John's bar for another year.

With the consistent performance of the men bolstered by newcomers such as Blues swimmer Lennard Lee and the vast improvement of the women, it looks possible that John's may take the overall title next year after coming second to Selwyn this time round. Finally a big thanks goes to Alex Starling swimming in his last Cuppers for John's - he has been an excellent representative of College over the years in a number of sports. I just hope that the chat of next year's Captain will be of as high a standard as set by myself and lead to a Ladies' and overall win for the mighty Red swimmers.

Gareth Roberts

The Eagles

The Eagles, once more, have been at the forefront of a veritable feast of sporting triumphs. It was with considerable pride that I turned the pages of each week's *Varsity* and *TCS* to see John's sides sitting pretty at the top of their respective divisions, to read glowing, sometimes envious, reports of another comfortable John's victory, and to cut out that week's photo of "ex-Aston Villa mid-fielder" Eagle Harding - for my dartboard.

In fact such has been this College's sporting domination that to include every success since last year's *Eagle*, one must return to mid-May 2002, to Jesus College Cricket ground, where a rampant John's Cricket Club sealed Cuppers glory against a surprisingly capable Christ's side. Congratulations to Eagles Hewitt, Ahuja, Dent, Kumar and Hall for their part in the Cup run, and furthermore to Eagle Kumar for some notable knocks this season to the Blues that have taken his season

average above 100 and his career first-class average to just over 7. Slow-medium bowler Eagle Dent represented the Crusaders last season and has put on another yard of pace, but alas still appears to be running through treacle. At the time of writing John's cricketers, under the leadership of Eagle Ahuja, are showing promise in their bid to retain the Cuppers trophy.

Back to this academic year and a season that promised so much for the Hockey Club finally ended in heartbreak. After securing 8 League wins out of 8 they succumbed to late losses against renowned sporting giants Sidney Sussex and perennial whipping-boys Jesus. Eagle Palmer ably skippered the team, thus ensuring his place in the side, and they were further bolstered by hockey-heavyweight Eagle Symington before his big money move to the Orient. Their eventual 2nd spot and Cuppers semi-final represent a creditable performance, though no doubt they will dwell on what might have been.

On the Rugby field, John's set about the retention of their League title with characteristic gusto - a 30 point demolition of main challengers Downing, which sent out a fearsome message to the rest of the University. Under the iron fist and dislocated thumb of Eagle Wells, and expert tuition of Eagle Samworth, no college could halt their inexorable march to the League championship - 10 wins out of 10 says it all. It was only the intervention of a Blues-packed St Edmund's side that denied them a deserved Cuppers triumph. Eagles Wells, Bell, Lewis-Jones, Jenkins, Lewis, Hall and Palmer can all be proud of their contributions to the success of the Red Boys. Eagle Jenkins deserves additional credit for lending his ready-smile and cheerful demeanour to the Blues, demonstrating his well-honed bench-warming and water-carrying skills at Twickenham.

If there is one side in recent years that has warranted the title "underachievers" it is the Football Club. Bursting with talent and with University representatives in abundance, latterly they have remained frustratingly trophy-less - until now. A 3-0 thumping of title rivals Trinity took them to the top of the table, a position they did not relinquish - securing their first championship in an astonishing

29 years. A 4-0 destruction of Girton followed in a totally one-sided Cuppers final. The League and Cuppers double – a stunning achievement – and one that has not been enjoyed by a John's side since the heady days of the 1960s when Eagles Starling and Samworth were mere undergraduates. Eagle Hewitt, who shares a hair-stylist with David Beckham and shares his chat with anyone who'll listen, led throughout with vigour and panache to mastermind their double triumph. Congratulations also to the plethora of Eagles involved, which includes Eagles Horsley, Hobohm, Starling, Gower, Russell, Dimmock, Lewis, Harding and Hall. Once again well done to Eagles Lewis, Dimmock, Harding and Hall who added to their bountiful crop of Blues in the Varsity Match and in particular to Harding who seamlessly combined Blues Captain and playboy.

In the minor sports, LMBC Men have had a mixed year. After dispatching all-comers at the Light Fours, the First Eight struggled at the Lent Bumps. However, with returning May colours, it seems certain that Eagles Ball, Brand and Robson will rectify any earlier problems with a solid display at the forthcoming May Bumps. Eagle Robson repeated last year's Half-Blue, helping Goldie to a convincing victory in a faster time than either of the Blue boats.

Apparently, some John's men have exerted considerable influence on the Lacrosse fields of Cambridge this season. However, the widely held opinion that a Lacrosse Half-Blue is an easy option meant that Lacrosse players were afforded short-shrift at Eagles elections this term. It is a hotly contested issue, but, I think, particularly in our case, the position is best summarised by former US President William Jefferson Clinton who wisely noted that "You can put wings on a pig, but you don't make it an eagle".

Elsewhere, Eagles Starling and Murray gained their second Half-Blues for Waterpolo and helped John's to their third consecutive Cuppers title. Eagle Jewitt still remains the most exciting thing in British tennis since the streaker at the '96 Wimbledon final and Eagle E Green fought back from injury to secure another Blue in the Cross-Country Varsity match. Eagle S Green continues to produce world-class performances on the

track and once again great things are expected of him in the University Athletics match. Eagle Jacobs renewed his acquaintance with Oxford's Second team golfers and managed to avoid the rough this year in a fine display, demonstrating that he knew the course even better than he knew the opposition.

I think, after this eulogy it may be prudent to sound a note of warning. Of course John's sport is in fine shape, but for this to continue there should be no resting on laurels and, particularly amongst the lower years, a sense that such success can be taken for granted. John's have put themselves at the top of the tree, but that also means that we have cemented our reputation as the college that everyone wants to beat. Perhaps it would be astute at this time to consider the old adage, "Eagles may soar, but weasels don't get sucked into jet engines".

Finally I must thank Eagle Kumar for his assistance in ensuring that the Eagles remained the most sought-after club on the social circuit and for his eagerness to make sure the Eagles at all times receive maximum exposure. Thanks also Dr McConnel and Wendy Redgewell for their part in the smooth organisation of Desserts and Dinners, and Dr Linehan for his post-prandial Room-Cricket masterclasses which have proved, as ever, the perfect conclusion to an evening.

It only remains for me to announce my successor, Siôn Lewis, who will, I am sure, lead the Club with the same flair and *élan* that is such a feature of his game.

Nunc Est Bibendum.

Tim Hall
Big Bird

The Netball Club

Last year both the First and Second teams finished top of their divisions, gaining well-deserved promotions to the Premier League and Division Two respectively. This meant we had a tough, but exciting season of

netball ahead of us! There was also the added challenge of entering the Cambridge Mixed League for the first time!

A full sign-up sheet at Fresher's Fair and two packed Sunday morning trials allowed us to form a large netball squad, with two Ladies teams and one Mixed team.

Our First team was formed from a combination of old experienced players and fresh blood from enthusiastic freshers: Claire Blewett, Ruth Brooke and Hannah Haester. Ruth, Hannah and Ros Tandler formed a great defensive team putting pressure on even the strongest opposition. Alice Coopman amazed us all with her stamina and skill as Centre and Alix McCollam had yet another brilliant season as Goal Attack rarely missing a shooting opportunity. This year we finished 5th in the Premier League and next year we are ready to challenge the other colleges for first place!

In Division Two, the Seconds faced some tough matches, but their excellent teamwork and determination paid off with impressive victories against First Teams from Churchill, Clare and Magdalene. Charlotte Pawlyn and Beth Duncan formed a very strong attack and there was some excellent individual defensive play from Emma Pomeroy and Sarah Quartermain. Congratulations to the Seconds who finished the season at Third place in Division Two!

This year we decided to enter the Mixed League. It proved challenging to teach the guys the difference between Netball and Basketball...but by the end of the season they had mastered the game. We finished 9th out of 17 teams and we are looking forward to improving on this next year. Well done to Mark Colley, Chris Crawshaw, Tom Mustil, James Paul, Oli Robinson and Rich Tamblyn!

College Colours are awarded to First team players: Jo Woolley, Maria Datsopoulos, Alix McCollam, Claire Blewett, Alice Coopman, Ruth Brooke, Ros Tandler and Hannah Haester.

Finally we'd like to thank all of the Netball Squad for their commitment and enthusiasm this year, which has resulted in another successful

season for St John's Netball. Best of luck to the new Captains Claire and Ruth!

**Joanna Woolley and Maria Datsopoulos
Captains**

Waterpolo

With a large contingent of returning players and a successful haul of new talent at the Freshers' fair, this year's squad took advantage of almost a term's delay before our first game, and set to training, sharing a pool with Selwyn.

Our first match was against our training partners themselves, which we comfortably won 8-2. We next played Trinity, who turned up without a full team. Struggling with a constant man up, the team took a while to stop double marking the Trinity hole man. Triumphant over such an unexpected adversity, John's won by 7 goals to Trinity's one. The team then settled down, playing against a full seven Christ's players to win 13-0, and ending the first term's campaign at the top of the table.

Our first Lent term match was against the Leys U19 team. Defending the deep, the team defended strongly to go 4 goals down into the second quarter. Shooting at the deep, John's brought the half time score to 4-3 down. The third quarter mirrored the first, as we let in a further 4 goals and scored none. Leys tired in the last quarter, but we kept the pressure on and spectacularly brought the score from 3-8 down to 9-10 down in the closing minutes to bring us to a very narrow defeat.

The following Addies match was also a great battle. With a tight defence in the shallow, we were up 3-1 after the first quarter. Addies pulled back a goal in the second quarter as we struggled with finding the net in the shallow end. At half time John's were still ahead by a goal, as they were at the end of the third quarter. However, unaccustomed to finding a team that defended in the same way as us, John's found no space in the narrow pool in the fourth quarter. Addies' experienced discipline showed, and they took three goals to beat us 6-4.

Following two close defeats by the League's top teams, John's went on to reaffirm their dominance over the College sides with a succession of wins. We beat Trinity Hall 5-1, then Robinson 9-0 in the League, then defeated Leys U16s and Trinity Hall in Cuppers to win our group and move into the quarter finals. This was followed by a further League win of 10-0 against Catz the next Saturday.

In the second half of the Cuppers competition, we beat Churchill 2-0, much to the chagrin of their Captain, the University keeper. We then came up against Addies in the semi-final. Unable to score defending the shallow end, John's went into the second half 2-0 down. Managing to bring back two goals, we let one in to lose narrowly once again to the hospital team, who went on to win the competition.

Back in the pool that evening, we played Churchill in the League. We went 3-2 up in the first half, attacking the shallow, with the University keeper playing outfield for Churchill. Reinstated in goal for the second half, John's found scoring more difficult, but kept the differential to win 5-4, which put us top College side in the League this year, second overall to Leys U19s. It also means that a proud record can be claimed of beating every College team we played, without the Captain playing a single game!

Scoring 19 goals more than any other college team, with only the University keeper letting in fewer goals, this year has certainly been a magnificent team effort. I have refrained from singling people out in this report as this season has been such a team effort, but Colours most deservedly go to all those who played Cuppers: Alex Starling, Angus Murray, Jon Smyth, Kiyo Tanaka, Daniel Hobohm, David Martin, Andy Young, Simon Maller, Benedict Russell, Roko Mijic, Isobel Smyth, Alix Freeman and Al Cunningham. All formed the basis of our League match squads along with Richard West, our guest player from Clare. Now the Oscar bit . . .

I would like to thank all the new players that started this year, Benedict, Roko, Al and especially Isobel, my rookie of the year, as they are the future of the team. Isobel was our stealth weapon, working hard and appearing unmarked to take passes and goals whenever the

opportunity arose. She was invaluable to this College team. Good luck to Simon who has finally managed to play out an entire season without causing himself further injury, and looks set to take a commanding role in the team next year in the hole.

Goodbye to all those leaving the team, especially Dave, Kiyo and Daniel. Daniel is my Most Improved Player of the Year, as he continued to develop a keen game understanding and was always quietly busy working where he was needed. I would also like to single out Alex, as he leaves, as Player of the Year. There is not enough space to list his achievements, and I don't think he'd thank me for doing so, but he has been the backbone of the team in recent years, and will be sorely missed. He should also be congratulated, along with Angus, for once again making the Blues team this year and with Alix for her debut in the Ladies team. Last but not least I would like to thank Jon for coaching the team this year. It remains to wish good luck to Andy as he takes up the team reigns as Captain. His commitment to the team in recent years cannot be doubted and I'm sure he'll do a fine job.

Dan Cooney

Womens' Badminton Club

John's was extremely lucky in the badminton stakes this year in having several good badminton players with Szu-Fu Chen, Alex Kolb, Nina Marinsek, Chia-Ling Phuah, Rachel Williams, Jo Wooley and Captains, Nancy Priston and Laura Spence, making up a rotating First team of considerable depth.

In Michelmas term the Firsts managed to hold their own in the top division, defeating Emma, Clare and Newnham, while being beaten, only by a narrow margin, by Trinity and Catz, leading us to a respectable second place in the League. The Lent term seemed a daunting prospect with more tough matches ahead, but we showed our true form once again and managed convincing wins over Catz, Clare, Emma and Christ's. Victory over our arch rivals Trinity, however, was

elusive with yet another 4-5 defeat. Another bogey team for us was the newly promoted, dedicated Wolfson College who threw a spanner in the works towards League title, beating us in a heated, last match of the season that finished 3-6. This has left us in third position in the First Division – a great achievement for a team that two years ago was in the Fourth Division.

The Second team, admirably captained by Nina Marinsek, has also had a storming season. In addition to some well-established players, Anita Barnes, Szu-Fu Chen and Jeelson Hong, we had an enthusiastic trio of newcomers, Lizzie Gibney, Raga Krishnakumar and Jenny Oates joining the team this year. There have even been a few guest appearances from First team players to make up numbers (all strictly within the regulations of course!). During first term, we started off winning matches against Jesus, Robinson, Trinity II and APU (last two being walkovers), and only got beaten at the end by two new-rising top division teams, Wolfson and Christ's. In Lent term, the pattern was very much the same: a decisive win against Trinity II, Newnham and King's, followed by two rather unfortunate defeats against Homerton and Girton, who will be joining the first division next academic year. All in all, the Second team has managed to maintain its reputation as a strong Second Division team by coming third in both Michaelmas and Lent term Leagues - well done, everybody!

The Cuppers team of Rachel Williams, Chia-Ling Phuah, Szu-Fu Chen, Nina Marinsek, Alex Kolb and Nancy Priston all played a valiant tournament only eventually relenting under the awesome might of the Trinity First team in the semi-finals (watch out Trinity, we will beat you next year!).

Rachel Williams has also lent her racquet to the University side this year and we congratulate her on her achievement.

Generally this has been a great year, and we've even managed the odd social event too. We wish Nina Marinsek the best of luck for the coming season as Captain and look forward to another action-packed year of collegiate badminton!

**Nancy Priston and Laura Spence
Captains**

Women's Hockey

Despite being relegated to the Third Division at the end of last season the Women's Hockey team went into the Michaelmas term with a point to prove and a promotion place to win and were determined not to let anything stand in their way. Many of last year's new players were returning to the team and were set to make their dominant presence on the hockey pitch felt as the team work and enthusiasm illustrated previously was built upon and included the new faces of the first years whose individual and combined skills were to prove unstoppable by the opposition. The attacking mid-field formation of Caroline Mathers, Charlotte Bruce, Kirsten Dettman and Claire Blewitt along with Lucy Criddle, who had returned to the game after several years' absence, soon learnt to use each others strengths and were often found running rings around the other team's defence. Katherine McGill joined the team again after her year abroad bringing back with her the lightening speed for which she is well known and contributing substantially to a forward line-up, which managed to put 32 goals away over the course of the season - an amazing achievement! Louise Fisher's 6 goals in one match against a combined Corpus Christi/Peterhouse team contributed towards making her our highest scorer!

As well as all the success at the front, our defence was proving a strong and reliable partnership with few teams managing to beat Charlotte Pawlyn, Marion McMillan, Lizzie Gibney, Jo Barnsley or Georgina Browes.

Michaelmas term started as in previous years with the rain initiating the new players and reminding the older hands of what hockey in Cambridge is all about! Despite the weather, the team got off to a great start with a 2-1 win against Christ's, and acted to restore confidence in the team's capabilities as well as providing an opportunity to try players in new positions, which they were to make their own as the season progressed. Our next match saw our only League loss of the year against a strong Robinson side followed a few days later by our first round Cuppers match against Homerton, which despite losing, showed us how we could rise to the standard of teams in higher divisions. The team was not disheartened however, and, as the term

progressed, we had further convincing victories in the League, helped by several flamboyant goals by Caoimhe Ni Dhalaigh, as well as in the Mixed Cuppers competition against our old sporting rivals Jesus.

The New Year brought with it our star Dutch defender Hester Duursema on an exchange visit, a very welcome addition to the squad. We moved from strength to strength with a win in the Cuppers plate against New Hall, who were to finish top of the Second Division, a clear indication of what this team has been able to achieve this year. We finished the season on a high eventually reaching the semi-finals of the competition and securing our promotion place with a 5-0 win against Jesus II, aided by the presence of Victoria Argyle whose University commitments had unfortunately kept her from us for the majority of the season.

Many thanks must go to all the players, who have consistently given their time and effort to the Club this year, including this year's Secretary and Vice-Captain, Caoimhe and Kirsten, for all their support and advice, and to those members of the Men's team who refereed our matches - we couldn't have done it without you! My best wishes go to next year's Captain Caroline Mathers who I am sure will lead the team towards more success in Division II, something which they all deserve.

Sarah Kitson
Captain

COLLEGE SPORTS

Men's Badminton

It's been another fine year for Badminton, with many skilled and keen Freshers joining the more seasoned players to fill the ranks of the Men's, Women's and Mixed teams.

The introduction of more regular practice sessions for all our teams, in addition to the kind financial assistance from College to help cover the costs of using Kelsey Kerridge, has led to bolstered numbers participating in both competitive and social games.

To celebrate the end of another fun year of Badminton, the Annual Dinner was held in the beautiful Wordsworth Room at the end of the Lent Term.

First Team

We started the Michelmas Term well with three fine wins against Churchill, Clare, and Trinity II, only to struggle against our old rivals Wolfson and Trinity I, leaving us third in the First Division by Christmas. With greater focus and determination we were able to dominate all but one of our matches in the Lent Term, including a particularly pleasing and well deserved 8-1 revenge thrashing of Wolfson. Our only defeat came, once again, at the hands of the strong Trinity team, leaving us second in the top division.

The Cuppers Final, in what is quickly becoming tradition, saw a mighty battle between John's and Trinity. With Andrew and John deservedly winning their First pair match, the challenge was set for the Second and Third pairs of Chris and Emily, and Bao and myself. All showed fine performances, though with Emily's twisted ankle prematurely ending the Second pair's fight, all eyes then turned to Bao and myself. Despite playing our best Badminton of the year, we were narrowly beaten in an excitingly close match that went to 17-16 in the final game. This left John's as worthy Cuppers runners-up.

Cameron Saxby
Men's Captain

Second Team

Not a bad year for the seconds, though faced with a significant change in personnel, we were relegated from the Second Division in the Michaelmas Term. The Lent Term, however, saw a significant improvement. Good performances from Olly Buxton, the ever present pairing of Mike Horridge and Chris Lonergan, as well as decisive contributions from Ezzeri Esa, Gen Foo, Joerg Lepler, Bernhard Malkmus and Chris Thomas, sees us with our Third Division status assured, and only one win from promotion to the Second Division. It's always nice to leave things where you found them.

Steven Martin
Men's Second Team Captain

Third Team

After a low-key start to the year that saw most of the team struggling to find consistency, the beginning of the Lent Term campaign provided a massive morale boost in the shape of a hard-fought victory over Christ's II. Due to Chris Week's mind-boggling reactions, Ray Hu's brilliant team play and Gordon Cookson's determination, the match went from 1-4 down to a magnificent 5-4 victory; none of us will forget the priceless look on the oppositions' faces.

The following games saw an improvement in form from Robin Scott and James Williams who seemed almost unbeatable, helping to secure a number of matches with style. Thanks to the invaluable contribution from the rest of the team, we ended the season securing promotion to the next division.

Yacoob Kurimbokus
Men's Third Team Captain

Women's Badminton

This year the First Team was formed by a group of experienced players, occasionally supplemented with appearances from our Second Team

players, Allyson Ke and Clare Paddison, who saved us whenever our numbers were short. The Team was further strengthened for Cuppers, with the appearance of our Blues player, Emily Manuel.

The Team's performance was especially strong in the Michaelmas Term, where overall we came second in the League. Our only defeat was against Catz, who beat us by a small difference of three games (we both won the same number of matches). Christ's, Homerton and Girton all proved easy victories, and defeating Trinity was most satisfactory. Above all, though, I will never forget the last match of the term, when we finally showed Wolfson where they belong – the last game of that heated match was absolutely brilliant!

Lent Term matches proved very difficult to organise. At the time of writing this article we still have one match left to play (against Christ's), meaning the League Table has yet to be settled. Our position is further complicated by the fact that we were unable to organise our match with Wolfson, so neither team was awarded any points for that. Nevertheless our decisive wins against Trinity(!), Selwyn and Emmanuel will place us well in the upper half of the First Division, where we can continue defending our colours next year.

Before I hand the Captaincy over to Jenny, I would like to thank all the girls for their commitment, enthusiasm and patience with my long, countless emails over the past season, and Rachel in particular, for being such a great and experienced partner! I really enjoyed my time on the team.

Nina Marinsek
Women's Captain

Second Team

This year the John's Second Badminton team consisted of a mix of new players and experienced 'old' players. We are very grateful to several first team players, and also Lizzie Gibney for standing in when we were short on numbers.

In the Michaelmas Term we were very successful, winning two matches against Clare and Emma, and coming third in the Second Division of the League.

The stakes were higher in the Lent Term and the play became more exciting. Even though we won three matches we only came fourth in the Division. However, our players were focused and motivated and we defeated Clare and Sidney. We also took our revenge on Fitz in a breathtaking match, having narrowly lost to them in the Michaelmas Term.

Overall the John's Second Team has proven, yet again, that it is a strong competitor in the Second Division. We hope to maintain this standard next year.

Jenny Oates and Raga Krishnakumar
Women's Second Team Captains

Basketball

The beginning of the year saw the club facing a rather familiar situation: after a successful year we lost some of our key players and were facing the coming season with uncertainty. Naturally we were hoping for a new generation of solid 'rookies' to fill the vacuum, and our expectations were not disappointed.

The first games of the season saw the team playing solid basketball that, although unspectacular, was certainly good enough to guarantee two victories and a promising start. Very soon we found some chemistry and the Team started to roll. We went on to win four more games with a comfortable margin, beating traditionally strong opponents like Trinity and Queens'. Unfortunately our very successful winning streak was brought to an end when Wolfson managed a one-basket victory in a game that could have gone either way.

The second round of matches didn't start very well. Darwin and Wolfson punished us for our inconsistent play, and for the first time in

years we didn't have luck on our side. However we soon got our act together, winning the remaining four games and ending up second in the League. Wolfson, coming top, beat us twice with a total margin of only four points, and we were hoping to make up for this in the Easter Term Cuppers Competition. We knew we were going to be stronger because Stelios Elia, the President-Elect of the Blues, was rejoining us after a successful year of University Basketball that had culminated in an amazing performance in the Varsity Match victory. There was a considerable setback, however, as the Team's already short rotation was shortened further when veteran and Team Captain, 'Little' Giorgis Petridis, sprained his ankle and had to sit out for the whole term. The Team adjusted to the change in personnel and beat Fitzwilliam in a hard fought first round. One day later we outplayed Jesus in almost every aspect of the game and advanced to the semi-finals. Having lost one more of our starters, we were the underdogs facing a Queens' squad packed with Blues players. We played hard but eventually lost to a much stronger side.

For the majority of the season we played the sort of game that has made the Club successful in the past: a solid defence with a versatile offence. David Zane often found team-mates for open shots and also provided some much needed long range shooting. Alex Simpson and Giorgis Petridis in defence proved difficult for the opposition to overcome. Mike Banach continued to thrive in his rather unique role of point-centre, bringing a great deal of fluidity to the Team's offence. He remained our go-to-guy and often came up with big plays. Andrew Gillespie was Mike's partner at the front, ably utilising his athleticism to dominate the court at both ends. Only tactics kept Terrance Tao on the bench, but that was usually just for the beginning of games. Using his mid-range jump-shot he proved to be a solid scorer and was certainly one of the League's best sixth men. The Team's veteran, Brian Tom, brought with him experience, energy and unselfish play on the court. The Club's Secretary, William Lo, unfortunately spent the whole year on the sidelines because of a serious knee injury. Fortunately this didn't prevent him from helping organise the Team off the court.

The end of the season sees the Team ending pretty much as we began.

Coming out of a strong season we see Alex and Dave leaving and hope for a good intake of Freshers. Alex deserves a warm farewell having served the Team for many years, both on and off the court.

Giorgis Petridis
President

The Cricket Club

The Cricket Club's pre-season training gave Captain Haldar and Secretary Charlwood lots about which they could be optimistic. Having lost only Hewitt from our successful 2003 squad, and gained keenness and a wealth of talent in the fresh intake, we were set to conquer. However, as can happen with this strange sport, the rains came and washed away four of our early season friendly matches. This and our abbreviated progress in Cuppers, crashing out heavily to an impressive Churchill outfit in the second round, meant that we played only 6 matches all season . . . a real waste for such a good side.

The batting we had on offer was not only of great depth, but also of formidable flair. Charlwood got off to some good starts but failed to convert, whereas Hall, in his final season as a Johnian cricketer, found an affinity for the crease, topping the runs tally for John's with over 150 runs in just four innings. Ahuja's demeanour on the pitch could only be described as brutish. He proved he had a great eye for the ball after his short arm punches brought him a well-deserved 34 off 18 deliveries versus Clare. His presence and enthusiasm will be sorely missed next season. The fresher intake made a very classy middle order with both Smith and Palmer looking extremely dangerous once they got their eye in. Jonathon Murray was a late arrival to the squad but stamped his place in the team with some glorious drives and his blistering pace between the stumps. He was complemented well by Picardo who retained his astounding ability to turn easy twos into ones.

We had a team littered with all-rounders. Linton, able with the bat and a fountain of chat, finally proved himself to be extremely dangerous

with the ball, with both batsmen and fielders taking cover when he came in with his deceptive pace. Haldar bowled with a new-found maturity and also topped the averages with the willow in hand. Alles bowled with great pace, and Dent with much guile, both proving too good for College Cricket. However, Robin Kemp proved the pick of the lot and it was no surprise to see him promoted to the Blues. The spinners struggled to find consistency early season, but once they found their rhythm they were nearly unplayable. Keswani turned the ball square at times and shows much promise for the future, and Malloch proved to be a great player both on and off the pitch, drawing in crowds with his spin wizardry. Glenday never really hit form when bowling but his simple batting style frustrated a very talented Jesus bowling line-up. His mammoth contribution to John's cricket in the past three years will be remembered.

The season may have been short but was still enjoyable. It is a crying shame that the best College team I have had the pleasure of playing with failed to progress further in Cuppers. Our most convincing victory was against a strong West Norfolk CC outfit and was a match in which we showed glimpses of our potential as a team. With only four players leaving the ranks the prospects for next season are good. Ben Smith will take over as Captain, with Karan Keswani as his Secretary. Many thanks to all those who contributed to the Cricket Club this season, especially to Keith and Catherine for their support to me as Captain, and to the team as a whole.

Debashis Haldar
Captain

The Eagles

In this, the 128th year of this magnificent club, the Eagles have been drinking copiously from the fountain of success. The members of the Eagles, the sporting elite of College, have been fundamental to the success of the College sports teams and have also been extremely active at University level. The current 28 finest sportsmen in College

contribute to 15 different sports, 25 different teams or clubs, contain 7 Captains, 7 Blues, and 7 Half Blues, which I believe highlights the continued strength and importance of the Eagles.

The Rugby Club, which now has not lost a league match for 75 years, continued in its ruthless quest to demolish all-comers. As each team fell before the St John's sword, it was as if the ghost of Rob Andrew stalked the Queens Road pitches once again. Of course it was, however, the ghost of Eagle Rob Wells, whose waif like, ghostly frame was at the heart of every one yard pushover try. Captain Eagle Brown was ably assisted by Eagles Bell, Dibben, Wells, Ahuja, Hall and Lewis in his march towards total domination and 10 wins out of 10. This feat was even more remarkable after the loss of the most creative and expansive back to Harvard in an early season free transfer. Eagle Lewis-Jones successfully taught his Harvard team-mates how not to pass to their wingers...centres, half backs, or forwards but nevertheless ran out easy winners against Yale in an Ivy League Varsity Match.

Back in England, Cuppers again proved a step too far for John's, but Eagle 'The Devilfish' Wells utilised his free time to hone his poker skills and teach Eagle Ahuja how to fight for every pot, with limited success. Eagle Bell deserves special praise after his superb display this year for the Blues at Twickenham. Having answered the Blues perennial call for an undersized grumpy bloke for the bench, he valiantly took up ex-Eagle Jenkins's 'Squad Monkey' mantle as if it had been designed for him. More than once did he appear in front of the John's faithful, performing a difficult calf stretch before heading off to please his many fans elsewhere.

If the Rugby Team are the Arsenal of College sport then the Football Team must surely be the Manchester United – packed full of stars, the side every other College wants to beat and regularly attracting crowds of 5 or more. After winning the double under the Hewitt dictatorship, Captain Eagle Bryan faced the unenviable task of attempting to repeat this feat without the defensive colossus that was ex-Eagle Horsley. The League Championship proved as difficult for St John's as it did for Manchester United, slipping to third after a promising start.

Cuppers saw the welcome return of Blues stalwarts Harding, Lewis, Hall and Adams, and retention of the Cup seemed a mere formality. However this was not the case as the side were taken to penalties in the quarter final and extra time in the Semi's before reaching the hallowed turf of Grange Road. Despite receiving a hostile reception from the Fitz crowd, Eagle Hall showed that many a long hour playing Tiger Woods golf on the Playstation had not gone to waste as he measured the wind, accuracy and power to perfection to send the ball into the back of the net and the tie into extra time. The superior quality in the John's side finally told in the extra period as the cup was retained for the first time in John's history. Congratulations also to Eagle Starling who notched his 30th goal for the club, which I'm reliably informed, works out at just less than one goal per season. In the Varsity match at Upton Park, Eagle Hall came off the couch to join Eagles Harding and Lewis to take their combined tally of blues to 11, whilst Eagle Adams won his first Blue and will take his scouse wit and 'splinter' looks to the role of Blues Vice-Captain next season.

On the hockey field, Captain Eagle Sym's inoffensive and polite manner has ensured an excellent team spirit. In a side containing Eagles Dibben and Cumming, Eagle Sym's leadership has served them well and has taken them to their first league title since the Samworth era. It looks as if those mid winter training sessions in the Cam should happen every year! Welcome back also to Eagle Symington who has returned from his spiritual home in the Gobi. At the time of writing, despite the demands of his Oriental studies course, his golf is steadily improving.

On the cricket field, Captain Eagle Haldar will be looking to ensure a clean sweep of trophies for the field sports teams as he leads his side into Cuppers. After a phenomenal 20 run demolition of cricketing giants Robinson in the first round of Cuppers, Eagles Hall, Ahuja and slow medium bowler Dent will be looking to avenge last season's defeat at the hands of Churchill when they meet again in the second round. Eagle Mann has put in some fine performances for the Blues, notably against the West Indians of Lashings, and also against Oxford in the Varsity Match. He will be hoping to defeat the old enemy in the coming

weeks whilst also contributing heavily to the charity that is first class bowlers averages.

The diversity of this Club is a mark of its success and this year there have been some fine performances in the other sports. LMBC, however, have had mixed fortunes this year after a promising start. Captain Eagle Crawshaw took his crew to Oxford to compete in the Nephthys regatta and came away victorious. However the Lent Bumps proved to be a sober reminder of the reality of life on the Cam as they were lucky to only go down two places. A crew bolstered by Eagle Brand and Clay will be hoping for an improved showing at the May Bumps. Meanwhile Eagle Ball has been on the Atkins diet this year to ensure that his weight matches his drinking prowess, as he successfully made it into the Lightweight Blue Boat. Congratulations also go to the Ellen MacArthur of the Club, Eagle Clay, who won a Half Blue when he captained the Blues sailing team.

Continuing on the aquatic theme Eagles Lee, Starling and Murray competed in the Varsity games at the Iffley Road Swimming complex. The highlight of the games must surely have been Eagle Starling clinching victory for the Water Polo Team in the dying seconds of the game. Eagle Starling used all his experience and engineering know-how to ricochet the ball off the cross bar and the back of the goalkeeper's head and into the net! The Eagles Club also wishes Eagle Lee the best of luck as he attempts to swim the Channel in July.

On the badminton court, Blues Captain Eagle Cumming again showed his prowess with the ladies as he helped secure the mixed Varsity Match title, while Eagle 'Daniel Son' MacLeod, who must surely be the club's first ever Karate Kid, stormed to third in the BUSA nationals.

Blues Fencer, Eagle O'Connell, remained undefeated during his time at Cambridge despite providing a charitably large hitting zone! We wish him luck as he takes his fleetness of foot and fondness of pies to the role of Blues Captain next season.

I would like to thank Dr McConnel and Wendy Redgewell for all their help in organising dinners, and also Dr Linehan for providing Eagles Hall and Samworth with a chance to show off at Room Cricket.

My successor next year as Secretary will be Mike Adams, who I'm sure will take the club from strength to strength.

Nunc Est Bibendum

**Siôn Lewis
Big Bird**

The Flamingoes

In true Johnian style, this year the Flamingoes have been making their impressive collective sporting presence felt within College, across the University and indeed nationwide.

Appropriately for Flamingoes, many of these successes have taken place either in or on water. As a Flamingo fledgling, Gemma Farrell has been a leading light on every level, her greatest achievements including selection for the 2008 Olympic Development Squad and the RYA Volvo Keelboat Squad (sailing parlance for the 'National Squad for U25s on 'big' boats'). Not content with that, last year Gemma competed in: the Farr 40 Europeans in Hyeres where she was helm of the British Women's Match Racing Team; the Youth and Open Europeans in Holland; the Farr 40 Regatta in Sardinia; the Farr 40 Worlds in San Francisco; the Youth Cowes Week where she was helm of the British Women's entry; and Cowes Week itself. She was also selected as the Ladies Captain of the BUSA Team, 2004-2005, and First Team helm. As Captain of the University Sailing Club (with the assistance of Eagle Clay), she has been instrumental in Cambridge gaining fifth place at the BUSA Match Racing Finals, sixth place at the BUSA Yachting Nationals, and defeating Oxford three times already this year. It is an honour to be able to wish Flamingo Farrell well in her bid for the 2008 Olympics.

St John's was exceptionally well represented in CUWBC this year, with a Flamingo in every single boat on Race Day in March. Sadly victory was just out of reach, but with both Blondie and the Lightweights finishing with overlap onto their Oxford counterparts, the racing was much closer than it has been for the last few years. The CUWBC

Flamingoes achieved greater success in BUSA, with Camilla Waugh and Flamingo fledgling Chloe Baker winning bronze with Blondie in the BUSA Junior Eights, and fledgling Uli Forster winning silver with the Blues Lightweight in the Championship Eights, and again in the Lightweight Coxless Fours.

In Lent Bumps Flamingoes Philbrick, Baker, Waugh and Paddison all competed in the Lady Margaret 1st Women's VIII. They rowed over more than once but finished down one. However the Regatta season is now in full swing and with Lady Margaret First Women recently winning the Bedford Regatta, greater success seems to beckon for the Flamingoes as May Bumps approach.

A Flamingo fledgling and Full Blue, this season Alix Freeman represented the University in Water Polo, scoring a goal in the Varsity Match, contributing to the final triumphant score of 13-2. The Cambridge Women's Water Polo Team also won their division in BUSA and have since been promoted to the First Division as a result. In addition, Alix has made a great contribution within college to Water Polo, Swimming and Rowing.

Back on dry land the achievements are equally impressive and varied. Jacqui Le Geyt was selected for the Blues Athletics team for both VFEAR (Varsity Field Events And Relays) and the actual Varsity Match in the 100m, 200m and 4 x 100m relay, in which the Light Blue Women emerged triumphant. On the Netball court, wing attack Sarah Samworth helped put Oxford firmly in their place with a Varsity score of 45-17, gaining University Colours in the process. The College Netball Team were also successful, making the quarter-final round of Cuppers.

Promotion was on the cards for another College stalwart this season, Flamingo Sarah Kitson. With her assistance the College Hockey Team were promoted for the second consecutive season, this year making the First Division, a great achievement. The Football Team was unfortunate not to get promoted too; they only lost one game in the entire season but promotion is restricted to one team only.

Flamingo Chip McClure led the University Women's Lacrosse Club to success in BUSA, with a quarter-final place in the Premier Division for the Blues, and a narrow defeat in the Trophy Final for the Kingfishers. A Scotland senior international, Chip has recently been selected for the 2005 World Cup Development Squad, but a back injury currently prevents her from putting weight on one leg – in true flamingo style!

In conclusion, the Flamingoes have put on an impressive and inspiring sporting display this year, and the future looks bright with many potential fledglings for next season. It remains only to thank both the Ospreys and the Hawks' Charitable Trust for their generous financial support in the form of various bursaries, and to wish all the Flamingoes good luck in any remaining fixtures this season.

Chip McClure
President

Men's Football

In Football it is often said that to be remembered as a great team it is not only necessary to win trophies, but to retain them. This year, in a dramatic Cup run, the First XI became the first post-war Johnian side to retain the Cuppers trophy. With the Second XI secure in Division Two and the third XI narrowly missing out on promotion, the Club is in a very healthy state.

The season began with the excitement of the Fresher Trials. With sponsorship provided by PwC Strategy Group courtesy of ex-footballer Stuart Gale, the Club were able to splash out on some foreign imports. Emmanuel Owusu-Darkwa, or Harry to his mates, arrived from UCL and struck up a great partnership with fellow new recruit Dan O'Keefe. The Beckhamesque Nick Pantelides produced the silky skills worthy of any England Captain, and other foreign stars included everybody's scrabble favourite, Charles Wackiwaka, whilst Dave Barley's brand of no-nonsense chat was a great addition to training sessions. With the departure of our regular goalkeeper, Moh Murphy belatedly emerged as a strong candidate for the jersey.

Having destroyed Jesus 4-1 in the Freshers' Match, confidence was high. However the reality of what would face us this year hit home in a 2-1 defeat to Girton. Having won the double last year, Colleges would try anything to beat us. The media attention was relentless, as the side became backpage pin-ups in both *Varsity* and *TCS*. The squad were photographed feasting in Gardies led by 'five bellies' Gun-Why, and the paparazzi followed Emmanuel as he redesigned Jesus Bar.

With all this pressure the Team couldn't have responded more positively, going on a 12 match unbeaten run beginning with a 4-0 drubbing of local rivals Jesus. This undefeated run saw league wins against Trinity (2-0), Pembroke (6-1) and most memorably Darwin (5-1) where victory was inspired by a stunning effort from Barry Dent, a strong candidate for goal of the season. Unfortunately, like Vinny Cheung's Football career, all good things must come to an end and a succession of draws saw our title hopes fade to finish fourth in Division One. However as Sir Alex Ferguson recently said, 'forget the league, it is all about the cup.'

Having walked the first two rounds of Cuppers with comfortable victories against Queens' (5-0) and Trinity (4-1), we came up against our nemesis in Long Road. Having never previously beaten the Schoolboys in Cuppers, this would be the hardest match the Team had played in 2 years. An early Adams goal looked to have settled nerves, however from that moment life in Cuppers became decidedly difficult.

The Schoolboys gained a 3-1 lead but we pegged them back to take this epic match to extra-time and, eventually, penalties; a performance epitomised by Tim Froydenlund's never-say-die attitude. This black belt has chopped down teams all season, and in the shootout had to take his penalty twice after forgetting his name the first time. At 8-7 late substitute keeper Moh made the save to win us the match.

This took us to the semi-finals against the auld enemy Jesus, who were keen to take revenge for Emmanuel's 'changing rooms' performance. Leading 2-0 a combination of a rash challenge from goalkeeper Greene and suspect defending took the match to extra-time at 2-2. In a seesaw extra-time the match was eventually settled at 4-3 with a stunning goal,

Gun-Why playing the hero from the midfield to run through and slot home a Captains' goal.

And so to the final. Having gone behind early on, Tit Hall equalised with a typically audacious attempt just before half-time. A sharp turn, shimmy and shot in to the top corner was enough to win him the award for goal of the season. The match gripped the noisy supporters, with both sides singing the name of the former Blues Captain, 'Harding, Harding, Harding....' It was then stalemate until the very last minute of extra-time. Mike Gun-Why found freedom in the box to wham the ball into the back of the net, sparking celebrations across the field.

With the Cup back in its rightful place, the team set off on Tour to Sherwood Forest and the great City of Nottingham. Never before has so much fun been packed into three days with so many happy memories. There were, as ever, many incredible performances, notably Harry, Harris, Ringo G, Paddy and Candida.

This year we will be losing a few legends from the side. Unless they can find yet another course more spurious than Hardings' Latin American Football Studies, this is Dave Harding, Tim Hall and Sion Lewis' last year. With eleven Blues between them all three have been great ambassadors for the Club and will be sadly missed. Alex Starling who has scored thirty goals for the Club, been a Committee member and played for 7 years, is moving on to pastures new. I fear the pace of the team will never be the same. Chris Griffiths' witty mannerisms and duck running will also be sorely missed on the training ground.

Congratulations to Mike Adams who joined Tim, Dave and Siôn in the Varsity match this year to gain his first Blue. Nick Pantelides was also a regular in the Blues' side all year and played in the Falcons Varsity Match, though surely next year he will make the step up. James Verdon and Chris Weeks represented the Kestrels in the Third XI Varsity match.

There were a number of notable performances on the pitch this season. James Greene has done a stirring job in goal, Tim Froydenlund and Alex Ford have danced down the left, whilst Pantos has displayed wonderful skill. However this year one of our best players of the last four years

must be rewarded. You could not ask for a better central defender than Chris Weeks. As well as being incredibly solid at the back, Weeks has been our top scorer in the league this year with five goals, and is this year's Player of the Season.

It has been another fantastic season and an outstanding team effort to maintain the momentum gained from the previous year. Keith has once again produced excellent pitches and hopefully the new training ground will be ready for next season. Together with his assistants he has also been a great supporter of the Club. I would like to thank this year's Committee: James Verdon (Vice-Captain), Vinny Cheung (Secretary), Chris Weeks (Treasurer) and Mike Gun-Why (HVC). Together they have invested a lot of time making the Club a success, both on and off the pitch. Sam Pannick and Richard Stevenson have astutely Captained the Second and Third XIs. The Captain of the Club next year will be Mike Gun-Why and I am sure, with a young and talented squad already in place, he can look forward to continued success next year.

James Bryan
Captain

Women's Football

Beagle Two did not make it to Mars, there were no weapons of mass destruction, and Carl Kennedy still doesn't love Susan, but we can be sure it was a better year for St Johns College Women's Football.

The season got off to an impressive start after an influx of new talent. Katy 'the Bulldozer' Lutley was taking control in the box and many other new players were giving me a hard time picking the First Eleven. We managed to secure a keeper, Ruth Brooke, on loan from the Netball Team, whose safe hands meant we only conceded three goals all season.

2-0, 4-0, 9-0: the wins kept coming and the solid back four kept the sheet clean. This season was certainly heading in a different direction to last year's and promotion was starting to look like a realistic goal.

Two more convincing wins took us to the match that would decide our league fate. Causis had us on goal difference, thanks to their Blues striker. Only a win would see us promoted (thanks to the inspired rule that allows only one team the pleasure of changing their division). Unfortunately, despite our equal ability, and the additional talents of Amanda, Lizzie, Amelie and Marion taking control in the mid-field, we could still only manage to secure a draw. Our season was effectively over.

Briefly, on Cuppers, more great individual performances, King's didn't even bother to test our might and failed to turn up but nonetheless we were out in the second round.

Congratulations go to all of the Team who played their hearts out, and showed vast improvement. Our thanks goes to our patient and talented coaches: James, Fordy, Tim and Chris, and also to our fantastic supporters who cheered us through the best and worst of times. Women may not generally be known for their football prowess but these women can't get enough of it. Maybe because, football is, after all, a wonderful way to get rid of your aggressions without having to end up in jail!

Penny Moore
Captain

Men's Hockey

Ever since the reins were ill-advisedly handed over to Rick Symington in season 2000-2001, the story of John's Hockey has been one of underachievement. This season however, all that changed. The season's successes number undefeated League Champions: (W 11, D 1, L 0; F 49, A 14), and runners-up in the Durham, Oxford and Cambridge Intercollegiate Championship, on tour in Dublin.

The season began somewhat inauspiciously with the levy of £100 fine for the Captain, and twelve hours labour for the Hockey Club as a whole, by the Dean, due to an impromptu waterborne training session in the Cam. This brush with the law did nothing to lower expectations

for the season, given our strong intake of Freshers, although it did enforce a diet of bread and water on the Captain for a month.

A good hockey team, more often than not, has a strong mid-field, and this team was no exception. Consisting of Freshers' Palmer on the right, Mackenny in the middle partnering Sym and Stocker (Curry Captain) on the left, this was the backbone of our success. All played University Hockey with three making appearances for the Wanderers, which gave us an edge over other teams in terms of fitness and assuredness of touch.

In goal Goody was as solid as ever, with Tucker deputising very well when Goody was off digging holes for Queen and Country. In defence our first choice four of Fenn, Parry, Beard and Linton were rarely all available with Fenn and Linton often suffering injuries. However Charlwood was always ready to step into the breach, with R Shorter playing later in the season. The defence played better than fourteen goals against might suggest, with particular note going to Parry who on numerous occasions prevented a one on one with some sterling tackles, having been abandoned by all and sundry.

Up front Lloyd and Jones were the regular starters, with Yiangou coming on to provide the crowd (Dye and Mackenny's mother) some amusement when we were safely in double figures. We bid farewell to departing warriors Jones and Goody who have both provided vociferous support over four years, and will be missed. Somehow Lloyd ended the season the top scorer, but ten out of the sixteen players that played provided goals, which is indicative of the way we played as a team rather than as a collection of individuals. This made us much harder to defend against than in seasons past.

The format of the League, with twelve teams in the First Division, means that often we were pitched against inferior opposition. However the essence to winning the League is to beat the top teams, this season Jesus and Magdalene. After drawing a match against a respectable Cambridge City outfit we were faced with having to beat both these teams. The 4-1 victory against Jesus with three goals coming from rehearsed short corners was particularly pleasing given their victory

over us in the last match last season to take the League, and a nail-biting 4-3 victory over Magdalene in the final match ensured our success.

Cuppers was a different matter. After the 5-0 demolition of Fitz in the first round we were drawn against a Blues-packed Catz side. After a spirited performance where we challenged them for much of the game, we ended up losing 6-3. Next season with the departure of many of their key players, we should look at this as a realistic target.

For the first time in many years the Team went on a gentlemen's tour to Dublin, to play in the 'Doxbridge' tournament. Against some teams that were taking it a little more seriously than ourselves, and who were dressed somewhat inadequately, we did well to end runners-up. The vigilance of the Finenog and his Big Red Book ensured that a good deal of Guinness was consumed.

The spirit of this tour highlighted the sociability of this side, and the banter flowed like a fine well-rounded wine all season (a '61 Lafite springs to mind). I look forward to next year with anticipation.

If it is not too egotistical, I might be permitted a moment to thank all the team for the pleasure, sweetened by all the success, that playing in and Captaining this side has given me. I suspect there aren't many teams where one can look at every player and see a friend. I wish incoming Captain, Max Parry, every success in his tenure next season.

God Bless the Hockey Club.

James Sym
Captain

Women's Hockey

The season of 2003-2004 was resoundingly successful for Women's Hockey. Newly promoted to the second division we equalled, and then bettered the new level of play. It was clear that our stay in the middle ranks would not be long lasting. In fact at times the strongest competition came from a more internal direction, when the call to College Football tested the allegiances of our players.

Our squad was something of a pick and mix affair. We never put forward the same team to play twice. Some players drifted after the first term, others were recruited in the Lent Term. One would certainly expect this to rather inhibit any sort of team-bonding but the dynamism proved workable in the end. We were fortunate to have a large pool of genuinely great players and somehow, whoever actually participated on the day, managed to adapt to the new circumstances. In one match we were competing with only nine players on the pitch and still managed to emerge victorious.

We had a very healthy influx of Freshers this year who were crucial to our success. Lydia Tong receives our prestigious player of the year award and played a central role in midfield as well as being the year's top scorer. Naomi Longworth, Charlie French, Katie Lutley and Antonia Teixeira all added the necessary extra expertise for a newly promoted side. There were also many familiar faces from last year, including ex-Captain Sarah Kitson, Louise Fisher, Marion McMillan, Kirsten Dettman, Lizzy Gibney, Kim Maynard and Claire Blewitt; and not forgetting the unfaltering Charlotte Palwyn who overcame her ambivalence to resume her position as goalkeeper.

The season began in a mixed fashion with a 2-1 victory over APU followed by a 0-1 loss to Newnham. But this was to be our only league loss. Against Christ's we performed confidently and the goals racked up, culminating in a 5-0 win. The rest of the Michaelmas Term was spent competing in College Cuppers. We emerged confident from our first round match beating a competent Selwyn side 2-0. Sadly our struggle to the silverware was terminated when we lost 3-2 to Robinson in the second round, in what was perhaps our only disappointing performance of the season.

In the Lent Term we lost no matches whatsoever. Against Clare we won 1-0 in a well-fought match. Other wins were 2-0 against Selwyn and 2-1 over Homerton. We drew 3-3 against Trinity Hall and 0-0 against Churchill.

As a result of consistently good play we were comfortably promoted to the First Division. Having been labouring in Division Three obscurity when I arrived as a Fresher, it gives me great pleasure to see us now

playing as a serious hockey side. Next season will bring new expectations and challenges as we gear up to compete against the best. It is Charlie Bruce who will be leading us through this unfamiliar terrain. I wish her the best of luck.

Caroline Mather
Captain

Lady Margaret Boat Club

As you will read in the reports from the Captains, the LMBC Association continues to provide valuable support for training camps and for the 'Henley Campaigns'. This year the Association has provided a set of oars for the First Women, at a cost of more than £2,000, and next year we hope to purchase a boat for the First Women. Members of the LMBCA also support the Club through coaching and by giving advice to the Captains, the Boat Club Manager and the Senior Treasurer, and we are grateful for their help.

This year we have also purchased a video camera from Club funds, so that crew members can see – and believe – what they are doing wrong! We are sure it will be of great benefit.

The arrangement with Robinson College Boat Club continues to work well and they provide much-needed funds for the LMBC. This is all the more important now that we are no longer sponsored by UBS Warburg. Anyone who can help us to find sponsorship should contact Catherine Twilley, the Senior Treasurer, at the College.

In January we said farewell to Professor Peter Goddard who, as President of the Club, had been a great supporter of the LMBC. He takes great pride in the fact that he was the first Trinity man to hold the post and that he had never been in a boat! Nonetheless he took his position seriously, supporting the Club on the towpath, at Henley, and at the dinners. He was instrumental in the College agreeing to take on responsibility for the fabric of the Boathouse and fund the wonderful extension and refurbishment. It was with great pleasure that the Junior

Officers of the Club agreed to award him his Honorary First May Colours and we hope he will wear the tie with pride.

After saying farewell to Peter Goddard we welcomed Professor Richard Perham back to the post of President of the LMBC. Richard has a long association with the Club and his support and involvement needs no explanation. We are looking forward to working with him over the coming years.

Lady Margaret Boat Club – Men

Henley 2003

With the entire May VIII staying on for Henley the crew was well placed to qualify in the Temple Challenge Cup. During the training camp on the Thames under the superb guidance of Roger Silk they made huge improvements but were sadly hampered by inconsistencies in the crew due to work commitments. The spare pair, consisting of Chris Taylor and Andy Fenn, ably filled in when required but the full crew missed out on qualifying by a heartbreaking 0.2 seconds. Many crews who had pre-qualified went on to record slower times in the Regatta, which only added to the disappointment. Nevertheless the experience was a fantastic one, and our deepest thanks go to the LMBCA who paid for it all and to Anne Arlidge for her wonderful hospitality and for feeding us until we could be fed no more.

The Henley Crews

Bow	Tommy Keeling	Spare Pair	
2	Gareth Lane	Bow	Chris Taylor
3	Geoff Ball	2	Andy Fenn
4	Chris Crawshaw		
5	Gary Olney		
6	Mark Brand		
7	Andreas Domnick		
Stroke	Ewan Robson		
Cox	Sophie Pickford		

Michaelmas Term 2003

Once again the depth of the Club shone through in the University Fours competition; the light four absolutely destroyed rivals 1st and 3rd in the semi-finals, recording a blistering time of 9.59. In the final against Clare we found ourselves four seconds down at the halfway mark, gaining fast after a collision with a (stationary) barge in the plough. Refusing to give up we raced like winners, storming up the reach to be level by the railway bridge. From there Clare were a broken side, eventually finishing 41 seconds down after a frantic crash of their own. The winning time awarded to LMBC was 10.33. The crew owes a lot to the steering of Chris Taylor, which was exemplary throughout the competition (except for the crash), to their coaches Gerald Roebroeks and Bill Budenburg, and to all the people, too numerous to mention, who bank steered at various points in the term, usually at no notice, and who ensured that the crew did not cause death and destruction on the river whilst they were learning to steer. This victory marks the third consecutive win for LMBC in this competition, and continues the unbeaten run for the Janousek shell provided so generously by the LMBCA in 2000.

Dramatis Personae

Bow	Chris Taylor*
2	Chris Crawshaw
3	Ben Symonds
Stroke	Gareth Lane
*Steers	

The First Coxed Four performed almost as well in an event more thickly populated than the elite division. They dispatched Sidney I, Fitzwilliam I and Christ's I with ease before losing in a hard-fought final against Trinity Hall I. It is worth noting that none of these Colleges had a Light IV and so fielded their fastest IV in this competition.

The First Coxed IV

Bow	Damien Brown
2	Dave Wilson

3 Tom O'Mahoney
 Stroke Ben Russell
 Cox Hayley Fisher

The Second Coxed IV was lacking in experience but still performed superbly in the competition. They won their first race against St Catharine's II before being beaten by a strong Jesus II crew in the semi-finals. It was excellent this term to see a Fellows' IV out for the first time in the Club's history. LMBC III were unfortunately knocked out in the first round by the eventual winners of their division, but had fun nevertheless! Respect is due to Dr Choroba for whipping them into shape, though I trust not literally.

After the IVs competition the oarsmen showed their versatility by switching to VIII's for the Fairbairn's competition at the end of term. The First Boat (or the dominVIII as it was to become) consisted of the Light IV and the First Coxed IV, with Gareth Lane (who was lost to the Engineering Department) being replaced by the mighty Gary Olney. In preparation for the Fairbairn's competition they travelled to the Nephys Regatta in Oxford where they destroyed the field of Oxford Colleges, including Oriel, currently second in their May Eights competition. In the Fairbairn's competition they raced excellently, coming fourth, just one second behind 1st and 3rd. Massive thanks are due to Pete Mallin-Jones and Roger Silk for getting the best out of this small and inexperienced crew.

The First VIII

Bow Damien Brown
 2 Dave Wilson
 3 Chris Taylor
 4 Ben Russell
 5 Tom O'Mahoney
 6 Gary Olney
 7 Chris Crawshaw
 Stroke Ben Symonds
 Cox Emmie Stuart - Parker

The Second IV remained together and raced in the Fours Division of Fairbairn's, coming fifteenth; a good performance considering most of the entrants did not field VIII's as well. I took great pleasure in again entering a Fellows' IV in the competition. Aply assisted by Professor Milton in the 2 seat, they cruised to nineteenth place in the IVs competition, the highest position ever achieved by a Fellows' IV in Fairbairn's, although there has only ever been one . . . Once again thanks to Dr Choroba for organising everything.

This term, of course, saw new members of the Club racing in the novice competitions and all the crews benefited from changes to river rules, allowing the larger Clubs to get enough boats out in the mornings. The Men's Club fielded five boats, the first, coached by Gerald Roebroeks, suffered an early defeat in the Clare Novice Regatta but produced a good performance in Fairbairn's, coming fourth. The other novice boats all worked hard and performed well, special mention to the third novices. They reached the final of the Men's plate at the Clare Novice Regatta before being beaten by an exceptionally fast Queens' crew. Similarly I must mention the fifth novices who nearly didn't compete at all but managed to make it to the Fairbairn's competition.

Once again the chases week was run at the end of term to allow the novices and seniors to train and compete together in preparation for the Lent Term, and to show me that I really couldn't row on bow side.

Lent Term 2004

The term began with the First Squad training camp in Eton. As usual this was a frosty affair and the coxes, Laura Dix and Amy Oliver, adapted well to twice daily resuscitation. On the water the crews made improvements under Chris Atkin, Paddy Gillespie and Pete Mallin-Jones and managed to continue to do so despite injury and illness. Off the water the domination continued at the Dorney centre as they tried (and failed), once again, to cook the squad more food than they could eat. The Coaches' meeting was very valuable, my thanks to all who attended. Once again, thanks to the LMBCA for supporting us financially.

Back on the Cam the crews were selected and began training for bumps.

The Lents Upper Boats

	First Boat	Second Boat
Bow	Tom O'Mahoney	Carl Van Heyningen
2	Chris Taylor	Chris Hancock
3	Phil Ellison	Alan Cunningham
4	Chris Crawshaw	Mark Akhshi
5	Ed Russell	Dave Knowles
6	Gary Olney	Greg Lowden
7	Gareth Lane	Kevin Jepson
Stroke	Ben Symonds	Gerald Weldon
Cox	Hayley Fisher	Laura Dix

The First Boat, coached by Roger Silk, started strongly and performed well at the Cam Head-to-Head and Newnham Short Course, coming third in the latter. Tim Fisher-Jeffes and John Rhodes followed in the coaching line up. Substandard performances at Pembroke Regatta and Bedford Head left the crew lacking in confidence going in to the final week of term, but the Bumps themselves brought out the best in the crew.

A row-over against Jesus on the first day was made easier when they were bumped in the Reach, but left a strong Trinity Hall crew chasing on the following day. After a spirited start the crew nearly got away in the Plough but were bumped after rounding Ditton Corner. The bump from Emmanuel came rapidly the following day as they pulled out their trademark fifty stroke sprint.

The fourth day saw absolute carnage in the top division as Churchill, thinking they had bumped, stopped rowing, leaving LMBC to row over with clear water behind. A plethora of technical bumps and row-overs were awarded as the crew behind Churchill rowed past them and then got bumped themselves. The marshals, I'm sure, had fun with that one and LMBC I ended up down two.

The Second Boat, under the tutelage of Gerald Roebroeks and John Durack, were agonisingly close to bumping Girton I to go head of the

Second Division on the first day, but just couldn't muster the strength to convert their length-and-a-bit advantage into a bump. This meant they had three very strong crews behind, leaving them down three on the final day.

The lower boats fared rather better leaving Rich Tambllyn, the Lower Boats Captain with a smile on his face and £5 in his pocket after a small wager with first boat's Ed Russell. The Third Men found themselves head of the Third Division on the second day after bumping Trinity Hall II. They then bumped twice on the final day as sandwich boat to secure their place in the Second Division for next year. They were, and remain, the highest placed third boat and deserve a special mention for winning the lower boat's competition at Pembroke Regatta. A great term for the 3rd boat!

LMBC IV rowed over the first two nights before assisting the spoons-bound Christ's III in their descent, finishing up one. A good performance.

The Lents Dinner was swiftly followed by a return to training for the First Boat in preparation for the Head of the River Race in London. Gary Olney and Phil Ellison left the crew to train and compete with the University Development Squad; two athletes to watch in next year's Boat Race trials. Under the direction of Gerald Roebroeks, and with the addition of Ben Russell and Gerald Weldon, the crew made great improvements and were confident of a good performance in the race.

Unfortunately the event was cancelled due to bad weather, an occurrence of which the crew were rather glad as they had nearly been swamped during warm up! They were, however, victorious in the de-rigging race that then ensued so it wasn't a weekend wasted. My thanks go to ex-Maggie men Carl Seymour and Pete Mallin-Jones who gave us a place to sleep for the weekend and didn't mind us coming back drunk after the race.

After this it was hotfoot to Henley to join a large number of current and ex-members of the Club watching the Henley Boat Races. The Club had the unique distinction of being represented in all five of the boats at this

event. On the Men's side former Captain Geoff Ball sat at 4 in the Lightweight Blue Boat, while Tommy Keeling and George Wallis sat at stroke and bow respectively in Granta, which narrowly missed out on victory against Nephthys in a gripping dash for the line. Congratulations to all three for their tenacity and determination in training and competition for their respective crews.

May Term 2004

The term began with the now traditional training camp in York under the expert guidance of Jamie MacLeod. As usual this was a great success with a day's rowing typically covering 35km in a straight line, something we can only dream of on the tortuous Cam. Once again thanks to the LMBCA for providing invaluable financial support for the week.

Upon returning the crews were selected on the basis of 2k times, a technical trial and, new for this year, stroke-profiling equipment and expert technical and diagnostic assistance, which had been designed by ex-oarsmen Paul Haines and Rob Milner. The Lent squad was augmented by the return of the Lightweight triallists, Ed Clay and the perennial stalwart, former Captain, Mark Brand

The First May VIII

Bow	Phil Ellison
2	Ben Symonds
3	Ed Russell
4	Geoff Ball
5	Mark Brand
6	Gary Olney
7	Ed Clay
Stroke	Tommy Keeling
Cox	Emmie Stuart-Parker

The Second May VIII

Bow	Sam Birch
2	Damien Brown
3	Kevin Jepson
4	Gerald Weldon
5	Ian Martin
6	Tim Heidel
7	Chris Taylor
Stroke	Gareth Lane
Cox	Hayley Fisher

After a rocky start whilst the crews were finalised and the triallists found some way to accommodate the demands of preparing for the Bumps and for Henley with their respective University crews, training got underway and the crews made excellent progress. The beginning of the term saw the inaugural evening of an event that will be fantastic for the Club in the future: The Concept II Cambridge University Sprint Relay. This is an indoor event for the entire University and outside competitors, organised jointly by CUCBC and LMBC. Entries are encouraged from all quarters! This year the world 100k record holders, the MAD team, recorded the fastest time on the night winning the open event. LMBC entered three crews, the First Men, without their natural anchor man Gary, missed out by just nine seconds on winning, coming third behind 1st and 3rd and the Caius Lent Headship crew.

The First Boat made good progress before Bumps under the coaching of Roger, Paddy Gillespie and Andy Jones, but sadly missed out on the Metropolitan Regatta. They did, however, compete at the Peterborough Regatta the weekend before Bumps and stormed through to victory in S4, breaking the course record in the process. Unfortunately they were subsequently disqualified because of a mystery extra point that took them over the limit for the division! In S3 they won their heat, recording the fastest time of the day, but just missed out in the final to a very strong Broxbourne crew who beat them by a mere 0.6 seconds. This race was absolutely invaluable to the crew and it showed its worth in the Bumps the following week.

The Second Boat looked good, improving under the guidance of Gerald, Tim Fisher-Jeffes and Bill Budenburg. In the Peterborough Regatta they performed excellently, winning their heat in S4 and narrowly missing out on the final of S3, coming third after being second for most of the course.

May Bumps

On the first day the First Boat found themselves behind a St Catharine's crew containing five members of the Blues squad who, despite having had very few outings together, remained unbeatable. The crew held their distance and when St Catharine's bumped Robinson at Ditton

Corner, produced a brilliant rowover, finishing just two lengths off the overbump on Downing.

The second day saw them chasing a struggling Robinson crew. They raced well over the first half of the course, closing to about three feet in the Plough and reducing the distance to one foot in the Reach. However, the fitness and determination of the Robinson crew showed through and they managed to push away, the inexperience of the Lady Margaret crew helping their cause.

On the third day the crew were determined to settle the score in the early part of the race. Tommy's psychotic stroking ensured that they achieved overlap by Grassy Corner, but they got caught in the bow-wave and were pushed out very wide. Robinson pushed ahead but was again reeled back to half a length in the Plough. The extra effort required to regain this distance proved too much and the crew was unable to catch them in the Reach.

So the fourth day was make or break time. After a blistering start, overlap was achieved by First Post Corner and the bump was made twice in the Gut. With the Robinson Cox failing to acknowledge, and in the absence of an umpire, the race continued. They escaped to a distance of about three feet around Grassy, but closing all the while around Ditton the LMBC crew reeled Robinson in. There then ensued what can only be described as the most exciting Bumps race in recent years. LMBC, with about three seats of overlap on Robinson, were being overlapped by a 1st and 3rd Boat that had regained their Goldie rower, but were going for the bump in the Reach as Robinson, spurred on by events behind, closed to within half a length of Downing ahead. In the end it was LMBC who emerged victorious, bumping Robinson and giving their Cox a blade in the back – a reminder to acknowledge earlier!

The Second Boat was surprised by the quality of the Sidney crew in front of them on the first day. Nevertheless they produced an excellent rowover, closing to within one length off the start. On the second day the massive Wolfson I gave chase, and despite holding them off until the Reach, LMBC was bumped at the Railings – the power of the graduates

was too much to bear. The third day evidenced one of the best rows of the entire Bumps competition. Pushed from behind by Corpus I, the Second Boat soon found itself with just a foot to spare between a rowover and being bumped by Ditton Corner. Refusing to give up, however, they managed to push away undaunted. Eventually they finished with about half a length between the two boats.

On the fourth day confidence was high, as they knew they could deal with any challenge from behind. Using the advantage of cover from the freakish torrential rain, provided by the Motorway Bridge at the start, they comfortably held Corpus and even closed slightly on Wolfson. The result was another great rowover. Unfortunately their final position, down one, does not reflect the quality of the crew nor their determination and dedication during training and competition.

The Lower Boats performed very well under the expert Captaincy of Rich Tamblyn. The Third Boat was unlucky to finish down two after being bumped by crews rocketing from low positions, who should perhaps have been in higher divisions. Their two rowovers were of a good standard and they showed massive improvement from a shaky start to the term.

The Fourth Boat performed exceptionally finishing up two after bumps on Christ's III and Jesus III. They have worked impressively hard all year and displayed technique worthy of a far higher boat. They simply lacked the power to catch some of the bigger crews ahead of them. Regardless, this is a fantastic result and they should be congratulated for a great term.

The Fellows rowed as LMBC MIV and struggled with the high position in which they found themselves. A somewhat tense row on the first day began their downward trend and they finished down four. Nevertheless they enjoyed themselves and I am pleased with the progress they made during the term. A potential casualty may of course be Clive, who, because he failed to bring God sufficiently on side, may lose his place in the boat!

The Gentlemen of the Club, the Sixth Boat, seemed intent on causing as much controversy as possible with their increasingly outrageous outfits.

Despite this they were the most successful boat in the Club, finishing up three, and providing me with my only appearance on the river during the competition, and with my first ever bump. Rumour has it that Griffiths enjoyed the experience so much that he will be trialling for the Blues next year!

All in all it was a successful year for the Men's Club and the Club in general. I view it as a year of consolidation – in the new term we are sending upwards of eleven oars to the various University crews! Next year could bring great things for us all and I wish the new Captains, Ed Russell and Frieda Van Belle, all the very best in their tenure. Thank you all for the lows and the highs that you have given me this year and for continuing to keep Lady Margaret great.

Vive Laeta Margareta.

Chris Crawshaw
Captain

Lady Margaret Boat Club – Women

Michaelmas Term 2003

This year the Michaelmas Term brought the usual crop of difficulties for the senior rowers – poor weather, short days, flooding and crowded early mornings. Two Fours were entered into University Fours, but unfortunately were knocked out by strong crews from Magdalene and Tit Hall II. Combining the crews after University Fours, we had developed a strong Eight with lots of potential. We headed to Oxford to race in the Nephthys Regatta and after some successful races in the pouring rain, narrowly missed out on a win in the final. We entered two Eights into Fairbairn's which rowed good, but unremarkable, races, with the First VIII finishing in ninth and the Second VIII third out of the Women's Second Boats.

	The First Fairbairn's VIII	The Second Fairbairn's VIII
Bow	Marion McMillan	Kathryn Carrick
2	Catherine Slattery	Jo Woolley
3	Sara Vero	Susanna Rickard

4	Jocelyn Williams	Zip Jila
5	Sophie Doran	Stephanie Gyo
6	Kim Maynard	Gemma Sykes
7	Tamsin Rees	Bex Walton
Stroke	Renee Hope	Jo Tacón
Cox	Henry Addison	Ben Davies

Novices

We fielded three strong and committed Novice Eights in the Michaelmas Term. The First Women remained amongst the best Colleges for novices this year. They came fourth in Queens Ergs and made it through to the semi-finals of Clare Sprints, to be knocked out by an exceptionally strong 1st & 3rd Boat. In Fairbairn's the First Women put in a strong technical row and came home in sixth position overall, disappointingly losing the Head position. The Second Women rowed well in Fairbairn's despite being overtaken inside Chesterton by Emma II, finishing sixth out of the Second VIIIs. The Third Women rowed extremely well, finishing just two seconds behind the Second Women and thirty seconds ahead of the nearest Third Boat. I would like to thank my Lower Boats Captain, Kim Maynard, for all her hard work and dedication throughout the Michaelmas Term.

Eton Training Camp 2004

This year saw a very successful training camp on Dorney Lake, coached by Gerald Roebroeks and the enormously able Palo Lightbourne. We made big improvements with a mix of eleven novice and senior rowers, and two coxes, and worked hard throughout the week. Despite a slight incident whilst parking the boat on the pontoon, and dangerously high winds at times, we had a very enjoyable week. Our thanks go to the LMBC Association for subsidising the training camp.

Lent Term 2004

With four First May Colours in the Lent Term Boat and only one novice in the First Lent Boat, we started the term on an optimistic note. We came fourth in the Head to Head, a large improvement on last year's

results. Both the First and Second Lent VIIIs raced in Bedford Head, with the First Women coming fourth in S3 and the Second Women finishing third in Novice VIIIs, posting good times for the course. Disappointingly the College chasing us in Bumps, Clare, gave us an indication of things to come and beat us in the second row.

Despite the hard work put in, a series of injuries and illnesses, which left half of the boat on anti-inflammatories and meant we regularly required subs, meant that the Lent Bumps were not as successful as we had hoped. On the first day a fast Clare Crew bumped us just before the Railway Bridge. The second day afforded a comfortable row over as we attempted to regain our position, but never got much within station. On the third day we found ourselves being chased by a strong and experienced Tit Hall crew. Gaining on us to within half a length at Ditton, we pushed hard down the Reach only to concede to overlap under the Railway Bridge. Sheer Maggie Pride kept the crew together and we pushed away to have two feet of clear water between us by Peters Post, in one of the most exciting races in Bumps that year. The following day Tit Hall came at us fast off the start but we felt confident of holding our position, and rowed over three and a half lengths clear.

The Second Women's VIII suffered from a term full of yellow flags, limiting their ability to train. Despite being close to bumping on two occasions, they sadly received Spoons.

Due to injuries our crew was completely reorganised for the Women's VIIIs Head of the River Race the following weekend. We had a good row despite having had little experience of rowing together, and finished a respectable one hundred and eighteenth.

	The First Lent VIII	The Second Lent VIII
Bow	Renee Hope	Naomi Longworth
2	Tamsin Rees	Tessa Burwood
3	Susanna Rickard	Susan Kendall
4	Frieda van Belle	Jo Tacon
5	Sara Vero	Clare Harvey
6	Sophie Doran	Gemma Sykes
7	Jocelyn Bailey	Jen Hon
Stroke	Francesca Frame	Shelley Chapman

Henley Boat Races 2004

Three Lady Margaret Rowers rowed in the Henley Boat Races against Oxford. Camilla Waugh rowed at 2 in the Blue Boat, Uli Forster rowed at 7 in the Lightweight Boat and Chloe Baker rowed at Bow in the Blondie Boat. Unfortunately, despite three technically strong and committed rows, all Cambridge crews were beaten.

Easter Term 2004

The Easter Term started off well with a successful training camp on the Cam and in Ely, coached by Roger Silk. A strong First VIII was selected that included eight returning First Mays and a Blondie Colour.

The first races of the term went well after good motivated coaching from Karen Hartshorn. While Chloe and Camilla raced at BUSA and won Bronze medals with Blondie, bow four raced Head of the Cam and won, despite being a scratch crew. Our Second VIII raced a good race despite also being a scratch crew, posting a good time that promised potential for the term ahead. At the Concept II Erg Sprints the First Women, aided by a rather stacked sub, won the W1 Division, beating Jesus, Pembroke and Selwyn. The Second Women came fourth in the other Mays Division. Emma Mawdsley, our second coach, made big moves in the following two weeks to change our crew, with a large amount of success! At Bedford the First VIII won WS4 VIIIs, winning the final three and a half lengths ahead of Clare. We posted the second fastest time in all Women's VIIIs races of the day, beating many Cambridge Colleges.

Rich Marsh and Roger Silk completed the superb coaching team for the First VIII, and they have been successful at creating one of the fastest First Women's VIIIs on the Cam. The Second VIII have also made an impressive amount of progress throughout the term, having a strong coaching line-up of Amir Nathoo, Sarah Langslow, Ben Blaukopf, Tom Edwards Moss and Trish Keegan.

	The First May VIII	The Second May VIII
Bow	Frieda van Belle	Emma Davis
2	Tamsin Rees	Naomi Longworth
3	Renee Hope	Shelley Chapman

4	Francesca Frame	Clare Harvey
5	Clare Philbrick	Gemma Sykes
6	Care Paddison	Sara Vero
7	Camilla Waugh	Jo Tacon
Stroke	Chloe Baker	Susanna Rickard
Cox	Henry Addison	Aidan Keane

May Bumps

This year the May Bumps proved as unpredictable and unjust as ever. Trying our luck once again, we came back to see if we could right last year's wrongs. The Second Women sported a technically strong crew who looked confident in their position in the Second Division. Unfortunately a fast Pembroke II crew – who narrowly missed blades – bumped them at Grassy on the first day. The following three days provided three exciting rowovers, as they held off Newnham II and Tit Hall II, closing in on Caius II in front.

The First Women, eager to settle scores from last year's Mays, were keen to bump Downing on the first day. However, a bout of nerves meant that despite getting to within half a length of Downing, we were unable to hold off an extremely fast Jesus crew who bumped us just before the railings. On the second day we had a strong rowover, getting to within two lengths of an overbump on Pembroke and avoiding any serious challenge from the Clare boat behind. On Friday we finally got our revenge on Downing and bumped them just on the exit of Ditton Corner. The final day left us chasing Jesus, once again, who easily bumped Newnham, allowing us another attempt at an overbump. Whilst never seriously challenging Pembroke we had a storming row with a very fast time for the course, exemplifying the crew's strength, skill and determination.

Women's Henley

With a full strength crew entering Women's Henley we felt confident that now was the time to prove the crew's worth. Despite having an abnormally high 73 entries for the Intermediate Vllls Competition, we qualified easily – one of only three Cambridge Colleges to do so. In our

first round we faced Edinburgh University, who provided one of the most exciting races of the day. They took a quarter of a length off the start, but the mighty Maggie stride – and numerous Bumps pushes – allowed us to come through to finish a length ahead by the end of the closely fought race. The next day we were the only Cambridge College left in the competition and having turned a few heads beating Edinburgh, we felt extremely proud of what we had achieved. In the second round we faced one of the toughest draws, University College, Dublin, who eventually went on to win the Regatta. Despite putting in a solid performance and making effective pushes, the Irish National Champions proved too much for us and we were beaten by two and a half lengths. Overall it was an extremely successful and enjoyable weekend. I would like to thank Roger Silk for his coaching and the LMBCA for generous financial support.

Tamsin Rees
Women's Captain

Netball

Following the success of the previous year, the Netball Teams, especially the Firsts, were in competitive spirits at the beginning of the new season. Such spirits were complemented by the assured camaraderie amongst the teams, especially during the mixed matches.

The talents of Alex Goodlee, Franki McClure and Ruwani Abeyratne, who have, in combination, taken on the task of netball Captaincy for the coming year, joined the players who had experienced Collegiate Netball last season. Alex impressed us all with her determination and skilful play, and she worked in perfect partnership with Hannah Haester in defence. Our flexible attack was as reliable as ever and shooting was a certain strength. The combination of skilful players, team spirit and commitment ensured that we experienced success in our league matches, finishing fourth in the First Division. This was especially highlighted on the occasions where our play in the second half proved to be the decisive factor.

This success stood us in good stead when the day of the Cuppers arrived. Despite the bitterly cold wind on the John's courts, the team assembled, if anything a little apprehensive about the day's competition, but ready to face whatever met us. Spirits once again shone through, especially when we defeated Jesus who are renowned for their strong and skilful play within the netball circles. We were unfortunately knocked out by Catz, the eventual winners, in the quarterfinals, but put up a strong fight and threatened for the majority of the match. We left the court rather disappointed but with much reason to be proud of our performance.

The mixed games provided a chance for the girls to build on the previous year's experience which the guys had gained. Once again there was excellent communication amongst the players, and skills developed even further throughout the season.

A big thank you has to go to all those who have been so committed to the netball teams this year. A special mention goes to Charlotte Pawlyn and Jo Woolley, whose umpiring expertise was much appreciated. Colours have this year been awarded to the full First Team, which consisted of Claire Blewett, Ruth Brooke, Hannah Heaster, Maria Datsopoulos, Franki McClure, Ruwani Abeyratne, Alex Goodlee, Jo Woolley and Clare Philbrick.

All that remains to be said is good luck for next year.

Claire Blewett and Ruth Brooke
Captains

Men's Rugby

Improving on the undefeated league record and the spirited, yet ultimately unsuccessful, performance in the Cuppers Final of the 2002-03 season was never going to be a simple task. Yet in spite of the loss of both Tom Watt and Adam Blowfish from the back division, the nucleus of the previous season's side remained. Former Captain Wells had clearly refrained from all pre-season training, and arrived in peak

physical fitness to survey the side that was to attempt to overcome the Cuppers hurdle that had proved a bridge too far the previous spring.

The squad increased dramatically in size by a combination of the obstinate refusal of senior players Goodey, Jones, Brown and Bell to pass into retirement, and by a strong first year contingent keen to stake a claim for their place. Indeed the size of the squad was to prove the most important factor in the season's success, with injuries to the likes of Busby, Thompson, Kelly and Maitland, and the University water carrying commitments of the likes of Bell and Holmes far less detrimental to performance than would have been the case in years gone by.

A dangerous suggestion it may be, but the Red Boys actually played an expansive style of Rugby at times this season. The silken running skills of Sayer, Tetlow and Greenblatt sadly could not be transferred to the back division, although the frequent demonstrations of outrageous handling ability from Picardo and Ahuja did leave a mark on the play of those around them.

Ben Smith managed to overcome a criminal inclination to marshal the backline extremely successfully, unleashing Buxton and Murray to score with unbelievable frequency, with Dye and Linton penetrating equally effectively when released from the U21s and the Maths Faculty respectively.

Wheatley-Hubbard was struck down by an early season injury that may or may not have resulted from an inbred genetic constitution, but returned to challenge Fitzgerald, Jones and T Roberts for the *Garçons Rouges* Beach-gun trophy.

Dibben took time off from his eventful studies of Meteorology to add kicking prowess and essential decoy runs to the midfield, where the running styles of Humphreys and Taylor led some to believe that their Rugby schooling may have involved experience in the acquisition of first phase possession.

Lewis-Jones made the reverse transition to compete in a Varsity Match in front of 50,000 partisan supporters, and yet was not awarded a Blue

– a cruel and inexplicable act of ageism. The Red Boys refrained from such policies, allowing the graduate element its rightful place, with Ford initiating his devastating ‘bouncing mark’ technique into the world of rugby, and Clulow perpetually amazed at the multitude of feeble excuses that those outside South Africa give for cancelling rugby fixtures.

The back row was an area of great competition for places all season. Goodey and Scrimshaw took time off from entering trenches with fellow servicemen in the name of Queen and Country to make up for the extraordinary slowness of Wells. Along with de Lord, Brown and G Roberts they helped the team achieve respectable levels of continuity, and in so doing, detracted strongly from the team’s all-round performance by shifting the emphasis of matches away from the set piece. The consequent mobility requirement greatly angered the more sturdy members of the side, who found that not supporting play was an extremely effective way of ensuring a return to set piece familiarity, and so followed this policy religiously.

This did not prove an insurmountable problem, with the league secured comfortably and Jesus the only College to provide any significant resistance, but Cuppers proved beyond us yet again. A weakened side failed to live with a strong Catz backline and we unfortunately departed the competition at the quarter-final stage.

A league season whose record reads P10 W10 with a points difference of +348 is clearly a tremendous achievement, and there is much cause for optimism when looking towards the 2004-05 season. With players in important positions leaving the Club there will be a need for others to assume increased responsibility and presence on the field, and opportunities for others to stake a claim for a more regular place. I would like to thank Graham Busby and Dan de Lord for their help and support throughout the season, and also wish the incoming committee of Maitland (Captain), Taylor (Vice-Captain) and Wheatley-Hubbard (Secretary) luck in their pursuit of another successful season.

Adam Brown
Captain

Women’s Rugby

‘I remember when the Red Girls wiped the floor with everyone else in Cambridge . . .’ This is the refrain that haunted the Women’s Rugby Team last year, having lost all experienced players to injury or the world of work. Though we’re not quite back to the ‘good old days’, which in any case, none of us remember, if we judge by this year’s intake a new golden age might be just around the corner. Lucy Puddle put in an excellent performance in the scrum and Charlie French showed serious pace on the wing. Our not-so-secret weapon, however, arrived in the form of Kosi Abdulai, who has been making waves not just on the University Rugby and Athletics squads, but also in the England Students’ Women’s Rugby Team. Kosi showed herself capable of running everyone else off the pitch and dominated the game whenever she was able to play.

In the two short years that I’ve been on the team we have developed our own traditions, one of which is that the Captain is unable to play for half the season. As a result of illness I missed the team’s first great success against Queens’, last year’s League winners. With new talent and experienced players, like Frieda van Belle and Susie Grant, the Red Girls beat the opposition decisively (36-0) and hopes for the new season were high. The real opposition this year, however, was Trinity, who were also fielding a highly experienced side including some fast-paced players. When Susie was forced to bow out with a neck injury directly before the match, John’s confidence was shaken, and despite Kosi crossing the try line, Trinity left having shown themselves the best side.

As the League continued we lost Susie to a research trip, and Kosi’s numerous commitments meant she was not always able to play, ensuring the rest of us could not sit on our laurels. Numerous close defeats left the side frustrated; we had the possession, but didn’t seem to want to get it over the line! Particularly galling losses to Churchhill and Girton left us determined not to sell ourselves short in Cuppers. We ended the season fifth in the League. Susie’s departure left a particularly tricky task for Lorna Gratton, who took over as kicker. With a lot of laborious practice, she perfected the kick and stemmed her nerves throughout the season, and is in a great position for next year.

Cuppers dawned freezing and windy, and the prospect of playing four games in occasional hailstorms was not particularly appealing. Despite nerves, however, John's put in a brilliant performance. With recent defeats fresh in our minds we were anxious to settle the difference, and beat both Girton and Churchhill to reach the semi-finals despite being without Kosi or Frieda, who suffered a back injury. The new first years, including Kath, put in a great effort, as did Helen Woodward and Gemma Farrell, who left the rest of us trailing behind in terms of fitness. Experienced prop, Megan Morris, and newcomer Friz Punt made sure all scrums were contested, and were quick to support the backs in attack. Thanks also to Jules and Kath, who froze themselves solid subbing and supporting. Special mention, though, must go to Lorna Gratton who, despite feeling unwell that morning, became a try/conversion-scoring machine. Lorna took over as Captain during my illness and will be taking on the role next year, with Charlie French as Secretary.

The Red Girls have benefited this season from some brilliant coaching. We'd like to say thanks to all those who coached us occasionally, but the greatest thanks goes to Gareth Roberts who has been extremely committed, put on effective sessions and always been around to help out with conversion training or refereeing as well. Thank you.

**Kirstin Smith
Captain**

Swimming

The standard of College sport has often been harshly described as participatory, and for most teams the comparison to the Blues athletes verifies this. This has certainly not been the case in Swimming.

'ST JOHN'S WIN BEST MALE SIDE IN CUPPERS FOR THE FOURTH YEAR RUNNING'

Finals were in May and we triumphed over our old foes, Trinity, to win by a considerable margin. It was also nearly a great day in the history of

Cuppers, the Men's medley team, consisting of Lee, Crawshaw, Mayhew-Seers, and Murray just lost to the all-Blues Queens' side. Both teams broke the long-standing 200-medley record and it came down to less than a hands length.

Overall John's took third in the mixed competition. Not bad considering we had only one female swimmer in the finals.

Man of the Match goes to our very own Boatie Captain, who showed he's actually better in water than above it. Chris broke the Cuppers record for the 100 breaststroke which had stood for a number of years – it was fantastic.

Woman of the Match goes to Emma Davies for her superb frontcrawl.

Swim of the Match is awarded to Gus Murray. His first leg of the frontcrawl relay was awesome, although it did turn out to be a false start.

Kate Jarvis, who stood at the end of the lane, cheering hysterically, wins Supporter of the Match, followed closely by Alex Ford, who didn't cheer at all.

Commendations must also go to Ainsley Mayhew-Seers for his stunning effort and personal best time of 28s in the 50m fly.

Andy Young deserves a mention for being our most loyal swimmer. Good luck to him in his future career in the city.

A word of thanks to Frieda Van Belle, Bex Walton and Gemma Sykes who, at late notice, rose to the challenge of representing the College. Alix Freeman deserves very special thanks for taking up the near-impossible role as Women's Captain, trying to persuade John's girls to don a cozzie.

To conclude it should go down in the history books that this year, like all other years before it, was the year St John's Swimmers could win Men's Cuppers and still fail, not for want of pool time, equipment, formals, beer, stash, colours, money or 'favours', to get a full girls' team out.

**Lennard Lee
Captain**

Water Polo

After the success of the previous season, I realised that I had a lot to live up to when I took over the reins of the College Water Polo team. Although a number of important players had left us to go on to greater things, we were left with several talented players. Our initial squad resembled Abramovich's Chelski after successful recruitment at the Freshers' Fair, with 45 individuals! This however was soon reduced, but we did make two very useful acquisitions, in the form of Lennard Lee, an extremely fast Blues swimmer, and Ian Martin. Frieda van Belle also returned to the fold after a year gaining experience on the continent.

Unfortunately our first game of the season came too early for three reasons: our new team was still gelling (not quite as quickly as the London club); flu had taken out a couple of players; and I was a member of the preliminary Blues Squad, making me ineligible to play alongside the likes of Alex Starling and Angus Murray in matches with College opposition. I was beginning to worry that I was quite literally following in the footsteps of my predecessor, Dan Cooney, and would only watch from the side! Thankfully this was not to be the case after this match; I felt College success was more important!

Catz had been bolstered by two University-level players, making them much stronger opponents than in previous years. Isobel Smyth, ever reliable, began the season as our keeper – with limited experience it is not the nicest position to, quite literally, be stuck in at the deep end! Throughout it was a tight match with Lennard scoring on his debut, and Simon Maller scoring a scorcher late on from nine metres. Unfortunately a late winner from Catz meant we took no points away from the game. It dawned upon us all that this season was perhaps going to be tougher than we'd first thought. Before we vacated the pool, however, we experimented with Alan Cunningham as a shallow end keeper; he had a useful height advantage, and Isobel had been a bit of a secret weapon when it came to attacking the previous season.

It was a full month's wait before we had our next three matches, over just two days. All three were tight but we were able to come away with maximum points. First was a match against our training partners,

Selwyn. Although we were 3-2 down at half time, hard work led to a 6-4 turnaround with the Captain even getting a hat trick! Good determination, and some great shooting enabled us to then beat Trinity and Magdalene 6-4 and 4-2 respectively. Tight defending limited our opponents' chances and great teamwork led to some great goals. Individual excellence was also demonstrated, with both resident coach Jon Smyth and Alex scoring with audacious lobbs against the helpless Magdalene keeper.

Nine points from a possible twelve put us in third spot for the mid-season break (aka Christmas holidays). Unfortunately Isobel sustained an injury which put her out of action for some time, so the Captain had to make a decision about her replacement as deep-end keeper. After realising that I was not up to the job alternatives were tried in training, but it became clear that Richard West, our extremely useful guest player from Clare College, was the natural choice. It was soon the Lent Term and with it came two tough fixtures; against the Leys School and Addenbrookes, the two teams that traditionally have fought for the top spot in the League.

The Leys were weakened with an injured Captain, but we knew that the only way we would get anything from this game was by using the usual determined attitude that has become a feature of the team since Jon's Captaincy in 2001-02. With extra pool time available, we opted to play 4 quarters, thinking that our extra stamina could work in our favour, as it so nearly had done the previous year. We made life difficult when our opponents were attacking, but were able to rely on some great saves from both Alan and Richard in the shallow and deep-end goals respectively. After three quarters we had a 3-2 advantage which we did not really want to lose, especially Jon, who had made it his life's ambition to beat the Leys! Tactics for the final quarter were provided by an extremely sly Alex, which involved double-marking the Leys hole man and forcing shots to come from weaker players. Everyone worked extremely hard to make life difficult for the Leys, although we had the problem of our opponents constantly having a free man. Inevitably we conceded, but were able to score two more against the Leys (including Alex's 4th of the match), to win 5-3.

The Addies match was another closely fought game, although suspect refereeing meant that every 50/50 decision went to our opponents. A 6-6 score was the result of more determined defending, and some great attacking, probably a fair reflection of how equally-matched we were with our opponents. This put us in an extremely good position – with a couple of results going our way, and good results in our final three matches, we had a great chance of improving on last year's 2nd spot.

We turned our attentions for the time being to Cuppers. Unfortunately we lost Richard to the newly formed Clare team, and due to the short matches (only 3 minutes one way), we lost two group matches by a single goal, with no opportunity to fight back. This was highly frustrating as our league form had made us one of the favourites for the title. However this made us all the more determined to win the League.

As it happened our final three opponents, Churchill, Tit Hall and Cais, all conceded a 5-0 walkover, no doubt in part due to fear of their opponents, giving us a tally of twenty two points, one more than the previous season. Trinity (with no limit on the number of Blues they could field) did us a favour in beating Addies, leaving only the Leys with a chance of overtaking us to top spot with one game to play. Unfortunately Trinity were unable to field a team against the Leys, handing them a 5-0 walkover and with it the title. Having won every game but the one against us, they were frustratingly able to finish two points above us.

The season truly had started too soon – rather than losing by a single goal to Catz, we should have come away with a relatively comfortable victory, which together with our strong performances over the year would have enabled us to take the trophy for the first time. Our early Cuppers exit was another low point, but we are pleased that the trophy has gone to our fantastic training partners, Selwyn.

Before signing off I would particularly like to thank Dan for his support, and Jon for his extremely valuable help in coaching the team. College Colours were given to those that showed great commitment to the team:

Alex Starling, Angus Murray, Jon Smyth, Simon Maller, Isobel Smyth, Lennard Lee, Alan Cunningham, Benedict Russell, Frieda van Belle, and myself, Andy Young (Richard West from Clare receives an honorary Colour, although doesn't strictly qualify!).

Whilst Benedict established himself as an important player in the team, the most improved player award goes to Alan, for an all round improvement to his game, and his great performances as keeper. Lennard is my rookie of the year – he picked up the sport well and we were able to capitalise on his great speed on many occasions. Performance of the season goes to Richard for his goalkeeping exploits against the Leys School. In his seventh and final season for St John's, Alex is player of the season – he scored a large portion of our goals and was able to share a wealth of understanding of the game with the team.

A special mention must be made of the extremely successful Blues players: Alex, Angus, Isobel and Alix Freeman. Both teams were victorious in Varsity (including an Alex Starling winner with 1.7 seconds left on the clock) and both also gained promotion to the top division in BUSA. Each took away the shield trophies with relative ease.

I wish Isobel the best of luck in Captaining the side to another successful season, although with six key members of the team leaving she certainly will have a tough time!

Andy Young
Captain

COLLEGE SPORTS

Men's Badminton

This year at St John's has seen mixed fortunes for the Men's Badminton Team – a smaller year of freshers than usual lead to a smaller number of freshers joining the Badminton team. Despite this, the freshers who did join are as keen as ever and we were able to end the year in a good fashion.

Regular practices in the Fisher Building have been very useful, even if we have struggled to find court time to play all our matches. Despite only being able to have half the number of Sunday evening practices at Kelsey Kerridge that we would have liked, these practices were still very well attended and were some of the most fun sessions.

Before I go on to give reports for individual teams, I'd like to thank everyone who has participated in College Badminton this year. It is due to all your efforts that St John's is able to maintain Badminton teams of such good standard and good spirit. I hope that everyone who attended the Badminton Dinner enjoyed the delicious food and wine, delightful company and the fun night out in *Life* afterwards.

First Team

The First Team had lost quite a few players from last year which meant that despite the addition of two very able freshers, Chris Cleaver and Thomas Holroyd, we at first struggled to compete against the stronger teams in the division who had been playing together for much longer and were more used to the standard of competition in the First Division. Despite only losing the majority of our games in the Michaelmas Term by agonisingly close margins, we were unlucky enough to end up being relegated to the Second Division.

Coming back after Christmas, however, with renewed vigour and purpose and with the return of James Greene to partner Mike Horridge, we managed to win all but one match in the Lent Term which assured the rightful return of St John's to First Division badminton.

Thanks to everyone who played in the First Team, from the ever-reliable Cameron Saxby and Chris Griffiths to the regularly-used reserves, Chris Lonergan and Michael Griffiths.

Second Team

The Second Team, like the First Team, at first struggled with personnel and due to a string of narrow defeats during the Michaelmas Term, was demoted to the Fourth Division. However, under the able and plucky leadership of Chris Lonergan they were able to return after Christmas and achieve a brilliant string of victories to ensure not only that they won their League, but also did so without losing a single match.

Thanks to those stalwarts of the Second Team who helped bring them back up during the Lent Term, including Chris Thomas, Michael Griffiths and the newly promoted pairing of lawyers Robin Scott and James Williams as well as Steve Martin and Phil Ellison.

Third Team

A mixed year for the Third Team started under the leadership of the able and organised Robin Scott, under whom they won a majority of their matches and only narrowly missed being promoted up to the same division as the Second Team.

Robin's promotion to the Second Team left a gap in the Captain's position that was filled by the ever-eager Carl Van Heyningen. What Carl lacked in organisational skills he made up for in his desire to impress – if only he'd spent less time wooing women and more time playing badminton matches. Despite (or perhaps because of) this the Third team managed to maintain their position in the leagues, leaving St John's badminton in pretty much the same healthy position in which it started.

Many thanks to everyone who played in the Third Team, including Steve Green, Tim Gordon, Jason Wong, Joshua Lee, Martin Dinter and Rocky Hirst.

Mike Horridge
Captain

Women's Badminton

This year has been very successful for Women's Badminton at St John's. After facing reduced numbers since several players left last year, we were lucky to gain many new members on the team. Diana Calciu, Hana Hijazi, Sarah James, Sara Litchfield, Karen Ng and Philippa Rock were all enthusiastic new players. We also retained skilled players from last year: Nina Marinsek, Clare Blaukopf and Chia-Ling Phuah.

Both First and Second Teams were very successful in the Michaelmas Term League. The First Team came third in the First Division, only losing to St Catharine's and Trinity. The Second Team narrowly missed promotion, coming third in the Second Division. Although the results of the Lent Term League are currently undecided, overall both teams have proven to be strong in their divisions. A good standard of play was shown and all matches were thoroughly enjoyed.

We had a strong team for the Cuppers tournament, which included our Blues player, Emily Manuel. In the quarter-final we had an amazing victory over APU (despite suffering a defeat by the same team in a League match the previous week). Unfortunately we lost against Trinity in a closely contested match in the semi-final.

Well done to all of the players for their motivation and commitment. Hopefully this excellent standard of Women's Badminton will be maintained at St John's next year.

Jenny Oates and Meha Bhayani
Captains

The Basketball Club

Sweet-and-then-sour: this is perhaps a too honest, but nevertheless accurate way to describe the Club's season. In a fashion similar to last year we got off to a brilliant start, but in the end came up short of winning a trophy with injuries being the most decisive factor.

Before the season begun there was some uncertainty about the competitiveness of the team we would enter in the College League, as

only a handful of last year's core was coming back. What the team really needed was a good input of first years. By the end of the second practice I knew we had this and indeed much more. In addition to a good number of apparently keen freshers we were more than happy to welcome back team veteran Shlomi Azar who was an important member of the John's team that won Cuppers three seasons ago. All that was now needed was to get some sort of chemistry between the new comers and the existing core and thankfully it took only a little while before we had this too.

The John's team showed nothing less than brilliance in the first half of the regular season, winning most of the games in a comfortable margin. The half-time score is often indicative of the way we dominated those early games: John's-Emma: 67-20 (25-4); John's-Jesus: 70-35 (44-11); John's-Darwin: 50-24 (26-6). Our success was founded on playing hard on the defensive end and collectively on the other end. For one more year Michael Banach was the team's floor general creating scoring opportunities for himself and for others while pulling down an adequate number of rebounds. Shlomi and Terrence Tao were the other two go-to-guys on the team providing steady shooting from the outside and a constant fast-break threat for opposing defences. Stephen Sarkozy and George Petridis had a more defence-oriented role focusing mostly on rebounding and hustle plays. This starting unit proved to be very efficient in giving the team a comfortable margin from the opening minutes, but it was the quality of the substitutions that allowed us to finish off games by the first half. Nir proved to be a very efficient ball handler while also providing some much needed drives to the opposing basket. Andrew Gillespie had a slow start but soon was able to contribute the way he did in the previous year and team veteran Brian Tom for one more year kept on doing all these little things that help teams win. What was particularly encouraging was our ability to win closely contested games in addition to blowing out weaker teams. Lead by Mike, Terence and Shlomi we beat Caius and then Trinity to complete a truly impressive start for the season.

Unfortunately this is when problems begun to arise, none more damaging than Shlomi's early departure for Israel. Shortly afterwards we lost Andrew to a series of injuries that ended up keeping him out of

action for more or less the rest of the season. Nir stepped up and filled the playmaker position extremely well while Christopher Piranio and Stavros Kouloumentas adjusted well to their new and more demanding roles, but it was clear for the first time that depth was a real issue. We still managed to beat Peterhouse in overtime, overcoming the absence of Mike thanks to some late heroics by (an injured) George and Andrew, but it was clear that our streak wouldn't last long. In the end it was Queens' that handed us the first defeat of the season in the final game before the Christmas break in a very controversial game. Thanks to a collective effort on the defensive end and some truly clutch shooting by Terrence we managed to erase an eight point deficit in the final minute only to see the score keeper inexplicably declare that in the end we had lost by one point. There was still room for much optimism however: our only loss came in a game we played without Mike and with George playing despite his injury. All we needed was to stay healthy in 2005.

2005 didn't bring us the good luck we were expecting. In fact it brought us some new problems. George's injury proved to be season ending while Steve started suffering nagging injuries that didn't allow him to be his ferocious self on the court and eventually forced him to give up basketball for the rest of the year. The team was left with no more than six players with most of them asked to play roles much larger than the one they were used to. We nevertheless managed to beat Pembroke and headed for the decisive game against our arch-rivals, Wolfson. Outnumbered and seriously undersized we lost both the game and the league title and for the second year in a row ended up being runners-up. Not a negligible achievement but certainly a disappointing end given our early form.

Our attention next turned to the Cuppers knockout competition. We were certainly pleased to have Stelios Elia back with us. Stelios lead the University Blues to a second splendid season and Varsity game victory and could provide some of the much needed muscle and scoring. Working well with Mike he helped us pass to the third round where we lost to a quality Downing side. As with the Wolfson game one could not complain about the effort we put on the floor. We tried hard

and gave our best effort, but our offensive game was often one-dimensional while our defence suffered by the lack of height and depth.

This year's Most Valuable Player Award goes to Mike, the Defensive Player of the Year jointly to Steve and George and the Rookie of the Year to Nir. It is worth mentioning that Terrence got a good number of votes for the first two awards. I would like to also thank Janek Kolodynski and Peter Erbach for the enthusiasm they showed in the course of the year.

This might have been the last season that Mike Banach played for the Club and it is probably worth paying him a special tribute. Mike has played with us for six seasons, leading the team with his balanced and unselfish game and clutch shooting to two League and one Cuppers title. More importantly in these six years the team has never done worse than finishing second in the League and making it to the quarter-finals in the Cuppers. It is these statistics that I will remember together with many of his winning shots.

George Petridis
President

The Eagles

Like a fine wine, this superlative sporting society gets better with age. With the bicentenary closer than you might think (if the dating of the Club provided by the 1830s cap is accurate), the strength of the Eagles continues to grow. It has been with great pleasure that I have been able to sacrifice my degree in order to watch the sportsmen of St John's dispatch all-comers, treating them with the disdain that they so often deserve.

Starting at the pinnacle of sports, it has been an excellent year in lacrosse as a number of Johnians picked up their sticks for the very first time a fortnight before the Varsity Match in order to gain half-Blues. Strangely they won their match, leading to calls that they train hard, and are very good sportsmen. But I might take the opportunity to paraphrase a

former head teacher at my old school: if ignorance is bliss, lacrosse sportsmen can look forward to a life of undiluted happiness.

Looking back to Easter Term 2004, it was a frustrating cricket season. The first four friendly matches were washed out, and so it was with little practice that the team played Cuppers. Losing to an impressive Churchill side in the second round meant that the season was only six games in total. Even so, Eagle Haldar believes that it was the most talented side he has played in, during his time in College, which bodes well for 2005 given that only four players have been lost. St John's can also boast having the University Cricket Captain, Eagle Mann. Already having gained two Blues, he is in good form this year, which we hope will continue into the Varsity matches. Eagle Dent will unfortunately no longer be looking to use his guileful bowling to outfox his opponents for the Crusaders.

It has been a mightily impressive year for the Rugby Club as they have managed to win the League and Cup double. Feeling that winning the League was becoming too easy, Captain Eagle Maitland decided not to play himself, nor indeed any recognised front row Forwards, in matches in the Lent Term, in order to give the opposition a chance. The League was nevertheless retained in fine style, with plans afoot to rename the trophy the St John's College Shield to ensure that everyone knows that there will only ever be one winner. In previous years Cuppers has proved to be a 'holy grail', and a frustratingly elusive one at that. This year things were different. With a number of University players ineligible to play in the League, not including Eagle Dye in case anyone was wondering, St John's was starting to look like the team to beat. Having brushed aside Selwyn/Peterhouse (who have joined forces in order to have some sort of chance) in the first round, we were a match up against nemesis Jesus. But not even with the Lord on their side could they beat John's, who ran out comfortable winners. In the semi-finals, we were paired with Hughes Hall, the team that beat John's in the final two years earlier. With Blues Captain and meathead, Simon Frost, in the centre and Nic Alberts in the back row, the match promised to be a real test. Again, the team stepped up to the plate with a performance full of heart, no doubt helped by much vocal support from the rarely tested

Full-Back Eagle Dye in a similar vein to the manner in which he cheered on his under 21s team-mates from the bench at Twickenham.

In the final, we were a match up against the much-maligned College, Fitzwilliam. Their Blue, Adam Gilbert, could not prevent a thrashing at the hands of the Red Boys as we put 40 points on them. To win the coveted double was an outstanding achievement, and I would like to extend my congratulations to Eagle Maitland who has been well assisted by a number of University players and Eagles, including Eagles Wells, Dye, Linton, Lewis-Jones, Buxton, Holmes and Roberts. Indeed, Eagle Holmes represented his country by playing for the England Universities side after a series of impressive performances for the University.

It has been a difficult year for the Association Football Club. Such is the nature of College teams that success depends on intake, and it was unfortunate for skipper, Eagle Gun-Why, that he lost a number of Blues and high-quality players to the big smoke. Even so, the team's mid-table finish and Cuppers quarter-final loss does not do justice to the free-flowing, attacking style of football he tried to impress upon them. A well-organised Captain, he knew how to delegate to his Committee, making sure that he never had to participate in fitness sessions or really participate in post-match drinking sessions. Eagle Gun-Why has laid an important foundation for the coming years by blooding a number of talented first years; we hope that the College gets the intake of fine footballers it deserves next year too. Having been underachievers for so long before the advent of Eagles Gun-Why and Adams to College, it is vital that the Club bounces back next year. Bolstering the Cuppers squad were returning Blues, Eagles Adams and Pantelides. The former captained the Blues side during the Lent Term, becoming leading goal scorer, media darling, and in the process 'stole' a second Blue. The latter swapped the needless stepovers of the right wing in order to become a solid Left Back, gaining his first Blue. A proud Boltonian, he includes Vernon Kay among his heroes.

The League statistics for the Hockey Club make for impressive reading. Having won all 10 matches, they scored an impressive 72 goals and

conceded a miserly 4. The four conceded have been generously attributed to Defender and Captain Eagle Parry. The test of a great team is not to win a trophy once but to retain it; and to retain the League in such fine style is great for the College. It is also a signal that the Hockey Club are finally starting to recover from the George Best mentality, which was instilled by former Eagle Symington. The team also reached the semi-final of Cuppers and have a pending mixed Hockey Cup Final to look forward to. The Hockey Club can boast having the excellent Treasurer, but not Social Secretary, Eagle Sym, within their ranks as well as Eagles Richardson, Palmer, MacKenney and Linton. Although Eagle Linton's sporting prowess might be questioned, despite his international caps, few can doubt his point-scoring ability as player/Manager and Captain of any good-looking XI. Eagles Sym, Palmer and MacKenney also represented the University 2nd XI in the Varsity match that they comfortably won 6-0. Eagle Richardson added to his collection of Half-Blues for 'real' tennis, one of the earliest sports played in Cambridge. This is still no reason to respect it.

In the minor sports it has been a good year for the Boat Club to date. Criticism that LMBC is not Head of the River has, somewhat unfairly, been levelled at former Captain, the injured Eagle Crawshaw. However reasons for not securing a Headship in recent times can be traced to the heady days of the '60s when Eagle Brand was Captain. Nonetheless, Eagle Russell has done a fine job so far, even without the fair-weather rowers Eagles Clay and Brand. In Michaelmas he took the First Men to compete in the Nephthys Regatta, which they duly won. In the Lent Bumps progress was made as the boat moved from sixth on the river to fourth, an incredible achievement considering that Greg Lowden was in the boat. They also won their division of the Kingston Head and moved up nearly 50 places in the prestigious Head of the River Race on the Thames. This all bodes well for the May Bumps, and we wish them all the best. Eagle Wallis won a Half-Blue in the University Lightweight Boat, and has demonstrated an interesting technique for keeping his weight low at sessions. Eagle Clay is a University sailor and has a Half-Blue. I do not understand much about sailing but he is apparently rather good.

It has been a great year for the University Fencing Team as Eagle O'Connell has led his charges, undefeated, to a Varsity victory and triumph in the BUSA championships. Watching Eagle O'Connell fence for the first time was an interesting experience. Despite his unathletic frame he is exceptionally nimble.

What can you say about Eagle Lee that has not already been said either in the Malaysian media, in University newspapers, in *Johnian News* or the Eagles' email list? A national hero by virtue of his cross-Channel swim, a triple swimming Blue, University record holder, he even managed to find time to be LMBC Lower Boats' Captain. All the best with the summer cross-Channel rowing race and ferrets initiation. The College Swimming Team also won Cuppers in fine style. Eagles Roberts, Crawshaw and Lee were responsible for the best result in the Club's history. They all also play waterpolo, in which Eagle Crawshaw excels, narrowly missing out on the Varsity squad. This did, unfortunately, mean that he had another reason to be loud.

The University Basketball Club has been under the watchful eye of Captain Eagle Elia this year. A mild-mannered man, he has led the team to Varsity match victory as well as serving as enforcer at sessions. He has been especially keen to prevent bullying of Athletics Half-Blue Eagle Buxton who has been triple-jumping closer and closer to the Blues distance. Perhaps if he imagined that Eagle Elia was chasing him down the runway he would have no trouble.

Worst sportsman in College and self-proclaimed lad, Eagle Mayne-Hanvey dished out some punishment to the other place as he gained his Boxing Blue. He was also Vice-Captain as the team recorded a 9-0 Varsity victory, an unbelievable feat.

I have waited as long as possible to talk about Eagle McLeod's achievements as it is highly likely that he is still eating. Fortunately he has proved himself much swifter at beating adversaries and breaking friend's hearts than consuming food. A Karate Blue, he was in imperious form this year as he gained Varsity victory and high placement in the BUSA nationals.

Now for my successor: Nick Pantelides will be looking to continue the excellent work of his predecessors as he takes charge. With the Club never healthier, flourishing under the flair and militancy instilled by the departing Secretary, I am sure he will approach the job with great relish.

I would also like to thank a number of Senior Members for all their help and support this year: Dr McConnel for entertaining us with his blazer, which is the wrong shade of blue (and work as Senior Treasurer); Wendy Redgewell for helping with dinner organisation; Dr Linehan for providing room cricket and other help; Keith for excellent sports pitches; and lastly the Master for the use of his garden for the garden party. All have contributed to what has been an excellent year for the Eagles.

Finally we have a lot to thank the ancients for: the Greeks were the first to realise the greatness of the eagle, its divine power proverbial. The Roman emperor Claudius used an eagle in his statuary to identify himself with Jupiter, King of the Gods. And in his play the *Cyclops*, Euripides once wrote, 'The man who doesn't drink is mad.' On that note...

Nunc est bibendum

Mike Adams
Big Bird

The Flamingos

This year saw the female Johnian sporting elite celebrating the 19th year of the Flamingos Club with successes in College, University and nationwide. Last year, several large birds left, leaving a severely depleted flock. The remaining remnants included 8 ageing members, a constitution from 1990, a bank account opened in 1986, 8 pence in said bank account, and 20 garters...

Those garters found a home on the legs of the new senior and junior fledglings, chosen from an impressive pool of female (and one male!) Johnian talent. We are honoured to have been joined by Nancy Lane-

Perham, a distinguished Hockey and Tennis player in her time, and currently the leading female figure in Science and Technology. She has been joined by the unconventionally gendered senior Flamingo, Roger Silk. His role as Head Coach of the LMBC women's boats, and the Coach who saw the Blue Boat win a gold medal at BUSA and the Varsity Match in 2005 renders him worthy of Flamingo status. Look out for Roger sporting his garter with pride in the boathouse this summer.

On the water Roger is joined by six junior Flamingos who are representing LMBC in the 1st May VIII. With three previous Captains and two University Lightweight Blues, Chloe Baker and Renée Hope, in the boat their Captain Frieda van Belle has high hopes for blades in the coming weeks.

Two years ago the St John's Women's Football Team was, well, struggling. Penny Moore was the Captain that turned the team around and this year they have won all of their matches by landslide margins. Kate Martin and Lizzie Gibney took over from her this year, drawing on their University Blues and Seconds Team (respectively) experience to take the team up a division, dominating the University Football league.

The Lacrosse and Netball Teams struggled to get games played due to bad weather. Dilly Nock captained the mixed College Team and with Franki McClure was a key member of the Blues Team that lined up against Oxford in the Varsity Match last term. Claire Philbrick, University Korfbal player and previous Blues rower, led the Netball Team out in the wind and rain to mixed success.

Charlotte Bruce captained the Hockey Team that contained four Flamingos. They won all but two matches in the League and with the boys made it to the Cuppers final this term. Charlotte and Victoria Argyle also started the year by making their debut for the University Women's side.

In addition to the 6 previously mentioned Flamingos in University sides, there are 6 more Blues players in the flock this year. Sophie Pickford was voted 'Player of the Match' in the Water Polo Varsity match this year, narrowly missing out on victory with a score of 11-9.

Fledgling Lucy Jarvis, as a member of the Blues Pentathlon Team for the second year, found herself lined up alongside Georgina Harland this year. A member of the British Army side, she was placed 8th in the National Championships for her strongest discipline, Horse-Riding. Fiona Danks, another Flamingo fledgling, captained the Blues Volleyball team last year and not only represented Cambridge again this year but has been building on her England game for whom she won a gold medal at the Home Nations Tournament last year.

Nancy Priston in Basketball and Susie Grant in Rugby are the long-standing Flamingos contributors to the light Blues sides. Susie was joined by Kosi Abdulai last year on the Rugby pitch, her athletic ability attaining her a Blue in Rugby and in Athletics. Not content with University success she joins fellow Flamingos Lucy Jarvis, Fiona Danks and Gemma Farrell in representing her country on the international sporting stage.

The Flamingos: 23 Junior Members with 2 College Colours, 12 past and present Captains, 17 University players, 12 'Blues' holders, 4 Boat Races, 6 Blues Captains and 4 Internationals. A pretty talented flock. Under the Leadership of Kosi Abdulai the ambitions and talent of these Johnian sportswomen will no doubt lead them to more success in the coming season.

Gemma Farrell
President

Men's Football

It was a season of highs and lows, of friends and enemies, of football and more besides. To begin I'd like to give special thanks to our sponsors Price Waterhouse Coopers who once again funded a set of delicious jackets and some significant transfer splurges. Indeed, with money to burn our pre-season talent scouts searched far and wide. Competition for the number one shirt was increased by the signing of two goalkeepers: the long-limbed Peter Cech and the newest in a series

of short, irritating, goalkeepers from Manchester Grammar, Adam Sivner. Our defensive rearguard was bolstered by the signing of Chris Cleaver, who came on a free from Mensa. Our midfield was strengthened three-fold with the purchases of: Mr Alena Skidmore from Russia with love; Ashley Simpson, who was discovered under the largest thumb in Cambridge (previously the home of Vinny Cheung); and Nic Bell who was spotted while working as an extra on the film *Alexander*; he's the reason the movie was so feeble. And finally, in need of a striker, Andy Allard answered our prayers, he was found just outside Cambridge, where all the barn doors are in pristine condition; unfortunately, it took him four months to get here as he shook everyone's hand on the way.

And so to the start of the season; it was with some trepidation that I stepped into the boots of James Bryan for my first League game in charge; and it was with some major difficulty that I squeezed into his shorts. But we defeated Darwin 1-0 via a sublime chipped goal from Alex Ford. The Committee were doubly pleased to see Ford last the whole game without any discipline problems, we had been worried that FIFA's new crack-down on goal celebrations involving removing apparel might have affected Cambridge's most notorious shirt-lifter; fortunately it didn't and in our next game Ford continued his hot-streak by whacking in a hat-trick against Darwin in what was a 3-1 rout. This game was notable for the two highlights of Andy Allard's season: his volley hitting the bar from 35 yards out, and him managing to walk the entire way from John's to Grantchester Road without letting go of his girlfriend's hand.

Two straight wins meant spirits were high going in to the crunch match with Fitz; in what was a tough match we were defeated 3-2, our goals coming from Gun-Why and the duck-running Griffiths. Throughout the season, having overcome divided loyalties and the lack of a buttery card, Griffiths established himself as the hub of abusive banter with his 'chat noir' and 'Ugh, I don't know about that'. Following this setback our season got back on track with a Cuppers win against Darwin and a 4-0 League win against last year's Champions, Girton. However, our Christmas session was dampened by a 1-1 draw with Jesus that all but

ended our title ambitions. In our first ever themed session, Chairman Claus's sack of surprises proved a popular addition to the table and everyone was pleased to see Greenie do a bottle of wine finish.

Post-Christmas with winning the League now out of the question and safety from relegation virtually assured, the remaining League games of the season were played out as an opportunity to blood players for next year's team. Three defeats and a draw in our final four games belied the potential of the younger members of the team who should serve newly elected Captain, James Verdon well next year.

The coming of the New Year did, however, bring with it the anticipation of Cuppers; the second oldest cup competition in the world had been, in the previous two seasons, witness to a show of red strength the likes of which had not been seen since Chairman Mao, as we became double champions. With expectations running high, a long drawn out second round game was settled in extra time by a goal from the football obsessed Pantiledes ensuring John's did what Hitler never managed and beat Churchill.

This set up a massive quarter-final match, a replay of last year's final with Fitz. It was an enthralling match watched by over 100 supporters including our Master; the impetus oscillated between both teams. Finely balanced at 2-2 after goals from Bell and Adams we pushed on in search of victory but were the victims of a sucker-punch brace from their lively forwards. This ended what has in truth been a transitional season for the Club, but not without some outstanding performances. The Player of the Year Award goes to Christopher Cleaver because of his calm and assured performances marshalling the back-line.

As always the end of Lent Term brought with it the Tour, a relaxing holiday of museum visits and sipping coffee on sidewalk cafés. The streets of Bristol had never seen such an array of cultured gentlemen. Our brothers and sisters loved us; we beat the locals on penalties and everyone finished each day with a quiet drink. Highlights of the tour included Hans Ice Pac's use of efficient flare to win the ice rink dance-off, Flame being rejected from Flame recruitment for being so feeble; Robin D Fox's systematic annihilation by mutinous junior tourists and

Chuck Buck's innovative salami sandwich that reconciled Tour back to its harmonised and embracing ways. As always there were a number of outstanding tourists but the pick of the crop this year was Lloyd, who wins the award of best tourist with the judges particularly admiring his combination of bare-back Greco wrestling and animalistic devouring tendencies. To him we award this bowling ball.

That brings to an end my quaint ramblings on the season gone. Before I go on to thank my Committee and the Football Club in general, I'd like to take a moment to say a few words about the Ladies' Team, whose achievements in the past two seasons have, in my opinion, gone largely unrecognised by the Men's Club. When we arrived in the first year, Women's football in John's was a joke, the goalkeeper lay down in the goal and they shipped more goals than San Marino. However, the Club has since improved exponentially, thanks in particular to four girls who have done so much: Kate Martin, Penny Moore, Kate Burke and Lizzie. Their dedication has created a serious Club: there are now two training sessions a week; they now play a decent level of football; and there are now Johnian girls representing the University. I think we should all be very proud of the success of the Ladies' Club in the past two years; it has come as rich reward for their hard work and tremendous team spirit.

The Men's Club can also be proud of our University representatives this year. For the Blues, Pantos overcame his lack of personality and need for a girlfriend to establish himself as an unlikely left-back and Mike Adams took time off from talking about the Eagles and saying 'In my first year...' to Captain the team in the Varsity Match. While in the Falcons, Verdon enjoyed a strong season at left-back; his performances impressed watching NASA scientists so much that they've asked to patent his first touch for future use in the launching of spaceships.

I'd like to thank Keith for once again producing a great First Team pitch for us, along with helping us with our annual five-a-side competition. I'd like to thank Roland Manthorpe and Rich Stevenson for their hard work and dedication in captaining the Third and Second teams respectively. All of which brings me to my Committee to whom copious amounts of praise should be delivered. To the Honorary

Vice-Chancellor, Timmy Froydenlund, we are thankful and only wish that work commitments could have allowed him to play a more active role. Rich Horrocks proved to be a very able Secretary, delivering photographs and stashes aplenty. Dave Barley, 'eeugggh', was a loyal and dependable Treasurer. Vice-Captain, James Greene, has been utterly invaluable this year; always ready to lend a hand, to help out and never scared to enjoy the sound of his own voice, Greenie - the most loveable man in John's - has become a great friend alongside being the ideal Vice-Captain. Our thanks must also go to those players who are leaving this year, who have made major contributions to the Club: Greenie, Vinny, Fordy, Rich and I would say Griffiths but he's bound to be back at Fitz next year.

Finally, on a personal note I'd just like to say that it has been an immense pleasure to Captain this Club and it is something that has made me very proud. Forever may we all climb a mountain of sunshine together.

**Mike Gun-Why
Captain**

Women's Football

'Moore has dived in and won the header, the ball has met with Gibbo's sure touch and now it's moving up the right wing. Perry, Fisher and Lutley - think "Ready, willing and able", think The Three Musketeers, think the blind mice got back their sight - seamlessly move the ball into the attacking half... and GOAL! It may be their fifteenth but what better proof do you need that this team are too good for the Third Division?'

The football was often beautiful and generally glorious, and this season under new management, SJCWAFc charged their way successfully into the Second Division. The route there was not the most traditional. Despite 18-0 wins and a steadily growing reputation for being the 'scariest' team in the Division, Pembroke narrowly stole the win to put them top of the Division in a game that Ron Atkinson could have been referring to when he said 'I never comment on Referees and I'm not going to break the habit

of a lifetime for that prat'. But the constitution was altered in our favour and John's went through to a play-off with Queens' where the victory was shakier than usual but there, nonetheless, in an exciting 4-3 defeat. There were ample opportunities in the Cuppers matches to prove the great morale and determination of the team. Firstly delicious revenge against Pembroke culminating in penalties bravely taken by Becks, Lizzie, Ali and Katy. Then next up against Trinity, who later went on to become top of the First Division, John's battled hard but suffered an unfortunate twist when a glancing free kick deflected and slipped into the goal. Nonetheless, the performances were testament to the great skill and potential of the team this year.

Captain Kate gained a reputation for militant warm-ups, and with catchphrases like 'jog over' and 'up defence', as well as one well-met proposition for a 7.30am kick-off, the team were soon moulded, kicking and screaming, into a slick formation. The goal-scoring prowess was matched only by the points tally of the Coach, Ben Hills, whose generous care in all aspects of his team's welfare cannot be faulted, and ensured all the ladies looked particularly fetching for training. Lizzie, Vice-Captain extraordinaire, took up private lessons with the Men's Captain, but it's impossible to say what she learnt. Penny proved that even an all-day-crippling tragically-painful-hangover won't get in the way of her commitment to football and that the grass is just as comfortable as any mattress. Kate doubled people up with her Liverpoolian wit or Liverpoolian grit, depending on which side you were on. Ruth's safe hands came in handy more than once, Becks couldn't stop scoring goals, and Ali and Katy ignored everything that their Captain said but played great football anyway. Laura hugged the goal, whilst Camilla hugged the Goalkeeper, or occasionally kicked them. Jo proved that a good Social Secretary should be able to take her drink and play on anyway. Mel drew in the fans (Vinny will trek anywhere for her) and Carolyn strengthened the side with her strong boot. All in all, a team to be proud of. Additional thanks to caring, but absent, Coaches Pantos, Waki and Mark, and to devoted supporters Greenie, Fordy, Verdon and Mike. Also thanks go to Keith, whose patience with our ever-changing fixtures and last-minute requests has been admirable!

**Kate Martin
Captain**

Men's Hockey

Expectations of the Hockey Club were high this year following last season's championship winning form. We retained our title with some degree of flair, winning all eleven matches and adding the League's Top Scorer Award to boot. However, the progress made this season cannot be measured in statistics alone. Much like a fine wine, our older players have matured with age, whilst the addition of new fresher talent has resulted in some moments of pure champagne hockey. The raised standards on the pitch have also been reflected in the development of the Club as a whole, which, with the addition of a successful Second Team, the rejuvenation of mixed hockey, and a second annual tour in Ireland, looks in the best health that I have seen it in four years at John's.

Having conceded fourteen goals in the League last year, it was with some justification that TCS pointed out our 'less than water-tight' defence during their pre-season round-up. This year was a different matter, the team letting only four goals slip past in all eleven games. This was often due to our offensive players (and very offensive centre-forward) keeping the opposition pinned in their half, but the defence rose to the task magnificently when necessary. First choice Keeper Tucker was very rarely troubled between the sticks, and our most vociferous supporter, Dye, deputised well when called upon. We were boosted immeasurably at the back by the arrival of star sweeper Goldsmith, who saved his centre-back from embarrassment on numerous occasions. Shorter and Linton have each developed into very reliable wing-backs, whilst new import Drage made the Captain's selection worries considerably easier by proving equally effective in midfield and defence. With the return of Beard from international duty next season, things are looking very good at the back.

The real strength of this team, however, lies in the wealth of talent packed into the mid-field. Our Wanderers trio of Sym, Palmer and Mackenny were simply too good for the majority of the teams we played against, with some of Palmer's work down the right approaching the sublime. The team will be considerably weakened if next season's Blues Captain takes a shine to any of these players. Fenn

returned to his spiritual home, spreading play in the middle of the park, whilst the technical prowess of Richardson was also utilised at points during the season.

Although sticking with the tried and tested diamond formation for the majority of the season, the team nonetheless changed the way it played due to the discovery of a prolific attacking partnership. Stocker and Lloyd knocked in 41 of our 72 goals, Stocker dazzling defenders with his rapid stick skills and terrible Alice bands, whilst Player of the Season Lloyd was always there when it counted. Special acknowledgement must go to Lloyd's 50 goals in all competitions, a truly remarkable achievement by anyone's standards. In addition to this pairing, the Captain was reassured by the knowledge that Yiangou could be unleashed into the fray at any time. His five-minute hat trick in our 16-0 demolition of Robinson was particularly memorable.

As only one of our matches this season was won by less than a five goal margin, it would be fair to say that we were often unfairly matched against our opposition. This was not so, however, in the case of Catz College, who were very viable contenders for the title. The title would not have been truly earned without a victory over this talented side, which was duly achieved on the last day of the season thanks to goals from Palmer and Lloyd. Cuppers was, however, a different matter, as we bowed out in the semi-final to a well-organised Jesus side. Given Catz's relinquishment of their perennial grip on the Cuppers trophy, this must rank as a wasted opportunity for John's, and a definite priority for next year.

The esteem in which the players hold their team-mates and the Club ensures that hockey at John's extends even after the Lent Term. We were reacquainted with friends old and new at the Doxbridge tournament in Dublin, and were glad to see that our gentlemanly attitude to the week had been adopted by some opposition teams. Relationships with the Women's Club have been furthered by the success of the mixed team, which will shortly be playing in the Cuppers final. And we look forward to hosting a repeat of last summer's inaugural six-a-side competition, this year to be a lavish affair funded by generous Club sponsors Deloitte. In short, the Club is thriving, thanks to the hard work

and dedication of its individual members. It's with sadness and happy memories that I leave this remarkable group of friends. I wish incoming Captain Bruce Stocker all the best leading the team next season.

God Bless the Hockey Club.

**Max Parry
Captain**

Ladies' Hockey

Freshly promoted to the First Division and sensing the stench of Second Division effluvia, the season of 2004-2005 was about proving our worth as a serious hockey side. The two-year ascension from the muddy wastelands of the Third Division has enabled our game to transform into a fast, dynamic contest, requiring a high level of skill and fitness. We ran to victory in our first match against Queens' generating an 11-0 goal difference that factored in relegating them to the Second Division. Early victories were frequent and a crucial consequence of our forcible enlistment of freshers that served to strengthen the weaker aspects of our side.

Our defence became a formidable barrier that hampered even the talented Blues Strikers of Catz and kept the score to a 3-2 loss - a nail biting result that could have tipped either way. The defence played better than the score of eighteen goals in total against us might suggest, with particular note to Ilona Motyer, Naomi Longworth and Katy Lutley. Unfortunately, our side lost its Goalkeeper last season, but rising to the challenge was the fearsome and impetuous Antonia Da-Silva-Teixeira who was integral to the organisation and motivation of the defensive half of the side. Selection for the University Rugby Team saw her unfortunate departure from crucial games later in the season when we were defeated by nemeses Trinity and Jesus.

The team dramatically strengthened in mid-field with fresher Ammie Brewer receiving the prestigious Player of the Season Award for her contribution and hearty appetite for success. Gemma Farrell, freshly available from the Ocean, added a desirable texture and flavour to the

table, and was integral in broadening the field of play to the sidelines. The continuation of play was delicately handled by the slippery stick work of Charlie French, Caroline Mather and Victoria Argyle. Kim Maynard, whose improvements and commitment to the side throughout the season were seminal to the game, further served the backbone of our mid-field success. Together with Lizzie Gibney, they provided a synergistic mid-field combination.

Up front, Lydia Tong delivered the goods to the waiting epicures; however, her talent was taken to the University side later in the season where she gained a Blue. Sara Litchfield, Anne-Marie Cumberlidge, Gemma Thomas and Sarah Kitson were ready to step into her shoes when required, providing a sterling performance. This dynamism proved workable but we unfortunately lost Cuppers due to a very elusive side in mid-term. We took lessons from this, though, and focused our energy on League games. The season close saw twenty-two goals scored and a sturdy mid-table position for the team.

The ascent to this position has paralleled an increase in the presence of Ladies' Hockey in St John's. This has culminated in the assignment of 'nag' names marking the arrival of the better half of the nag/nog partnership. Let us hope we can generate high caliber kin to succeed us; 'League Champions' is now certainly a realistic target. This charge will be left in the competent hands of Naomi Longworth; I wish her every success in her tenure next season.

**Charlotte Bruce
Captain**

Lady Margaret Boat Club

As usual we are very grateful to the LMBC Association (LMBCA) and its supporters. The funding the LMBCA provides helps to subsidise the costs to students of attending training camps and competing off-Cam. In addition, the LMBCA continues to provide funding for equipment and this year has provided a grant towards the new women's first VIII (a Janousek).

Various old members of the LMBC have helped with coaching this year and we are grateful to them; we hope they enjoy the experience too!

The arrangement with Robinson College Boat Club has been renewed for a further five years and we are looking forward to co-habiting with them in the years to come.

Lady Margaret Boat Club – Men

Henley 2004

With the University lightweight rowing and sailing squads claiming several members of the May VIII, LMBC combined with Trinity Hall to form a composite VIII entered in the Temple Challenge Cup. With a physically strong crew and solid training sessions in both Cambridge and Henley, under the expert eye of Roger Silk, the crew approached the qualification races with some confidence. Unfortunately, despite a strong row, during which we seemingly pulled away from the crew behind (which subsequently qualified), the crew finished as the second fastest non-qualifier. A subsequent appeal and investigation at the very highest levels of the Regatta found that appearances had been deceptive and the result stood. As ever, we are hugely indebted to the LMBCA for providing the crucial funding and Anne and Peter Arlidge for accommodating and feeding us so splendidly.

The Henley VIII

Bow	Phil Ellison (LMBC)
2	Bertie Clayton (THBC)
3	Ed Russell (LMBC)
4	Miles Loveday (THBC)
5	Tom Robins (THBC)
6	Gary Olney (LMBC)
7	Mark Brand (LMBC)
Stroke	Louis Verdi (THBC)
Cox	Eddy Davidson (THBC)

Michaelmas Term 2004

With just two rowers returning from the previous summer's top two May boats, the crews for the University Fours were a showcase for some of the Club's new talent, with no fewer than five fresh faces involved. It is a testament to the depth, commitment and enthusiasm all the way through the Club that, despite such a scarcity of May Colours, we could put out three IVs and a development VIII.

A well-attended and extremely useful Michaelmas Coaches' meeting enabled the Light IV crew to be selected and start training. The decision was made to leave the coxed fours crews in an eight for a week, to enable work on technical points in a more familiar environment and to aid the final selection. Unfortunately, the problems associated with trying to meld several different rowing styles with very limited training time, meant that the Light IV and both Coxed IVs all succumbed to stronger opposition - losing to the eventual winner of their category in all three cases. The Light IV, with freshmen Ross Flanigan and Ed Andrews as stern pair, faced a strong Pembroke crew in the quarter-finals, sadly losing by nine seconds in the fastest race of the competition. I am greatly indebted to Gerald Roebroeks, Bill Budenberg and Roger Silk for their coaching efforts, to all the various bank-steerers throughout the term and to Chris Taylor for skilfully reprising his role as steersman.

The Light IV

Bow	Chris Taylor*
2	Ed Russell
3	Ed Andrews
Stroke	Ross Flanigan
*Steers	

The First Coxed IV

Bow	Dave Wilson
2	Chris Milton
3	Greg Lowden
Stroke	Andy Truman
Cox	Hayley Fisher

The First Coxed IV, or, as they preferred to call themselves, the 'Heavy Four', battled fourth-year work commitments and a mild case of tendonitis, which sliced through precious training time. Nevertheless, heartfelt thanks are due to Oliver Choroba and David Martin for their generous coaching. The crew went out in the quarter-finals to Jesus,

who were fielding their strongest four rowers in this category, and leaving the Light IVs to their second crew. The Second Coxed IV, showing a welcome positive approach to its rowing, trained hard and was unfortunate to be beaten in the semi-finals by Emmanuel.

The conclusion of the Fours races saw the customary return to VIII's for the members of the senior squad, in preparation for the Fairbairn's races at the end of the term. The First VIII had a cosmopolitan feel and trained hard under the expert eyes of Chris Bell, Gerald and Roger. A trip to Oxford for the Nephthys Regatta would probably have been more profitable if the organisers had actually arranged some races for us. Undaunted, we set about finding our own opposition, racing three times and victorious three times, thus winning the Open Division. A committed row in the Fairbairn's competition saw the crew finish fourteenth overall, eleventh of the Colleges. What had been the Development VIII during the Fours became the Second VIII for Fairbairn's and put in a storming performance, comfortably winning the Second VIII's category. Thanks to, among others, Amir Nathoo and Damien Brown for their stints overseeing the crew. Special mention also to a Lady Somerset IV+ composed of recent graduates (with a couple of special guests), which rowed well to record a time only five seconds slower than Magdalene's women's four.

The First VIII

Bow	Dave Wilson
2	Andy Truman
3	Jan Trnka
4	Rich Tamblyn
5	Jack Westwood
6	Chris Milton
7	Greg Lowden
Stroke	Ed Russell
Cox	Hayley Fisher

A mixed term for the senior squad was bolstered by the results of the novices, who happily reconfirmed LMBC's eminence for rowing tutelage. The Men's Club fielded five crews, with the First Boat doing

the double by winning both the Clare Novice Regatta and the Fairbairn's competition. The Second Boat also put in an exceptional row in the Fairbairn's races, finishing eighth overall to win the shield for the fastest Second Novice VIII and beating several first boats in the process. Credit too, to the other novice boats that worked hard and improved greatly over the term. Huge thanks are due to all the coaches of the various crews and to Lower Boats' Captain Lennard 'Boatie' Lee, whose efforts are reflected both in the term's successes and the huge numbers of ex-novices who continued into the Lent Term.

The traditional logistical nightmare that is 'Chases Week' again ran at the end of term, giving seniors and novices the chance to get to know each other and have a taster of the Bumps racing that the Lents bring.

Lent Term 2005

The pre-term training camp at Eton was somewhat sparsely attended, but nevertheless enabled the squad to work hard on its fitness and technical points, providing a solid basis for the beginning of term. My thanks go to Chris Atkin for his coaching, to Guy Pooley for his logistical help, to all at the Eton Dorney Centre for their hospitality and, of course, to the LMBCA for its support.

Back in Cambridge, 2000m ergo tests and a conveniently timed head race on the Cam aided crew selection and training for bumps began, with the Men's Club fielding a pleasing six boats.

The First Lent VIII

Bow	Andy Truman
2	Jan Trnka
3	Tom Marriott
4	John Davey
5	Chris Milton
6	Greg Lowden
7	Ed Russell
Stroke	Dave Wilson
Cox	Hayley Fisher

The Second Lent VIII

Charlie Willison
Jack Brewster
Lennard Lee
Aseer Akhter
Mark Morgan
Warwick Bloore
Steve Bailey
Jack Westwood
Charlotte Tan

The First Boat, started by Roger Silk, competed solidly at Peterborough, finishing fourth of the Cambridge Colleges and made good progress in the next fortnight under Jon Rhodes. It is worth mentioning that at Pembroke Regatta, having beaten Robinson, the crew was faced with a Gonville (the Caius College alumni boat club) crew in the quarter-finals, stacked full of ex-Blues and containing a certain Josh West (CBC, CUBC, GB) in the six seat. Unfazed, the crew produced the row of the event, dropping Gonville off the start and gaining clear water by the Railway Bridge, to finish two lengths clear. It is not often one beats an Olympian at his own sport. With the redoubtable Mark Brand filling the finishing slot, it was satisfying to see the crew approach the Bumps with the correct balance of confidence and respect.

The first day saw us hot on the heels of Emmanuel but, with first-day nerves and unsettled by a strong tail-wind, unable to make much impact before they hit the markedly slower Trinity Hall just after First Post Corner. This left Jesus pushing hard behind us and we completed an educational row-over to finish with Jesus just outside station. The second day was far more satisfying with the crew completing a clinical bump on spoons-bound Trinity Hall right on First Post. Friday saw a chance to make amends for the disappointment of last year, and, despite a miscommunication in the crew causing us nearly to stop on Ditton Corner, we made the bump on Emmanuel just after the railings. The final day saw the crew have a worthy stab at Downing, pushing them harder than they had been all week. The gap was down to half a length down the Plough Reach, but Downing's resilience showed and we rowed-over around a length behind, leaving LMBC I up two to fourth on the river.

The Second Boat, coached by Gary Olney, Amir Nathoo and John Durack had progressed rapidly throughout the term but were thoroughly unlucky to be stuck behind see-sawing Girton and Peterhouse boats on the first two days, who were both clearly slower crews, but prevented any progress. They finally made their bump on Peterhouse on the third day and got agonisingly close to Girton on the final day to finish up one and finish fourth in the Second Division.

The Third Boat had been strong all term, reaching the final of Pembroke Regatta, but suffered from their unsustainably high starting position to win their spoons, a result that belies their talent and hard work. The Fourth Men, with a divine stern pair did extremely well among other Colleges' Second and Third crews to secure their spot on the river and finish up two. Praise also to the Fifth and Sixth Men's Boats, which worked steadily all term but were victims of the increasing pressure for a limited number of bumps spots and thus failed to get on.

My thanks, of course, to all the coaches of all the crews for their time and dedication; to John Durack for umpiring and thus relieving us of some of our marshalling duties; to all our supporters and bank-parties who provided invaluable assistance; and to Gerald, for expertly pushing out each and every crew, each and every day, whilst simultaneously maintaining the fleet and doing the other countless (and often thankless) tasks of a Boat Club Manager.

With the Lents completed, the First VIII resumed training, with Gerald coaching and Jack Westwood and Charlie Willison covering for absences in the bows. A nicely focussed trip to Kingston resulted in the crew finishing eighteenth overall, winning the S4 division – a creditable result that gave the crew confidence for the Head of the River Race the next weekend. At the Head Race, rowed over the Oxford-Cambridge Boat Race course but in the opposite direction, the crew performed well to finish 187th, having started 235th, and finish 13th in the S4 division. Thanks to Mr and Mrs Willison and to old oar Pete Mallin-Jones for providing beds for the preceding night.

The term was rounded off by the Henley Boat Races over Easter, where the Club was again very well represented. For the men, George Wallis, trialling for the second consecutive year, occupied the seven seat in the Lightweight Blue Boat, while Gerald Weldon was a spare. Although the results failed to go their way, they deserve congratulations for their commitment and determination in training and competition.

May Term 2005

The traditional pre-term camp at York, with Jamie MacLeod providing superb coaching, was, as ever, a huge success, giving the crew time and

space to bed-in fitness and work hard on technical weaknesses – rowing for 80 minutes without stopping is a wonderful novelty for athletes so used to the Cam. Once again, our thanks go to the LMBCA for providing the means for us to continue to run these crucial training camps.

After returning to Cambridge, and, unusually for recent times, a healthy entry in the CUCBC Small Boats Regatta, crews were selected on the basis of the familiar 2k test and technical trials. With five returning oars winning spots in the First VIII and a Second VIII composed around a core of the Lent Boat, training resumed with renewed vigour and eager anticipation.

The First May VIII

Bow	Gerald Weldon
2	Mark Brand
3	Ed Clay
4	Chris Milton
5	Gary Olney
6	Ed Russell
7	Dave Wilson
Stroke	George Wallis
Cox	Hayley Fisher

The Second May VIII

Greg Lowden
Chris Taylor
Andy Truman
Jack Westwood
Tom Marriott
Jan Trnka
Frank Scheibe
Ben Russell
Charlie Willison

The First Boat started very well under Roger Silk and continued to make great progress under Andy Jones – my thanks to those two for covering slightly more than the usual two-week slot each. The crew had two very instructive rows at the Metropolitan Regatta, setting us up well to be finished by Sandy Black. The weekend before Bumps saw a trip to Reading for the Amateur Regatta, which was a very useful experience. The crew had no fewer than five races over the day, battling through to the final of the S3 division, beating a tidy Auriol Kensington crew in the process, but succumbing to an effective (and fresh) Westminster School Eight in the final.

The first day of the Bumps saw controversy for the First Boat. Pushing hard off the start we closed to well within station on Downing by

First Post, and Downing had made no inroads at all on Trinity Hall. When Hall bumped St Catharine's in the Gut, Downing chose to stop when, with sensible coxing, it seemed very possible to avoid the bumped out crews. Indeed, that is exactly what the Lady Margaret crew did, rowing cleanly past all three. Unsure of the situation we continued and rowed over, though with crews bumping out behind, we were able to wind down before the Railway Bridge and cross the finish under no pressure. The umpires' decision was to offer a re-row to both crews, which, unsurprisingly given that they had nothing to gain, Downing refused, leaving both crews with technical row overs.

This most unsatisfactory situation was put to rights on the Thursday, with the crew determined to make their bump count. Whilst not rowing particularly tidily, there was a huge amount of power going down, meaning that we were closing on Downing about as quickly as Downing were closing on St Catharine's ahead of them. Going round Ditton Corner, Downing got a continuous hooter (meaning they had overlap on St Catharine's), which served to spur us on to throw everything in to the next few strokes. The boat flew out of Ditton in slightly cleaner water as Downing edged across the Reach trying to hit Catz. Fortunately we had gained over half a length and Downing finally conceded with our five man opposite their four.

Day three saw us chasing the St Catharine's boat that we had saved from Downing yesterday. With crew changes in the Catharine's boat, the crew approached the race with quiet self-confidence. This self-confidence was assuredly justified as a monstrously powerful start saw the crew with overlap on Catz by First Post and making the bump on the exit of the corner. To make a bump so quickly at the top of the First Division is a testament to the power, drive and tenacity of the crew.

The final day saw us chasing a strong Trinity Hall crew, complete with an Olympian in the 7-seat and several of the crew from the Henley composite in the boat too. We pushed hard through the first half of the course, closing to within station by Ditton Corner. Coming round Ditton the surprising presence of a Trinity Hall blade floating in the water signalled that all was not well, and indeed, despite Hall's admirable

attempt to hold on (their two-man's gate had failed resulting in him losing his blade), we made the bump in the Long Reach. This left Lady Margaret I up three and second on the river, the highest position for 15 years and no more than the crew deserved. I would like to thank our coaches and pay tribute to the crew, whose skill, fitness and determination in training and competition has brought such richly deserved results.

The Second Boat made good progress in the run-up to Bumps, improving well under Tim Fisher-Jeffes, Phil Clatworthy, Nick Geddes and Bill Budenberg. Although the crew was unable to attend the Met due to exam commitments, they made it to Reading and had two improving rows.

The Second Boat started Bumps with Wolfson I in front and Corpus I behind. A disappointing row on Wednesday saw the crew row over, dropping Corpus but losing touch with Wolfson. Thursday brought a disrupted warm-up as equipment failure forced the crew to row down to the start in sixes, though an improvised repair job by Gerald (involving a lot of duct tape) allowed the crew to race. A much improved row allowed the crew to hold off a strong CCAT I behind them and row over well clear, having successfully negotiated the bumped out Wolfson and Sidney Sussex boats ahead. With a weak Sidney Sussex to aim for on Friday, the crew finally produced the emphatic result that their training deserved, bumping Sidney in the Gut. The final day saw the best row of the week, with a clinical bump on Fitzwilliam I outside the Plough, the crew's speed obviously augmented by their choice of headwear. The crew finished up two at fifth in the Second Division – congratulations to them and thanks to their coaches.

The Third Men worked very hard and benefited from the excellent coaching of former Captains, Chris Crawshaw and Rory Clarke, before being finished by Damien Brown. They bumped Trinity Hall III on Wednesday and Downing III on Friday to take the Third Boat Headship, before capping it off by bumping Pembroke II coming round Ditton. A great result for a committed crew – finishing up three at tenth in the Third Division.

The Lower Boats had solid performances, with the Fourth Boat succumbing only to a Hughes Hall First Boat, rowing over every other day to finish down one. The Fifth Boat, six of whom noviced this term, did well against more experienced crews and even made a bump on Thursday. Sadly they managed to get double overbumped on the Saturday and finished down five – all credit to them for their hard work all term and thanks to their coaches for forcing outings out of them! The Gentlemen's Boat, rowing as the Sixth Men, took a rather novel approach to training, but nevertheless managed to 'Get On' to the river. Their high fitness levels certainly paid off as they were forced to row over no fewer than five times in three days as sandwich boat. They made a bump and then got bumped on Saturday to finish level at the head of the Sixth Division. Huge thanks go to Lower Boats' Captain Lee for his enthusiasm and dedication in a very successful year.

So, this year it is a pleasure not to have to use words such as 'unlucky' or 'consolidation'. The Boat Club is in a very healthy state, with large numbers of boats competing in many races on and off the Cam this year. With the First Boat starting fourth in the Lents and second in the Mays, next year could, and should, be a great one for Lady Margaret. I have hugely enjoyed this year, and have great confidence handing over to new Captain, Gerald Weldon. It is now up to next year's athletes to ensure the Club achieves everything it should. As the Master so appropriately says: onwards and upwards.

Vive Laeta Margareta.

Ed Russell
Captain

Lady Margaret Boat Club - Ladies

Michaelmas Term 2004

The Weather Gods were pleased this autumn, bringing no floods and reasonably mild weather. This, together with the domination of the Freshers' Fair by people looking suspiciously red, resulted in no fewer than 4 novice boats, a senior four and a senior eight.

The Seniors

The decision was made to have a First VIII training together from the start of Term, and in addition a first IV solely for the purpose of University Fours. The IV taken under Roger's wing did very well in University Fours indeed, coming all the way to the finals and narrowly losing to a strong Clare IV. By having the eight training as an eight right from the start of term, they ended up a very strong crew. The first race entered was the Winter Head, in which we finished in a very respectable 10th place of all the women's College crews entered. This good effort was kept up to come 11th in Fairbairn's, out of 32 College crews.

1st Senior Women's IV

Bow Frieda van Belle
 2 Tamsin Rees
 3 Carolyn Snyder
 Stroke Camilla Waugh
 Cox Henry Addison

1st Senior Women's VIII

Bow Naomi Longworth
 2 Shelley Chapman
 3 Phillipa Bennett
 4 Hannah Carmichael
 5 Gemma Sykes
 6 Sophie Doran
 7 Liz Shurell/Frieda van Belle
 Str Emma Davis
 Cox Kathryn Saklatvala

The Novices

The novices had a remarkably good term, coming 3rd in Queens' Ergs, being the fastest novice boat in the Winter Head, winning Clare Novice Regatta and Fairbairn's, thus earning their blades! However, it was not only the First Novices doing well, the Second Novices were the fastest Second Boat in Queens' Ergs and came in second place of all second

boats in Fairbairn's, despite equipment failure during the race. The Third Boat got through to the semi-finals of the Clare Novice Regatta and were the fastest Third Boat in Fairbairn's, with the Fourth Novice Boat being the fastest Fourth Boat.

1st Novice Women's VIII

Bow Katie Hunt
 2 Hannah Stratford
 3 Susannah Clark
 4 Charlotte Symes
 5 Philippa Rock
 6 Megan Daniel
 7 Nina Marinsek
 Stroke Amanda Sinden
 Cox Alex Groot

2nd Novice Women's VIII

Emily Roberts
 Miranda Buckle
 Claire Jarvis
 Izzie Kaufeler
 Emily Manuel
 Lara Maister
 Laura Hocking
 Elaine Cameron
 Sarju Shah

3rd Novice Women's VIII

Bow Jenny Edwards
 2 Hannah Lane
 3 Sara Litchfield
 4 Sarah James
 5 Charlie Marriott
 6 Juliet Courtney
 7 Bella Hunt
 Stroke Franki McClure
 Cox Carl van Heyningen

4th Novice Women's Squad

Katie Rickman
 Madeleine Jones
 Claire Dollman
 Hannah Willey
 Rachel Greenwood
 Shirley Li
 Vivian Si
 Jamie Shin
 Ruth Maclean
 Ellie Milnes
 Richard Horrocks (Cox)

Eton Training Camp 2005

The traditional Eton Training camp was scheduled as always just before the Lent Term was about to start. Considering the success of the First Novices, and the number of senior rowers still around, it was decided to listen to Gerald Roebroeks' suggestion and keep the First Novice Boat together and line them up as a Second Boat (or First Boat if they proved

mighty enough to beat the seniors!). Thus an unprecedented two full women's VIII's were taken to Eton, one senior VIII and one novice VIII, to do a week's training on the lake. Under the guidance of Palo Gledhill, Emma Mawdsley and Gerald Roebroeks, the two eights did two outings a day, for 7 days, culminating in friendly racing on the last day. This was an excellent preparation for the following term, with the novices keen to show the seniors how good they were, and the seniors keen to show the novices how rowing is done. Gale conditions, hands covered in blisters, early morning porridge and early nights, lots of food and lots of rowing would typify the camp, not to forget lots of fun! Our thanks go to the LMBCA for subsidising this training camp.

Lent Term 2005

Following training camp, two VIII's were already well prepared to take on any boat on the Cam. In addition, despite the notoriously bad conditions predicted for the Lent Term, there were enough people to fill a third and a fourth boat. With a First Boat full of seniors, and a Second Boat that received their novice blades the term before, things were looking bright indeed.

Before racing started something else exciting was about to happen: the arrival of a brand new boat! Being a new version of LM2000, the boat was suitably named LM05. Thanks to the LMBCA for their financial support in helping us to purchase the boat.

With term underway and a new boat to show on the Cam, we soon entered some races. Head2Head was the first race on the schedule: the 1st VIII came 4th overall, only 15 seconds behind the winner, Newnham, and the Second Women were the fastest second boat and beat two first boats.

Peterborough saw the First Women battling over its 5k course, coming 3rd amongst the College crews and 9th amongst all women's eights. At the same time, the Third Boat won their category in the Newnham Shortcourse event in Cambridge.

The First, Second and Fourth Women raced in the Robinson Head, with a respectable 6th and 10th place for the First and Second Women

respectively. Injuries sustained in this race meant that the Second and Third Boat were on their own going to Bedford Head. Despite the bus driver's best efforts to make them late they had a very good day, the Second Boat coming 4th in their own division, and 9th in the higher division, and the Third Boat also coming 9th.

There was one more race to do before bumps: Pembroke Regatta. Although it is always a difficult call for Captains whether or not to risk getting their crews possibly beaten shortly before Bumps, this year it was decided that on both the men's and women's sides lots of red entering was called for. All four women's boats entered and did very well. While the Fourth Boat got knocked out of the first round, the Third Boat went all the way to the finals and won, the Second Boat went all the way to the finals and won, and the First Boat did a grand total of 5 races, including the semi-finals where we unfortunately lost to a very fast 1st and 3rd. Thus we had a perfect run-up to Bumps with the Cam suitably dominated by crews in red.

Misfortune found its way to our crews in the last week before Bumps, taking out one crew member the day before Bumps due to a back-injury. Fortunately ex-Captains are always vulnerable to pity and Tamsin Rees very kindly agreed to sub in for the Bumps. Unfortunately the Fourth Boat could not get on, but the Third Boat did and went up two in total. The Second Women, having won everything so far in the term were all-round favourites and pleased all spectators by bumping every day, thus deserving their second set of blades in a year!

The First Boat had four very gutsy row-overs in succession during the Bumps. Chasing Clare on the first day proved a challenge, and with them having bumped and our chasing crew being bumped out before the Long Reach, we were left chasing the possibility of an overbump, which we couldn't convert. The next day saw a well-fancied Newnham lining up behind us, and a tough row ahead. Newnham had overlap on Grassy Corner. Here, however, the long miles in Eton started paying off, and out of the corner we pushed them away stroke by stroke. This was an epic row to be repeated the next two days, with the difference that Newnham did not manage to get closer than half a length from then on.

On the last day, Jesus saw us coming within half a length of them, but unfortunately the course ran out before we got a chance to bump them. Thus the Bumps ended, with no crews going down and the Second Women getting their blades.

The Saturday of Bumps clashed with Women's VIII's Head of the River, so although every crew was very keen to show their speed on the tideway they will have to wait until next year.

1st Women's VIII		2nd Women's VIII	
Bow	Liz Shurell		Katie Hunt
2	Shelley Chapman		Hannah Stratford
3	Naomi Longworth		Susannah Clark
4	Susan Kendall		Charlotte Symes
5	Gemma Sykes		Philippa Rock
6	Sophie Doran		Megan Daniel
7	Frieda van Belle		Nina Marinsek
Stroke	Emma Davis		Amanda Sinden
Cox	Henry Addison		Alex Groot
3rd Women's VIII		4th Women's Squad	
Bow	Hannah Lane		Katie Rickman
2	Emily Roberts		Madeleine Jones
3	Isabelle Kaufler		Bella Hunt
4	Charlie Marriot		Juliet Courtney
5	Lara Maister		Sarah James
6	Claire Jarvis		Sara Litchfield
7	Elaine Cameron		Hannah Willey
Stroke	Kate Jarvis		Vivan Si
Cox	Tom Hardcastle		Shirley Li
			Nirup Chawhan (Cox)

Henley Boat Races 2005

Two Lady Margaret women rowed for Cambridge in the 2005 Boat Races. Chloe Baker and Renee Hope formed stern pair of the Lightweight Boat. Despite a very strong row and looking the better crew

all the way, the Cambridge Lightweight women were beaten by half a length.

Easter Term 2005

Easter Term Training Camp

Never before were tensions so high before selection of the First May Boat, and never before (certainly in recent years) have so many people wanted to row in the May Term. Running two camps simultaneously, people trialling for the First Boat spent a week doing double outings in Ely, coached by Roger Silk, whilst potential Second, Third and Fourth Boat people were being trained on the Cam by Claire Sweeney, Gerald Roebroeks and Ben Russell. With the Lightweight stern pair coming back, previous Blues and Captains and three additional May Colours, seats in the first May Boat were highly coveted. Not only was there lots of competition for the First Boat seats – with even 1st May Colours worrying about winning a seat, the competition for the Second and Third Boats was also very high. On the seventh day of training in Ely, we brought the Second Boat to Ely to use seat-racing to decide the crews. Aided by 2k erg scores, lots of coffee and talking with coaches, the crews were set on the first Wednesday of term, running up to a total of four May VIII's.

Easter Term Racing

With the First Boat under the wings of Pete Convey, Rich Marsh, Emma Mawdsley and Roger Silk, and the Second Boat being taken care of by Gerald Roebroeks, Tom Edwards-Moss and Rich Marsh, expectations were high for these boats this term.

Three boats entered Head to Head on the Cam, where the Third Women won their division, the Second Women came second, only one second behind the winners, and the First Boat shared third place with Pembroke.

Bedford Regatta was oversubscribed so we didn't manage to get any boats there, but instead the First Boat entered the Metropolitan Regatta on the lake in Dorney. Being one of the only College Boats entered

amongst University boats, we were very pleased to win our heat, beating not only Exeter and York Universities, but also beating Osiris (Oxford University) by over a length. In the final we came a very respectable third, beating Osiris again, as well as York and Southampton Universities.

May Bumps

With three boats already assured a place in the Bumps, the Fourth Boat had to get on and did so very convincingly. On the first day they managed to overbump to the top of the Fourth Division, maintaining this position for the rest of the week. This is a great performance, considering there were two people in the boat who noviced in the May Term!

The Third Boat also did very well, bumping on the first and the last day to finish eighth in the Third Division. The Second Boat was unlucky with the start order, with the boats in front of them bumping out on the first two days. However, they did bump on the other two days, thus moving up two more places towards the top of the Second Division.

The First Boat helped Newnham on their way to their spoons on the first day, bumping them well before the Reach. The second day saw a very close rowover, with Pembroke only being a couple of feet away on the finish line. Unfortunately this meant that the next day a very fresh Clare boat was chasing the First Boat, which still felt the last day's row in their legs, and had to succumb at the Railway Bridge. Determined to get them back on the last day, the First Boat was gaining on them stroke by stroke, and only a canvas away at the start of the Reach. Having been told that they should push themselves as hard as they possibly could, this unfortunately resulted in Stroke passing out and being dragged over the side of the boat with her head in the water for no fewer than 5 strokes. Not to be deterred and showing great courage, she recovered herself to lead a restart ahead of Girton who had still not caught up. However, recovering from a near-death experience like that proved a bit harder than thought, and they had to give in when stroke fainted again and thus gave a new dimension to the expression 'pushing yourself to the limit'. This was a truly legendary row, which unfortunately left us one

position lower than we started, but showed us all the level of commitment and courage required to row for the Lady Margaret First Boat.

Unfortunately, like with the Lent Bumps and the Women's Head of the River Race, the week of the May Bumps clashed with Women's Henley, so this legendary First Boat did not get a chance to show its skills in Henley. However, all the results this year point to a very successful year again next year, when we will doubtless secure a permanent place for the Fourth Boat in the Bumps, and see some more crews getting their blades!

Women's May VIIIs 2005

1st Women's VIII		2nd May VIII
Bow:	Frieda van Belle	Naomi Longworth
2:	Tamsin Rees	Hannah Stratford
3:	Carolyn Snyder	Liz Shurell
4:	Gemma Sykes	Susan Kendall
5:	Camilla Waugh	Philippa Rock
6:	Fran Frame	Sophie Doran
7:	Renee Hope	Nina Marinsek
Str:	Chloe Baker	Emma Davis
Cox:	Henry Addison	Alex Groot
3rd Women's VIII		4th May VIII
Bow:	Charlie Marriott	Kate Jarvis
2:	Izzie Kaufeler	Sarah James
3:	Susannah Clark	Jenny Edwards/Franki McClure
4:	Lara Maister	Katie Folz
5:	Claire Jarvis	Emily Roberts
6:	Megan Daniel	Hannah Lane
7:	Katie Hunt	Elaine Cameron
Str:	Amanda Sinden	Katie Rickman
Cox:	Tom Hardcastle	Ali Gaudion

Thanks

With four boats racing in every single term, there are two things that are indispensable for a Captain: a good Lower Boats' Captain and lots of coaches. Gemma Sykes, the Lower Boats' Captain for the women this year has done an incredible job. Starting off the year with 4 Novice boats on her hands, she has managed to organize them so well that the vast majority have continued to row all year, thus strengthening the women's side of the Boat Club incredibly.

Lots of people from all over the Club have coached. Special thanks go to the old boys and girls coming from in and outside Cambridge to coach: Palo, Claire Sweeney, Emma Mawdsley, Rich Marsh (who not only coached the First Boat but also finished the Second Boat), Tom Edwards-Moss and Amir Nathoo. Roger Silk as always has been an incredible help, both with coaching and selecting the crews, and Gerald Roebroeks has taken care of any boat in need of a coach, as well as all the boats, the race entries and transport.

Finally thanks goes to the LMBCA for their generous support of the training camps, racing and equipment.

Frieda van Belle
Captain

The Netball Team

The year got off to a promising start with 'sign up' sheets quickly filling up at the Freshers' Fair, and interest from all years of College. We had high hopes for the coming season.

The Ladies' First Team had great potential, with each player bringing unique skills to our game and adding diversity to our style of play. However, the season got off to an ominous start when Alex Godlee (Second Team Captain) injured her knee at the University netball trials, which effectively ruled her out of playing for the rest of the season. Though Alex's sideline enthusiasm and her coaching skills were very

much appreciated, her absence on court was most definitely felt and we look forward to welcoming her back to the squad next year.

It was good to have continuity in the team this year, something that we hope to see next year with our remaining players, before welcoming some newcomers. To this end we would like to thank Claire Blewett, Clare Philbrick, Ruth Brooke and Hannah Heister. Their commitment and dedication has been invaluable to maintaining team spirit and focus. It is with sadness, though, that we have to say farewell to Clare Philbrick, Goal Attack extraordinaire. Clare's ability to shoot from anywhere in the circle and score was always amazing, no matter how often you witnessed it. To last year's Captains, Ruth and Claire, we would like to say thank you for their support and continued enthusiasm. Ruth's on-court spirit and Claire's boundless energy in centre court will be missed. Hannah's towering presence as Goalkeeper was always a reliable defence against any attack, and we are glad to say that we will be seeing her back next year.

And so to our remaining players Franki McClure, Sarah James and Suse Rickard: each of these ladies were remarkable all year round in their own way. Franki's insistence on playing every week, despite contending with a serious chest infection and training for Varsity Lacrosse, was not only commendable but inspirational. Sarah was our only fresher to join the First Team this year; she filled her role in the position of Wing Defence to the very best of her ability and brought extra pace to our game. Finally we would like to give a special mention to Suse, who joined us in October and proved to be our secret weapon. Her on-court passion and ability to slot into any position made her absolutely invaluable; she filled many roles throughout the season.

We would also like to thank our umpire Rachel Willcock, who, despite never having umpired before, was a credit to our team with her quick decisions and fairness to all players, something that is important to all netballers.

Unfortunately the postponement of Cuppers due to bad weather meant that we had to withdraw from the tournament as we could not make the later date, but ambitions are already building in anticipation of next year.

One match we would like to note is the League match against Newnham Firsts, a very strong team in many ways. We went into this match on the back of several losses and with an incomplete team. However, on this occasion, the Firsts showed what they were capable of and emerged victorious, winning 13-4. We owe this win to our special reserve, who for now shall remain nameless, but whom we would like to thank and would welcome to the squad again in the future.

This year also saw the emergence of a very strong Second Team, organised and Captained by Franki McClure. They reached the semi-finals of Cuppers having had very little match practice behind them, a truly remarkable achievement. The mixed team also played well; we would especially like to mention Chris Barnes whose shooting skills in the circle were both a wonderful surprise and a great asset to the team. His partnership in attack with Clare Philbrick is one we hope to be able to match next year. We look forward to seeing more mixed netball being played.

Ruwani Abeyratne
Captain

Men's Rugby

The Club ends the 2004-2005 season with a great deal to be proud of: another League title, won with style and an intimidating points difference of +364; the first Cuppers title since 1997, wrestled from the hands of Hughes Hall; and numerous University honours spread throughout the Club. As yet the age-old Johnian rule of 'a second is always followed by a third' has sadly not been fulfilled, although the resurrection of the Lady Somerset Boat may still give us a third and final victory for the season. Everything that has been achieved was the product of an incredible amount of talent and also occasional moments of hard work. I am indebted to everyone who has taken to the field for the Club this year and to all of those who have offered their help and advice to me this season.

Pre-season training was an excellent chance to take a look at the new intake of talent for the squad and to study the variety of levels of fitness

displayed by returning players. Fortunately for many I did not go through with the threat of fitness testing. The first match of the season against St Catharine's was played in a similar style to many that were to follow: two predictably creative Rob Wells scores and a couple of neatly-worked moves that sent Tom Dye over for two. The driving rain that seems to always accompany this fixture put a damper on any further scoring. This was followed by an impressive performance the week after in the far-away land of Girton. After my nerves had recovered from the stress of relying on the team members to provide their own transport to the match, I was privileged to witness them running in six fine tries and one move that ran the length of the pitch, involving nearly every pair of hands. Freshman Ed Andrews impressed in his debut for the College XV, starving Girton of any useful possession. It was with a great deal of pride that I discussed the match report with the *Varsity* reporter – an old school-friend and a member of the losing Girton side.

November brought around the first of three Jesus-John's fixtures, which was won convincingly by 29-6, thanks to an impressive display from Rory Holmes standing in at Fly-Half. The weeks after that saw a weakened side run out eventual victors against Downing thanks to some typical Fraser Thompson magic, and two thumping victories: 82-0 against Trinity Hall and 60-5 against St Catharine's. Oli Buxton attacked with depth and pace and carved his way through for two scores against Trinity Hall and a hat-trick against St Catharine's, while Fraser once again cut the defence to ribbons to bring home four tries against Trinity Hall. In both of these matches, the squad demonstrated its strength-in-depth, overcoming both injuries and the Cambridge mumps epidemic.

The Christmas break gave all the players a chance to rest after a demanding first term during which many had to juggle both College and University rugby commitments. An unprecedented number of Johnians ran out wearing University colours: Mark Colley, Gareth Roberts and Dan de Lord played for the Colleges XV; Oli Buxton, Tom Dye, Jonno Murray and Charlie Linton all represented the University at U21 'A' level. Rory Holmes, James Taylor, Ashley Elliot and Tom Dye took part in a famous victory against Oxford at Twickenham in the

U21 Varsity match. James Taylor and Ashley Elliot also won University Colours for their appearances in the LX-Club Varsity match. Furthermore the College was granted a representative at senior level at Twickenham with adopted Johnian Jared Greenblatt breaking with tradition to take the field and win his first Blue.

The return to Cambridge in January brought dark times for the College with the first defeat in the league for three years at home against Downing; at 20-14 the margin was not great but it was all the more gutting for those on the pitch. With two of our starting Front-Row players ineligible having won University Colours in December, and two reserves injured, the team struggled in the scrum against a powerful Downing pack. Victory at Jesus the week after by 20-5 wiped the smiles off the over-eager Downing side that turned up to watch the match in hope of an unlikely League title. Mark Colley dominated almost every area of the pitch and again soared higher than his opposite man in the line-out, while Jonno Murray showed once again how deadly a finisher he was to score beneath the Jesus posts.

A display of champagne rugby capped off the League season at home against Trinity Hall. Those who braved the muddy touch-lines and freezing weather were treated to an 83-14 demolition of our opponents. The joy with which Trinity Hall greeted their two commiseration tries only helped to underline the gulf in quality between the sides. Veteran centre George Humphries scored twice, as did the more youthful Patrick Bidder and also Martin Lowes on his debut. And so, the team entered the nervous period of knockout rugby that is Cuppers; with the graduate sides split between the two halves of the draw we knew that we would have to beat one, or perhaps most, of them to win the competition.

The cup run began well with a brutally efficient victory against Selwyn-Peterhouse by 37-11. The return of several injured players and a complete Front-Row brought back memories of the glory days of John's rugby with a strong performance in the forwards. A lacklustre performance against a weak Jesus side in the next round saw the team run out victors by 40-9, well aware that we would have to play significantly better to avoid being embarrassed by Hughes Hall.

The team prepared hard for the semi-final, showing a level of focus that I have never seen before at College level. By the time the fateful Wednesday arrived I was confident that we were ready for the challenge. The Hughes Hall team list was an intimidating sight, with five or six union Blues in the line-up and several more rugby-league Blues. In a match where almost every player on the field played as well as I have ever seen them play the team attacked daringly and defended bravely. This was exemplified by Dan de Lord who made tackle after tackle to hold out Hughes Hall. Ed Drage turned in the best performance of his season despite being subject to some particularly unpleasant foul-play. Fraser Thompson's season was cruelly ended when a stray boot caught his forehead when diving to touch down for a try that was inexplicably not given. James Taylor led the backline by example, forcing his way over for an impressive hat-trick. Soundly beaten in every area of the pitch Hughes Hall failed to score a single point as they went down 37-0 losers. I could not have asked for a better last match to play on the John's playing fields.

In the other semi-final Fitzwilliam had slipped past an uncharacteristically weak St Edmund's side to set up the first all-undergraduate final of this era. In what wasn't perhaps our finest performance we managed to coast to an easy 48-18 victory, scoring several neatly finished tries. Rob Wells bulldozed through the defence for a couple of scores and again lent his considerable weight to the fight. Nevertheless it was a victory that brought the trophy back to John's after a long absence and marked the end of a successful season of Johnian domination.

It is at this point that I must apologise to those who have not yet been mentioned. I thank Oli Tetlow for what has been his best season in the Front-Row and Lenny Picardo for his determination to play an entire match as Hooker despite a shoulder injury. Andrew Gillespie has produced some fine performances at times when the Club needed him most and George Fitzgerald has shown incredible determination on the pitch and has unleashed a deceptive turn of pace at times. Ben Smith has enabled the entire team to function thanks to his skill and decision making, not to mention outstanding place-kicking. I thank Gareth Roberts for his help in coaching the team and for his commitment to the

Club over the year despite injury. I congratulate Jonny Scrimshaw on another excellent season and wish him well at MIT next year.

My personal thanks go to my Committee, James Taylor and Andrew Wheatley-Hubbard, who have ensured the smooth running of the team throughout the season and to Dr Richard Samworth for his help in coaching and tactical expertise. The team could not have achieved victory without the excellent grounds for training and playing on for which we thank Mr Keith Ellis. I wish all those who graduate this year good luck in their lives beyond Cambridge and I hope next year will be another successful season for the Rugby Club.

Matthew Maitland
Captain

Women's Rugby

Fielding two teams again for the first time in four years, Women's Rugby at St John's regained its rightful place this year as a source of College pride.

The Second Team vaulted from being a group of slightly scared, disorganised and timid novices to beating the First Teams of other Colleges in just 8 weeks. After a couple of lessons from our strong and silent coach Rory, the tackling of the Team was awe inspiring, with Hannah Lane and Judith both gracefully managing to dramatically floor opponents far less agile and nimble than themselves.

The First Team's matches would be better described as demonstrations of Rugby than competitive games. An experienced side literally ran rings around their opponents, putting 90 points past one Team in only 20 minutes. Susie Grant should be commended as the oldest player in the League, though luckily her pending arthritis didn't stop her from also claiming the prize of being the League's highest scorer. Antonia amazed all by gaining a Rugby Blue despite only starting her playing career this year.

The First Team were unlucky to draw St Catharine's, the eventual League winners, as their first game, and subsequently came runners-up, but with the moral victory of point difference. Cuppers was intended to provide the scene for us to settle the score. A hard day's play saw us through to the final, having displayed the versatility to field a different starting line up for every match, and having excelled in heckling. However, the eventual victory was not to be. With the Captain and Antonia out through injury, a tired but valiant John's side were left to challenge the fresh-faced St Catharine's, who'd received a bye to the final. The defeat was by the narrowest of margins.

None of this would have been possible without the endless and committed training of the squad – training in the dark, in the snow, scaling gates and even missing butterfly lunch in the name of success. Special thanks must, though, go to the young Oliver Tetlow, who inspired us all, demonstrated an almost worrying keenness for socials, and managed to love all fourteen of us in his own very special way. In versatility and banter we salute you. On to next year's imminent success.

Lorna Gratton
Captain

Swimming

I make no exaggeration when I say that 2005 has been the most successful year for the St John's Swimming Team in its history.

The Men's Team have, of course, been unbeaten for the last 4 years and so it was with customary arrogance that the trophy was left securely in the cabinet for the duration of the competition. After all, why risk damage on the return journey?

Chest-beating aside, in the history of the competition, St John's has never won the overall trophy, a travesty since it bears the names of at least 2 Colleges founded only last century. The problem for us has always been turning out a committed Women's Team and since 2000 there has been only 1 women's squad inside the top 10.

This year saw a complete turnaround thanks to an unprecedented glut of female talent and commitment. John's were represented in every 'A' final bar 2 and were inside the top 5 for every event. Special mention must go to Emma Davis who won the 50m Freestyle in a time just 0.3s off the record and came a close second in the 50 Back and to Izzie Kaufeler who touched out her opponent in the 50 Fly to win and came a hard-fought fourth in the IM.

The overall strength of the Girls' Team was most apparent in the relays. Led by the Amazon-like Morgan Barensse, a member of the most successful Blues Swimming Team in the long history of the Varsity Match (seriously – for Cambridge to win by a bigger margin Oxford would have to have been disqualified more than twice), they achieved third place in both the relays – an unprecedented achievement.

Overall, this strength and versatility resulted in a second place finish for the Women's squad – their best result ever. Congratulations.

Some might think that the Men's Team would, by now, be bored with utterly dominating the Cuppers competition. Strangely this does not seem to be the case. 2005 saw a stronger squad than ever before. Wins in 2 events from Gaz Roberts (100 Back) and Ainsley Mayhew-Seers (50 Fly) were the pink sugar icing on a solid cake of individual performances. The new and sparkling Aaron Clements-Partridge broke the record in the 100 Free but was beaten into 4th place by three other record breaking performances. I myself faced a similar agony, qualifying fastest in the 100 Breast with a record time only to be beaten into 3rd in the final with the record snatched from my gaping jaws. Indication, then, of the incredibly high standard of the competition as a whole.

The crowning glory of the entire competition, though, came from the Men's Relay Teams. The Medley Relay squad (Roberts, Bloore, Lee and Crawshaw) broke the record in the heats but still only qualified second to a lightning Emma Team. Nevertheless they came out fighting in the final, beating their heat time by over a second but just being out-touched by Emma who were sporting 3 Blues.

The Freestyle Relay evoked for me the 2004 Olympic Athletics 4x100m final. The 'Americans' of this, the final event of the day, were Emmanuel. With 3 Blues lining up to swim, including the Club's fastest sprinter, they were an intimidating force and qualified almost a full 2 seconds ahead of the competition with a new record. St John's found themselves in the disadvantageous outside lane in a third place position. With the odds stacked against them, the Team (Lee, Roberts, Clements-Partridge and Crawshaw) stepped up to the plate. Our very own Blue, Captain emeritus, and Malaysian national hero Lennard Lee stormed out of the blocks like an aquatic cheetah and served up an eye-watering 25.4 to give us the early lead. The opposition and crowd could do nothing but watch in awe as John's held on under intense pressure until a nail biting last leg saw the Maurice Green of the competition out-touched by just over 1/10 of a second. John's broke the record by over a second meaning that every single member of the Team beat their heat time by about a second. Absolutely incredible.

So John's, for the first time ever, won the overall competition as well as the men's. Five of the 12 events were won by us outright and 4 records were broken.

It has been a truly great year and the depth of the squad is such that we can be strong for many years to come, in fact, for the foreseeable future. I would like to thank everyone who has been involved, those who competed, those who did not and those who never had any intention of doing so but just love curry. All that remains is to order some retrospective gloating stash, get very, very drunk and look forward to next year's competition.

God bless you all. You legends.

Chris Crawshaw
Captain

Volleyball

After winning the Summer League last year, and coming runner-up in the Summer Cup, St John's Volleyball was looking to continue its tradition of success. Despite losing star defence player Dennis Zuev to the Dark Side, Captain Andreas Poulos thought himself in a good position, with both Bex Walton and Fiona Danks returning. His hopes to gather a few additional players of quality were realised in the form of Lindsey Mehrer and Stephen Sarkozy, both freshers who were eager to don red. Salman Taherian and Gabriel Browstow also added consistency to the team, and both spirits and expectations were high as the first test approached. Qualifying for Winter Cuppers was played on a cold Sunday morning in late November, with John's being drawn into a pool with archrival Jesus, who narrowly defeated us in the Summer Cup. Due to careless organisation the match, which would have made a terrific final, was to be played first. Both teams were slightly confused, playing with new players, but quickly John's switched to a simpler one-setter system; phenomenal setting by Lindsey allowed us to use four hitters with great efficiency, and Jesus had no answer for the power of John's Sarkozy, Poulos, Danks, and Taherian. Brastow offered consistent serving and passing, and we narrowly took set one. Due to time constraints, the second set could not be finished, but our lead had so demoralised Jesus that they failed to secure other victories (except over Downing) and did not qualify for the finals! We continued to improve, and clinically dispatched Trinity Hall and Downing. It is debatable whether the look on Jesus's faces or the drink that night was sweeter.

At this point, Andreas stepped down from the Captaincy, turning it over to Steve, who would guide the team in the Cup finals in March, which came quickly. We found ourselves in pool B, which opened up with drama, with late arriving Robinson causing reschedules all around. Though we were looking unstoppable in the qualifying rounds, we were slightly weakened by the loss of Andreas Poulos, who suffered a foot injury the day before. However, Bex Walton filled in, and the first match saw John's play Darwin. It appeared as though we would run away with the match, before a service run from Darwin brought them

quite close. We edged out at the end of the set, however, taking it 25-21. The long match left little time for set 2, which we won based on our gender advantage, 5-3.

Injury would further strike us in our match against Catz, with Salmon Taherian suffering a mild groin pull, and exiting the competition. Fiona Danks, also injured, played regardless, showing the toughness of Blues players versus that of normal mortals. At this point we switched to a 5-2 format, which was rather confusing for everyone, but completed a victory against a Catz side rather easily, 25-15, 17-2. We then scrambled to find Johnian legend Andy Lynn's number, in order to return to full strength, but failed in this and were forced immediately to play against a Robinson team desperate for points. Good serving from Gabriel Brostow and Bex Walton was complemented by overpowering hitting from Fiona Danks and Stephen Sarkozy, which resulted in the only maximum point group win, cementing our first place seed 25-12, 25-5.

In the semi-final, we opened up an early lead against Churchill, before a run of blocks by them brought the score close. Churchill then took the lead briefly, on a 4-point service run, 18-17. A change in our tactics confused everyone (most notably Fiona) as setting moved to the 4 spot with Lindsey Mehrer. This confusing play allowed for Sarkozy to smash a pipe down past a poorly formed block, bringing both the score level and momentum back to us, closing out the set 25-21. We also won a rather long second set, though at a very close 18-17. The finals saw a struggling John's side face a strong Trinity Hall team, the former still with only five players. With a decent sized crowd gathered to watch, the teams would not disappoint. Our early lead was quickly overtaken, and the score was knotted at 16. A huge middle blocker proved too much for Sarkozy in the middle, recording quite a few blocks before eventually being tooled. Fiona Danks provided terrific serving and much needed variety into our attack, and setter Lindsey Mehrer changed the point of attack to give Sarkozy an open net to kill a perfect reverse set, opening up a 23-22 John's lead. Fiona would not look back, serving an ace to give John's set point. An awkward dig by Fiona landed amidst a sprawling group of Trinity Hall defenders, sealing the victory 25-22. We opened up a lead in the second set and a despondent Trinity Hall

team never really answered the challenge, giving us the victory, and the cup, 17-11.

Notably, Lindsey Mehrer was awarded Tournament MVP, for terrific setting, digging, and strong hitting. We now turn our eyes to the Summer League and Summer Cup, where we hope to continue our dominating performance.

Stephen Sarkozy
Captain

Water Polo

'Out with the old and in with the new' was the motto for this season's Water Polo team. With most of the team leaving at the end of last season the squad was very scarce on the ground (and in the water). Recruitment was the top priority, since only five team members remained from last year, but initially we were only able to pick up four new players. They were of great use, however, as they were highly committed and, in fact, two of them were University Men's Blues and one a Female University Blue. Ironically, this caused problems since, in League matches against other Colleges, two University Men's Blues can not play at the same time.

So with a squad of the bare minimum we started the season. On our first weekend of matches we managed to get 9 people out but that was not enough to win the matches. We managed a 3-3 draw with Catz but then tiredness set in for our second match and we lost 7-0 against a strong Trinity Hall team. Our main problem was with so many new people we were not yet gelled as a team.

At the start of Lent Term we saw the return of our guest player, Rich, who had spent the previous term abroad. Our first match was against the Leys U19s, where we managed to scrape out a bare minimum of 7 players, thanks to Sami dragging a friend, who had never played before, along at the last minute. The match was long and hard and the lack of substitutes really got to the team, but we acquitted ourselves

well and played some good water polo. The final score line, failing to reflect the closeness of the game, was a 10-5 loss with even the Leys ex-coach surprised the score was not closer.

Our next match was the following week against Addies and only a stone's throw from Varsity, so many players were lost and, on the day, we only managed 4 players for a 6 a side match. However, most importantly, we turned up and played the match with good spirits and in the end only narrowly lost. The final match of the Term showed the possibility of things to come. With a new player in the ranks, and lots of impressive team play we won convincingly 7-0 against Robinson with Jon Smyth getting the first hat trick of his entire extensive water polo career.

Now, with a win under our belt, Easter Term started quick and fast with Cuppers taking place the first weekend back. John's played well in the group stages but were knocked out in the quarter-finals by a Blue dominated Trinity side. The highlight of the weekend, for me, was Roko's long awaited return to College water polo and scoring. The next Sunday night saw John's losing to a strong, tough Magdalene team (throw a rugby team into the water and see what happens!).

On to our last three matches and the relegation battle expected at the start of the season kicked off. Our last three matches saw John's playing the other teams fighting for survival in a real relegation struggle. First off it was John's versus our old training buddies Selwyn. It was a good game, but we lost. The second match was against Trinity with a chance to play them without their four male Blues in the water at once. This was a hard game, which we eventually won 5-4, due to some excellent saves made by Sophie along with our good team play slowly wearing down the opposition.

The last match of the season was John's versus CULWPC (the University ladies' team) where the ladies finally showed what they are made of and played the best College League match I've known them to in the last three years, with sharp reactions and great ball skill. John's played well and coped with the challenge well, only just losing 4-3 after a good team performance. For me this was our match of the season and

a good omen for next year because only two players from the match are leaving this year (myself and Chris). John's finished the season on seven points and retained their place in the First Division.

College Colours, for their high level of commitment, this season go to: Jon Smyth, Benedict Russell, Chris Crawshaw, Sophie Pickford, Ryan Adams, Sami Abu-Wardeh, Roko Mijic, James Goldsmith and myself, Isobel Smyth. I wish Roko the best of luck Captaining the side next season and I hope he has as much fun doing the job as I have had.

Isobel Smyth
Captain

COLLEGE SPORTS

Men's Badminton

Badminton at St John's continues to grow from strength to strength. Once again, large numbers of talented and dedicated freshers have bolstered all the squads. The Kelsey Kerridge practice sessions continue to prove popular, and provide excellent opportunity for all abilities to play together and raise the standards of badminton being played. Once again, we thank College for providing the necessary funding for these highly beneficial sessions.

The annual College tournaments provided relief from Easter Term stress and saw Chris Cleaver narrowly beat Mike Horridge in the Men's singles final. James Greene and Sara Litchfield were victorious in the mixed competition. The season concluded with a glorious dinner in the Wordsworth Room, which was well attended by all members of the Club. As Captain, I would like to thank Mike Griffiths, Tim Gordon and Sam Gibbons for their work as team Captains, and all the players for a highly enjoyable season.

First Team

The First team had a steady season, maintaining our status in the First Division during both Michaelmas and Lent. This was no mean feat following the loss of half the previous year's team. Chris Thomas and Chris Lonergan stepped up from last season's successful Second team to join Chris Cleaver, Tom Holroyd, Mike Horridge and freshman Nick Sutcliffe. Whilst retaining First Division status is certainly no small achievement, with greater consistency a title challenge could have been possible. Unfortunately, we were knocked out of Cuppers at the quarter-final stage by a Jesus team fielding three Blues, but still managed to finish the season with a highly satisfying League victory over Cuppers champions Trinity – a feat not achieved for several seasons.

Second Team

There was a feeling of *déjà vu* with regards to the Second team as this year, once again, saw relegation followed by promotion. Due to a combination of new personnel, stronger opposition and administrative issues, the team was relegated from the Third Division at the end of Michaelmas. Despite this setback, the team showed great resolve under inspirational Captain, Mike Griffiths, to go through Lent unbeaten and become worthy champions. Excellent performances were supplied from the dependable lawyers, Robin Scott and James Williams, with large contributions from Ian Pong, Pete Dannatt, Jamie Douglas, Tim Gordon and the legendary Carl van Heyningen.

Third Team

The Third team maintained their status in the Fourth Division, with a squad comprised of mainly freshers. The team was hampered by a change of Captain half way through the year as Tim Gordon stepped up to the Second team, leaving the highly capable Sam Gibbons in charge. The Third team's games are always fun, most noticeably evident in the entertaining Second's versus Third's derby – the result of which belied the standard of badminton the team played. The squad of Sam Gibbons, Pete Hatfield, Nikhil Dodhia, Rob Hackney, Will Smith, Rob Liu and James Goldsmith can look forward to using their experiences of playing College matches as they progress into the Second and First teams.

Chris Lonergan
Captain

Women's Badminton

This year the First team consisted of the experienced players from last year: Nina Marinsek, Laura Spence, Clare Blaukopf, Sara Litchfield and Sarah James. We were also lucky to gain two very skilled new members on the team, Katy Lutley and Ali Gaudion, who saved us whenever numbers were short.

The First team was especially successful in the Michaelmas Term in maintaining its position as third in the League. Our only defeats were to

Catz and APU, and those were very close matches. Lent Term matches proved to be more difficult, with several of our players injured. Despite this, with appearances from our enthusiastic Second team players, Karen Ng, Hana Hijazi and Liz Durkin, we fought to remain in the First Division.

A major highlight of this year was reaching the finals in Cuppers. Following amazing victories over Queens' in the quarter-final and Catz in the semi-final, we lost against Girton in a closely-contested match. Our team included the Blues player, Emily Manuel, and a new member, Wei Jia Zhang.

Before I hand over the captaincy to Sara Litchfield and Sarah James, I would like to thank all those who played. I've really enjoyed my time as Captain and wish you all every success for next year.

Meha Bhayani
Captain

Second Team

The Second team enjoyed a successful Michaelmas Term, losing only one close match and winning the Second Division. This meant moving up to join John's First team in the First Division in Lent Term. Despite fighting hard, this Term was less successful due to the higher standard and the number of injuries that knocked good players out of the matches. However, it was the taking part that counted, and fun was had by all. Committed players from last year's team, particularly Karen Ng and Hana Hijazi, remained dedicated and played consistently well. Newcomers Liz Durkin, Laura Brogan, Loren Lam and Omay Lee also displayed great enthusiasm and contributed to the successes of 2005-2006.

Sara Litchfield and Sarah James
Second Team Captains

Basketball

'Transition season' will best define this year's basketball. Although we didn't manage to climb to the performances of previous years, which included top College League Basketball, all in all we gained a few skilful players, who will hopefully be able to carry the team in the next few years.

After the departure of some big names holding the team together in previous seasons, we kicked off the season with a rather minimal squad. Down low, we had the never-ending Brian, who is still arguably one of the League's best defenders and Stavros (aka 'short tempered Greek'), with solid shooting and passionate basketball. At the top we had Nir, attempting to improve the assists/turnovers ratio, and Janek, giving us pace at fastbreaks and solid defending, while producing some interesting shots when we didn't need them. Completing the squad were the enthusiastic Martin and Gopalan, who contributed mostly on the moral side, and also the odd point here and there.

From the first game we knew that this year there was no need to fight about who was going to keep the trophies, as our main aim was to keep the games interesting. The First Division seemed to improve over summer. The few losses that followed didn't exactly help to keep our hopes high, but things were starting to look brighter towards the end of Michaelmas Term and at the start of Lent, where basketball seemed to get more popular. We were joined by the new faces of Michal, with many centimetres of talent, quick Velisarios, with good finishing skills, and consistent Kevin, who showed us at every game that he came to work. George, recovering from his long injury, was a dominant factor near the baskets once again, and all together we started showing some sparks of good basketball. After the bad start, avoiding relegation was the main aim.

Two wins later, one in the last game of the season against rivals Trinity, we were sure that we had managed to escape. However, due to a last minute change of the rules, we were shocked to find out that the number of relegated teams had been increased and that we were one of them. The last chance of saving some dignity this season was in

Cuppers. However, a tight loss 37-31 after a battle against a tough Darwin team killed those hopes as well, leaving us thinking that at least life would be a bit easier in the Second Division.

A special thanks to George, Brian and Chris – this year likely to be their last year of College Basketball (although they are announcing this every year) – who will remain with us at the Hall of Fame.

Nir Shub
Captain

The Eagles

Throughout history and across many cultures, the Eagle has been lauded as the greatest of birds. The Roman legions drew strength from its aristocratic appearance. The American Indians worship its power. The ancient Greeks were inspired by its combative nature and Sir David Attenborough recently praised it for its ability to mate in mid-flight at up to sixty miles per hour. I am confident that these next few lines will demonstrate that the current members of our society are once again upholding all of these virtues.

This year the Club has had to battle to maintain its executive status, resisting fierce pressure for admittance from Men's Lacrosse players. Indeed, in the time it will take you to read this article, scores of men around the University will have picked up their sticks for the very first time and been awarded a Half-Blue. However, the Club stuck to its guns and the contributions made by Eagles to both Johnian and University sport has once again been immense.

Looking back to Lent Term of 2005, it was to be another frustrating summer for the Cricketers. Despite a couple of impressive centuries from Captain Eagle Smith, the team would go out of Cuppers in the quarter-finals, effectively ending the competitive season there. For the Second XI, the season was notable for a team comprising almost exclusively members of 69 Bridge Street, who took on and defeated Kings' College First XI. Despite an early feast of buffet bowling from

Eagle Buxton, the combination of wingless Keswani's 'cleverly disguised straighter ball', a six from Eagle Lloyd that smashed the pavilion window, and Eagle Holmes' umpiring saw a Johnian victory.

The Blues team, captained by Eagle Mann, won a thrilling one-day Varsity match at Lords, with fast bowler Eagle Kemp being awarded his first Blue. However, outstanding performances from two of Oxford's top-order batsmen saw the five-day game slip away, although Eagle Mann assures us that the match, lost by an innings and 213 runs, was closer than the score suggests. Eagle Haldar put his Bollywood career on hold to represent Centaurs and gain his first University colours.

It almost seems unnecessary to touch on College Hockey, as I'm certain that anybody unfortunate enough to pass within earshot of Eagle Lloyd this year will no doubt have been lectured on the subject extensively. However, his militant approach to sport has paid dividends, with the team winning both the League and Cuppers, to complete an impressive double. *En route*, Eagle Lloyd fell agonisingly short of 100 goals for the Club, although this is ultimately more impressive than his University tally of zero. Eagles Palmer, MacKenney, Sym and Chat all contributed invaluable and the services of Eagle Dye were occasionally called upon. Overall, it has been an excellent year for the Hockey Club, although recent startling revelations that it is pre-dated by the College Lacrosse team have threatened to put a dampener on celebrations.

At University level, having been relieved of his heavy social secretarial duties, Eagle Sym joined Eagle MacKenney in representing the Wanderers in a narrow 2-1 Varsity defeat. Unfortunately, the Blues were also defeated 2-0, a game in which Eagle Palmer finally picked up the Blue he richly deserved. There was double disappointment for Eagle MacCleod in his fourth Karate Varsity match. The team narrowly lost and Heather Cuss refused to hold his hand on the way home!

In Association Football, much credit must go to Eagle Verdon, who took the decision to put University commitments to one side and concentrate on captaining John's. Admittedly, at the beginning of the season, the League title looked, like Eagle Verdon's first touch, to be a long shot. The campaign received another blow when it emerged that, in a moment of childishness, Eagle Verdon abused his position of authority

and decided to play himself as a striker: presumably hoping to trouble opposition defences with his searing pace. Nevertheless, the team performed admirably and ended up with an equal number of points to Churchill, although a superior goal difference saw Churchill crowned as champions. In Cuppers, a frustrating 1-0 semi-final defeat to Fitz confirmed that in a season of such fine margins, the Club would ultimately end up trophy-less.

At University level, the season brought mixed fortunes for the Blues' side. Whilst results in the traditional fixtures were exceptional, the BUSA team mirrored Eagle Adams' inability to turn promising situations into points, and was relegated. However, battling in the face of disappointing undergraduate results, Eagle Adams saw that Oxford was put to the sword in a tense 1-0 victory. The win, as only the second since 1988, was a fitting celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Club.

Eagle Ashcroft reluctantly took time out from his favoured sport of virtual American Football to compete in the Badminton Varsity match and collect a second Half-Blue. Despite the team's loss, his return to the court represents a personal achievement in itself after a year-long lay off with a knee injury. Admittedly, when it came to writing about Social Secretary Eagle O'Connell's contribution to sport this year, the task appeared to be a difficult one. Despite captaining them last season, a hand injury curbed his involvement in the University Fencing team. Nevertheless, he turned his attention to the social aspect of the Eagles Club with the advent of the all-day social, thus inadvertently organising more socials in one day than Social Secretary Emeritus Eagle Sym managed in an entire year.

In Rugby Union, the change of Captain signified the dawn of a new era. With the departure of Eagle Wells to Saville Row, there were fears that his inimitable brand of expansive rugby would be lost forever. However, the Red Boys once again treated the rest of the League with the disdain that they deserve. The League title was wrapped up by early February with Eagles Elliot, Dye, Buxton, Andrews, Smith and Murray providing the spine of the team. Furthermore, the team followed up last year's Cuppers success with another triumph, as John's finally managed to stamp its undergraduate authority onto the competition.

All opposition was swept aside and even a potentially tricky semi-final tie against graduate college Hughes Hall, a team containing many promising Management Tripos students, failed to halt the charge towards victory.

On the University front, congratulations are extended to Eagles Murray and Andrews who played in the LX's Varsity match. Unfortunately, whilst the Under 20+1s were able to call upon the boot of Eagle Smith, the driving power of Eagle Andrews and the safe hands of Eagle Buxton, they couldn't reverse a first half capitulation, despite a spirited fight back. Eagle Dye adopted a similar spectator role to last season. Meanwhile, Eagle Holmes followed David Beckham to Spain, joining up with *Los Galacticos* of Madrid's semi-professional rugby team.

A remarkable turn of events saw Eagle Andrews, who is normally considered to be a rugby player, selected to represent the Blues in the heavyweight Varsity Boxing. Despite having negligible boxing experience, Eagle Andrews was confident that he could overcome his lack of expertise and experience with a rigorous training schedule to complete a Rocky Balboa-esque rise to the top. Keen to whip Eagle Andrews into shape, Eagle Mayne-Harvey offered some tips on a well practised weight loss technique that he perfected during his initiation a year ago. Remarkably, it seemed to work and Eagle Andrews defeated a more experienced boxer to gain his first Blue.

In Basketball, former secret services assassin and session enforcer Eagle Elia followed up his year as Captain with another season of fine displays for the Blues. Indeed, he was so disappointed following this season's Varsity defeat that he demanded that I shouldn't mention it in any report. As such, if I disappear following the publication of this year's *Eagle*, at least you'll know what has happened.

In University Sailing, huge credit must go to Eagles Clay and Heywood as the Blues team put in an outstanding performance to win the national BUSA championships, making them the only university team to have done so this season. Eagle Heywood has since been elected as the Captain for next season and we wish both the best of luck in the forthcoming Varsity match.

Last, and most certainly not least, attention must turn to the Boat Club. In the May Bumps last summer, the First Boat went up three places to second on the River, their highest position for fifteen years. However, whilst no-one ever doubted their continuing ability in the obnoxious wearing of horrible red blazers, the new academic year saw the Club threatened by the end of an era, as Eagle Brand was pensioned off having devoted his best years (in fact most of his years) to the Club, and Eagle Clay joined him in his retirement. Eagle Russell rowed on and, after the First Boat went down one to fifth on the river in the Lent Bumps, he too called time on a distinguished College rowing career. As such, we wish the new crew the best of luck in trying to hold their position this summer. Meanwhile, rumours continue to circulate that the Lady Somerset Boat might make another last minute appearance.

I would like to thank a number of Senior Eagles for their support this year: Dr McConnel for his work as Senior Treasurer and for assisting Wendy Redgewell in organising the Dinner; Dr Linehan for continuing to provide a finely manicured wicket for the post-dinner room cricket that is enjoyed by all; Keith for the outstanding sports pitches; and the Master for allowing us the use of his garden for our splendid Garden Party.

It has been a great honour to take charge of the Club this year and I'm sure that my successor will find it in good health. The Club will continue to elect only the finest Johnian sportsmen to ensure that it remains at the forefront of both College and University sport for the foreseeable future. After all, as Henry Hudson so aptly put it: 'you cannot fly like an Eagle with the wings of a wren.'

Nunc est bibendum.

Nick Pantelides
Big Bird

The Flamingos

2006 has been another exceptionally successful year for the Flamingos. The current twenty-six members of St John's finest sportswomen boasts three University Presidents, two University Captains, six Blues and ten Half-Blues, which I believe highlights the continued strength, importance and prestige of the Flamingos.

Fledgling Emily Manuel has maintained her impressive form as the stalwart of the University Badminton team. Earning her third Blue this year, Emily has consistently been in the top sixteen University badminton players in the country and is currently seeded Number One in Cambridge. As Captain of the University team, she has been instrumental in its hugely successful season, as it finishes the year unbeaten in BUSA, earning a promotion into the Premier League of BUSA next season.

Fledgling Ammie Brewer decided to put down her racket, having earned a Tennis Blue last year, to pick up a netball instead. Wing Attack Ammie was a member of the victorious Varsity Netball team, narrowly beating Oxford 29-28 in a nail-biting match this February. Within College, Ammie is also a key member of the Ladies' and Mixed Hockey teams, adding to her impressive record as a multi-talented sportswoman.

Flamingo Dilly Nock is another dedicated sportswoman well-known on the University sporting scene. As well as being an experienced member of the successful University Lacrosse team, Dilly also plays a key role off the pitch in running and promoting women's sport. Dilly has recently been awarded the position of Ospreys' President, the umbrella sporting society for women's sport in Cambridge, a true honour that we are proud to have been bestowed on a Johnian.

In the water, Flamingo Sophie Pickford has been making waves as Vice-Captain of the University Ladies' Water Polo team. Representing the University on numerous occasions, Sophie has even played for the Men's team in a recent tournament where she was awarded the 'top goalkeeper' prize. When not in the water, Sophie dedicates much of her time to improving the conditions and funding of sportspeople in the

College, a cause to which she is very dedicated, and which we, the Flamingos, are most grateful that she has undertaken.

From the pool to the ice-rink, Fledgling Ariane de Hoog is the first ice hockey player to become a member of the Flamingos. This is her fourth year representing the University, holding the positions of Assistant Captain in her previous season, and Captain this season. From one veteran University sportswoman to another, Flamingo Fiona Danks starred in the Varsity Volleyball match this year, alongside Fledgling Lindsey Mehrer. They both contributed to the team's successful season, with the University Volleyball Squad emerging triumphant at the top of the League rankings, tied with Loughborough, for the first time in the Club's history. Beyond University level, Fiona excelled, earning a place on the English Universities' squad for her fourth consecutive season.

On the football pitch, Fledgling Becks Fisher maintained her position as the most successful striker in the University, starring in both the University and College teams. The victorious Varsity Squad beat Oxford 3-2 this year, as well as reaching the final of the county Cup. As an individual achievement, Becks was also the top scorer for the University team this year.

Flamingo Kosnatu Abdulai recovered from injury this season to put her blistering pace to use once again on the rugby pitch. As well as being President of the University Rugby Club, and playing in the Varsity match, Kosi also enjoyed another season on the wing for the England Students' Squad. Away from the pitch, Kosi has also enjoyed success on the athletics track and is currently training for her fourth Blue as a University Jumper.

I would like to thank Dr Helen Watson and Dr Nancy Perham for their continued support and assistance. The talent and commitment of the Flamingos are inspiring and the numerous achievements highlight the unrelenting strength of the Society. The Flamingos have been fundamental to numerous University and College sports teams, and are a testament to the ethos of St John's dedication, commitment and flair.

Kosnatu Abdulai
President

Men's Football

This year has been a season of 'almosts' for the Mens First XI. After a transitional year, John's once again asserted themselves as the team to fear in College Football. However, by the slimmest of margins, the cabinet in the bar will remain devoid of footballing silverware for another year. Meanwhile, the Second XI have once again retained their place in the Second Division, playing entirely against other college First teams.

The start of any season begins with the anxious wait to see what new fresher talent will arrive to replace last year's departing stars. In particular, I was concerned at the start of the season that, with the departure of Mike Gun-Why, we would struggle for the lack of an angry Scouser to stand in the centre-circle not moving very much. Fortunately, however, Mike Edwards, equally Scouse, equally angry but slightly leaner, arrived to fill his boots.

Our back line was bolstered when Robbie Munroe arrived from North of the Border, and soon achieved the distinction of becoming the only first year Land Economist to be chastised by his tutor about working too hard. Meanwhile, our attack was bolstered by the arrival of Ben Gibson, chasing a stray egg over from the rugby pitches and, having found himself amongst a group of more skilful, more coordinated athletes, decided to try his hand playing the beautiful game. And he improved immeasurably when we suggested he try using his feet instead.

Another important addition to the team worth mentioning was when Moh Murphy checked his emails and found that he'd been called into the First team squad, three years ago, by James Bryan! He may have been a bit late, but at least we didn't have to have Skinner in goal.

So to the beginning of the season: in the League, a vindictive fixture computer saw us start away to last year's First and Second place teams, Trinity and Fitz. However, despite a wobble late on, Trinity was beaten more comfortably than the 3-2 score suggests. Against Fitz, a twenty-five-yard Ash Simpson volley seemed to have Goal of the Season all wrapped up. That is until Mikey Adams, the speeding parakeet, and darling of Cambridge newspapers, stepped up to fire in a thunderbolt

from thirty-five yards in off the underside of the bar, giving us a 2-1 win. A better goal you will rarely see – earning him the Goal of the Season award. After this, a comfortable 2-0 win against Churchill took us top of the League, but was notable mainly for Skidmore's decision to pick a fight with the only person I've ever met bigger than Moh. Needless to say, he lost it, but that's commitment for you. And with a broken arm he got to spend lots more time with his girlfriend.

This was also the first of several games to be televised by Kazmore Productions and made available on the new Pete Coulthard endorsed wide-screen JCR TV. Using this new influx of TV money, we were able to shop abroad and bring in some new talent before the beginning of our Cuppers campaign. Jonny Chavkin arrived from New York, bolstering the attack and able to provide much needed advice to many a referee and opposition linesman. He was also able to partake in such traditional Cambridge pastimes as the wearing of 'robes' to matches and handing out 4-1 drubbings to the townies from APU, and notching a hat-trick in a 16-0 drubbing of the priests of CFTC, as our Cuppers campaign got off to a flying start.

Our League campaign continued with a tough 2-2 draw at Caius. If you believe what you read in the Cambridge newspapers, the game was notable mainly for a virtuoso individual performance from the Captain – single-handedly on a mission to win the game by himself. Then again, these same papers thought Ben Gibson to be the most gorgeous man in Cambridge, so that has to be taken with a pinch of salt. The Term was wrapped up by a 3-2 win against a physical but uninspired Catz side that put us top of the table at Christmas.

Lent Term was notable mainly for injuries that hampered us throughout the rest of the season. Nick Bell was felled by a particularly heavy-looking snowflake, the weight of which was enough to dislocate his feeble shoulder. Meanwhile, Mike Edwards, Ash Simpson, James Browne, Rich Skidmore, Ross Flanigan and Dave Barley all finished the season on the physio's bench after sustaining long-term injuries whilst battling for the cause. With so many key players unavailable in the run-in, it was perhaps inevitable that our challenge should falter, and

despite an excellent battling 1-0 win over title rivals Jesus, a 2-1 defeat to Darwin and a 1-1 draw with relegation strugglers, Christ's were enough to end our League campaign. Despite accruing a massive twenty points, we had to settle for second place, finishing runners-up to Churchill on goal difference.

Meanwhile, in Cuppers, a soft draw saw us cruise comfortably through to the semi-finals against Fitz, but our failure to convert chances was punished by the sharp finishing of their Blues forward, and we crashed out 1-0 in disappointing circumstances, effectively ending our season.

This year has been notable for the number of players who have stepped into the First team and become key players despite previous seasons on the fringe or even in the Seconds. It's hard to believe that before this year neither Ben Hills nor Wakiwaka had more than about five First team games between them, whilst Sang Nguyen and Ross Flanigan both stepped into the team from the Seconds during Lent Term to do a great job. However, this season's Most Improved Player is awarded to a player that, at the start of the year, hadn't ever started a First team match. After a fine season raiding down the left touchline, Steve Quinn became one of the first names on the team sheet for both John's and for Falcons, and the level of his improvement is such that he will go on to captain the Falcons next year.

This year's Player of the Season award was hotly contested – with Moh Murphy's newfound ability to turn up on time making him an immediate contender. James Verdon topped the scoring charts with ten goals, whilst last year's winner Chris Cleaver had another fantastic season. However, the award this year goes to another defender – one who has started every game this season and been a model of consistency and solidarity – that is Yosuke Charles Wakiwaka.

This year has seen an unprecedented contribution by John's players to the University set-up at all levels. In the Kestrels Varsity, Chris Cleaver earned the Man of the Match award for a typically resolute defensive performance, but was unable to stop them sliding to an unfortunate 2-1 defeat. The Falcons were represented by a Johnian defensive quartet of Steve Quinn, Waki, Robbie Munroe and James Verdon, and all played

key roles as the Falcons stormed to their first Varsity match victory since 1998, ending a seven-year losing streak by winning 2-0 at Oxford's Iffley Road Stadium. The massive Johnian contribution this year is reflected by the fact that Steve Quinn and Robbie Munroe will respectively captain and vice-captain the Falcons next year.

In the Blues, Nick Pantelides was determined to mould himself into his new role as a tough uncompromising Centre-back, and one of the first names on any Blues team-sheet. Meanwhile, Mike Adams, so disappointed at losing last year's Varsity, has, over the last twelve months, improved his game by dodging all booze and female attention in a show of dedication rarely seen at this or any level. The dedication was to pay off, as both were able to inspire the Blues to deliver their first Varsity win in five years, winning 1-0 in a scrappy encounter at Craven Cottage. They were also able to scrape a lucky 0-0 draw against the Falcons.

Thanks must be extended to Keith for preparing such excellent pitches week-in, week-out, and for his support of the Club in general. Mark Koller and Alex Beard have both done fantastic jobs with the Second and Third teams respectively, both teams having great success. I'd also like to thank my Committee; Dave Barley, Chris Cleaver, and, most importantly, Vice-Captain, Rich Skidmore, who has worked tirelessly behind the scenes this year.

To have come so close and yet been ultimately unsuccessful in both Cup and League will always leave a taste of disappointment. If we hadn't suffered such a freakish injury crisis then who knows what we might have achieved. However, despite this, I still feel that we can be proud of the improvements that have been made. With most of the squad still in their first and second years, the Club should be able to look forward to great successes in the coming seasons.

James Verdon
Captain

Women's Football

No one knew what this season had in store for the Women's team. Facing the prospect of a new division and, with the loss of so many players, it was anyone's guess. Of course, there was no need to worry – a fresh influx of talented second years, third years, graduates and, not forgetting our one and only fresher, Smee, meant that picking the starting eleven was always a challenge.

Our new arrivals were put to the test earlier than they had expected against Churchill, the team list being met with several surprised comments such as: 'Is that really my name? But I've only been to one training session!' The 3-2 result may have been a little closer than we were used to from last year, but we had won our first game as a new team. More wins followed, including a 10-0 drubbing of King's, where I was glad to see that at least some things never change with Becks adding seven goals to her growing tally.

With such impressive form it was soon clear that we were in the running for one of the two promotion spots along with Sidney and our old arch-enemy, Pembroke. Despite guest appearances from last year's Captain and Vice-Captain, along with a brave performance from Katy who was forced to save goals instead of scoring them, we suffered our first defeat.

Injuries and illness in the second term meant that new signings had to be made, with the addition of Esther from the Eddies team and our new goalie extraordinaire, Hannah. The deciding Pembroke game arrived and a decidedly injury-hit John's team gave it their all. We tried everything, even dragging a certain Liverpoolian spectator on to play the second half, but it wasn't to be. Even so, we bounced back to finish off our season with a 6-1 defeat of Downing, with newest addition to the striking unit, Hana, scoring what is surely the first of many goals. All of this added up to us finishing third in the Division, proving once and for all that despite the unorthodox way we were promoted last season, it was fully deserved.

Team-bonding this year has been high on the agenda, thanks to Jo and Lesley's new and very popular tradition of a trip to the pub after every

game. Charlie and Chloe have delighted us all at training with their 'interesting' outfits, and super-sub Steff has shown just how committed she is by coming on in every game, despite an injury.

It's taken hard work and determination from coaches and players but everyone has improved hugely over the year and we've become a team any Captain can be proud of. Most important of all we've had fun, enjoyed ourselves and entertained the fans along the way.

Ali Gaudion
Captain

Men's Hockey

Following on from our two previous undefeated League championships, St John's had excellent potential going into this year's campaign. Despite the setback of losing several senior players, we retained the League in fine style, winning all eleven matches and fulfilling a famous College rule. And if that wasn't enough, we rewrote the record books by completing a Cup treble, winning the Cambridge Cuppers and continental Doxbridge tournament.

The season began with the Club securing a lucrative sponsorship deal with Deloitte, resulting in the Club's astute financiers promptly spending the best part of three thousand pounds on kit. The Club now sported the traditional red home outfit, as well as an eye-catching all white away kit. The Club's well-renowned image of 'the best dressed men in Cambridge' would not be lost this year, in spite of the loss of Andy Fenn and Johnny Yiangou from the side.

It appeared the money was well spent, with a mixture of militant professionalism and continental flair spreading fear and panic into the first few opposing teams, the results reading 7-0 and 8-0 against Corpus and Clare in the League, and a 16-0 win over Churchill in the first round of Cuppers.

It was in the second half of the first Term that two incoming freshers announced their coming of age into the Club. The purchase of

continental marksman Jacques Yelland, from Paris Saint-Germain, seemed a shrewd investment as he won a plethora of short corners in the next two matches against unbeaten League pretenders Emma and Cam City. Against Emma, with the team conceding their only goal of the Term, newcomer Fergus Morrison rescued the team, scoring two sublime drag flicks, the second firing into the top-right corner in the last minute to win the game 2-1. Against Cam City, Fergus again scored a drag flick *en route* to a 2-0 victory. All was well at Christmas with the team sitting at the top of the League and progressing to the quarter-finals of Cuppers, although St Catherine's loomed ominously in the same half of the draw.

After the well-deserved break, the team hit top form. A defence marshalled by keeper Andrew Wheatley-Hubbard conceded only three goals in the first twelve matches of the season. In the centre, rock solid tackling by James Goldsmith complimented the vast reach of Alex Beard, whose continental forays forward were a sight to behold. On the flanks, Wing-Backs Rob Shorter and Ed Drage snuffed out opposition attacks and redistributed the ball to the midfield with pinpoint accuracy. Even when depleted, the Club's defence remained impenetrable with the quick hands of Tom Dye in goal, and with the ever reliable Dan Fallon and Fraser Reid always at the Captain's call.

As in previous seasons, the catalyst for the Club's success was provided by the midfield. Two Blues, Rich Mackenney and Mike Palmer, played when fit and eligible, lending unrivalled experience and ability to the team. Fergus Morrison played on the right, with old hand and ex-University player Matt Richardson playing on the left. At the heart of the team played James Sym – an ex-John's Captain himself, linking the teams with fluid ball movement, lifting team spirits and driving us forward with familiar shouts of '*ad gladium Johannus*'.

Up front, Jacques Yelland and another debutant, Oli Samuelson, threatened to take the Captain's position. Oli marked an impressive debut against Corpus with a goal, and continued to make appearances in almost every game. Jacque's lightening wobble and quick feet earned him a place on the University side but eight goals for the Club this season haven't done him justice. Always involved in rapid counter-attacks, and winning uncountable numbers of short corners, Jacques led

the College strike-force, and helped his Captain reach 100 goals for St John's.

The Club reached its Annual General Meeting top of the League and in the semis of Cuppers (with results reading 6-0, 5-0, 4-0, 7-1, 23-0, 3-1 in the League and an 8-2 win over Cup-fancied Caius) with St John's playing some of their best hockey in over three years. Congratulations went out to Fergus Morrison and Dan Fallon as the incoming Captain and Secretary, and to James Goldsmith as the Captain's Player of the Season. Special recognition was given to Rich Mackenney and to James Sym for their services to the Club in their time at John's. James Longman became the new curly Captain.

The following weekend, John's scheduled their two biggest matches of the season, a semi-final clash and a League decider, both against a Catz team that had matched us blow-for-blow up to this point. In the semi-final we reluctantly played, both without our best player and on a frozen pitch. Playing a side choc full of Blues we scabbled to resist a barrage of attacks marshalled by Mikey Williamson, taking a break from his England and NL Premier League duties. Nevertheless our unparalleled team spirit drove us forward and we took our chances with two fabulous set-pieces to win 2-1, marking the seminal moment in many College Hockey careers. We followed it up with another nerve-racking match to decide the League, scoring in the last few minutes to beat Catz again, this time 3-2.

We played the Cup final as hot favourites, in front of a capacity crowd at the Leys. Holders Jesus were duly dispatched with the aid of two sublime drag flicks from Fergus Morrison, the second firing into the top corner to win the game 2-1. Finally, we could wash down our half-time Kiplings by drinking from a cup not seen in St John's since 1998.

Buoyed by our double domestic success, the Club crossed the Irish Sea to face other continental challengers in an attempt to complete an historic Cup treble. Commemorating the founding of the Hockey Club exactly 500 years ago, we beat seven teams dressed as royal courtiers (including Catz for the fourth time this season), *en route* to the Doxbridge trophy.

And so I hand the reins over to Fergus Morrison, the incoming Captain, and wish him the best of success in the forthcoming season.

God Bless the Hockey Club.

David Lloyd
Captain

Ladies' Hockey

This year, the Ladies Hockey team was well prepared for another successful season in the First Division. Kit arrived in perfect time for our first match, a landmark occasion since the women haven't owned their shirts for quite some time! Of course, the ubiquitous Deloitte made this all possible. Our team was bursting with talented freshers and our older players showed plenty of enthusiasm for the new season. Raring to go, our first match was against a composite team - Peterhouse and Corpus. We were winning 1-0, but the match was cut short when our talented Blues' fresher Sophie Lynch (and Player of the Season), perfectly chipped the ball into the Goalie's knee cap! We settled for a comfortable 2-0 victory but were disappointed the match couldn't continue! Next up was Caius but they only turned up with five players, so in true Johnian style we lent them half our team and played a friendly match.

Our strong set of eight freshers has been a real asset to the team. Ellie Roberts joined the defence whilst Anneka Dew, Sarah Mackie and Bex Roberts stepped into mid-field and forward positions. Emily Baker, our Goalie, brought formidable strength to the team. Beth Harper (second year) was keen to take up hockey again since school, and has enjoyed her comeback up front. Our Vice-Captain and Social Secretary, Ilona Moyter, was the perfect party animal to organise a fun social in Michaelmas for everyone.

We dominated in our matches against Jesus and Emma, winning 7-0 in each match. Top goal scorers included our other fresher University players Tash Tanna and Anna Stanley. Lydia Tong's imaginative play up-front was matched by her strong team spirit. The reliable midfield

consisted of the old favourites Ammie Brewer, Anya Perry, Charlie French and Sara Litchfield, who showed slick passing and creative stick work. This was backed up by our formidable defence, Katy Lutley, Ilona Moyter and Anne-Marie Cumberlidge, whose tackling skills and quick reactions were noted. Sarah Kitson and Charlie Bruce showed their commitment playing hockey as much as possible in between doctor duties and PhDs.

The Ladies' Club has gone from strength to strength, and this year we were pleased to come third in the League, only losing matches to Catz and Girton who were the League Winners and Runners Up respectively. We were pleased to make the quarter-finals of Cuppers but unfortunately lost out to Catz's team who were stacked with university players. The team's success was celebrated at the Annual Hockey Dinner. I pass on my duties as Captain into the skilled hands of Tash Tanna who will be assisted by Anna Stanley as Vice-Captain. Let's hope League Champions are on the cards for next year!

Naomi Longworth
Captain

Mixed Hockey

It was that champion of the epigram, James Sym, who is said to have coined the slogan 'Mixed hockey: six-aside with bollards'. However, this year's crop of freshers, as well as the already established beauties further up the Club, ensured that the 'bollards' would be significantly more active and shapely than their moniker suggests. Indeed, having such talented ladies to save the blushes of the men on several occasions meant that the team eased past skilled opponents with nary a break in their stride; even the strong Catz finalists were no match for a mixed team that has been the unexpected source of some of the finest hockey seen in St John's this year. The 5-0 score line in the final was a fair reflection of the excellence and diversity evident in our squad.

Traditionally the bastion of the flirt and the 'poodle-faker', mixed hockey at St John's has seen its share of snappily dressed, strikingly

good looking and smooth-talking players. Making up in charm and panache for what they lack in actual skill, even the laziest team member, on realising the day's opponents are of the fairer sex, has been known to pull himself out of bed, letting neither antisocial start time nor horrendous hangover deter him. And so it is that, despite the team's unprecedented victory this year, it is not without a note of sadness that we say farewell to the Mixed Cuppers campaign of 2005-2006, and with it some of the finest poodle-fakers ever to have graced this College. Messrs Richardson and Yiangou, we salute you.

Richard Mackenney
Mixed Cuppers Captain

Mixed Lacrosse

On paper this year, St John's Mixed Lacrosse team was far superior to any other. In theory, it would have been possible to field a team composed entirely of players who had, at one point or another, played for the University. As ever, the team exhibited two styles of play. The fast-moving, dynamic and aggressive boys defended to the death. David Knowles and Ben McNamee, joined by Chris Smith, newly arrived from the dark side, and our secret weapon, made up an exclusively Cambridge Blue back three. In attack were the more controlled and decidedly more skilful girls. Particular mention should go to four-year veteran and ex-Captain Dilly Nock, and Lucy Puddle, both of whom represented CUWLC in Varsity matches this year.

With so much to offer, it is hardly surprising that the team reached the semi-finals of the inter-college League with an unbeaten run of games. However, with a team consisting of players committed to many other areas of University life, we struggled to reach our full complement for the later matches. The semi-final against Selwyn was a showcase of the talents of the newer members of the team, and we were unfortunate to lose by one goal in an evenly fought game.

Cuppers this year was mostly a non-event. Poor organisation saw many colleges drop out and, even with all our strength and depth, we could

not field a complete team midweek on possibly the coldest day of the term. A composite John's-Pembroke team performed with spirit and while perhaps not progressing very far, the determination not to give up in appalling conditions and the humour with which the situation was dealt, were admirable.

Throughout the season, it has been wonderful to see the enthusiasm with which Johnians new to the game have joined the weekly League matches. It is testament to my Vice-Captain, Bella Hunt, who encouraged and coached, that so many returned week after week, and it bodes well for the future of the team.

Franki McClure
Captain

Lady Margaret Boat Club

The Club continues to rely on the support of a small number of former members who bring the benefit of their experience to coaching our crews, while other members provide advice and support to the Captains. The LMBC Association has made possible the training camps at York and Eton, through its financial support, as well as funding the men's Henley campaign. The LMBCA has also paid for a set of oars for the men and a set for the women this year. The Club's other main equipment purchase was a new VIII for the men.

We are delighted to be able to report that the LMBC is now sponsored by Bank of America in a three-year arrangement. This is a significant boost to the Club, providing much-needed funds, and we hope that Bank of America will also appreciate the benefits it receives.

Other good news is that the generosity of Mr Hugh Stewart, stalwart of the Club, has enabled an elegant dormer window to be created in the coaching room at the Boathouse, giving the room a new lease of life and a fine view of the river. We are very grateful to him. In addition, the College is funding the building of a shed to hold our IVs, which we hope will be ready for the new academic year.

Lady Margaret Boat Club – Men

Henley 2005

For the first time in some years, the LMBC was able to send a crew to Henley, consisting entirely of members of the Club. Ed Clay from the First May Boat was, unfortunately, unavailable due to his participation in the concurrent Varsity sailing match and was replaced by Ben Russell, who had stroked the Second VIII in the Bumps. The Cambridge and rowing calendars conspired such that the qualification race fell only six days after the last day of the Bumps and three days after the College's May Ball. Nonetheless, the crew, under the watchful eye of Roger Silk, was soon back on the river, first in Cambridge and then in Henley. Unfortunately, the difficulties of peaking again so soon after the Bumps, and of recovering from the celebrations of the first half of the week, proved too much to overcome, and the crew missed out on qualification by a mere four seconds.

The Henley VIII

Bow	Gerald Weldon
2	Mark Brand
3	Ben Russell
4	Chris Milton
5	Gary Olney
6	Ed Russell
7	Dave Wilson
Stroke	George Wallis
Cox	Hayley Fisher

Michaelmas Term 2005

Enthusiasm in the Club for a challenge on the Lents and Mays Headships was evident and resulted in a slightly unusual and experimental form to the Michaelmas Term. Despite the loss of the majority of the previous year's May Boat, a very high proportion of the Lower Boats returned, together with a couple of fresh faces. Aided by Nick Geddes (Captain 1997-1998, now resident once more in Cambridge

and acting as 'Resident Coach'), something akin to a squad system was established.

Provisional crews were set very early on and, after feedback from an exceptionally well-attended and useful coaches' meeting, these were refined a couple of weeks later. A Light IV was selected as the Club's Premier Boat, with an unprecedented four Coxed IVs and a Development VIII below. The Light IV won Cambridge Autumn Head and then overtook Downing coming out of Ditton Corner in the first round of the University IVs. A poor row in nasty conditions in the semi-final against First and Third saw us lose narrowly. This was especially disappointing as it was one of the crews we had beaten the previous week, which subsequently went on to win the final. The following week saw the crew race the Fours Head on the tideway, where a creditable row put us just under half-way down in the S2 Coxless IVs category. This was especially impressive considering that only after the event did we realise we had badly bent our fin on launching (which explained the frantic 'bow-side corner' calls, despite the large sweeping bends of the Thames!). My thanks go to Tim Fisher-Jeffes and Mark Brand for their great efforts with the crew, and to Jan Trnka for steering so well, with or without the fin.

The four Coxed IVs progressed well under the care of the many coaches who gave up their time to help. I would especially like to thank Nikki Brotton, Henry Addison, Camilla Waugh, Ben Symonds and Megan Goldman.

The 'Lowden' crew suffered from injury problems in the run-up to the University Fours. Nonetheless, it showed great fight in the race against the eventual winners, King's, and lost by only ten seconds despite suffering a broken footplate. Enthusiasm from the 'Diggle' Four led to being entered in the First Division of the University Fours competition despite a good chance of winning the Second Division. Having won the first round against Fitzwilliam it lost narrowly to the other eventual finalists, Christ's. Both crews were entered for Fours Head, but illness led to only the Diggle Four racing. An outstanding row saw the crews come twenty-second out of fifty-nine in the S3 academic category,

beating crews from Jesus, Magdalene, Queens', Robinson and Wolfson amongst many others.

The other two IVs raced in the Lower Division of the University Fours. Good progress in the weeks leading up to the event caused some optimism about their chances, but both crews lost eventually to different First and Third crews. Nonetheless, simply having the depth within the Club to field these crews was a great success and their efforts against higher-ranked opposition must be applauded; undoubtedly the time spent rowing in Fours was extremely beneficial to the technique of all concerned.

The Light IV

Bow Jan Trnka*
 2 Andy Truman
 3 Ben Russell
 Stroke Gerald Weldon
 *Steers

The First Coxed IVs

Bow	Mike-Luke Jones	Bow	Geoff Wright
2	Tom Marriott	2	Mark Morgan
3	Warwick Bloore	3	Jack Westwood
Stroke	Greg Lowden	Stroke	James Diggle
Cox	Kat Saklatvala	Cox	Franki McClure

The great success seen thus far in developing a strong and deep squad led to the unprecedented decision to enter a parallel First VIII and IV for Fairbairns. Whilst undoubtedly weakening the chances of short-term success, this allowed the squad as a whole to progress much faster. The First VIII, coached by Amir Nathoo and Bill Budenberg, put in some long outings over the lock but never quite gelled together, coming a slightly disappointing thirteenth. The First IV, coached by Gareth Lane and Uli Förster, pulled out a storming result to finish second out of seventeen College Fours, beaten only by the same King's Boat that had won the University Fours earlier in term. A Second VIII also raced and

finished as the third College Second Boat, an all-important four seconds ahead of First and Third; the Development VIII also raced as an unprecedented thirty-two oarsmen and coxes competed for LMBC.

The First VIII

Bow	Mike-Luke Jones
2	Greg Lowden
3	Jack Westwood
4	Tom Marriott
5	Gerald Weldon
6	Mark Morgan
7	Jan Trnka
Stroke	James Diggle
Cox	Franki McClure

The First IV

Bow	Andy Truman
2	Warwick Bloore
3	Frank Scheibe
Stroke	Ben Russell
Cox	Kat Saklatvala

A positive term for the senior squad was bolstered by the results of the novices, who happily reconfirmed LMBC's expertise at teaching large numbers of beginners to row at a good level. The Men's Club fielded five crews. The first Novice Boat progressed well in Clare Sprints until being disqualified for steering into Jesus whilst the better part of a length up; disappointed to lose out, the crew worked extremely hard for the remaining time before Fairbairns. A result of second (unfortunately behind the same Jesus crew) was very respectable, as was that of the Second Boat, which finished thirteenth, beating a string of other First Boats along the way. Credit too, to the other novice boats that worked hard and improved greatly over the term. Huge thanks are due to all the coaches of the various crews and to Lower Boats' Captain, Mark Curling, whose efforts are reflected both in the term's successes and the huge numbers of ex-novices who continued into Lent Term.

The traditional logistical nightmare that is 'Chases Week' again ran at the end of term, giving seniors and novices the chance to get to know each other and have a taster of the Bumps racing that the Lents bring. A good turnout was a taste of things to come, and the week finished off with the traditional and infamous curry.

Lent Term 2006

As usual, the senior men held a pre-term training camp at Dorney Lake, Eton. An exceptional attendance meant that we were able to boat an VIII and a IV every day, and indeed the entire First VIII was eventually composed of those who had attended. All those present benefited enormously from the focus provided by a training camp, from the traffic-free conditions found off-Cam and from the quality of the coaching available. The final day was an opportunity for the coaches to see the progress made by the squad and to discuss plans for the term. My thanks to Guy Pooley for arranging the use of a launch, to Chris Atkin, Chris Morgan, Andy Jones, Sandy Black, Nick Geddes, John Hall-Craggs, Jon Rhodes, Amir Nathoo and Gerald Roebroeks for coaching and/or attending the meeting and, above all, to the LMBCA for its extremely generous support of the camp, without which many of the athletes would struggle to attend.

Back in Cambridge, 2000m ergo tests and a conveniently timed Head race on the Cam aided crew selection and training for Bumps began, with the Men's Club fielding a pleasing six boats. The benefits of the previous term's squad system in terms of the strength and depth of the Club were especially obvious at the upper end of the squad. No fewer than eight First May or Lent Colours competed for seats in the First VIII, of whom five were eventually selected, the remaining seats being filled by rowers who had shown great promise at Eton.

The First Lent VIII

Bow	Jan Trnka
2	Matt O'Connor
3	Patrick Marti
4	Andy Truman
5	Gary Olney
6	Ed Russell
7	Gerald Weldon
Stroke	Mark Morgan
Cox	Charlie Willison

The Second Lent VIII

Bow	Jack Westwood
2	Mark Curling
3	Hugo Cartwright
4	Tom Marriott
5	Warwick Bloore
6	James Diggle
7	Ben Russell
Stroke	Greg Lowden
Cox	Kat Saklatvala

Roger Silk made good progress ironing out individual faults with the First Boat before Jon Rhodes took over. Boat speed really started to pick up, and Jon's two-week stint ended with Robinson Head, in which the crew came third, a pleasing twelve seconds behind a Caius crew that had been training together for a term-and-a-half. Illness unfortunately then took a severe toll; our five-man crew had already been suffering at Robinson Head, and further illness forced us to scratch from Bedford Head, depriving us of much-needed race experience.

This state of affairs continued for much of the next week (for which time Nick Geddes took up the coaching reins) up to and including Pembroke Regatta. A comfortable victory over Wolfson in the first round set up a clash with Caius, the Headship crew, and the one on which we had most set our sights. Adrenaline flowing, we led by a seat off the start. Coming through the railway bridge the lead had been pushed out to two seats, helped by almost non-stop pushes and a rating approaching thirty-eight. Unfortunately this proved too high a tempo for us to maintain, and the fragile rhythm fell apart, allowing Caius to win by half a length, but we took much heart from the experience.

During this time the Second VIII had laid down a strong claim to being the fastest Second Boat on the river by some considerable margin. A victory in its category in Robinson Head preceded being the second fastest College crew at Bedford Head (after Churchill I, nearly an entire Bumps Division higher), and a win in Pembroke Regatta by a margin that in no round was less than four lengths. Many thanks must go to Henry Addison, Tim Fisher-Jeffes, Paul Haines, and John Durack for their excellent efforts with the crew.

The First VIII enjoyed an excellent preparation for Bumps, overseen by Mark Brand. Problems pushing-off on the first day exacerbated the first-day nerves of an inexperienced crew, and we struggled to make much impact on Downing; meanwhile, Jesus was beginning to pressurise and the crew failed to maintain its composure under pressure, succumbing at the railings. The second day saw a marked improvement in the rowing and a whistle was to be heard coming into Grassy Corner. A rather unfortunate line, however, saw us practise our parking manoeuvre on the outside of the corner. Whilst our chances of a bump

had been destroyed, we managed to push off and restart whilst still a length clear of Churchill, which was, once again, rapidly pushed into the distance leading to a comfortable row-over.

The third day dawned with us determined to show our true ability. Once again, we got a whistle coming into Grassy, but this time a fine corner saw us close to within half a length, and gain overlap around Ditton. A side-by-side race ensued up the reach, with Charlie finally converting the bump at the houses with half a length of overlap. The final day saw us again chasing Downing. Coming out of Ditton we closed to half a length, but a revitalised Jesus crew behind was also pushing hard. Forgetting our composure of the day before, we reverted somewhat to the nervous and poor rowing that had characterised the first day and Jesus converted the bump at the White House. A very good Boat on our day, and certainly faster than both Jesus and Downing, we badly suffered from a lack of race-practice and failed to perform when under pressure, a most disappointing end to a promising campaign.

The Second VIII, starting fourth in the Second Division, hit Girton on the first day coming out of Grassy Corner. The second day saw the crew chase Caius II for the Second-Boat Headship; a good race ensured a bump at the Pink House. A somewhat easier bump on Magdalene on the Friday resulted in Head of the Second Division, necessitating some improvised repairs to the bow before racing as sandwich boat at the bottom of the First Division. A good start saw a gain on Fitzwilliam, but unfortunately, St Catharine's, starting two places ahead, proved to be exceptionally slow, and the crew was unable to make its bump before Fitz converted. The Saturday brought a comfortable row-over Head of the Second Division, followed by an even more comfortable bump on Catz whilst rowing, once more, as sandwich boat. This feat saw LMBC II finish in the First Division for the first time since 1998, and earned the crew its oars, the first Lady Margaret crew to do so for some years.

The Third Boat, having looked strong all term, suffered from a very high starting position to finish down three. Having lost the Third-Boat Headship on the third day to FaT, Spoons were thankfully avoided on the final day leaving the boat in a position to reclaim 'its' Headship next year. The Fourth Men, consisting entirely of this year's novices, gelled

extremely well as a crew. Bumps on Wolfson II, King's II, and Hughes Hall on the first three days promised a chance to earn its oars on the last. Approaching Grassy, the crew had overlap on Clare Hall but, despite the evidence later found of paintwork on the hull, no bump was awarded and its prey escaped. Praise must also go to the Fifth and Sixth Men's Boats, which worked steadily all term but were victims of the increasing pressure for a limited number of Bumps spots, thus failing to get on.

My thanks, of course, go to all the crews' coaches for their time and dedication: to John Durack for umpiring and thus relieving us of some of our marshalling duties; to all our supporters and bank-parties who provided invaluable assistance; and to Gerald Roebroeks, for expertly poling off all the crews each day, whilst simultaneously maintaining the fleet and doing the other countless (and often thankless) tasks of a Boat Club Manager.

With the Lents completed, a somewhat modified crew resumed training for the Head of the River Race on the Tideway in London. Coached by Geoff Ball and Gerald Roebroeks, progress was made under the slightly less-pressured circumstances. Having already had to make some changes in the crew from the Lents, matters were not helped by our Stroke falling off his bicycle en route to catch the train to London. As it was, by now, outside of the Cambridge Term, substitutes were not easy to find at such short notice, but fortunately our Cox, Charlie Willison, had – in a past life – been an accomplished oarsman, and so was moved to the other side of the rudder strings. Coxing cover was then provided very kindly by Hayley Fisher (for a practice outing) and Henry Addison (for the race). The final placing of 245th out of 406 was quite respectable in the circumstances. My thanks go to Mr and Mrs Willison and to old oar, Pete Mallin-Jones, for providing somewhere to stay the preceding night.

The term was rounded off by the Henley Boat Races over Easter, where the Club was again well represented. For the men, John Davey occupied the three-seat in the Lightweight Blue Boat. Although the results failed to go their way, John deserves our praise and admiration for his commitment and determination throughout the year.

May Term 2006

The traditional pre-term camp at York, with Jamie MacLeod providing superb coaching, was, as ever, a huge success, giving the crew time and space to work hard on fitness and technical weaknesses. The amount of distance covered (and the complete lack of carnage found on the Cam) means that this camp is easily worth two or three weeks in term-time. This year, the camp was extended by two days and finished with a trip to Nottingham City Regatta. This provided invaluable experience for the crew in a multi-lane setting and saw us come second in both the S3 and S4 categories (out of about ten crews in each case). Once again, our thanks go to the LMBCA for providing the means for us to continue to run these crucial training camps.

After returning to Cambridge and the CUCBC Small Boats Regatta and Colquhoun Sculls (for which we had a healthy entry), the complete York VIII was selected as the First May VIII, whilst the Second Boat was based around the Second Lent VIII.

The First May VIII

Bow	Mark Curling
2	Gerald Weldon
3	Andy Truman
4	Patrick Marti
5	John Davey
6	Jan Trnka
7	Matt O'Connor
Stroke	Ben Russell
Cox	Amy Atkinson

The Second May VIII

Bow	Jack Westwood
2	Mike-Luke Jones
3	Alex Groot
4	Tim Angliss
5	Warwick Bloore
6	Hugo Cartwright
7	Richard Van der Wath
Stroke	Greg Lowden
Cox	Kat Saklatvala

For the first three weeks of term, the First VIII was coached by Roger Silk. A few injury problems aside, all members of the crew made good technical progress, which culminated in a solid row in the final of Poplar Regatta in pretty dreadful conditions, to come third overall, beating Emmanuel and Churchill Colleges. With many individual flaws now sorted out, the crew was really able to start to gel in the middle slot, under the watchful eye of Andy Jones. A slightly disappointing row in

a minor regatta on the Cam proved to be the catalyst for an extraordinarily productive period for the crew, with each outing yielding huge improvements.

This culminated in a very strong performance at the Metropolitan Regatta. The heats of S3 VIIIs saw us drawn in the neighbouring lane to a Liverpool VIII being coached by Sir Steve Redgrave for a television series, the aim being to take eight people from non-rowers to Henley in six months. The watching camera crews failed to disturb us, however, as we powered off the start into second place, which we then held through to the finish. We had a dreadful start in the final of the 21-Boat event, lying in last place with 400m gone. Picking up the pieces, we moved rapidly through the back half of the field, ending up in fourth place, only an agonising third-of-a-length behind the second-placed crew. A very worthwhile lesson was learnt but, nevertheless, this was an outstanding result in what is the premier English regatta prior to Henley.

Focused now on the Bumps, Paddy Gillespie took over as finishing coach. The crew had already suffered on the erg earlier in the term from his training ideas, but Paddy now took on the task of making the final few tweaks and preparing us mentally for racing. The first day of the Bumps saw the First VIII close up to almost a length off Caius at Head by Grassy Corner. An unfortunate line through the corner saw us park on the far bank but we managed to push off and row over with no damage done, with Caius too far away to have any realistic chance of bumping.

Not content with merely having the CUBC President in its boat, Caius was so rattled that it imported more Blues into the boat on subsequent days. Despite this, the near-Lightweight LMBC Boat, with only one (Lightweight) Blue onboard, turned up to the start, confident of still giving Caius a run for its money. Not disappointing, a superb row off the start again saw us close on Caius ahead, but again we met the outside of Grassy Corner, this time because of catastrophic rudder failure. Unlike the previous day, however, this left St Catharine's, which had been kept on station up to that point, with the easy task of rowing straight past us, which they did effortlessly.

Somewhat rattled by our seeming inability to race more than two minutes of the course, some corner practice before the next day helped rebuild confidence. Now chasing a Catz boat, almost all of whom were Blues, Half-Blues or Internationals, the boat had a solid, if unspectacular, start. Relief at making it around Grassy Corner was short-lived as Queens' started to threaten, closing to a quarter-of-a-length around Ditton Corner. However, the crew had faith in its own ability, and the quality of rowing started to pick up down the long reach. A big push out of the Corner to regain nearly a length's clear water was followed by a series of pushes along the remainder of the course whenever Queens' looked like threatening.

The final day saw the best row of the week. A fine line and solid commitment through the corners saw Queens' at least a length down by The Plough and more by the railings. Catz ahead, meanwhile, had barely moved beyond station. Queens' put in an enormous push down the second part of the long reach, and especially coming through the railway bridge. Gaining a very optimistic whistle at Morley's Holt seemed to spur Queens' to even greater things, but it was a case of too little too late; perhaps closing to half-a-length at one point, the crew always looked a containable danger by that point in the course.

I would like to thank all the coaches for their commitment and time and to pay tribute to the crew for working so hard throughout the term. Despite containing only one past May Colour, the crew was clearly of a comparable speed to those around, most of which were stacked with Blues. Were it not for crashing (largely due to rudder failure) on the Thursday, the crew may well have held off the challenge from Catz. As it is, down one to third on the river is by no means shabby, and leaves the Club in a strong position to challenge for the Headship in 2007, helped by the fact that at least eight of this year's crew will still be around.

The loss of rowers at the top end of the Club filtered down, of course, to the Lower Boats. An initially very weak Second VIII made good progress all term, and particularly in the run-up to Bumps. My thanks go to their coaches: Amir Nathoo, Tim Fisher-Jeffes, Nick Geddes and Bill Budenberg.

Bumps began with Wolfson I in front and Fitzwilliam I behind. Fitz had been strong all year, and on the first day the Second VIII was bumped, but not before taking much heart from its performance relative to the surrounding crews. On the Thursday it was being chased by CCAT I, which closed to near-overlap on the crew coming down the long reach. A superb and gritty effort, however, saw it held at bay, and the crew pushed back to row over two lengths clear. The third day saw another fantastic effort, closing up on Peterhouse I to gain three whistles coming up The Plough reach. Not quite managing to close up the remaining distance, Peterhouse pushed back up the reach, hanging on to fight another day. On the final day, the crew was hopeful of making up those final few yards on Peterhouse. Unfortunately it was not to be, with Peterhouse bumping an abysmal Downing II early on, leaving the crew to be chased by King's I. Good determination saw King's held off for most of the course, but alas the crew could not quite go all the way, being bumped at the White House. A somewhat unlucky end to a campaign that could have seen the boat up one, had it bumped Peterhouse the day before.

The hugely inexperienced Third Men worked hard and benefited from the excellent coaching of Henry Addison and Gerald Roebroeks. On the first night the crew was bumped by Pembroke II, which went on to win its oars, and then by a strong FaT III on the second. Not deterred, the crew regrouped and had a solid row-over on the third night, setting itself up for a bump on Clare II on the final night to end the week on a high.

The Fourth Boat suffered from being unfortunately positioned relative to other crews, falling to Caius III and Selwyn III, both of which won their oars, and also to Queens' III. The Fellows, rowing as the Fifth VIII, bumped Downing IV on the first night but fell to Clare Hall I and Clare IV on the final two nights. The Sixth VIII, consisting, in part, of novices this term, 'won' its Spoons.

I would like to thank the entire Club for making this such an enjoyable year, and I have great confidence handing over to the new Captain, Jan Trnka. A large number of returning oarsmen, together with the prospect

of fresh talent, keep the Headship firmly within our sights, and I am sure that you will all join with me in wishing Jan the very best of luck.

Vive Laeta Margareta

Gerald Weldon
Captain

Lady Margaret Boat Club – Women

Michaelmas Term 2005

With the arrival of another intake of keen freshers, Michaelmas Term saw the women's squad split into two. Four novice crews were established, whilst the returning seniors, boosted by a couple of new additions, formed an VIII and a IV. The VIII began the term with crew-building work, then split roughly into two for the University IVs competition, with a race before the event to decide which crew took the honour of being the First IV. This crew was subsequently knocked out in the early stages of the event by the eventual champions, whilst the Second IV finished as runner-up of its Division, after facing a very strong Clare IV in the finals.

The two IVs then merged back into the VIII after the competition, boosted by the additional technical skill picked up during the time in smaller boats. Training continued, despite the cold and increasingly short days restricting available water time. The first race as an VIII was in the Winter Head, where the crew performed very strongly to finish third of the College VIIIs. Final preparations for Fairbairns were hampered by illness, but recoveries were made in time for the crew to race, where a good row led to being placed fifth of thirty-five Women's VIIIs, an excellent result. The Senior IV spent the term focusing on developing technique, and chose not to race until Fairbairns. Despite the lack of race experience the crew rowed well, showing the great improvements that had been made throughout the term, and finishing tenth of the College IVs.

The novice crews made good progress over the course of the term, with strong performances both on land at Queens' Ergo competition and on the water in Clare Regatta and Fairbairns. In the latter event the First Novice VIII finished third overall, and the Second Novice VIII finished twelfth as the fastest Second VIII.

Lent Term 2006

The Lent Bumps campaign started with the traditional pre-term training camp based at Dorney Lake, the venue for the 2006 World Rowing Championships. With world-class facilities and high-quality coaching from Palo Gledhill and Cath Mangan, the women's squad had an excellent week. The twelve rowers and two coxes were a mixture of novices and seniors, allowing fresh talent to integrate into the squad and set a strong base for the term to come. The weather was kinder than expected and, with more spacious accommodation than in the past, the blistered hands and aching muscles also seemed easier to bear. Our thanks go to the LMBCA for its financial support of this camp.

Back in Cambridge, crews were selected, and the high novice retention rates allowed us to put out four women's crews. The First VIII was also delighted to make use of the new set of blades that had been generously provided by the LMBCA, with the other crews also benefiting as equipment was passed down. The first race for the top boats was the Cambridge Head to Head, allowing an early chance to test ourselves against the opposition. Both crews put in strong performances, each finishing fourth of the crews in their respective Bumps Division. The First VIII went on to race Robinson Head a few weeks after, shortly followed by Bedford Head, where a very strong row led to second place in the S3 category, behind only Clare College, which went on to gain the Lents Headship.

Lent Bumps brought mixed fortunes. The Fourth Boat had suffered a lack of water-time, and despite making good improvements over the term, failed to get on. The Third Boat had suffered similarly, particularly due to poor weather conditions causing river closures in the run-up to the Bumps. It had an excellent row in the getting-on race but narrowly missed out on a Bumps place. The Second Boat was keen to continue up the Bumps charts after last year's successes, and started the week

strongly, bumping Darwin I on the first day and Magdalene I on the second. Hopes of another bump on day three were sadly dashed as the Division was stopped due to other crews' failure to clear the river. Despite having been within a canvas of the boat in front, a technical row-over was given. A strong row on the final day saw the crew chasing an over-bump but sadly the course ended before it was able to sufficiently close the gap, finishing up two overall.

The First VIII got off to a shaky start, going down to First and Third on day one and then Newnham on day two. However, the crew learnt from the experiences and rowed over clear on day three, and again on day four when pressured by a very strong Trinity Hall crew behind. It was, however, a slightly disappointing week overall, as the relative inexperience of the crew had taken its toll on the first two days.

Both First and Second VIII went on to compete at the Women's Head of the River Race in London on 11 March. Having been unable to race the previous year due to a clash with Bumps, it was a new experience for most people, although both crews performed well. The Second VIII finished towards the top of the novice category, and the First VIII finished high amongst the S4 entries, and ninety-seventh place out of 270 overall.

First Women's VIII

Bow	Katie Hunt
2	Izzie Kaufeler
3	Elizabeth Smee
4	Lara Maister
5	Claire Jarvis
6	Clare Harvey
7	Susan Kendall
Stroke	Emma Davis
Cox	Franki McClure

Second Women's VIII

Bow	Emily Roberts
2	Anna Wood
3	Alice Charnley
4	Julia Clarke
5	Hannah Lane
6	Rose Chaffé
7	Clarissa Scholes
Stroke	Charlotte Wheeler-Booth
Cox	Ashraf El-Mashad

The Henley Boat Races occurred soon after the end of term, in which Philippa Rock and Hannah Stratford competed for Cambridge in Blondie, the women's reserve boat. Despite a strong performance, they were sadly beaten by their Oxford counterparts, Osiris. Clare Harvey

had also been training with CUWBC over the course of the year and was the official spare. Congratulations are due to all three for their hard work and commitment.

Easter Term 2006

With the squad boosted by returning triallists and others picking up their oars again after time out, term got off to a good start with a training camp held on the Cam and at Ely. Under the expert guidance of Roger Silk, the First VIII took advantage of a clear river to get some quality water-time before the start of Full Term.

Three crews were then selected to begin preparations for the May Bumps. Exam pressures limited the amount of racing the crews were able to schedule prior to the Bumps, but the First VIII competed in Champs Head where it put in a strong performance to finish fifth of the College VIII's, an encouraging result in the lead-up to the Bumps. Unseasonable weather limited the water-time available to the lower crews due to high winds, but the cooler temperatures were a welcome relief during hard training sessions!

Summer finally arrived, and with it the Bumps. The Third VIII had a strong start to the week bumping New Hall II on Wednesday and then rowing over on Thursday. Unfortunately, it fell later in the week to Corpus I and Darwin II, both of which earned their blades over the course of the week.

The Second VIII started the week chasing Robinson I, our Boathouse partners. A very fast start gained the crew an initial advantage, on which it was able to capitalise and win the bump fairly quickly. This pattern seemed to be repeated over the course of the week as it went on to bump Caius II, Pembroke II and Emmanuel II on successive days, without ever needing to row more than half the course before bumping. An excellent performance earned the crew its blades, and fourth place.

The First VIII had a more difficult week, conceding bumps to Trinity Hall and Newnham on the first two days. A revised crew order on day three boosted performance and a fast chase against Downing led to a thrilling race. Agonizingly, Downing got the bump just a couple of

hundred metres from the finish line. Fortunes improved on the final day when a solid Churchill crew moved in close but was pushed away by a determined effort leading to a well deserved row-over. The overall result of down three does not do justice to the strong but inexperienced crew.

Sadly, we were unable to compete at Henley Women's Regatta as it clashed with the Bumps, but I look forward to seeing a Lady Margaret crew there next year.

First Women's VIII

Bow	Elizabeth Smee
2	Megan Daniel
3	Philippa Rock
4	Lara Maister
5	Hannah Stratford
6	Clare Harvey
7	Susan Kendall
Stroke	Emma Davis
Cox	Franki McClure

Second Women's VIII

Bow	Emily Roberts
2	Izzie Kaufeler
3	Alice Charnley
4	Gemma Driscoll
5	Clarissa Scholes
6	Katie Rickman
7	Nina Marinsek
Stroke	Anna Wood
Cox	Ashraf El-Mashad

As ever, the successes of the year are due to the hard work and commitment of a large number of people. My thanks go out to all those who have been involved in the Women's Club over the year, especially to my Lower Boats Captain, Izzie Kaufeler, for her dedication and enthusiasm throughout. We are greatly indebted to all those who have coached the crews over the year, particularly the large number of old boys and old girls who have provided so much support and advice as well as excellent coaching. Roger Silk has, as ever, been invaluable in selecting and preparing the Lent and May Vllls for the Bumps, and Gerald Roebroeks has worked tirelessly to provide coaching and advice, in addition to looking after the fleet of boats and the Boathouse. Finally, huge thanks go to the LMBCA for its continuing support of the Club.

I leave the Women's Club in the capable hands of Gemma Sykes, and wish her every success in the coming year.

Susan Kendall
Captain

Netball

The season got off to a promising start with lots of talented new freshers joining the Club, as well as some familiar favourites from the second year who remembered that they could play netball after all. A special mention goes to Elena Kazamia, who miraculously converted her basketball skills to become a fantastic shooter, despite her continental interpretation of the 'no contact' rules. We were also lucky this year to import some talent from New Zealand in the form of Lizzy Cottrell and Justin Graham.

In the League we won every match convincingly, even when playing with six players rather than the full seven. A particular highlight was beating both Newnham and Homerton (effectively all-girl Colleges famed for their netballing prowess) in one morning. As a result, we were crowned Champions of Division Two, and have now been promoted to the First Division, where we belong. The first round of Cuppers took place at Churchill, where we overcame the abuse of the strong home crowd to beat Churchill with style, in the most exciting match of the morning. Despite this, Girton subsequently failed to beat Churchill, which meant we lost out on goal difference. As a result, we were placed third in our group and so were unable to fulfil our potential in the next stage.

Special mention should go to the endlessly versatile Stacey Kalita, Abena Dlakavu, Caroline Hartley and Alexie Frize-Williams, as well as Lizzie Rogers, who has been an excellent Mixed Team Captain/Social Secretary, and an invaluable member of the team. I would also like to thank Justin Graham for his unfaltering willingness to umpire our matches, and for introducing us to some new rules! On a sad note, we will sorely miss our shooting star and Second team Captain, Ruwani Abeyratne, who leaves after three years on the team.

It has been a pleasure to captain the team for the last two years, and kit everyone out with some particularly attractive little red skirts. I know the team will be in safe hands with Stacey Kalita, Caroline Hartley and Lizzie Rogers at the helm next year.

Alex Godlee
Captain

Mixed Netball

The St John's Mixed Netball Squad has had an excellent year both in terms of achievements and the general amount of fun had. Despite a late start to our League games, we managed to climb the League table, without losing a single game. Within two and a half weeks we played seven games, winning all but one, and shooting from bottom of the League to second: an incredible feat. We have now been promoted into the top League, and look forward to facing the best teams in Cambridge next year. In Cuppers, our team reached the quarter-finals, beating the Number One seeds, Emmanuel, in our first match. I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who has played so enthusiastically this year. Special recognition goes to the boys – from those who were learning the game as they went along, to the advanced skills of our sole Kiwi – real men truly do play netball!! The Squad comprises: Lizzie Rogers, Justin Graham, Giorgis Petridis, Jaime Royo Olid, Charles Wakiwaka, Pete Coulthard, Lou Mallam, Abena Dlakavu, Alex Godlee, Elena Kazamia, Stacey Kalita, Susanna Rickard, Alexie Frize-Williams and Caroline Hartley.

Lizzie Rogers
Captain

Men's Rugby

It is difficult somehow to imagine a Rugby Club without its 'Fridge'. Indeed it is hard now to imagine the Red Boys without their motley collection of freshers so important on the field and so central to all that occurs off it. But when last year's Captain, Matt Maitland, the sizable figure of Rob Wells, and others, left last summer for the big smoke after four years, it was with some trepidation that the remaining players contemplated a new season, and the cauldron of top flight College Rugby.

I remember the nervous expressions of familiar faces in our inaugural training session glancing round and sharing a common realisation that we few were now 'senior' players, old hands of a Club with a record to uphold. However, these doubts were washed away in an evening of

profound jollity as the Club commenced its first social occasion of the year at the curry house, where a good number of Spanish friends were made under the fatherly eyes of the Club's oldest and dearest supporter, Uncle Jamal.

On the pitch, a young, experimental John's side took on the old boys in a hard fought encounter with a number of first years out-playing their opposition, despite the colossal weight advantage. The game was played in good spirits, the highlight being provided by Fabio and his manic dash for the line only to be felled in a blaze of glory by the slowest of slow front-row forwards.

And so the season proper commenced with a string of solid victories, beginning with a fine win over the 'village' on home soil. John's then ran out eventual 19-0 winners against a shirty and dogged Girton side in a game where Edmund decided he didn't want to play any more, choosing to invent a staircase on the rump of a 'cheating' Girton player and earning himself a meeting with the rather splendid Head of the Disciplinary Panel. In the third week of Michaelmas, a characteristic brace from the forbiddable Welshman brought victory over a stubborn Downing side, in spite of the blowing gale.

With a solitary try conceded in these opening fixtures, a John's side easing into its customary stride came up for the first time against the old enemy. The usual pre-match rhetoric – Dye gesticulating over the fields to John's Chapel tower and calling us all to its defence – was interrupted by a very unusual saga. With Smithy out injured, the Hound (our man in Madrid) had been called in to cover. And so in the final minutes before the game we awaited his arrival from Luton airport where the Club's social fraternity had provided him with the very best form of liquid refreshment after the plane journey. Thus refreshed, and with seconds to the whistle, the best looking man in John's arrived to take the field in a game which, although won, left the side despondent in the knowledge that with greater challenges ahead, plenty of work was still required. A 56-0 rout over Pembroke did little to alter the situation before the Christmas break.

Lent Term began with a bruising encounter with Magdalene, coming

from behind to win 19-10. A convincing victory over Downing the following week took us to Jesus for the away fixture. Jesus required a win to stay in the top flight, whilst victory for John's would all but seal the League. But the Red Boys came out and put in the best performance of the season to date – winning 30-0 with the closing try, crossing the length of the pitch and numerous pairs of hands. Ripples of a hearty 'sign on' bellowing from the far touch line went unanswered by the dwindling home fans.

The League was won, with John's suffering a solitary defeat of the season to Pembroke in a bizarre game at home. Thus proven fallible, the side entered the uncertainties of the knock-out Cuppers run where a walk-over against Robinson led us to another old enemy: Hughes Hall in the quarters. The ferocity of last year's encounter led to feverish speculation... which 'Blues' were going to play? In the end Hughes Hall turned out a poor side, the game being stopped after half time at 54-0. Proof, if it were needed, that a team with a few star players will never stand up to a side that has trained together and played together.

The season coming to a climax, John's prepared for a semi-final versus Magdalene with injuries to Drage and Thompson adding worry to an already nervous build-up. The game was won 19-10 in the hardest fight I can remember. Outstanding performances from a back-line that had been firing all season kept out the Irishman Magee, while the Forwards worked themselves to a standstill in a game where John's had only one third of the possession.

Two sessions of flair touché and the last of the bemoaned 8.00am lineout sessions later, the team arrived at Grange Road on the final Wednesday of Lent Term, to defend the Cuppers' trophy against Christ's. A frenetic opening quarter settled before the break to allow John's their stride – Murray and Buxton going over to open the account. In spite of an ill-judged cross-field punt from the Captain, the team remained focused, playing some quality rugby to the half-way mark. The next forty minutes produced the greatest display of champagne rugby I have witnessed at John's; finishing with a 53-0 victory, the greatest margin of victory, I believe, in a Cuppers final to date.

But the success of the season, I think, lies in the characters that make up this current batch of Red Boys. Buxton has learnt to catch the ball, but in tackling he remains wholly incapable. Gnome is still jealous that Bidder looks like him, just faster (perhaps prettier). Duncan still cannot play more than fifteen minutes without fainting. Gilly, with his head band and long hair, heralds from an altogether different age, as does Rupert, who cannot feel pain. William throws tantrums when he can't do flair and Effie still wishes that gin and tonics were served at the pavilion. Who will forget Dave 'the Fridge' Wood rumbling onto the field topless to exchange shirts, the festivities of the Christmas party or the holiday antics?

As always, the Club owes an enormous debt of gratitude to Keith for providing a pristine pitch, to Richard Samworth for his Backs coaching and expertise and to the higher echelons of the College for their support this season.

The Club moves into 2007 with an unprecedented 'triple double' firmly in its sights. As we say goodbye to some of its favourite sons – Dye, Gillespie, Alexander, Thompson, Barnes and Welch – the foundations for a new generation sit ready and prepared to extend this golden era in the SJCRUFC.

Ashley Elliot
Captain

Women's Rugby

Admittedly we may not have got off to the best of starts, but, with typical Red Girl resilience, our new recruits bounced back from consecutive defeats against Catz and Churchill to put the Meerkats in their place. From this point on we proved a tight unit, working to amount a points total both on and off the pitch. Indeed, perhaps the secret to our success lay in a strong team spirit, with unique bonds between coaches and players.

Consistently strong performances from Charlotte 'Points' Marriott, Charlie French, on-pitch Captain Yuheng Zhou, and our favourite

booze-fuelled Winger, Jo, saw the team cruise through to Cuppers semi-finals, undoubtedly the crucial match of the season. Despite a typical all-round team performance, we were ultimately outdone by their secret weapon, who even outpaced Pell and eventually Girton in the final. That said, we had undoubtedly evolved into a formidable outfit, battling together as a true team with each woman playing her part. The contrasting scores bore testament to our improvement, losing just 17-5 in the semis, as opposed to 47-5 in October.

We are particularly grateful to our four fantastic coaches: Paddy, D-rage, Flemming and Tino, whose commitment and enthusiastic team-talks have been essential to our success. Thanks to Keith and his team for providing and maintaining the pitches this year and, as ever, to our two fans (they know who they are).

We wish next year's team, captained by Hannah Lane, the best of luck, and are booking our Grange Road seats now, to watch the good ladies of St John's bring the Cuppers title home next year.

Lesley Airey, Lucy Puddle (Captains) and Juliet Cook (Secretary)

Men's Squash

This year has been a very good year for Men's Squash at St John's. The addition of two new Blues standard players, in the shape of Jamie Douglas and Nick Sutcliffe, to accompany the veteran, Mark Ryan, meant that the depth of quality we already had was greatly enhanced at the top end. As such, our teams have been very successful in all competitions.

The Michaelmas League campaign set the standard for the rest of the year – fielding four teams required a large co-ordination of manpower to make sure that all fixtures were played. After a sustained effort though, the First team were rightly promoted back to Division One and the Third team was also promoted, with good performances posted by both Rob Miles and Michal Antosik, winning all their matches. The Second team narrowly missed out on promotion after a narrow defeat to Magdalene. The Fourth team also came second in their division and

narrowly missed out on promotion, with Mike Palmer putting in a good effort to win all his matches.

The Lent Leagues were always going to be more of a struggle after the First and Third teams gained promotion, and we were further hampered by injury across the teams. However, even without all results finalised, it looks as though all the teams have consolidated their positions in their respective divisions, with the Fourth team very close to gaining promotion. Special thanks to Chris Cleaver, Farouk Hadeed and Aaron Clements-Partridge for their efforts in helping to secure this promotion. In the First team I'd also like to thank the ever-present Peter Scott for his continuing commitment to the cause, and also Robin Kemp and Anish Bhuva for their efforts and good results towards the end of the season.

In the Cuppers competition, St John's has been absolutely unbeatable. The team of Jamie Douglas, Nick Sutcliffe, Mark Ryan, Mike Horridge and Peter Scott are currently undefeated, and are waiting for the finals to take place to cement their hold on the trophy. This achievement should hopefully cap what has been an excellent year for Men's Squash, with a large number of people playing on the ladder, attending the Wednesday social practices and eager to get into the teams.

A very pleasant and enjoyable dinner in the Wordsworth Room rounded off the Lent Term. Congratulations go to Mark Ryan and Jamie Douglas for being awarded Blues after their victories in this year's Varsity match. I'd like to thank Dr McConnel for his continuing support in running the Squash teams and his pressing for maintenance to the courts in College. Thanks are also due to everybody who's played squash for St John's this year – without the massive support from people eager to play squash in College it wouldn't be possible for St John's to run such successful teams. Hopefully the tastefully-designed kit we now have should encourage future generations of Johnians to keep up the good work on the squash courts and allow Johnian domination both in the Leagues and in Cuppers to continue well into the future.

Mike Horridge
Captain

Ladies' Squash

St John's College Ladies' Squash has fielded two strong teams with the capacity to call on players in reserve. This is no mean feat given traditional problems with ladies' recruitment. In addition, our teams have shown nothing but success in League results. After Michaelmas Term, the First team was convincingly promoted to the First League. The Second team remained in the Second League but emerged relatively stronger since it was then built up with teams promoted from lower Divisions.

Our First team has involved Lucy Puddle, Frieda van Belle and Amanda Sinden. Lucy is tied to many other sporting commitments but the common basics of footwork and fitness training are readily transferable and she was selected as the first player for the Varsity Second Squash team. Frieda was a new recruit to the College scene. She arrived with a solid background of tennis training which she was able to adapt effectively. With her power, speed, stamina and enthusiasm, she is one to look out for!

Our Second team included Andrea Kuesters, Yuheng Zhou and Jules Cook. Andrea Kuesters has likewise been training with the University Second Squash team. The experience of University-level coaching, practising racquet skills and playing similarly-matched opponents, cannot be underrated and was aptly demonstrated in Andrea's performance. Finally, Yuheng Zhou and Jules Cook have both proved to be inspiringly dedicated players. They've also been involved in College Rugby and were able to use this controlled aggression to best advantage on the squash courts!

St John's contingent was out in force at the Queens' Cup knock-out tournament. This event is held over two days, involving entries from college teams across the University. Yuheng lost her first match but moved with hope into the Plate competition. She fought hard but unfortunately lost this one. Amanda won the third/ fourth play-offs and her victor from the semis went on to meet Frieda in the finals. Tension was high as we were faced with John's players both in the Men's and Women's finals. Although Frieda lost a close match, it was incredible to

see her playing in the final of a University-wide tournament, especially after only signing up to College Squash a few weeks previously!

We are lucky to have the support of the Men's Club with coaching from Mike Horridge, Peter Scott and Mark Ryan. Our thanks go to them and, in particular, to Mike, for organising our social events including the Squash dinner. Let's hope that renovations to the Cripps' Squash Courts will attract future talent and enable this core of Ladies' Squash players to grow and fulfil the Club's promising potential!

Amanda Sinden
Captain

Swimming

Improving on last year's performance, which saw John's win the Men's and Overall Cuppers competitions with the Women a close second, was always going to be tough. I'm delighted to report, however, that this year the Women's team put in a tremendous performance, dominating the competition and winning by a considerable margin. An inexperienced Men's team, containing just two swimmers from last year's victorious outfit, and hindered on Cuppers Weekend by both injury and illness, put in a performance to be proud of, finishing sixth behind some very strong competition. Together this proved easily enough to retain the Overall Trophy.

The weekend started in much the same vein as last year, with both the Men's and Women's teams ensuring that there was a Johnian representative in every single final, both individuals and relays. This is a feat that is fast becoming a College tradition, yet one that only a single other college managed to emulate.

There were so many good swims on Finals Day that there is barely room to document them all. Warwick Bloore put in two exceptional swims, competing in the Breaststroke. In the Heats he managed to qualify for the A final, despite injuring his shoulder in the process. In the finals he surpassed this by bravely finishing in Bronze Medal Position whilst

carrying his injury. First years Clarence So and Chris Charles were both called upon at the last minute to swim in more events than planned, due to the aforementioned injury, performing with distinction and enthusiasm throughout. They are both exciting prospects, and now have some experience and good swims upon which to build. Stelios Elia also deserves mention for solid performances in the Individual Medley as well as both relays, the only disappointment being that he won't be around to compete in future years!

It was the Women, however, who justifiably stole the limelight from the Men. Izzie Kaufeler incredibly managed to better last year's performance, winning the title in both the Individual Medley and Butterfly. Emma Davis was also in fine form, winning the Freestyle and only narrowly being forced into second in the Backstroke. Both Emma and Susan Kendall, who put in a good swim for the 50m Breaststroke, deserve special thanks for their service to the College Swimming team over the years. Another swimmer in her final year who warrants considerable credit is our very own Blue, Morgan Barensen, who was in unstoppable form all weekend and made an important contribution to the team's success.

To conclude, I would like to wish the swimmers in their final year at John's (Emma, Susan, Morgan and Stelios) the very best for their future, and offer heartfelt thanks to every member of the team who can all be proud of their performances. It's great to know that, again, two of the three swimming trophies can call St John's their home for the coming year.

Aaron Clements-Partridge
Captain

The Cricket Club

Easter Term dawned, following a particularly dry Lent, which caused the home pitch to yield some bounce in the early season for the quicks. However, the pre-season friendlies were mainly dominated by batting, where we showed a keen nose for the chase, successfully overhauling

large totals against the Suffolk Gents and the Jesters. Against the Suffolk Gents, Charles Marsh hit a gallant 99 not out, ably supported by Chris Smith, Nic Ross, Chris Rice and a resilient lower order to chase 230. Then, Chris Cleaver and Ben Smith were the stars as we chased an even larger total against the Jesters. In both these matches our bowlers suffered as a result of a flat pitch and experienced opposition. However, strong performances were turned in by the likes of Tim Gordon, Martin Lowes and fresher Jonny Ariyaratnam, whose accurate off-spin is surely a hope for the future. Other prospects from the new intake include Rupert Walter, whose all-round skill belies his home behind the stumps, and Dave Wood, who graciously took time out from his intensive protein-supplemented exercise programme to successfully turn his hand at both batting and bowling.

We suffered a heavy loss to the Stoics in mid-May, despite the return of College stalwarts, Debs Haldar and Nick Charwood. The Stoics racked up an enormous total on a benign pitch, although Dave Shackleton showed some promise with some neat off-breaks. When the roles were reversed, we eventually capitulated well short of the target, despite a strong start from Shackleton and Murray.

The pre-season friendlies over, we proceeded directly to Cuppers, which unfortunately turned out to be a damp squib in several ways. A heavy rain shower delayed the start of our first-round match, and opponents, Selwyn, could only muster ten players. They were promptly skittled for 24 by accurate bowling from Haldar, Lowes and returning Blue, Robin Kemp. This total was comfortably chased by Mike Palmer and Murray, beating the impending rain and allowing a return to College in time for the FA Cup final.

At this point the weather intervened, providing us with three weeks of consistent rain and, thus, halting our season until after exams. With luck we will have a full calendar of fixtures in June and a solid performance in Cuppers. I would also like to wish Robin Kemp and Ben Smith the best of luck for their upcoming Varsity matches.

Come the end of this season, we will be losing a number of great servants to the Club in Debs Haldar, Nick Charlwood, Mike Palmer and Charles Marsh, to name but a few. It has been a pleasure to play with them and I wish them every success for the future. I am very grateful for the support I have received this season from Vice-Captain, Karan Keswani, and Secretary, Chris Cleaver. As ever, the Cricket Club is enormously indebted to Keith and Catharine for their tireless work in the pavilion, and I cannot thank them enough for the support and guidance they have given me and the team as a whole.

Jono Murray
Captain

COLLEGE SPORTS

Men's Badminton

It is my pleasure to report that this year has been extremely successful for the Badminton Club, with all three teams improving on their performances in recent years. Once again, a large group of talented and dedicated Freshers was able to strengthen all three squads. I would like to thank the College for its continued funding of our Kelsey Kerridge sessions, which enabled people to play against members of other squads and helped to instil a sense of camaraderie within the team.

The main social event for the season was the Annual Dinner held in the Wordsworth Room at the end of Lent Term. This was well attended by players from all teams and provided a fitting end to the badminton season. On a personal note, I would like to thank all those who have played badminton this year: in particular Tim Gordon and Sam Gibbons for their commitment and enthusiasm as Second and Third team Captains respectively.

First Team

The First team has had a variable year. Freshmen Vishal Vyas, Di Liang and new graduate Yod Charoensawan brought enthusiasm and experience to a squad also containing Tom Holroyd, Chris Thomas, Chris Lonergan and Michael Griffiths. Unfortunately, results did not go to plan during Michaelmas, when a number of narrow defeats meant we had to settle for fifth position in the First Division. However, the whole team put in some hard work before the start of the Lent Term matches and were rewarded with some excellent results. An emphatic 9-0 victory in the last game of the season meant that we finished Lent Term at the top of the First Division, tied on points and games with Jesus College. I would also like to thank Amar Shah and Tim Gordon for their dependable performances when asked to substitute up to the First team.

Second Team

Michaelmas term was highly successful for the Second team, as they managed to gain promotion to the Second Division. Much credit needs to be given to the squad of Tim Gordon, Peter Dannatt, Ian Pong, Phil Ellison, Samson Lin, Amar Shah and Rob Liu as they beat a number of College First teams on their way to finishing top of their League. Maintaining their status in the Second Division was always going to be difficult, and their cause was not helped when injury and other commitments meant that half the squad could not play in Lent Term. However, both Nikhil Dodhia and Adam Bond impressed as the team fought valiantly to retain their League position. Unfortunately, they were beaten 4-5 in their relegation decider against Peterhouse. Disappointing though that result was, it should not take the shine off what has been a very successful season for the Second team.

Third Team

The Third team produced a number of strong performances during the year. Second years Sam Gibbons and Peter Hatfield were joined by Luke Lorimer, Dave Nissenbaum, Kan Lu and Chris Nash. The improvements in the performances of all players were clearly evident as the season progressed, and the team was justly rewarded with a second place at the end of Lent Term, which should see them promoted into the Third Division.

Michael Griffiths
Captain

Women's Badminton

First Team

Another successful season for St John's Ladies' First team has seen us remaining in the First Division of the League. We won convincingly against Christ's and Trinity Hall, but lost narrowly to arch-rivals Trinity and ARU; however our thirty-one games won secured us a stable mid-table position. Unfortunately, our Cuppers team suffered for a lack of our Blues, and we were knocked out by Catz in the semi-final, who went on to win the competition, beating Trinity. Our Cuppers side consisted of myself and Philippa Rock, Liz Durkin and Karen Ng, and Hana Hijazi and Louise Bowmaker, all committed First-team players. Our League side also benefited from the skills of Jenny Oates, Sarah James and Claire Blaukopf. Congratulations to Liz Durkin, who has been unanimously voted in as First-team Captain for 2007-08.

Sara Litchfield
First Team Captain

Second Team

The Second team has enjoyed a rather different year to the First team. After a well-fought battle to remain in the Second Division of the League in Michaelmas Term, it was unanimously decided to tactically lose in Lent Term in order to slightly alleviate the pressure of being the highest-ranking Second team in the University and allow other College First teams the chance to rise. Eternal gratitude to my badminton monkeys who helped us remain the highest-ranking Second team despite our relegation: Ellie Roberts, Laura Brogan, Charlotte Wheeler-Booth, Ellie Rye, Emily Husain, Kay Jenkinson, Laura Sturdee and Wei Zhang. Congratulations...no...good luck to the new Second-team Captain, Ellie Roberts. I am confident she will ensure that we have as much fun next year as we did this year.

Karen Ng
Second Team Captain

The Chess Club

The year certainly started off in style: we were defending Cuppers champions, and ranked third in Division One. We were also £110 in debt, and had no a) chess boards, or even b) *members*...

Despite everything, we made it through the year somehow, putting in some beautiful performances along the way. David Barraclough, Melvin Chin, Craig Morrison and Amar Shah all played spectacular games, while special mention should go to Luke Lorimer for his memorable win against the very strong Peterhouse opposition while, um, heavily intoxicated.

With our voluntary relegation (by decision of the previous Captain) to Division Three, this might initially seem to be a disappointing year on paper. But chess is all about the set-up, and I'd like to think we've used this year to position ourselves very well indeed. We're out of debt – and should in fact be set for a full equipment upgrade at the end of the year; we have a club website – of dubious usefulness perhaps, but rather pretty to look at nevertheless; and we've established a strong, stable core of players – along with a Johnian strategically placed (ahem) as CUCC Vice-President...

As such, it is with high hopes that I pass my duties over to Dave Nissenbaum, and wish him the best of luck for the upcoming year. Thanks for everything, everyone – it's been an honour!

Loren Lam
Captain

The Eagles

'When thou seest an eagle, thou seest a portion of genius' – William Blake

Blake's words continue to ring true, and anyone fortunate enough to catch a glimpse of Eagle Wheatley-Hubbard in his role as obstacle for the Blues Hockey side will doubtless agree. The Eagles have continued to lead both the College and University in the sporting arena.

Once again, the Club has had to wrestle with its conscience over the admittance of Men's Lacrosse players. To echo the words of the former US president Bill Clinton, 'You can put wings on a pig, but you don't make it an eagle'. Yet it must be admitted that the current convocation of Eagles have again been nothing short of outstanding.

Casting our minds back to Easter Term 2006, Eagle Murray took time out of his rigorous Mixed Netball schedule to lead St John's on the cricket field. Disappointingly, though it has to be said rather predictably, John's again failed to make a dent in the Cup competition and it is incumbent upon the new Captain Eagle Shackleton to reverse this unfortunate trend.

At University level, Eagle Kemp picked up his second one-day Blue, taking two wickets in a low-scoring defeat, while Eagle Smith, soon to take up full-time employment with HM Customs and Excise (Weights and Measures Division), turned out for the Crusaders.

Lieutenant Lloyd's departure to pastures new, coupled with Eagle Goldsmith's University-level focus, left a gaping hole in the administrative side of the Hockey Club but with the help of Eagles Goldsmith, Samuelson, Richardson and Drage, St John's comfortably beat the new League Champions, Jesus, after Christmas, proving our inadequacies were indeed more administrative than hockey-related.

At University Level, Eagle Goldsmith led the Wanderers to Varsity victory, the brink of promotion and also to the 2nd XI Cup Final. Meanwhile, I found time in my hectic Management Studies schedule to lead the Blues to National League promotion and a hard-fought Varsity Match win, whereupon the aforementioned Eagle Wheatley-Hubbard

picked up his first Blue, and I joined Dr McConnel as one of only a handful of players to be sin-binned in the annual game. Eagle Richardson was unfortunately found to be ineligible, dashing his hopes of a Blues appearance.

On the rugby field, St John's continues to excel. Led largely from the sideline by Eagle Buxton, a mid-season injury allowing him to pursue his Half-Blue in 'poodle-fakery', the Red Boys went on to complete an historic triple double. Eagles Smith, Holmes, Andrews, Elliott, Morrison, Murray, Scrimshaw and Samuelson (when not picking up a cheeky Half-Blue in modern pentathlon) combined to make their season one of the finest in living memory.

On the University front, a record three Eagles went on the Blues pre-season tour to Biarritz with Eagles Smith, Buxton and Andrews all remembering to sport the iconic tie. Eagle Murray went on to pick up his second University Colour and Eagle Andrews gained a winning Blue at Twickenham, whereupon he appeared to confuse his role as University Boxing Captain, becoming the third player to be sin-binned in Varsity Rugby history. In Rugby League, Eagle Scrimshaw picked up a Half Blue, though ended up on the losing side in a close-fought Varsity match.

The Football Club had a largely disappointing season, scoring fewer points in the League than Eagle Adams managed in his final year. Marshalled by Eagle Simpson, and bolstered by Eagles Quinn, Bell and Gibson, the team struggled with a lack of strength in depth. Undoubtedly though, the obstinate refusal of wingless Sivner to perform his own inimitable brand of goalkeeping heroics, choosing instead to concentrate on his University golfing career, was a blow that many sides would have struggled to overcome. Eagle Quinn led the University 2nd XI to within a minute of beating Oxford, before agonisingly losing on a penalty shoot-out. Eagle Pantelides was forced to embrace a spectator's role, pioneered by Eagle Dye.

On the water, under Eagle Trnka's Captaincy, the 1st XIII moved up one to fourth on the river in the Lent Bumps and held position in the Mays. Eagle Smedley took time out of his ultimate fighting series with Eagle

Morrison to form the spine of the University Sailing team with Eagle Heywood, who as well as skippering Cambridge, currently captains the British Universities and came ninth with GB at the 2006 World Sailing Games.

In boxing, Eagle Andrews, buoyed by success at Twickenham, led a confident team to take on Oxford in the 100th Varsity Match. Whilst he was successful in his bout, a number of close calls left Cambridge on the wrong side of the result. Eagle Holmes, a relative newcomer to the sport was sadly not selected despite having knocked out his first opponent inside three minutes and taken on the Frazier-inspired title of Smokin' Rory Holmes.

In racquet sports, Eagle Douglas played in both the Varsity Squash and Real Tennis matches, and will captain both next year. Eagle Bell picked up a Half Blue in Racquets, Eagle Ashcroft captained the University Badminton 2nd XI despite having a broken wrist, whilst Blues Squash player Eagle Ryan had to contend with a year on the sidelines following a torn cruciate ligament.

Last and certainly not least is Eagle MacLeod who is apparently still a member of the College. He not only captained the University Karate team to Varsity Match success, Cambridge's first victory in the fixture for four years, but also went on to win Gold at the BUSA Championships.

It just remains for me to thank a number of Senior Eagles for their support this year: Dr McConnel for his work as Senior Treasurer and for assisting Wendy Redgewell organise the dinner; Keith for the excellent sports pitches; and the Master for allowing us the use of his garden for our ever-splendid Garden Party. It has been an honour and a privilege to head up this fine institution and whilst we continue to elect only the finest Johnian sportsmen, the Club will remain at the pinnacle of College and University sport long into the future.

Nunc est bibendum

Mike Palmer
Big Bird

The Flamingos

Following what can only be described as a lean summer, in which no fewer than twelve of our number left the fine surroundings of St John's for pastures new (or perhaps dark blue in the case of last year's President), the Flamingos have rebounded to yet another strong year, with Johnian women excelling across the wide sphere of University sport.

The 2006–07 season has not only seen the election of nine new Fledglings to the Flock, but the arrival of much coveted stash. The Flamingos are now made conspicuous in College not only by the amount of sports equipment they may be seen trailing behind them, but by embroidered V-neck jumpers to go with pink pashminas.

On the river, Fledgling Hannah Stratford demonstrated incredible tenacity, determination and natural talent in earning a seat in the Blue Boat for this year's Henley Boat Races. Victory over Oxford by half a length and a Full Blue were just reward for a 9.00pm 'bedtime' and consumption of at least a block of cheese a day!

Fledgling Sara Litchfield rounded off her Johnian sporting career in style with her award of Johnian 'Hockey Player of the Season' adding to University Colours for Hockey and a successful season as College Badminton Captain. She is joined by Fledgling Anna Stanley who earned a Full Blue for Hockey in a hard-fought 3–1 defeat. She will continue to play Blues next year in her new role as Vice-Captain.

The next in a long line of successful Fledglings, Jules Clark demonstrated her prowess on a lacrosse pitch to gain her Full Blue, an achievement added to by her election as University Real Tennis Captain for the coming season.

Having dabbled in University Rugby and Lacrosse, Fledgling Charlie Marriot found her true vocation as St John's Football Captain. Her militant (self-) enforced drinking bans and strict training regime (approx once a year) resulted in John's romping to the Second Division Championship with not a goal conceded. As St John's take up their place in the First Division for the first time in their history it remains to be seen whether Flamingo Becks Fisher will surpass her tally of sixty-

three goals in just ten games next season. This she adds to her third Full Blue representing the University Football team and a successful season as St John's Tennis Captain. She is joined in the Blues Football team by Fresher and Fledgling Lizzie Richardson, who deserves great credit for earning a Full Blue within an incredibly competitive squad.

It is to the great credit of the Club that we boast members involved not only in playing University sport, but in running and promoting it. Flamingo Dilly Nock oversaw a fantastically successful season as President of the Ospreys, only to see a Johnian step in as her successor, Flamingo Lindsey Mehrer.

As ever, the Flamingos are indebted to Dr Helen Watson and Dr Nancy Lane Perham for their fantastic support and assistance. Their hospitality is neither unnoticed nor unappreciated. That St John's is a College with a great sporting tradition is not in question. The numerous achievements of the current flock of Flamingos ensure that the tradition shows no signs of abating.

Becks Fisher
President

Men's Football

'Some people think football is a matter of life and death. I assure you, it's much more serious than that.' – Bill Shankly

For the Men's Football Club, there may not be a long list of tangible achievements this season. However, with such a numerous loss of prominent players last year it was always going to be a struggle, and one of development and growth. And if these were our only targets, we surpassed them. We struggled, we grew and we developed.

As with the beginning of every season, excitement builds approaching the Fresher Trials, to assess the new talent which graces this historic College's grounds. A whole range of ability is found, with those arriving from the Vinnie Jones School of Tackling, to those with a distinctive

Brazilian flair, yet few are able to combine these abilities with simple motor coordination. Hence, a highly critical process summarised by the few words, 'he will do', led to a surprisingly large number of first years joining the ranks of the First XI team. Newly selected First XI squad members included Paul Edwards, Tom Verney, Jack Hambleton, Martin MacQuarrie, Rob Gray, Ollie Hunt and Wayne Redmond.

Paul Edwards, the younger brother of our dominant mid-field maestro Mike, yet bigger, slightly slower, but equally Scouse, became our much-needed Centre Back of choice. Tom Verney, a choirboy by trade, appeared to keep goal in his pyjamas before the arrival of the new team kit. Jack Hambleton, originating from the Midlands, with floppy brown hair and the ability to shank the ball skywards, reminded us much of a more senior player. The arrival of a platinum blonde Geordie right winger, in the form of Martin MacQuarrie, raised great hopes of the potential for a considerably more intelligent Gazza-esque player, but his lack of excessive drinking and his refusal to cry after losing games disappointed the team significantly. Cheesecake-loving Rob Gray and Ollie Hunt both provided the required bolstering of the defence, as did the resident bad-boy Wayne Redmond. A long time sufferer of alcohol-induced annoyingness, combined with a passion and ability for the game, Wayne brought spirit to the John's side this year.

Despite a largely unrecognisable team, the new intake made an encouraging start to the season, with an unwarranted 1-0 loss to Churchill, followed by a convincing 2-0 win over Sidney Sussex. Injury once again struck the team early in the season though as the Captain and the big target man, Jack Hambleton, were felled by a distinctly bad cough and forced to miss a number of games. This was after having already lost Steve Quinn and Robbie Munroe pre-season to eating and work commitments, respectively.

This led to a run of poor performances, which slowly pushed the First XI lower in the League tables. The eventual seventh in the table finish was not representative of the potential ability of the team, which reached its pinnacle in a 4-1 triumph over Fitzwilliam. Luxurious flowing football, resembling the 1966 England World Cup victory, asked questions for another year of what could have been. Goal of the

Season goes to Wayne Redmond in respect of his thirty-yard bullet during this game, assisted by Nick Pantelides whose equally long punt picked him out.

In a less than democratic way, the awards for Player of the Season and Most Improved Player go to Tom Verney and Mark Koller respectively. In a season in which goals have been hard to come by, it was the strength and diligence of our surprisingly good goalkeeper, which kept the morale high in many games. As for Mark Koller, he had two choices – criminal harassment and a restraining order, or intimidating and effective defender. Luckily for us he chose the second, unfortunately only after two years of toying with the first. This brought him permanently into the First XI where he has consistently played a vital role and improved dramatically.

Despite a lack of silverware gracing the College Bar cabinet this season, St John's Football Club has become one which works well both on and off the pitch. Successful social events and a Newcastle Tour, combined with an unprecedented mentality of teamwork have made the Club a joy to be a member of and to lead. Many thanks must go to my Committee: Mike (Vice-Captain), Nick (Treasurer), Andy (Secretary), and HVC Skinner, who have helped enormously throughout the season. St John's Football Team is also grateful to Taylor Wessing, our sponsors, for the provision of team jackets and kits. This just leaves me to say thank you to Keith, the College Groundsman, for consistently providing fine playing surfaces, and to Dr McConnel for his support of College sport.

It is now my pleasure to pass on my role of Captain to Tom Verney, who has already promised to take St John's Football Club to the top of the charts with a rendition of 'Sign On' with a reggae backbeat. St John's will always be at the forefront of College Football; I just hope it is not too long before we are back at the top where we belong.

Ashley Simpson
Captain

Women's Football

Our season was far more successful than anyone could have hoped. Contrary to predictions of relegation battles, or at the very best mid-table anonymity, the Women's Football Club achieved promotion to Division One. Our League performance was consistent – 5W 0D 0L, F31 A0 – although a slight dip in performance against Darwin saw us score only two goals.

The attack remained strong this year (despite the best efforts of the Captain) with Becks maintaining her prolific scoring form from last year and buoyed by the efforts of Lizzie. As Michaelmas Term progressed, SJCW AFC was also fortified with the arrival of Jessamyn and Clare, as well as the coercion of Hannah into being goalkeeper.

Our Cuppers run involved an embarrassing 15–0 annihilation of Robinson-Selwyn and a 9–3 trouncing of Sidney Sussex in which even a celebrity came by the Fridge (posing as referee) did not prevent us reaching the semi-finals. Unfortunately we then lost 3–2 to the eventual winners, Homerton, but the match was an epic battle and involved us coming back from 2–0 down to then be beaten at the last.

Thanks to Ash, Rich, Andy, Pete, and Other Rich for all their help in the coaching, refereeing and admin departments, and to Keith for overlooking my organisational inability.

I'd like to wish next year's Captain (and this year's Player of the Season) Lizzie Richardson good luck and hope she keeps SJCW AFC on the path to total domination and yet again outperforming our male counterparts.

Well done to everyone who played for the team this season!

Charlie Marriott
Captain

Ladies' Hockey

With new additions to an already exceptionally talented team and the encouraging presence of our coach/taxi/umpire, Blues goalkeeper, Andrew Wheatley-Hubbard, we have had another successful season in the First Division. We dominated in our matches against New Hall, Trinity and a combined Corpus Christi/Peterhouse team where the scores were an impressive 10–0, 5–0 and 4–0 respectively. Although these are striking scorelines, the highlight of the season was without a doubt our win against Girton. Despite the absence of all current University players, the team showed that we are strong all-round with a 3–1 win under the Captaincy of Lydia Tong whose flair continues to impress. Due to illness we had to forfeit to St Catharine's, lost to a solid Downing team and were beaten by Churchill in two very close matches and therefore finished fourth in the League.

After a fantastic result in the first round of Cuppers, where we beat Magdalene 7–2 with Anna Stanley's shooting abilities leaving their defence helpless, we were confident that we could improve on our promising performance last year when a St Catharine's team, jammed with University players, had knocked us out in the quarter-finals. We were pleased to beat Trinity in the second round but were unfortunately knocked out in the semi-finals by a very strong Downing team who then went on to beat St Catharine's in the final. With both teams clearly pumped-up and eager to prove themselves, the first half of the match was closely contended. However defending proved difficult after our extremely talented Fresher and University mid-fielder, Lisa Noble, had a dramatic collision with the Downing Captain leaving her unable to continue playing. Despite notable determination from Sarah Mackie in defence and the team's unwavering morale, Downing snatched the game in the second half. However, the trend of the past two years would suggest that next year may bring with it our moment of glory in the Cuppers Final.

Having a team of highly-skilled and adaptable players has facilitated my decisions about team formation. Katy Lutley's strong tackling and bursts of speed have made her a key member of the defence who is equally skilful in her threatening attacking stints. Her positional

flexibility is matched by that of Ammie Brewer who has performed consistently well, making excellent passes, be they in mid-field or defence. Fresher Helen Ennos' growing confidence has made her a vital member of the front line along with Anneka Dew, whose team spirit is to be commended, and Beth Harper whose skills upfront have led to her setting up many goals. Late addition Jessica Priestley added some fresh energy to the front line playing alongside Bex Roberts whose solid skills have also resulted in some great performances in mid-field. Special mention must go to our fearless newcomer Loren Lam who impressed us all with her talent and courage in goal this season. My thanks go also to Sara Litchfield who, always bursting with energy, and capable of boosting team morale by finding the most beautiful kit we have ever had the privilege of playing in, has been a most supportive and efficient Vice-Captain. Having played for the University this year, Sara's attacking skills have gone from strength to strength and she fully deserved the title of Player of the Season.

It is my pleasure to leave the team in the hands of the ever-enthusiastic Franji Scott whose energy and sportsmanship will no doubt attract another valuable set of Freshers. She will be assisted by Ellie Roberts whose on-pitch composure and strength will make her a calming and encouraging Vice-Captain. I wish the team every success in the forthcoming season.

Natasha Tanna
Captain

Mixed Lacrosse

This year Mixed Lacrosse has truly flourished. A combination of new stars and old veterans saw a squad with no fewer than six substitutes arrive at our opening League game against Pembroke. Despite the pouring rain, St John's fought magnificently to secure our first win of the season, a trend which continued throughout Michaelmas, with wins against Trinity, Sidney Sussex, and Emma. The start of the Lent Term saw the much anticipated arrival of some very fetching new shirts and lacrosse sticks. Looking truly professional, John's stormed through the last few matches of the League, easily qualifying for the League semi-final against Churchill/Girton. What followed was a gruelling match of high tension and drama; sticks were broken, dubious tackles were made and tempers frayed. A 1-1 scoreline at full-time saw the start of a golden goal period. John's emerged from their huddle a new team and after only a few moments of play managed to produce a beautiful run of caught passes culminating in an exceptional goal from Dan Fallon. The final against Downing was an excellent game, including a vital contribution from our cheerleading squad, but sadly Downing just had the edge, winning 2-0.

The final event on the lacrosse calendar was Cuppers. As usual a strong John's team played with flair and style. Unfortunately, after a slight mix-up with scoring, we did not progress quite as far as we might have hoped but this did not dampen the spirit of the day or the season as a whole.

I would like to thank all those who played this year for such an enjoyable and successful season and especially Katie Hunt for her help in coaching and organising. I leave the team in the capable hands of Tom Johnson, under whose leadership I am sure Mixed Lacrosse will continue to go from strength to strength.

Bella Hunt
Captain

Lady Margaret Boat Club

The main news this year is the appointment of Raf Wyatt to the post of Boat Club Manager. We have been very pleased with the way she has transformed the Boathouse and the equipment, and has worked with the crews and coaches.

At the start of the academic year we sold our old ergos and bought eight new ones, at a net cost of £4,670, generously paid for by the LMBC Association. This year we have also bought a Janousek IV, partly funded by sponsorship money from Bank of America.

We have been extremely fortunate this year in that the Minotaurs raised enough money at their reunion dinner in 2006 to provide a brand new pair for the Club. Martin Allen (BA 1986) has also very generously funded a new VIII and oars in memory of Andy Silk, Roger's son. After much deliberation we decided on a Filippi for the men and we took delivery of it in early May, with a boat-naming ceremony taking place at the Boathouse on the Saturday of the Mays.

The LMBC relies on the support of a small number of former members who bring the benefit of their experience to coaching crews and/or providing advice and support to the Captains. Henley would be unimaginable without the wonderful picnics produced by Fitz from his red mini. If anyone would like to become involved, please let me know. The LMBC Association has made possible the training camps at York and Eton, through its financial support, as well as funding the men's Henley campaign. This year for the first time the LMBC Association has also provided funding for coaching.

We continue to benefit from our sponsorship by Bank of America and this has allowed us to purchase equipment, subsidise kit and support off-Cam races. This sponsorship comes to an end next year but we hope that Bank of America will wish to continue working with us.

Last year I reported that the College was funding the building of a shed to hold our IVs. This is now virtually complete and the IVs are at least protected from the worst of the elements.

Catherine Twilley
Senior Treasurer

The Lady Margaret Boat Club – Men

Henley

As in previous years, the Henley qualifiers were held only three days after the May Ball but the entire First Mays crew went along and had their first outing the day after the festivities. Thanks to Roger Silk's excellent coaching we very quickly regained our Bumps form and, despite the short time available, we even improved on it. The qualifying race was by a significant margin the best row we had all term and as a result we qualified for the Temple Challenge Cup. Our first race was against Pangbourne College. The schoolboys had a quick start and for most of the race we were left significantly behind. As we approached the enclosures we remembered how to row properly and by the time we got to Stewards' Enclosure we were in the lead. The official verdict was a victory of three-quarters of a length. On Thursday we faced the University of the West of England – a crew on average almost two stone heavier than us – and we lost by two lengths. This successful LMBC Henley campaign, unprecedented in the recent years, was made possible by the generous support of the LMBC Association, Roger's expertise and enthusiasm and, last but not least, by the efforts of my predecessor Gerald Weldon.

The Henley VIII:

Bow	M J Curling
2	G F Weldon
3	A W Truman
4	P C Marti
5	J P Davey
6	J Trnka
7	M J O'Connor
Stroke	B J Russell
Cox	A L Atkinson

Michaelmas Term

During the summer of 2006 the Club hired a new Boat Club Manager, Ms Raf Wyatt. Raf came to the Club with previous coaching and

managing experience ranging from the New Zealand national squad to a Dutch student club. Significant changes became visible soon afterwards with the Boathouse becoming once again shining clean and with all equipment in working order. No less significant were changes in coaching plans and style.

Michaelmas Term saw six of last year's First May Colours return, with Matt O'Connor trialling for CUBC and the rest rowing for the Club, and the intake of several schoolboy rowers. A Light IV, two Coxed IVs and a Development VIII were selected early in the term from returning rowers, supplemented with some new talent. As has become customary, the Coxless IV won the first race of the term, Autumn Head, and entered University IVs with great expectations. Our first race was a semi-final with us chasing Downing. We had a well-controlled, comfortable row and our (unnamed) bank party assured us that we were taking feet off our opposition with every stroke. We became slightly suspicious as we failed to overtake them by Grassy but we still believed the race was ours. To our great and unpleasant surprise, the information we received from the bank wasn't entirely accurate and in the end we lost by 10 s... Both Coxed IVs won their first rounds in University IVs (the first IV with Mark Curling subbing in) but lost to future finalists King's and Christ's. Many thanks must go to coaches Tim Fisher-Jeffes, Karen Wiemer and Raf Wyatt.

The Coxless IV:

Bow J Trnka*
 2 G F Weldon
 3 B J Russell
 Stroke M R Morgan
 *steers

The First Coxed IV:

Bow P C Marti
 2 R Lum
 3 W C Bloore
 Stroke J P Davey
 Cox H C Fisher

The Second Coxed IV:

Bow J H Westwood
 2 N M T Houlsby
 3 R van der Wath
 Stroke H W Gray
 Cox A L Atkinson

After University IVs, the Club's attention turned to VIIIs. Due to injuries and work overload the Senior squad shrank slightly and was made into two VIIIs. The First VIII, coached by Amir Nathoo, Raf Wyatt and Nick Geddes, made significant progress during the time together and finished second in the Fairbairns Cup, behind Jesus – the best result in recent years.

The First VIII:

Bow	J H Westwood
2	N M T Houlsby
3	P C Marti
4	R Lum
5	J Trnka
6	H W Gray
7	B J Russell
Stroke	J P Davey
Cox	A L Atkinson

Michaelmas Term is also the Novice term and this year was no exception, with four Novice Men's boats. Let me just mention the Third Novice Men who won the Plate in Clare Novice Regatta and finished as the third fastest boat in Novice Fairbairns.

Lent Term

As is traditional, Lent Term began with training camps. Two full VIIIs of Seniors and ex-Novices came to Dorney and spent a week of hard training on and off the lake under the supervision of Raf Wyatt, Nick Geddes and Andy Jones. The weather deteriorated through the week, in the end forcing us to return to Cambridge one day early. Nevertheless, the possibility of rowing on a world-class lake with almost no other crews around meant that both crews improved significantly in their fitness and rowing technique.

Crew selection followed 2 km ergo tests in the first week after the camp and the first test of boat speed was the Winter Head to Head race. The First Boat with six First May Colours was, despite our disappointment with the row, the fastest boat overall by a considerable margin, the Second Boat finishing in third place among College Second Boats.

Two weeks after Head to Head, the First Boat went to Peterborough to race the 5 km course of the Head of the Nene. We finished fifth and realised that rowing in rough conditions was something we needed to work on. Meanwhile in Cambridge, the Second Boat raced in the Newnham Short Course and was joint seventh in the Lower Boats Division.

Due to a bout of viral infections in the Club, Robinson Head in the following week was entered only by the Third Boat who, even with two subs, successfully defended their status as the fastest College Third Boat, finishing seventeenth overall.

Bedford Head was held after a long patch of rainy weather and the course had to be shortened to 1,500 metres due to flooding. Having passed a floating piece of concrete on the way, and having scratched the bottom of the boat due to invisible banks, the First Boat won S3 and came fourth in S2 beating the CULRC and Nephthys. M2 finished seventeenth in S4 and fourteenth in the Novice division, with the fastest time of all College Second Crews.

The last race before Bumps, the Pembroke Regatta, saw the First crew losing narrowly to Jesus in the quarter-final, and M3 losing to First and Third III in the final.

The first day of Lents was full of excitement for the first crew, which made a good start, gaining on Jesus with Churchill far behind. Unfortunately, Downing gave up a bit too early allowing Jesus to bump them at Ditton. This not only deprived us of a bump on Jesus but also put two stationary boats right in front of us with Downing sitting in the middle of the river. Marshalls and our bank party started frantically shouting to hold it up, but Amy's assured confidence and a miraculous steering manoeuvre somehow got us through the chicane with only a slight drop of speed. A somewhat boring row-over on the empty Reach was enlivened only by a massive, boat-stopping crab by our own Hector W Gray.

On the second day we were chasing Downing. Not wanting to rush it, we took our time and hit Downing at Ditton. The third day was tainted with a slightly too relaxed warm-up and expectations of a long race; we didn't manage to get within station on Jesus when they bumped Caius. The last day saw us against Caius stroked by last year's CUBC President. We

rowed quite well but they put everything into it and managed to hold us off the whole way. Overall, up one to fourth on the river.

The Second Boat was in a difficult situation in Lents. The crew was mostly composed of ex-Novices with no Bumps experience, and their lack of racing experience in general was underscored by the unimpressive results in Lent Term races. On the first day, they were chased by a strong Magdalene crew and, after a confused start, succumbed to them at First Post Corner. Since this moved them to the bottom of the First Division, they had to race twice every day until they managed to move up or down. The next day presented them with an easy row-over in the Second Division, followed by another row-over behind Magdalene. The third day was significantly more challenging: with a very strong Caius II behind them, our M2 was at risk of losing the Second Boat Headship. A very committed row never allowed Caius to get any closer but expectedly drained the energy of the crew, who were then unable to threaten Robinson in the First Division. On the last day, Caius went for it off the start but died soon afterwards thus leaving the Second Boat Headship to LMBC. Duncan's unfortunate accident of coming off his seat in the following row saved Robinson for this year, but couldn't change the fact that this crew fought very hard and achieved what few predicted they could achieve – down one but still the highest positioned Second Boat. The Third Men went down two in the end, despite very spirited rows, and the Fourth Men down four.

A big thank you must go to all the coaches, namely Raf Wyatt, Jon Rhodes, Nick Geddes, Andy Jones, Bill Budenberg, Tim Fisher-Jeffes, Ben Symonds, Henry Addison, John 'Fitz' Durack, the marshals and umpires and many others.

The First VIII:

Bow	J Trnka
2	G F Weldon
3	P C Marti
4	T Parnell
5	H W Gray
6	J P Davey
7	N M T Houlsby
Stroke	M O'Connor
Cox	A L Atkinson

The Second VII:

Bow	W Hall
2	A Smith
3	I M Harris
4	N Milton
5	W Bloore
6	S Palin
7	D McCombe
Stroke	J Houlton
Cox	H C Fisher

The Third VIII:

Bow	G Davies
2	H Gordon
3	A Tatton-Brown
4	J Hein
5	R Curling
6	N Krall
7	M Moreau
Stroke	B. Wynne
Cox	V Hsu

The Head of the River Race was a week later than usual but the First crew, supplemented by returning Ben Russell, trained diligently in Cambridge under Raf's supervision. Ready for the forecast windy conditions in a demo 95 kg BBG boat, we managed to have an outing on the Tideway in the morning before the race and row to the start. After the first fifty crews were started (and many of them sank), to our great disappointment the race was called off. What a race it could have been...

Easter Term

Preparations for Mays started off with training camps. The one in York was again made possible only by the generosity of the LMBC Association and by the hospitality and enthusiasm of Jamie MacLeod. The weather was, as usual, very nice and the possibility of rowing for miles without the need to stop made a great difference. Both men's and women's provisional First VIIIs attended this year and benefitted enormously. An on-Cam training camp was held at the same time; three men's crews attended and were coached by Bill Budenberg, Ben Symonds, Mark Curling and Raf Wyatt.

After our return to Cambridge, Mays crews were selected and started training. First race of the term was the Head of the Cam: M1 raced with a last-minute sub and lost to Downing by two seconds; M3 finished fifth in their division. The Spring Head to Head was an opportunity for the Second and Third crews to show their potential – and they did. Both crews won their divisions. In the following two weeks the Second Men capitalised on their new form starting with the 'Best Ditton Corner' award at Champs Head and then winning their division in Nines

Spring Regatta, where they beat Wolfson and Darwin and most importantly King's First Boats.

M1 went to the Metropolitan Regatta with mixed expectations. The S3 draw looked pretty harsh with four university crews in our heat (Exeter A, Oxford-Brookes, Southampton A and Liverpool), who performed very well the day before. With only two crews (out of seven) going straight into the final, we were a bit worried. To our great surprise, we dropped all of them off the start and even though Oxford-Brookes tried to come back we won the heat with the fastest time of all heats (rating thirty-two for most of the course). This left us with a whole day to prepare for the final, and become appropriately nervous and tense. Our start in the final was not great and Exeter pulled away from us. Although we managed to keep all the other crews in check, we never gained much on Exeter and in the end we finished 2 s behind them.

After this, the First crew somewhat lost its momentum, but the excellent coaching of Andy Jones managed to prepare us well for the May Bumps. On the first day we were chasing St Catharine's, who proved to be significantly slower than last year and even in spite of our panicked and inefficient start, they let us bump them just around Grassy. The second day saw us chasing Caius with their customary last-minute Blue 'substitutions'. Our rowing was a lot calmer than on the first day but we never really seriously threatened them. After the torrential rain of Thursday, on Friday the river was flooded and had a strong stream – something one doesn't often see on the Cam. Due to the conditions we were pushed out very late, and a shaky start cost us about a half a length and First and Third were going for it. We managed to hold them off around First Post and Grassy but they gained rapidly in the Plough Reach and out of Ditton they were within a canvas. Amy followed the plan flawlessly and crossed to the non-towpath side of the Reach to avoid the bump. However, the unusual situation of having a side-by-side race in Bumps made us panic, shorten up and lose our already inefficient finishes. First and Third got the bump by passing our bow ball. On the last day we had our best row in Bumps and got within a length of First and Third but failed to hit them. Overall, we stayed level and are still third on the river – well within striking distance for the Headship next year...

I would like to thank all the coaches, Jamie MacLeod, Roger Silk, Raf Wyatt and Andy Jones, for their enthusiasm and excellent work.

The Second men improved hugely in Easter term thanks to the efforts of Raf, Chris Atkin and Bill Budenberg. On the first day of Bumps they got within a length of King's but as they bumped Downing II around Ditton our M2 had to row-over. This meant a good chance for a quick bump on the second day and that's exactly what happened: Downing capitulated at First Post corner. Friday's conditions affected also the Second Boat with a late push-out causing them to lose about a third of a length off the start. Chasing King's again they closed on them once more but their efforts were thwarted by King's bumping on the Reach. On the final day M2 gained quickly on Peterhouse getting to a canvas before the Ditton corner. 'A disastrous corner' (in their own words) caused them to lose all of their advantage putting them back on station at the bottom of the Reach. However, they didn't give up: halfway down the reach they closed to an overlap and got their second bump just before the railway bridge. Kudos to a largely ex-Novice crew – a promise for the future success of the Club.

The Third Men had a very unlucky Mays campaign. They managed to row-over on the first day but thereafter they got bumped by Fitzwilliam II, Clare II, and Jesus III. Let's hope all of them carry on rowing and improve their Bumps score next year. Thanks must go to their coaches Raf Wyatt, Andy Truman and Ben Symonds.

The Lower Boats suffered from inconsistencies both in performance and in crew composition. The Fourth Men got bumped by Corpus II, First and Third IV, Wolfson II and King's II, thus earning their spoons. The Gents' Boat fared a bit better with a bump on Fitz III on the first day followed by a row-over. On the third day they got bumped by CCAT II and, due to a confusion about times, they failed to race on Saturday. The Rugby Boat showed a lot of promise on paper with five former rowers in the crew. Their bump on Sidney III on the second day was, however, more than balanced by getting overbumped by Pembroke IV (who were a sandwich boat and raced their second race on that day), and not turning up at all on Saturday. Thanks to all Lower Boats' coaches, Raf Wyatt, Warwick Bloore, Clare Harvey and, most of all, to my

Vice-Captain Patrick Marti, who organised our Lower Boats this term, coached them, coxed them and spent long hours trying to persuade people to row in them.

The First May VIII:

Bow	B J Russell
2	G F Weldon
3	J Trnka
4	N M T Houlsby
5	P C Marti
6	J P Davey
7	H W Gray
Stroke	M O'Connor
Cox	A L Atkinson

The Second May VIII:

Bow	J H Westwood
2	A Smith
3	R van der Wath
4	S Palin
5	D McCombe
6	J Houlton
7	W Hall
Stroke	T Parnell
Cox	H Fisher

The Third May VIII:

Bow	R Curling
2	D Barraclough
3	H Gordon
4	R Gray
5	S Spitzer
6	N Milton
7	M Jones
Stroke	T Angliss
Cox	V Hsu

I would like to thank everyone in the Club for all their support. It has been a privilege to be their Captain and to row with them. I'd like to wish good luck to the next year's Captain, Hayley Fisher.

Vive Laeta Margareta

**Jan Trnka
Captain**

The Lady Margaret Boat Club – Women

Michaelmas Term

Various circumstances led to a change in both the Women's Captain and the Women's Lower Boats Captain at the beginning of Michaelmas Term, which made for a slightly unsettled start to the term's rowing. As ever, in the Senior squad there were a limited number of people who wanted to subject themselves to early mornings in the rain. However, we managed to get out a Top IV and a Development VIII who rowed in those crews through the term. They started the term by racing Autumn Head, with the IV coming fourth and the VIII coming sixth of the College VIIIs, beaten only by First Boats. The IV raced and won the Student IVs event in Cambridge Winter Head. They then beat Peterhouse easily in the heats of University IVs but were unfortunately defeated in the semi-finals by a strong First and Third crew. They stayed together as a IV for Fairbairns, finishing a solid fourth, although not rowing to their full potential. The VIII suffered a little from a lack of time as a crew and as a result did not manage to race again until Fairbairns where they finished tenth, a good result considering they were racing the Top VIIIs from other colleges.

As usual we had a fresh Novice intake this year, with two VIIIs learning to row and racing throughout the term. The first race for the Novice crews was Queens' Ergs where both crews put in a good effort, although unfortunately failing to make the final. They then got a chance to try their hand at racing on the water in Clare Novice Sprints. The First Novice Women were unlucky to lose to Christ's in their first round, while the Second Novice Women beat Emmanuel II and Newnham II before losing to Trinity Hall II in some horrific racing conditions. The hail, winds and lightening during that race caused a cancellation for a few hours before it died down and racing could be resumed. The final event of term for them was Novice Fairbairns where the First VIII came thirteenth and the Second VIII put in a strong showing to come fifteenth, beaten by only one other second boat.

The term ended with Chases Week, where the Novices got a chance to do some fun rowing during the day in some mixed crews with the Seniors to start integrating them with the rest of the Boat Club.

Lent Term

The Lents began with the usual pre-term training camp at Dorney Lake. Twelve rowers and two coxes, including a mixture of Novice and Senior rowers spent a week enjoying the facilities and some intensive coaching from Cath Mangan, Annamarie Phelps, Claire Sweeney and Raf Wyatt. Unfortunately, the weather conditions were against us, and high winds meant that the time on the lake was limited and more time was spent on the ergs. However, improvements were still made and it was a good chance to integrate the previous term's Novices into the squad. Our thanks go to the LMBC Association for subsidising the camp.

Looming finals took its toll on the number of Senior rowers this term, meaning that, despite high Novice retention, we were only able to get two crews out for Bumps. The first VIII started the term by racing Cambridge Head to Head where we came fifth beating Newnham and Downing, who we were to be chasing in Bumps. The next race was Newnham Short course where the First VIII put in a strong row to finish second behind Caius. The Second VIII also competed, coming third in the Second Boat category. The First VIII took a trip off the Cam to Bedford Head where we finished fourth in S2 and fifth in S3, beating several other College VIIs. Unfortunately at this stage some of our rowers started to fall apart, and injuries led to some late crew changes a couple of weeks before Bumps. My thanks go to those who allowed themselves to be drafted in at the last minute. Both crews competed in Pembroke Regatta, enabling us to get in some important practise at rowing in dirty water and with other boats around us. The First Boat suffered from the recent crew changes, which had involved rowers having to switch sides in the week before the race. We led Emmanuel off the start but a couple of crabs halfway down the course saw us lose our heat. W2 beat Newnham II in the heat but then lost out to Pembroke II, the eventual winners of the Regatta.

With a slightly unsettled term behind us, both crews were nervous on the first day of Bumps, especially in the Second Boat where many of the rowers had never experienced Bumps racing. However, we got off to a storming start with both crews bumping on the first day. W1 made up ground on Newnham quickly, being down to a canvas by Grassy. A

quick and well-recovered crab allowed Newnham to hold us off until Ditton, where the inevitable bump occurred. The inexperience of W2 in Bumps racing showed off the start, as they were not entirely prepared for the cannon and didn't get away until a few seconds after. They recovered well and closed quickly on Sidney Sussex First Boat. It looked like a certain bump on First Post Corner when Sidney Sussex crabbed, but some controversial marshalling decisions prolonged the chase to the Plough, where they got their well-deserved bump. W1 then ended up chasing Downing for the remaining three days, and although we made up ground on them we never got close enough to make the bump, leaving us on a respectable up one. W2 rowed-over for the next two days, closing the gap on Jesus II before the latter bumped out. On the last day they were unlucky to be bumped by a very strong CCAT crew who were on for their blades. This left W2 level for the week, doing well to maintain their high place in the Second Division. My thanks go to all the coaches over the term who gave up their time to make this possible.

The First VIII:

Bow	K McLoughlin
2	E Davies
3	K Rickman
4	A Wood
5	C Jarvis
6	J Williams
7	L Connell
Stroke	C Harvey
Cox	A El-Mashad

The Second VIII:

Bow	A Bhatia
2	E Rye
3	C Faranda-Bellofiglio
4	A Eldred
5	L Gruendken
6	R Pugh
7	L Chambers
Stroke	E Husain
Cox	H Addison

This year we started selecting for First Mays after Lent Bumps to send a provisional First Mays crew to Women's VIII's Head of the River Race. As a result of the changes, we had only had about three outings together, but we put in a strong row, overtaking several crews to come ninety-eighth out of 277 and third of the Cambridge colleges.

The Henley Boat Races occurred shortly after the term, with Hannah Stratford representing Cambridge in the Blue Boat. Bad weather conditions saw the crews racing a shortened course. A strong row saw

the Blue Boat deal well with the conditions and beat Oxford by half a length. Congratulations to Hannah.

Easter Term

This year the provisional First Women joined the men at training camp in York. We took an VIII for a week and trained twice a day, coached by Jamie MacLeod and Raf Wyatt. The weather was kind to us and we got in some long outings, seeing massive improvements in technique and fitness over the week. Again, thanks to the LMBC Association for subsidising the camp, and thanks to Jamie for giving up his time to coach us.

When we returned to Cambridge the top two crews began training. The First VIII entered Head of the Cam early in the term, but the lack of outings showed and we came fifth of the colleges. Both crews entered Champs Head with the First Women coming fourth, beating several crews who were ahead of us in Bumps, and the Second Women finishing twenty-second, coming seventh in their category. The First Women also managed to win the prize for the most impressive start. The Second Women were again unlucky to have injury problems, resulting in a couple of crew changes halfway through the term.

Despite the pressures of exams, the First Women managed to get away to the Metropolitan Regatta where we raced in the S3 and S2 Division. We had a couple of good races and unfortunately missed qualifying for the S3 final by only a second. Many of us had not done multi-lane racing before so it was an exciting experience and we got in some valuable racing practice.

Bumps brought us mixed fortunes. The Third Boat consisted mainly of Novices who had only learnt to row that term. They came together well, but unfortunately were fairly high in their division and were bumped every day. Hopefully they all enjoyed the experience and will continue to row next year. The Second Women were also fairly high in their division after last year. On the Wednesday they had a strong row-over, holding off Emmanuel II behind. The next day all the crews around them bumped out giving them an easy row-over. Unfortunately, this

left them to get bumped by a Blades-winning Pembroke II crew on Friday and then they were bumped by Emmanuel II on the last day to finish down two.

The First Boat had an emotional rollercoaster of a week. After bumping Downing swiftly out of Grassy on the first day, we caught a crab on First Post on the second day and went up over the outside of the corner allowing Downing to bump us back. We started on Friday knowing we were much faster than Downing but with the worrying feeling that First and Third chasing us were faster than we were. We managed to bump Downing even quicker this time, getting them just out of First Post corner, leaving First and Third free to get the over-bump on Clare. This meant that we had to chase them on the final day. Knowing that our chances of getting First and Third were slim, we were looking for the overbump on Girton. Unfortunately, First and Third failed to clear, causing us to crash on Grassy giving some picnickers quite a scare and causing a pile-up in the crews behind us. We managed to push off and were closing in on Girton again but we ran out of river before we could make up the full distance. We finished up one, a good result but not reflecting the true potential of the crew, which deserved to finish higher.

The First VIII:

Bow	C Jarvis
2	J Williams
3	E Smee
4	L Maister
5	L Connell
6	A Sinden
7	H Stratford
Stroke	C Harvey
Cox	A El-Mashad

The Second VIII:

Bow	E Roberts
2	A Eldred
3	L Gruendken
4	E Husain
5	L Chambers
6	R Pugh
7	K McLoughlin
Stroke	K Rickman
Cox	A Groot

I could not have got through this year without the help of a large number of people. Thanks go to Katie Rickman, the Lower Boats Captain, for her management of the Novices and Lower Boats this year. I would like to thank all the coaches, particularly the old boys and girls who have provided support and advice as well. Our Boat Club

Manager, Raf, has worked hard all year to make sure the fleet is in good condition, as well as being heavily involved in coaching and giving support. As always, big thanks to the LMBC Association for their support of the Club.

I wish my successor, Kathryn McLoughlin, all the best for next year.

Clare Harvey
Women's Captain

The Rugby Club

For the first time, perhaps in centuries, the Red Boys elected a Back to captain them for the 2006–2007 season. This clearly angered the spirits of Wells, Maitland et al, as in an astonishing piece of good fortune the Captain injured himself before taking to the pitch in a John's shirt. This paved the way for Ed Drage, the authoritarian Vice-Captain, to lead the side in the first match against Jesus. Unfortunately one of his trademarked overly aggressive dance routines backfired somewhat, resulting in a three-week mandatory concussion ban. This left the Club with the perennially third best option of Rory Holmes. The team responded however to his now infamous 'I just don't like them' speech, and a solid 26–5 victory against the old enemy was secured, with some promising debuts from the Fresher element of the team.

Interspersed between our first two League matches was a friendly against the 'aged Red Boys' at home in which many Freshers were to taste John's Rugby for the first time against a formidable opponent that included James Alexander amongst others in its ranks. The game was however merely a sideshow to Tom Roberts's off-the-field antics later that evening...

The following week was an away match against Trinity Hall. The first-half performance was well below par, with only a break-out try from our 'princess' – Ovuefe Efeotor – to show for it. Some choice words were said during the interval, resulting in a much better second-half display eventually leading to a comfortable 32–0 victory.

The two weakest teams in the First Division, Downing and St Catharine's, were then treated with the disdain that they so thoroughly deserved during two vintage John's performances that resulted in 82–0 and 47–0 victories for the Red Boys. The next game against Girton was a much tougher affair: indeed the Red Boys were at the wrong end of a two-point deficit at half-time. The addition of Rupert Walter in the second half, against medical advice, coupled with Oli Samuelson's sideline histrionics, helped to change the game and a hard-fought 20–7 victory was secured.

The following week Downing were again crushed 53–3. Three points was the average number of points that the Red Boys conceded in League matches, and one couldn't help but wonder whether Hugo Carmichael's blatant disregard, or ignorance, of the rules may have had something to do with that. A personal highlight of the season was his burst of four penalties in five minutes, including one within fifteen seconds of taking the pitch. Whisper it quietly, but during the Downing game Ashley Elliot was actually seen to approach something nearing full 'speed' with ball in hand and even had a cameo at number eight. This can presumably be attributed to the ten-minute rest that he had earned for himself earlier in the game, picking up from where angry Scotsman Gus Maclay had left off in the previous games.

The Michaelmas Term was concluded with a match against the CURUFC Colleges' Varsity XV at home. John's were under strength due to players concentrating on upcoming Varsity matches and the retirement of George FitzGerald, and had to play a flanker and lock in the centres with a hooker on the wing. Despite this the Colleges were put to the sword by a John's team made up entirely of Colleges eligible players, 37–0, leaving CURUFC to regret not accepting our invitation to play the LXs. It should be noted that the Colleges won their Varsity match against Oxford.

The League was wrapped up with only the seventh match, away at Jesus in January, prompting *TCS* and *Varsity* to run back-page spreads. *TCS* labelled John's as arguably the greatest college team of all time. A further win was added at home against Trinity Hall, leaving the Red Boys with a perfect record of P8 W8 F327 A25.

This now left the Red Boys seeking an historic treble double if the Cuppers trophy could be reclaimed. The first match was against Hughes Hall – a side that we had encountered in our last two successful Cuppers campaigns. After their humiliation the previous year they were clearly in no mood for a repeat performance, with one of their seven starting Blues (including one from St Edmund's) playing despite having been selected for an England Students game that day. A repeat performance, however, was exactly what John's fought for, and Hughes were routed 48–3 by a breathtaking display from the Red Boys in both the Backs and the Forwards.

The semi-final finally gave the Red Boys the chance to play Homerton, a side that had proclaimed themselves the best rugby college in Cambridge. They weren't: a 48–19 victory saw us progress to the final to play the neighbours – Trinity. An exceptionally tight first half saw John's put together one sustained period of pressure and a half-time scoreline of 3–3 left the vociferous John's supporters in the stands on edge. A ten-minute burst immediately after half-time saw John's come away 16–3 winners to the soundtrack of 'Sign On', securing the triple double, an unbeaten season and the scalp of the victorious Colleges' Varsity XV – quite possibly the greatest season the Club has ever had. Many thanks must go to the Chief Playing Surface Technician, Keith, for preparing the pitch so diligently and making the pavilion curry house available to us, and to Dr Richard Samworth for his continued support and invaluable coaching. Here's to hoping, no matter how alien it may feel to some (namely Fridge), for 'four in a row'.

Oliver Buxton
Captain

The Women's Rugby Club

The year started tentatively for the three remaining members of the John's Women's Rugby Club – would we be able to con four other girls to turn out for a match? The answer was yes, three times over. With Becca's worryingly effective persuasive skills we had half the First-year girls signed up to play by the end of the Freshers' Fair. Training soon got underway and within a couple of Sunday sessions it was evident that there was a lot of raw talent amongst our new recruits.

Our three musketeers Walter, Mayne and Samuelson soon got us into shape and for this and their good humour we are immensely grateful; to Rupert for his reliable enthusiasm and always looking to add a new dimension to our play (particularly in the line out); to Will for his unbounded flair and Oli for his laidback attitude and willingness to be tackled by attractive girls.

We were nervous going into our first fixture against last year's rivals, Catz, but with John's spirit and our keen young team we ran three tries past them for a convincing win. From then on victory became addictive. All season our formidable front row squashed any opposition they were faced with. Props Jo, Becca and Rhiannon soon learned to love the contact while Rose was relentless from day one. Our biggest presence on the pitch was Charlie – 'The Pain Train' – Marriott. While not our most disciplined player, she certainly put the Newnham girls in their place and always kept the supporters on the sidelines entertained.

Coach Samuelson soon got the Backs in order; we had consistent and dynamic play from Charlotte Wheeler-Booth with some fantastic tackles and speed down the wing. Vicky Raymond stepped up to Fly-Half exceptionally well in her first season and returned after Christmas with a Wilkinonesque boot which consolidated our increasing points tally. Amanda also racked up the points and showed her skills as a real all-rounder on the pitch. We practiced our looping and our switches religiously on Sunday mornings whilst hearing the First-year gossip from Tash and Matti, but when it came to matches we knew we could always pull out our fail-safe signature move: the 'give it to Sophie' set up. The 2006–07 season for SJCWRFC can not be discussed without

mention of Miss 'Lightning' Lynch who literally ran circles around our opponents time after time much to the delight of our ever-supportive fans. Sophie was top scorer in the League, putting down an astounding twenty-one tries in ten games (yes, a try every five minutes), a credit to her sporting flair and fitness.

We played tens and sevens, we lent other teams our players (Clare and Caroline showed us what they were made of), we suffered injuries (Carol and Harad, we'll see you next year). We battled through some close matches but came out on top achieving an undefeated League win. When it came to Cuppers we were drawn against Downing, also with a large thriving squad. Despite having beaten them previously and armed with our new lofty line-outs we weren't able to defeat them and let them through to the next round and on to win the Cup.

We are hugely grateful to our generous sponsors, Deloitte, who have provided us with kit this year and we hope that this partnership will continue in the future. Thanks to Keith and his team for the pitches and putting up with our fickle fixture list.

We have had a fantastic season, enjoying weekly wins with lots of laughs along the way. Events that will be most fondly remembered (if hazily) are the breaking-in of our new shirts (in the finer public houses of Cambridge rather than on the pitch), demolition of a certain female College's Captain by the Pain Train's momentary misunderstanding of the rules, and returning the League Winner's Plate to its home in John's bar after a four-year absence. I wish every success to next year's team with sights set on the Cuppers trophy.

Hannah Lane
Captain

Men's Squash

This year marked a transitional stage for Men's Squash at St John's, with 2006 graduations leaving the top of the Squash Ladder looking worryingly depleted at College level, although St John's representation at University level is both substantial and secure, in the form of Blues Jamie Douglas and Nick Sutcliffe, along with Mark Ryan, who sustained a pre-season injury, and Fresher Michael Mackay, who stepped straight into the Cambridge Second V, and will no doubt continue to set the squash scene alight.

Our strength in depth was a major concern at the beginning of the year, but fears about the possible difficulties of recruiting sufficient manpower to maintain a challenge across all fronts were allayed by an enthusiastic deluge of responses at the Freshers' Fair. Pre-season trials were to reveal some emerging new talents to harness: foremost amongst these the dynamic engineering trio of Toby Parnell, Justin Houlton, and Meng Kuok, with a plethora of new additions to the third and fourth squads. We were also treated to the squash equivalent of a phoenix rising from the ashes as geriatric of the squad, Ross Flanigan, brought his arthritic knees out of retirement to grace our newly-refurbished courts with one last fling at stardom.

With our forces bolstered by the reliable pair of Andrew Tan and Michal Antosik, both with a year's squash campaigning behind them, the St John's squad looked strong enough for four teams to be put out, the First V positioned in the First Division, the Second V in the Third, and the Third and Fourth Vs in the Seventh and Eighth respectively. Following the inauguration of the line-up, we were reinforced by the languid arrival of Jack Hambleton, whose apparent disinclination to move more than one step from the centre of the court was more than compensated for by his anatomy-defying reach. Dave Sheard also decided to stop playing odd games with nets and fluffy yellow balls and come inside so he could 'put more stuff on his CV'; despite his initial confusion and claustrophobia, he soon became a key member of the Second V.

Several other members of the squad continued to impress throughout the season: Adam Bond shaking off some early rustiness to establish himself as a promising talent; Jon Shepard proving more than useful; and Pip Coen

displaying a bizarre penchant for taking best of five games right to the wire. As a result, we were treated to some better than expected (perhaps I was being overly pessimistic!) results across the board, with all teams appearing to have done admirably and secured their positions, pending final League tables. The team for Cuppers also looks extremely strong given the high University representation, and must be firm favourites to blitz the competition.

All in all, it has been a successful season for squash, welcoming in a number of new faces, and I must thank everyone who gave up their time for practices and matches this season who has not already been mentioned. The Lent Term saw an exquisite meal in the Wordsworth Room to round off the season's League Squash, which I hope was enjoyed by all concerned.

Finally, I must give my thanks to Dr McConnel for his support in the running of the Squash teams, and his ceaseless efforts to instigate the refurbishment of the squash courts, which finally came to fruition. I hope to see the squash talent that John's has in abundance continuing to be displayed both in the College League and at University level, and that we may push on from this season to ensure Johnian domination for the foreseeable future!

Rob Miles
Captain

Ladies' Squash

The past year was very successful for the St John's College Ladies' Squash Team. After the First team got promoted into Division One last year, we managed to come top of the Division this year, being undefeated all season.

Our success has been down to a highly motivated team consisting of Frieda Van Belle, Andrea Kuesters and Charlotte Wheeler-Booth. This was Frieda's second year playing for St John's and she has always been very keen and motivated. She has contributed a lot to College Squash

and since she is leaving this year, I wish her all the best for the future. Charlotte, who joined us this year, is also a very dedicated player and we are lucky to have her. She has been involved in a lot of other activities and therefore has plenty of other commitments, but I really hope she will continue next year.

Our College team is also looking good in Cuppers. Currently we are in the quarter-finals and hopefully we can get a lot further than that.

We are lucky to have the support of the Men's Club and I would like to thank Jamie Douglas for his wonderful coaching in the first term and for being League Secretary. And I would also like to thank Rob Miles for his help during the last year.

Finally, thanks to Dr McConnel for all his support and for pushing through the refurbishment of the now excellent squash courts. Thanks again to everyone who played and hopefully you will all keep it up.

Andrea Kuesters
Captain

Swimming

After winning the competition for two successive years, it was always going to be tough to repeat our previous achievements. Our dominant girl's team from the previous year had all graduated, leaving many spaces in the team to be filled. Fortunately, after some painstaking recruiting, we managed to field a full team for the competition.

In the heats, everyone showed plenty of enthusiasm and we were rewarded with qualification for all but one of the finals. Encouraged by successful swims in the heats, the team set out to equal the achievements of the previous years in the finals.

New recruit Carol Evans made a promising start to the finals by edging out her opponents in the Individual Medley. Ian Harris, however, was less fortunate as a mix-up with the timekeepers during the heats meant he qualified for the B finals rather than the A finals, resulting in a few

lost points. Carol also made light work of her 50 Fly final, winning by a comfortable margin.

Aaron Clements-Partridge, now a veteran in the St John's team, was forced to dig deep for both his 100 Freestyle and 100 Backstroke races by his competitors. Fortunately, his experience showed and he finished in the Silver position in both events. Gareth Keeves and Clarence So both produced fine swims in their races, coming third in the Fly and second in the Breaststroke respectively. Chris Charles rounded off the men's effort by racing strongly in both the relays in a bid to reclaim the trophy we had won for the previous two years.

Special mention must go to Emma Davies, Clare Stevenson, Amy Atkinson and Sam O'Hara for agreeing to participate in the competition with less than twenty-four hours before their races. All of them swam brilliantly in both the heats and finals, showing great potential for future years to come. Despite strong swimming from all the Johnians, we were not able to retain the trophy as eventual winners, Girton, proved too strong.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the swimmers who took part in the competition and in particular, Aaron, for three fantastic years of service to the John's Swimming Club; without him we wouldn't have achieved as much as we have done in the previous years.

If there is one thing I've learnt from this year's competition, it is the potential we possess in the current squad of swimmers; with some training I believe we can once again compete for the top prize next year.

Clarence So
Captain

SPORTS & SOCIETIES

SPORTS & SOCIETIES



ST JOHN'S COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

The JCR has enjoyed an extremely busy, exciting, rewarding and sometimes dramatic term of office this year.

The new JCR Committee set about its duties, launching new initiatives, organising events and responding positively to the plethora of issues that surface from the College community.

The JCR

The JCR website, www.sjcjr.com, underwent a complete overhaul under Computing Officer Loren Lam and now not only hosts real-time College news, Buttery menus and sports' results, but also allows us to run regular polls of undergraduates to help us work effectively.

Joe Fowler, Welfare Officer, launched 'Welfare Fridays', which over the year have provided those feeling weary after a hard week of lectures and supervisions with a much-needed film, accompanied by doughnuts and soft drinks. Joe has also worked intensively with the College's Peer Support Network, established the JCR Welfare mobile phone and has run some truly exceptional 'Open Mic' nights, where Johnnians have demonstrated their sometimes unique talents to packed audiences.

Our Ents Officer, Chelsea Wright, has excelled in advancing College Ents from strength to strength, never failing to fill the Fisher Building to capacity through organising the best music, décor and lighting. She has further enhanced the reputation of JCR Ents as fully inclusive and simply good fun.

Vice-President Chris Hough has been a great asset throughout the year, in particular taking the lead in organising the 'Around the World' themed June Ent 2007, which was regarded by the Cambridge student newspapers as comparable to, if not better than, many May Balls. Unlimited free food and a dazzling array of music – from barber shop quartets to jazz, and from 'cheese' to rock and roll – alongside a surf simulator and other fairground attractions meant it was certainly a night to remember.

Holly Tibbits, Publicity Officer, has always ensured that all our events are advertised through vibrant posters, and has resurrected the (hopefully now misnamed) JCR newsletter, *The Binliner*. Treasurer Charlotte Wheeler-Booth has precisely managed our financial affairs, ensuring solvency and accountability at all times, and keeping the JCR well out of the credit crunch. Access Officer



The JCR Committee, 2007-08

Vishnu Parameshwaran has expended huge energy showing potential Johnian recruits around the College as well as helping to facilitate John's hosting of the CUSU Shadowing Scheme, reaching out to students from all backgrounds.

Secretary Gemma Driscoll has immaculately recorded the minutes of our weekly meetings and continuously updated our noticeboard, in addition to being a driving force in all issues of general organisation and administration. Sean Doherty, in his role as Equal Opportunities Officer, has established a strong Equal Ops Subcommittee, which has organised social events and new publications such as the *Johnian Women's Magazine* for undergraduates.

... launching the JCR Bike Scheme, whereby undergraduates can now hire bikes free of charge for twenty-four hours at a time . . .

Glen Walker, Services Officer, has worked tirelessly to maintain the ever-increasing range and number of facilities and services the JCR provides for undergraduates. This has included launching the JCR Bike Scheme, whereby undergraduates can now hire bikes free of charge for twenty-four hours at a time, and extending the number of JCR trolleys available to students and making these completely free. Henry Begg has proved an invaluable helper throughout the year on all occasions in his role as Yearbook Officer and we all look forward to the final copy running off the printing press in the not-too-distant future.

Harveer Dev has been an outstanding External and Academic Affairs Officer, re-establishing strong links between the JCR and CUSU as well as organising exam technique revision sessions and helping to ensure that undergraduates know of, and use, the many academic facilities on offer to them throughout the University.

Tom Chigbo has completed the introduction of paper recycling into all student rooms, plastic and glass recycling in the JCR Common Room, as well as being a driving force for all things ethical and green across the University in his role as Green and Charities Officer. Such was his commitment to the JCR that he has now been elected President, ably supported by Chelsea Wright as his Vice-President.

Freshers' Week was a great success, including, amongst other events, a sports day, punting lessons, historical tours of College, staircase tea parties, 'speed meet' events, numerous chocolate fountains as well as the traditional 'Back2skool' Ent. The scale of the week's activities was unprecedented and despite only minimal time for sleep, the Committee coped exceptionally well.

It has been a great privilege to lead such a committed, hardworking and capable team, who have never faltered in their efforts, however challenging the problem, and however many other commitments they have had to contend with. The success of every new initiative and event was entirely due to the hard work of the whole Committee, with everyone continually going well outside the remit of their roles to support each other. I would like to thank all the Committee for their outstanding work and commitment over the year and hope that we have left many positive influences on the College.

We all wish Tom and Chelsea the very best of luck in facing the challenges and opportunities of the coming year.

Martin Kent
JCR President 2007-08



'Don't learn to do, but learn in doing. Let your falls not be on a prepared ground, but let them be *bona fide* falls in the rough and tumble of the world.'

Samuel Butler's inspiring words were the guiding mantra of this year's Samuel Butler Room Committee.

The SBR

The group unreservedly took up Butler's challenge to learn by doing and set up a jam-packed schedule of social, intellectual and sporting events to thrill and delight graduates. Although there were a few scrapes and bruises along the way, we all emerged pleased to have served such a diverse and engaging group of graduates, no doubt among the best in Cambridge. As President, I can only hope that we offered something for every one of the three hundred or so graduates at John's.

We sprang into a whirlwind year of activity with our annual SBR Garden Party, held on a gorgeous June day in the Master's Garden. The team decided to do things a bit differently this year and made the event 'Fancy Dress à la Great Gatsby'. We were rewarded with a swarm of flapper dresses and boaters worn by happy graduates sipping Pimm's. This was followed up by an astounding Fresher's Fortnight, chock-a-block with things to do.

Top-notch events like these were the hallmark of this year's exceptional Committee, offering a selection of activities to satisfy the social and intellectual needs of all graduates. Beth Shaw performed outstandingly as Secretary and my right-hand woman. During the Long Vacation, she successfully coordinated a variety of well-attended summer events, including punting trips down the Cam and hearty weekend brunches. She also raised minute-taking to a veritable art form. The money side of things was flawlessly managed by Jessica Priestley, our Junior Treasurer. Her meticulous maintenance of accounts ensured that there was plenty of dosh in the SBR coffers to host quality events. She also took the prize for best costume at our 'Friday Night Fever' event, the first time the SBRC extended an Ent invitation to other colleges, with the hope of making John's more inclusive by integrating students across the University. We hope next year's Committee continues this trend.

David Delamore contributed to this effort by organising a large number of formal Hall swaps. He offered a smorgasbord of culinary delights across eleven different

Cambridge colleges. He also ensured that port and sherry were always flowing when outsiders came to indulge in our unrivalled Johnian offerings. While our website was in limbo for a good part of the year due to security issues, Nathan Matias, Computing and Publicity Officer, delivered glitzy event posters and provided excellent logistical support.

As always the SBRC was at the forefront of discussions with College concerning student welfare. Hot topics like graduate housing and rent negotiations were thrashed out in a constructive manner with College staff.

Amparo Flores' stint as Welfare Officer meant that grads had someone to approach about pastoral issues. And although we sadly lost her to PhD research, she was nonetheless involved in extending the Peer Support Programme to graduate students. Our Arts Officer Sharon McCann exposed grads to the cultural side of things by organising a series of events, including trips to the theatre. Although her plans to produce an SBR play never took off, she was always the first to show up at an event and the last to leave. This year the SBRC had its first ever Family Officer, Richard van der Wath, who was responsible for representing the concerns of graduates with families. Richard (especially his driver's licence) was indispensable to the SBRC, and initiated talks with College to introduce a dining event for students and their families, which we hope will materialise next year. Our Social Secretaries, Eva-Maria Hempe and Simona Giunta, did a good job guaranteeing plenty of social events for grads to de-stress from the rigours of a PhD, especially the karaoke machine, an SBR favourite. Although Sport Officer Raj Towfique joined the team in Lent Term, he managed to set up a Super Bowl Party, and organise a number of SBR sports teams, including Cricket and Rowing. And finally, our Academic Consultant, Dawn Dodds, organised a brilliant series of Graduate Talks, informal gatherings that allow graduates to present their work to fellow students and engage in constructive debate. Many thanks to all of you for your hard work.

As always the SBRC was at the forefront of discussions with College concerning student welfare. Hot topics like graduate housing and rent negotiations were thrashed out in a constructive manner with College staff. Student representation is an important feature of the SBRC. Voicing the concerns of students at all levels forms the backbone of student government. I hope that future Committees

continue to acknowledge the importance of this role and facilitate productive dialogue so that our experience at John's is the best that it can be.

All of the wonderful things offered by the SBRC would not have been possible without support from College. Sue Colwell, the Tutor for Graduate Affairs, was the cornerstone of the SBRC and offered guidance throughout the year. She also introduced the Graduate Mentor Scheme at the beginning of 2008, which matched graduate students to relevant Senior Members in the College to provide an informal forum for academic discussion. The Master made valiant efforts to strengthen the ties between the JCR and SBR, which this year meant receiving bulletins from the JCR President. We hope the next Committee strengthens this union even further. I would also like to thank the Fellow Borderer, the Senior Tutor, the Domestic Bursar and staff in the College offices.

The Master made valiant efforts to strengthen the ties between the JCR and SBR, which this year meant receiving bulletins from the JCR President. We hope the next Committee strengthens this union even further.

I look back on the year with the fondest of memories. The brilliant decorations of our 'Fire and Ice' party, festive dancing during the Christmas Dinner and the howling popularity of SBR karaoke, all contribute to a panorama of SBRC achievement. I look forward to attending similar events with our outstanding group of Johnian graduates in the coming year. But more importantly, I look forward to not being responsible for any of them!

Margaret Olszewski
SBR President



COLLEGE SOCIETIES

The Adams Society

The first social event of the Adams Society's calendar was our annual Garden Party, held in the Fellows' Garden and enjoyed by all. Sadly, the same cannot be said for the annual cricket match against the Trinity Mathematics Society as we suffered our eighth defeat this century. Still there's always the hope that next year they'll play fair!

We began Michaelmas Term with a Squash to welcome new members. The first talk of term, given by Dr Piers Bursill-Hall, entitled '1001 Reasons to Thank the Gods you aren't a Trinity Mathmo', was our best-attended of the last three years, with 125 attendees. We also enjoyed talks given by Dr Ivan Smith and Professor Grae Worster. We ended the term with a popular Desserts Party in the Wordsworth Room.

Lent Term saw four entertaining speaker meetings. The first was given by Mr David Conlon who, having been a PhD student at the College, began a Research Fellowship here this year. The other speakers were Dr Thomas Forster, Professor Fernando Quevedo and Professor Andrew Thomason. Also in Lent Term, the Society's Annual Dinner in the Senior Combination Room was as much fun as ever. Having recently written on the subject of mathematics in Cambridge for the 800th Anniversary of the University, Professor Martin Hyland, Head of DPMMS and this year's guest speaker, was able to tell us about the many distinguished mathematicians that St John's has produced.

We rounded off the term with a football match against the St Catharine's College Mathematics Society, the Hyperbolics. Unfortunately, we failed to repeat last year's performance and lost spectacularly, 7-4.

I would like to thank all of this year's speakers. Special thanks are also owed to this year's Committee: Robert Easton, Vanessa Bingle, Luke Lorimer, Chris Fairless and Tim Gordon. Finally, I would like to wish good luck for the coming year to our new President, Vanessa, and her Committee.

Gemma Stockton
President



Amnesty International

St John's College Amnesty International has had a successful year. As well as weekly letter-writing sessions in the Bar, we have participated in increased co-operation and communication between college groups. This has enabled larger events, including joint letter-writing sessions with St Catharine's and Caius. These events have been so successful that the Weekend of the Letter Campaign is now a termly rather than yearly occasion. These events provide a great chance for members to meet people from other colleges, write letters, sign pre-written letters and even watch a film. In one night we collected over 250 signatures and wrote 165 individual letters.

Writing letters remains one of the most effective ways to create change, as the huge successes of Amnesty International have shown. However, we are also involved in fundraising and creating awareness. Cambridge University Amnesty International, which we support and work with, won the 2008 Amnesty International UK Student Raise-Off for having collected more donations for AIUK

than any other group. They raised a total of £3,000. This year CUAi also made it into the national news by protesting against Guantanamo Bay, dressed in orange jumpsuits (see photo). Many members of St John's College Amnesty International took part in this event; some of us even got together and went to Hall in our jumpsuits.

Back in John's we have held a Christmas card campaign, where we made greeting cards to send to prisoners of conscience to show support. We also worked with the JCR Women's Officer to get lots of pre-written letters on women's rights signed as part of International Women's Day.



Members of Cambridge University
Amnesty International

Anna Hall
President



The Choir Association

Membership of the Choir Association is open not only to past and present members of the Chapel Choir and Organists, but also to interested friends who share a concern and interest in the activities of the Choir. Since some readers of *The Eagle* may not be current members, I thought it worth summarising our objectives as well as mentioning activities over the past year in the hope that you might be encouraged to participate.

One of the principal objects of the Association is to promote interest in the Choir and to disseminate information about it (including, but not limited to, its past and future projects, recordings, tours and broadcasts). We have a website that helps achieve this, www.sjcca.org.uk, and we also publish a newsletter, which is now issued in an attractive full-colour format. It covers news of past members, both those who have recently left and those of more distant times. To keep the news flowing, please send your contributions to choir-association@joh.cam.ac.uk. The next issue will include a review of a book *The English Chorister*, written by the former Headmaster of the College School, Alan Mould.

Another objective is to arrange social gatherings for members and invited guests. The principal event is the Annual Dinner and General Meeting, which this year takes place in July. Many members met at a Garden Party on 24 May, which also coincided with a memorial concert for Professor John Crook, who was Tutor to many former Choral Students and who must surely be regarded as the first among the Friends of the Choir. Evensong that day was enhanced by members of the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, who accompanied the Choir in Vivaldi's *Magnificat* and Purcell's anthem *O Sing unto the Lord*. It is hoped to plan similar events in the future. Other occasions when members meet informally include the Advent Carol Service and the newly established Epiphany Carol Service. After the Advent Carol Service this year the Committee were pleased to invite Andrew Nethsingha to become President of the Association.

We also support and promote financially the Choir and musical endeavours of members of the Choir past and present. We were very pleased to hear that *Threshold of Night* by Tarik O'Regan, the piece of music specially commissioned by the College for the Advent Carol Service 2006 with support from the Choir Association, won the Liturgical Award at the 2007 British Composers Award Ceremony in December. A bursary has also been awarded to James Birchall to assist him in continuing his studies at the Royal Academy of Music. Other events include a concert to be given in the Chapel by The Gentlemen of St John's for the Cambridge Committee for Macmillan Cancer Support, and another to be given at Kidderminster Town Hall on Friday 1 August.

As part of the preparations for the College's 500th Anniversary, the Committee is in discussion with the College authorities regarding future links between the Choir Association and the College's administrative and fundraising activities. The intention is to enable a fund to be earmarked for Chapel purposes, which would include a facility to provide financial support to talented individuals who would otherwise not be able to sing in the Chapel Choir.

Alan Miller
Committee Member



The Choir of St John's College

The Choir was delighted to welcome Andrew Nethsingha, a Johnian and ex-Organ Scholar, to the post of Director of Music from the beginning of the 2007-08 academic year. Andrew joined us from Gloucester Cathedral, where he was Director of Music, having previously held the same post at Truro Cathedral. A number of other new faces arrived: Pablo Strong, Bradley Smith, Alex Spinney and Francis Williams (Tenor Choral Students); George Dye and Tristan Hambleton (Bass Choral Students); Rupert Reid (Bass Lay Clerk); Robert Baldwin, Alexander Bower-Brown, Julius Foo and Thomas Williams (Choristers); Peter Hicks and Justin Stollery (Probationers). We also welcomed Timothy Ravalde to the organ loft in his new role as Junior Organ Scholar.



In rousing voice, the Choir sang gutsy renditions of Vaughan Williams' *Let all the World* and Britten's *Te Deum in C* to Matriculands in the first service of the Michaelmas Term. Remembrance Sunday was marked in College by a very moving performance of the Duruflé *Requiem* during the morning Eucharist service.

As Advent Sunday fell outside Full Term, the Choir uniquely sang three Advent Carol Services in 2007. The third service, on Sunday 2 December, was broadcast live on BBC Radio 3. The service featured wide-ranging repertoire from Victoria's sumptuous eight-part setting of *Ave Maria* through to Walton's *Magnificat* (Chichester Service), and the American Paul Manz's beautifully simple *Even So, Lord Jesus*. A specially invited Johnian congregation attended the service, which was followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the Hall.

Shortly afterwards, the Choir embarked on a short three concert Christmas tour. For the two sell-out concerts at Manchester Grammar School and in the College Chapel, the Choir was joined by the harpist Frances Kelly, performing a programme of Christmas music that included Britten's *A Ceremony of Carols*. On Wednesday 19 December, the Choir sang a concert at the Palace of Arts in Budapest, sharing the programme with the world-renowned concert organist, Thomas Trotter. Such was the enthusiasm of the two thousand members of the audience that we were given a five-minute standing ovation – even the house lights coming up failed to stop the clamour for more music and the Choir had no alternative but to repeat its encores! A very exhilarated Choir returned to the UK looking forward to a well-earned Christmas break.

The Choir returned in January to record a CD of music for Choir, organ and harp . . . The CD will be launched during autumn 2008.

The Choir returned in January to record a CD of music for Choir, organ and harp, including Britten's *A Ceremony of Carols* (in the arrangement for SATB Choir by Julius Harrison), Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms* and Jánáček's *Otčenáš*, accompanied by Francis Kelly (Harp) and Cameron Sinclair (Percussion). The CD will be launched during autumn 2008.

A liturgically busy Lent Term began with the annual Epiphany Carol Service, and we were delighted that a large number of members of the St John's College Choir Association were able to join us for both the service and the tea beforehand. The service was the first of three to be recorded during the Lent Term for webcasting online via the College web pages, www.joh.cam.ac.uk/chapel_and_choir/listen_online. The College Council recently agreed the expenditure to enable permanent webcasting equipment to be installed in the Chapel during the summer, which will include retractable microphones from the Chapel roof. Once the equipment is installed, it is intended to broadcast a service online at a regular time every week from the beginning of October 2008.

On Sunday 27 January, the Choir was joined by Gonville and Caius' Choir and wind players from the Cambridge University Chamber Orchestra to perform Stravinsky's *Mass*, conducted jointly by Andrew and Dr Geoffrey Webber. So as not to disappoint our regular listeners on Ash Wednesday (the BBC broadcast was from St Albans this year), the service was recorded for webcasting. Music included the Allegri *Miserere Mei*, *Deus*, and Byrd's *Ne Irascaris, Domine*.

On Friday 29 February, we were delighted to welcome over 300 parents and children from St John's College School for a special Evensong. The service was followed by a reception in the Antechapel, organised by the School Parents' Association. The final special service of the Lent Term was the Meditation on the Passion of Christ, with excellent performances by Gareth John as the Evangelist, Sam Furness as Pilate and Edward de Minckwitz as Christ.

Following the success of the two very moving services to commemorate the Abolition of the British Slave Trade in February 2007, the Choir regrouped with the London Adventist Chorale to record a full album of music specially composed by the gospel composer, Ken Burton. The music set inspirational texts by Nelson Mandela, Mother Teresa, Mahatma Gandhi, Rosa Parks and Dr Martin Luther King Jnr, relating to slavery and the human rights movement more generally. It is hoped that the CD will be released early in 2009.

BBC Radio 3 returned to St John's to broadcast Choral Evensong live on Sunday 20 April. The broadcast provoked a very warm reaction from listeners, not least Sam Furness' lengthy and high solo in Jánáček's *Otčenáš*, again accompanied by Frances Kelly on the harp.

The Choir of Clare College joined the Choir to sing Evensong on Saturday 26 April. Music included Walton's *The Twelve*. On Saturday 24 May, the Choir was joined by members of the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, one of the world's foremost period instrument ensembles. Outstanding performances by various soloists made impressive work of the Vivaldi *Magnificat* and Purcell's *O Sing unto the Lord*. Again we were delighted that a number of members from the St John's College Choir Association, who had been attending their annual Garden Party that afternoon, were able to join us for the service. In early June, the Choir was joined for Evensong by the viol consort Fretwork, singing Tomkins' *Fifth service* and Gibbons' *See, see the word is incarnate*.

Following on from last year's inaugural joint service in the Chapel with Trinity College Choir, the Choir this year went 'next door' to sing in Trinity College Chapel. Music for the service included Britten's *Rejoice in the Lamb*, a setting of Christopher Smart's text, Stanford's *Beati quorum via* and Leighton's *Collegium Magdalenae Oxoniense*, which made for a hearty but sensitively sung service.

The May Concert was a tremendous success, opening with the Choir singing the very rousing *Blessed City, Heavenly Salem* by Edward Bairstow. Ian Pong, Manon Hughes, Patrick Bidder, David Sheard and Matthew Ward all made outstanding instrumental contributions, and Léon Charles gave a magnificent performance of Dupré's *Prelude and Fugue in B Major* on the organ. The St John's Singers also contributed with an excellent performance of Mendelssohn's *Verleih uns Frieden*.

For the finale, the Choir were joined by the St John's Singers, Sally Pryce (Harp) and Chris Blundell (Percussion) to sing Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms*, which received great applause from a very enthusiastic audience.

At the end of May Week, the Choir travelled to Thaxted in Essex to sing a concert as part of the Thaxted Music Festival; the theme for this year's Festival was 'Kings and Queens'. The Choir's contribution included Gibbons' *O God the King of Glory*, Byrd's *O Lord, make thy servant Elizabeth our Queen*, and Boyce's *The Lord is King*. In recognition of Holst's connections with Thaxted, the Choir sang *Nunc Dimittis*. One of the most famous early St John's recordings was of Stainer's *The Crucifixion*; it was therefore a great pleasure to sing an anthem by Stainer – *How beautiful upon the mountains* – in the presence of his great grandson (the Festival organiser) and great-great-grandson.

This year's Joint Service with King's College Choir took place on Thursday 3 July at King's College. It was a moving service, with excellent performances of Parry's *Blest pair of sirens* and Vaughan Williams' *Te Deum in G*.

Members of the St John's College Choir Association joined the Choir in the Stalls to sing Evensong during their Annual Reunion Weekend – it was particularly pleasing to see some of the younger members amongst them. Music for the service included *Walmisley in D Minor* and S S Wesley's *Blessed be the God and Father*.

The Chapel year ended with the final Evensong on Sunday 6 July. It was an emotional service for those who would be leaving the Choir at the end of the summer, ending with the traditional final hymn *The day thou gavest* and Elgar's *Nimrod*, played on the organ by Léon Charles. The Choir's year ended with a concert in Chapel on Wednesday 23 July as part of the Cambridge Music Festival.

Our best wishes go to this year's leavers: Léon Charles (Senior Organ Scholar), Edward de Minckwitz (Bass Choral Student), James Diggle and John Lattimore (Alto Choral Students), Rupert Reid (Bass Lay Clerk), James (Freddie) Eggleton and Benedict Flinn (Head Choristers).

Caroline Marks
Choir Administrator



The Economics Society

This year has been a very exciting one for the Economics Society. We started out with our customary gathering to welcome the first years into the fold, build bonds and bring together those across the years who share that common love for the world of supply and demand.

Our first major event was a talk entitled 'How to be smart about Private Equity' by Julian Mash, an ex-member of the Society, who has gone on to have an illustrious career in the City. Julian, who is Founder and Chief Executive of the private equity firm, Vision Capital, gave us a detailed insight into the dynamics of the industry and the career opportunities open to us.

In Lent Term we hosted our first annual 'Options Desserts'. The evening gave us the chance to hear from fellow students about the course options open to us in the next year, and advice they felt applicable when making their decisions. This was a hugely successful event, which I know for many economists has made the course decision choice clearer.

The annual black tie Dinner at the beginning of Easter Term gave everyone a chance to relax before the exams. It also gave the Society an opportunity to thank all those who have helped us throughout the year. We would like to reiterate this thank you to all our Supervisors, our Director of Studies and of course our wonderful Tutor. We now look forward to our last event this year, our annual Garden Party.

After holding a hotly-contested election amongst the first-year students, who were clearly inspired by the charisma of the incumbents, the Society elected Chris Robinson and Lisa Cheng to lead next year. They are both extremely driven and enthusiastic people with big ideas for the forthcoming year.

Anna Ettl and Wayne Redmond
Presidents



The Film Society

It has been another successful year for St John's Films. With a fresh new Committee and new sponsors, 2007-08 was sure to be one of the Society's best – and we haven't been disappointed.

We have endeavoured to offer a wide-ranging selection of films that have catered to the varied interests of the Cambridge University audience. Continuing the tradition of association with other societies, a number of our Michaelmas Term

films addressed serious issues. Particularly successful were: *An Inconvenient Truth*, shown as part of 'CU Green Week', accompanied by a thought-provoking debate on carbon offsetting; and *Blood Diamond*, in association with the Amnesty Film Season. Other popular features this year were the British blockbuster *Atonement* and Oscar-winning *Juno*.

I am particularly grateful for the fantastic work of the Committee, which has made occupying the position of Chair such a pleasure. Sam Law, Head Projectionist, has worked hard to provide us with a new batch of well-trained projectionists and ensured that our somewhat temperamental equipment behaved itself. As Film Secretary, Gemma Johnson has provided us with excellent term cards and kept a close eye on the film distributors – saving the day more than once when films went missing! The whole Society can testify to the achievements of Social Secretary Alex Tatton-Brown, who has organised a host of events throughout the year – the highlight being our annual dinner in the SCR, which was a wonderful evening. In her role as Head Publicist, Natalie McNamee has run successful poster campaigns and managed the creative talents of our dedicated publicity team superbly. Richard Butler has been a meticulous Treasurer, who kept us regularly updated with Society finances. Our Secretary, Roberta Jordan, has been an invaluable asset to the Society. Her organisational skills have kept us on track throughout the year.

I am pleased to say that Roberta has been elected as Chair for the coming year and I wish the new Committee the best of luck for the future.

George Kalamis Chair



The Gentlemen of St John's

This has been the busiest year on record for the Gents, having performed at over forty separate engagements and re-entered the international scene after an absence of four years. We had an unusually large influx of new Gents and have been incredibly fortunate that they have all helped the group to go from strength to strength; the strong tradition of excellent Johnian singers is safe for at least another three years.

The long list of leavers was always going to be a hard act to follow: we lost Basses Johnny Herford (to the Royal Academy of Music) and Tom Faulkner (to further doctorate research); four out of our five Tenors left us – Peter Morton (to the vineyards of Italy), Jonny Knight (who went to experience some sort of conversion in Damascus), Gerald Beatty and Joe Harper (to work at the St John's College



The Gentlemen of St John's

School). Although we only lost one Alto, Richard Wilberforce has so far proved to be, in many respects, irreplaceable; he continues to thrive at the Royal College of Music.

Thankfully we welcomed the special talent of George Dye as our new Russian Bass, who, in combination with Tristan Hambleton, has proved fundamental to the Bass sound. The Tenor section has been boosted by Alex Spinney, Pablo Strong, Bradley Smith and Francis Williams, and they have been joined on occasion by Rupert Reid. Rupert will long be remembered by the Gents for his spectacular Louis Armstrong impressions in response to John Lattimore's 'Love Machine' at this year's Garden Party.

The Michaelmas Term highlights included the annual 'Maypole' concert, which yet again saw 'the Gents' pub' full to overflowing, and a Christmas concert in Ramsey that had people standing at the back to hear us. In December we flew out to Budapest with the full Choir to perform a concert in the new Palace of Arts; after a hugely successful concert, the applause was only abated by two Gents' encores. The Lent Term included a variety of dinner engagements, singing for an incredibly diverse range of audiences, both at corporate and private events. One such event, in the College's Wordsworth Room, was attended by the Mayor of Amsterdam, who was at a conference in St John's. He enjoyed our singing so much that he went back to his room to fetch his guitar, and invited the Gents to join the port and dessert course of the meal whilst he got us to sing along to his favourite tunes!

As usual the Easter Term was focused around preparing for the Garden Party and May Ball, both of which were customarily 'better than ever before'. On top of those events the Gents have also become very popular as wedding entertainers, with Handel's *Zadok the Priest* proving something of a speciality. The summer vacation will see us develop our concert repertoire as we prepare for two tours, one to the West of England, including performances in Kidderminster, Edington and Iford; and the second to Bangkok and Singapore, in late August, which will see us perform in the ballroom of the Mandarin Oriental Hotel, the Shrewsbury International School in Bangkok, and at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory in Singapore.

Some particularly keen losses will be felt by the Gents at the end of this year, with the Alto section losing two cornerstones in James Diggle and John Lattimore. Our first-class Organist, Léon Charles, leaves to take up a post with a choir perhaps second in the world only to St John's, at Westminster Cathedral. I myself am leaving the Gents; however, I will still be in College as a fourth-year Management student.

My thanks go to all the Gents for working so hard to make this busy year a tremendous success; I am particularly grateful to Gareth 'four-contracts' John, who has been a brilliant musical director and librarian. Francis Williams has been unanimously elected to be my successor, and he is already working hard to line up another incredibly exciting year for the Gents. I wish him every success.

Edward de Minckwitz
Manager



The History Society

It has been an absolute pleasure to have been involved in the History Society this past year. The present Committee's term in office began with the annual Garden Party last Easter Term, when it rained, necessitating a stealthy retreat from the Fellows' Garden to the cosy cover of the Old Music Room. However, this ill-luck was not to continue and a successful year ensued, during which we were lucky enough to secure a varied set of speakers.

Our first fixture was St John's own Dr Peter Linehan, who kindly offered us advice, coupled with enjoyable anecdotes. Alice Hogge was next and spoke about the Society of Jesus and the Gunpowder Plot. Then Trinity Hall's Dr Martin Ruehl gave a very engaging talk on the importance of Nietzsche, followed by a topical talk by Dr Andrew Preston, of Clare College, on the role played by religion in American foreign policy. We thank them all.

The highlight of the year came with our Annual Dinner on 5 March in the beautifully candlelit Senior Combination Room. Following the champagne reception and exquisite meal, we were blessed to be in the presence of popular historian and biographer Alison Weir, who spoke movingly about the life and death of Lady Jane Grey and explained the processes involved in writing historical fiction. Dr Tracy Borman, Director of Education at English Heritage, also joined us at the Dinner.

None of these events would have been possible without the support of Professor Tombs and the Committee. Thanks must also go to Charlie Horten-Middleton as Treasurer, who is to be succeeded by Hannah Smith; the Secretaries, Emily Drake and Sarah Evans, to be followed by Emma Macalister-Hall; and the Social Secretary, Sally Richardson, whose torch Jennifer Morgan is to pick up. All that is left is to wish my successor, James Spencer, the best for the coming year.

Charles Marshall
President



Jazz @ John's

Showcasing twenty-two different bands over the course of eight events throughout the year, Jazz @ John's has maintained its reputation for being the premier jazz venue in Cambridge. Fortnightly, the Fisher Building is transformed into a lively club atmosphere and draws in the crowds from across the University, comprising both hardened jazz fanatics and first-time listeners alike. With over 1,800 people now on the mailing list, the events never fail to sell out, leaving the Committee rushed off their feet, either behind the renowned Jazz @ John's bar, or working hard on the sound desk ensuring that the bands sound absolutely amazing. Professional bands are brought in from both the London and Cambridge circuits as Jazz @ John's strives to maintain a variety of different acts, displaying the full range and genres of jazz. More often than not, they are supported by some of the best student bands and musicians in Cambridge.

Always looking to expand the technical assets, Jazz @ John's has recently invested in some high-powered stage lighting, which has really added to the atmosphere, helping bring even more attention in the direction of the performers. Along with continuing investment in the sound equipment, Jazz @ John's has been able to pull in bigger and bigger names to the delight of the audiences: Robin Jones starring with Montuno, a regular at the 606 club in London; Josh Ison, one of the country's most exciting young saxophonists; and Torben Rees, a very fast-rising male vocalist, who has been tipped to become the next Jamie Cullum.

Of course, none of this would be possible without two key ingredients: the dedication and hard work of the Committee, and the ongoing financial support of Deloitte. The Committee is always looking for new interested parties with a passion for jazz and a drive to bring the best of it to Cambridge. However, this year, volunteers have been rather hard to find and recruitment has been slow, leaving the Committee thin on the ground in places. This only serves to credit them more in making each and every event so successful. I would like to thank everyone who has been involved over the last twelve months, and wish the very best of luck to next year's Committee.

Julian Johnson
President

**The Johnian Society**

Last year I reported on a great deal of behind-the-scenes activity for the Johnian Society Committee as we sought to develop a vision for the Society that would enable it to complement the work of the College while giving it a separate identity. We feel there is a place for a Society that is run by Johnians for Johnians.

The Committee has also, on behalf of all Johnnians, asked the College if it would consider allowing Johnnians who are exercising their dining privileges to bring a guest with them on a specified night. The College Council gave a positive response and arrangements were put in place to allow Johnnians to bring a guest on Friday nights (with a small number of restrictions) and on three Saturdays during the year. These so-called 'Johnnian Evenings' have proved very popular and we are delighted that this arrangement will continue during 2008-09.

We are holding the first of our new events on 18 July when there will be a Reception at the House of Lords. We are also putting plans in place for other events so that we have an interesting and varied programme. Announcements will be made on the website and via email so please make sure that the College has an up-to-date email address for you.

This year's Johnnian Society Dinner will take place on Saturday 13 September, a departure from the traditional December date. The Committee considered this very carefully before making the decision, bearing in mind the views of members. We hope that the new time of year will attract a larger number of members and guests than in previous years. The Dinner is complemented by a lunch in the Wordsworth Room and a lecture by Sir David King, formerly Chief Scientific Adviser to the Government. Application forms were sent out with the Lent Term issue of *Johnnian News* and are also available online.

We continue to work with the College's Development Office on a secure website for Johnnian Society members to interact with each other, and Committee members are involved with the development of the College's alumni relations and fundraising strategy. The Chairman now attends meetings of the College's Development Committee, together with other Johnnian Society Committee Members when they are available.

The AGM and Dinner took place in the Hall on Saturday 15 December 2007, with the Chairman, Mr Colin Greenhalgh, in the Chair on behalf of the President. Lord Crisp was elected President for one year from January 2008 and Sir Jack Beatson was elected Vice-President for the same period. The new Ordinary Members of the Committee are Dr Jeevan Deol and Ms Fiona McAnena, who joined the Committee in January 2008, and each serve for six years.

The members of the Committee for 2008 are therefore as follows:

Lord (Nigel) Crisp (President)
 Sir Jack Beatson (Vice-President)
 Mr Colin Greenhalgh (Chairman)
 Ms Catherine Twilley (Honorary Secretary)
 Lord (David) Rowe-Beddoe (Immediate Past-President)

Mr Francis Baron (Past-President)
The Master (ex officio)
Dr Tim Bayliss-Smith (College Representative until May 2008)
Mr Geraint Lewis (co-opted)
Miss Rachel Harker
Mr Mark Chichester-Clark
Mr Michael Mavor
Dr Jo Griffiths
Mrs Heather Hancock
Professor Peter Hennessy
Mr Adam Balon
Sir Alastair Norris
Mr Graham Spooner
Dr Jeevan Deol
Ms Fiona McAnena

Also on 15 December 2007, Lord Crisp gave a fascinating talk on healthcare, with a particular focus on developing countries. The engaging way in which he spoke means that we are all very much looking forward to his speech in Hall on 13 September when he addresses us as President.

The Society continues to support the College financially through gifts for the Access Bursary Scheme (£3,000 this year) . . .

The Society continues to support the College financially through gifts for the Access Bursary Scheme (£3,000 this year) and by adding to the income available from the Johnian Society Travel Exhibition Fund (more than £1,800 of extra funding) to enable a larger number of students to benefit. This year we have again made available seven Travel Exhibitions, each of £600.

We hope that you will support our new initiatives. Please check the website for updates, www.joh.cam.ac.uk/johnian/johnian_society/.

Catherine Twilley
Honorary Secretary



The Larmor Society

This year's Committee commenced their tenure in the traditional manner by organising the annual Garden Party with the help of Dr McConnel and Dr Metaxas. We were fortunate to be blessed with great weather, and it was a resounding success. One of the major roles of the Committee is to ensure the successful integration of Freshers at the beginning of the Michaelmas Term. To this end, no expense was spared on a lavish Freshers Squash. A few weeks later the annual Book Sale took place, at which there was not the fierce competition of the previous year, nor the quantity of books, but still lots of happy customers. The Part IA and IB Desserts – now a fixture in the social calendars of all NatScis – once again proceeded smoothly, with some very evangelical campaigning by Henry Begg on behalf of the Materials Department.

Sophie Lynch took responsibility for the Larmor Dinner, and did a fantastic job all round, as everyone fortunate enough to attend will attest. Another big thank you goes to Hamish Gordon for his fiscal brilliance in the role of Treasurer, and also for updating the excellent, if rarely used, Larmor website. Thank you also to the General Members of the Committee: Rose Chaffe, Su Liu, Sean Dyson and next year's President Katie Graham, to whom I wish the best of luck. Thanks also go to Dr Keith Johnstone and Dr Paul Wood for all their help over the year. On a sadder note, I would like to offer the sympathies of the entire society to the family of Dr Joe Spencer. He will be missed.

Dave Wood
President



The Medical Society

The journey through the Medical and Veterinary Sciences Tripos (MVST) is a tough one, and not for the faint-hearted. But with the rigours of exams over for another year, the Johnian medics emerged from their places of hiding. The 2007 Garden Party provided a chance to relax. While the odd shower of rain helped to wash away the cobwebs, it did nothing to dampen the spirits, which flowed freely. During the sunny intervals, hidden talents were revealed on the croquet lawn.

The start of the year brought a new intake of students, with formal introductions made at the annual Cheese and Wine Evening. With a strong turnout from the clinical students, this popular event provided an opportune environment to learn more about the first years and to catch up with each other. Taking a slightly different turn, Michaelmas term also saw a talk from a Visiting Scholar, Professor Strange, from North America, who gave an interesting comparison between the NHS and the US system.

The highlight of Lent Term was undoubtedly the Annual Dinner in the Combination Room. Fine food was enjoyed by all, and we were especially privileged to be joined by Professor Wyllie, whose advice on how to give a lecture had everyone in stitches.

It has been an honour and a joy to serve as President this year, aided by my enthusiastic Committee: Jonny (despite spending the majority of the year at MIT), Ben, Vish and Roberta, to whom I extend my thanks. I hope that under the guidance of President-Elect Ben Brodie, the Medical Society will continue to emphasise the importance of both working and playing hard in the training of new doctors.

Peter Dannatt
President



The Music Society

As my Presidency draws to a close, I am extremely proud to have led the Committee in one of our busiest and most successful years. With an intake well in excess of a hundred Freshers joining the Society at the beginning of the Michaelmas term, this was just one of many indications that the year ahead looked set to be most fruitful and rewarding.

The Committee's first task, which was superbly overseen by Manon Hughes, was to complete the implementation of the new Membership Card system, which also enabled us to maintain the database more successfully.

As always, the St John's Singers have performed admirably in their various engagements over the year: in the Michaelmas Term Concert, they tackled the deceptively tricky *St Nicolas' Cantata* by Benjamin Britten, accompanied by an instrumental ensemble of College musicians; and in the Lent Concert performed the ever popular and beautiful *Requiem* by Gabriel Fauré. This performance was the first under their new Director, Timothy Ravalde, who has done a consistently outstanding job. The group looks set to continue to flourish for the foreseeable future!

Elsewhere in the College's musical life, the various recital series held in the NMR (Instrumental) and the Chapel (Organ) enjoyed considerable success and excellent attendance, indicative of the enormously high calibre of performers. There was also the annual Combination Room Concert, which the Society dedicated to the memory of the late Professor John Crook. Finally, we were also

privileged to have Graham Walker (former Society President) return to John's to perform the complete Bach *Cello Suites* over two nights in the Lent Term – two truly stunning evenings.

After three years on the Committee, I would like to offer my thanks to all I have worked with, including Professor Johnstone, Dr Glasscock, Dr Castelveccchi and Mr Nethsingha – and all those who have been my colleagues. To those staying on – the future looks most promising!

Léon Charles
President



The Purchas Society

The Purchas Society, for Geographers and Land Economists at St John's College, has received over half a century of support and has grown considerably in both popularity and success over the last three years. Last year, Purchas enjoyed record attendance and an array of interesting and informative speakers. Next year we hope to build on this success by inviting more speakers to explore such topics as the history of the College with regards to the Society's namesake, the Reverend Samuel Purchas, contemporary globalisation and nineteenth-century imperialism.

As a Geography and Land Economy society we aim to hold fun and informative evenings that allow members to listen to and discuss experiences, ideas and topics in a friendly and informal environment. The year kicked off with 'Paddlings', which went very successfully, with Purchasians recounting their summer adventures. We managed to achieve an attendance of thirty members. We enjoyed talks from guest speakers on a variety of topics including 'Shrinking Pineapples' from Katherine Gough and 'Shipwrecks in South East Asia' from Dr Janice Stargardt. The annual Purchas Dessert was held in the Wordsworth Room, followed by a short talk from Dr Ian Willis on members of the Geography Department. This year's programme also included the famous Purchas Garden Party and the End of Year Dinner in the SBR, where the new Committee was elected.

Sarah Turner, President
Natalie Moss, Secretary
Sarah Baggs, Treasurer
Daniel Paine, Librarian



RAG

Taking over as St John's reps for RAG, Lizzie Richardson, Kate Houghton, Michael Kattirtzi, and Rhiannon Pugh continued last year's efforts in promoting charity work within St John's.

We focused on supporting the charitable events and work organised by Cambridge RAG, which enabled fellow Johnians, and even strangers, to give some time or money for a good cause. Together, we increased awareness of different charities, strengthened the reputation of RAG in our College, and proved that charity work can be enjoyable as well as effective.

The first event was the annual Pyjama Pub Crawl, which afforded students (especially Freshers) the opportunity to try new places and meet new people, in the comfort of their nightwear. In February, RAG Blind Date saw around fifty Johnians, single or attached, take the opportunity to meet someone new in a pub, bar or club of their choice.

Adam Bennet blagged his way to Germany in Jailbreak, and Lucy Chambers went beyond the call of duty in selling rubber ducks. Natalie McNamee and Richard Curling's photography spree turned heads in Get Spotted and our red dragons truly raised spirits at the RAG Carnival. This year we also vastly increased the number of our students collecting in the street, many of whom felt it was a rewarding experience.

We would like to send a big thank you to everybody who helped RAG this year, and wish the best of luck to Lizzie and her fellow reps in continuing and improving on our work.

Michael Kattirtzi



SAFE (Southern African Fund for Education)

SAFE is designed to help children in Africa achieve a better quality of life through education. We have given over £3000 to various charities this year alone, both to help build and maintain schools, as well as to help children orphaned by AIDS and conflict. The charities we have given to in the past include LINK, Action for Street Kids and the Akamba Aid Fund. To achieve this we rely on the charity of both the College and the students. Many members of College give £5 per term to SAFE, the total of which the College generously matches. We hope that next year as many people sign up to join SAFE as did this year, and that the College can maintain its status as a charitable presence in Southern Africa.

Dave Wood
President



The Winfield Society

The Winfield Society has had another successful year under its new Committee. We welcomed the first years with our traditional book sale and secured sponsorship for Society rugby shirts from Lovells so that the Society is now promoted University-wide.

Mooting successes have featured heavily this year in the Society's activities. Natalie McNamee and Adam Bond made it into the semi-finals of the University Fledglings competition, and David Sheard competed in the final of the main University competition, the De Smith Moot. Our in-house mooting competition went to even greater levels of professionalism, thanks in part to a very generous gift from Mr Louis Singer, a Johnian Law graduate who now practises in New York. His gift enabled us to offer coaching to the first-year students for the first time. Craig Morrison and Louisa Nye, past Officers of the Society, came back to Cambridge to offer the first years the benefit of their advocacy experience. This all showed in the final, where the standard of advocacy was very high indeed. Congratulations must go to Edward Crossley, who was the winner of the competition, and to Alex Torrens, the runner-up.

We are committed to providing more mooting coaching in years to come and hope to draw on the advocacy expertise of some of our Johnian graduates who now practise at the Bar. We are grateful to Mr Eoin O'Shea of Simmons & Simmons, who came up for the evening to judge the final, and to Mr Nolan and Dr Fox for their judging of the earlier rounds.

As has been our custom in recent years, all Johnian Law graduates were invited to the Society's Annual Dinner in the College Hall in February. About thirty graduates attended the Dinner and joined the cohort of current Law students and Fellows of the College. Our speaker at the Dinner was Sir Alastair Norris. Since his time as a Law undergraduate at St John's, Sir Alastair has been a strong supporter of the College and the Society. We were particularly pleased to have him as our speaker this year, just a few months after his appointment as a Justice of the High Court in the Chancery Division.

The only thing left for us to do is celebrate the end of term with the annual 'punt party', at which our new Committee will be announced.

Caroline Hartley
President



The Women's Society

The St John's Women's Society has concluded its first successful year. The Society was founded in 2007, a very important year that marked the twenty-fifth anniversary of the admission of women to the College. The purpose of the Society is to establish a variety of activities of particular interest to female members of the College, from career advice and networking events, raising awareness of women's issues and actively promoting women's representation throughout the College, at both junior and senior levels. The Society, which has already reached a membership of 103, and all its events, are open to women and men.

The 2007-08 academic year started with an inspiring talk entitled 'Applying for a Junior Research Fellowship', given by Anna Mallam and David Conlon, two College Junior Research Fellows. Along with several social events, including movie nights and afternoon talks, we were the first to establish yoga classes in the College, open to all members of the College. These have been very popular with men and women. In addition, the creation of an email-based 'Agony Aunt service' has complemented support networks present in the College.

For the Easter Term, the Society is again ready with a plethora of remarkable events. We have organised a University-wide talk entitled 'Changing Our World: Women and difference', by Dame Sian Elias, Honourable Chief Justice of New Zealand. To celebrate the success of the Society's first year, we will hold the Women's Society Hall on 5 June. This dinner will celebrate the importance of women in our College. The closing event for the academic year will be a trip to

London to the National Portrait Gallery exhibition, 'Brilliant Women: 18th Century Bluestockings'.



The Women's Society

After only a few months of activity, the St John's Women's Society has already made a significant contribution to College life and is set to thrive. As founder of the Society, I would like to acknowledge the tireless work of my Committee: Jessica Priestley, Carla Lancelotti, Ruth Mokgokong, Delphine Soulard, Freya Johnson Ross and Janet Lees. We look forward to making our mark on St John's College for many years to come.

Simona Giunta
President



COLLEGE SPORTS

Men's Badminton

This year has been a rewarding one for Men's Badminton. We have seen an influx of enthusiastic first years and our numbers have swelled. The team has managed to maintain its standing in the League and performed excellently in both Open and Mixed Cuppers.

In the First Team, old hands Chris Thomas, Varadom 'Yod' Charoensawan, Di Liang and Chris Cleaver were joined by Amar Shah and Rob Liu from the Second Team and first years Nick Jenkins and Dan Lu. Special thanks must also go to Adam Bond and Oliver Knevit for 'subbing in' when needed. The First Team this year achieved our best result in Badminton Open Cuppers in recent years, making it through to the final four out of over thirty teams. They were knocked out by traditional rivals Trinity I, who went on to win the tournament. In the Inter-Collegiate League they managed to stay in the top division in the Michaelmas Term. It is looking likely that they will stay there, but to do so they must first win one final match against Queens' I.

This year's Second-Team players were Oliver Knevit, Mark Knight, Tim Gordon, Nikhil Dhodia, Heng Wui Leng and Captain Adam Bond. The Second Team finished near the top of Division 3A of the Inter-Collegiate League in the Lent Term and it is possible they will be promoted to Division 2. Adam has asked me to thank also all those players who subbed in for the Second Team when we were short of players.

The Third Team this year was captained by Luke Lorimer and the regular players were Kan Lu, David Nissenbaum, Dahir Alihassan, Fumiya Mori, Pip Coen, Dan Paine, Amarnath Marthi, Jenan Wijayasri and Sam Gibbons. Having been promoted to Division 4A over the summer, the Third Team had a hard start to the year. However, they have managed to stay up and finished middle of the table in the Lent Term, with an impressive score against a strong Christ's II.

Di Liang will be taking over as Men's Captain next year and I wish him all the best. I would also like to thank Dr McConnell and Jackie Clark, on behalf of the Badminton Club, for working hard to guarantee us regular training time in the Fisher Building.

Chris Thomas
Captain



The Chess Club

This year saw us start in Division III of the League due to a dwindling number of chess players in recent years. We began confident as a strong group of second years took up the chess-playing responsibility. Our first match was against Trinity IV, one of our main rivals in the division. It was fortunate we met them so early on in the term, while they were still disorganised – three players didn't turn up, and it was a walkover victory. We were the only team to beat them this season. Our other main rival was the top Fitzwilliam team, who we played second. This was the only match we lost in the League and through a mixture of talent and organisation we managed to top Division III. This means promotion, and we can look forward to the challenge of Division II next year.

The Cuppers matches are hard work and can last up to three hours. Our first match was against the Division I Jesus team. We knew it would be tough and each match was very well fought. In the end we drew on board count but lost on board elimination – the method of determining the winners of a drawn match. It was an extremely encouraging match and we were unlucky to lose. We also lost in the Plate to Queens', who will be in Division I next year.



The Chess Club

To celebrate topping the division, we had our first annual Chess Society Dinner in the Parsons Room. It was a good opportunity to reflect on the year's achievements with exceptional company and food.

The team: David Nissenbaum (Captain), Amar Shah, Luke Lorimer, Jon Shepherd, Agustín Serrano-de-Haro-Sánchez, Ed Allen, Robert Bell, David Barraclough, Philip Coen, Melvin Chin, and Jonathan Chia.

David Nissenbaum Captain



The Eagles

Traditionally the eagle is a symbol of greatness. It also symbolises immortality, courage, far-sightedness and strength.

Sporting Eagles are generally known for their superior size and their powerful build, and this can be seen on the Rugby field. After a promising start, Eagle MacLennan was unfortunate not to be able to vie for his first Blue after being sidelined with a metatarsal injury. Eagle Reid, meanwhile, shrugged off challenges from former Wallaby, Joe Roff, to gain a Blue in his first term in Cambridge.

Captain Eagle Mayne was unlucky losing for the U21s against the old enemy, but has managed to lead the College team to an unprecedented quadruple double of the Cuppers and League titles, ably accompanied by Eagles Wells, Gibson, Morrison, Samuelson and Wood. Eagle Ashcroft dabbled in Mixed Netball for the Medics team, but lost his place in the squad after a poor run of form.

After retirement from the Hockey Club, Eagle Morrison has now found time to continue his passionate admin role as Secretary to the Red Boys. This, however, coupled with Captain Eagle Goldsmith's Blues' commitments, has left the Hockey Club struggling to find the form of recent years. A new influx of talent does bring hope for the future though. At University level, Eagle Goldsmith won his first Blue, whilst becoming only the third player to be sent off in the Varsity Match (the others being Eagles Palmer and Dr McConnel). Eagle Mackenney also showed good form by winning University Colours.

On the Football field, Eagle Pantelides helped Cambridge to an emphatic win at Craven Cottage, with some saying that his three touches on the ball were the finest ever. Eagle Redmond started many games for the Blues and earned his first University Colours. Eagle Quinn has helped Captain Eagle Verney, along with Eagles Gibson and Bell, to lead the team to a solid season where they managed to score more points than Eagle Adams during his entire Cambridge career.

Eagle Macleod remains an integral part of the Cambridge Karate team, with Eagle Kolodynski leading the University Judo team to the quarter-finals of BUSA (British University Sports Association).

On the water, Eagle Trynka has ensured the LMBC 1st VIII remained at third spot on the river, and in sailing, I captained the University side to a fourth straight Varsity victory, helped along by Eagle Smedley.

In racquet sports, Eagle Caterer played University Second Team Tennis, and helped Eagle Bell lead a College Tennis team to the quarter-finals of Cuppers. Eagle Douglas, meanwhile, who captains both the University Squash and Real Tennis teams, helped Great Britain to the World Team Championships and won the British Doubles Championships. He also collected another Half-Blue in Racquets, where he was joined by Eagle Bell.

Last summer, Eagle Kemp represented the Blues at both Varsity Cricket matches and, after losing the one-day match, was unlucky not to close out the win in the four-day match, eventually having to settle for a draw. Eagle Whittington also won his first Blue in Golf.

Finally, all that is left is to thank our senior members: Dr McConnel, for his work as Senior Treasurer, and both his and Wendy Redgewell's help in organising the Dinner; and Keith for continuing to provide excellent sports pitches. It is an honour to lead such an institution and, with Johnian competition for election to the Club as fierce as ever, it remains at the forefront of University sport.

Nunc est Bibendum

Tom Heywood
Big Bird



Men's Football

This year the St John's Football Club achieved something it has not achieved for four years: reaching a final, so this has certainly been a successful season in terms of improving on our recent performances. Our all-competition season total of nine wins, two draws and five losses is nothing to be ashamed of, but unfortunately it was a season of 'what ifs' when it came to the big games.

Running a college football team is much like running the England team, where players are divided between club and country, but for us it was between the College team and the University teams, and this led to some inconsistencies in

the starting eleven from week to week. Our Vice-Captain, Wayne Redmond, however, was lost straight from the off, playing a grand total of three College games this season.

Our season started with a bang, and we went on to win all of our pre-season friendlies convincingly. I managed to injure myself trying (and failing) to save a penalty in the first game in the League, resulting in two fantastic goalkeeping performances from Peter Coulthard and Greg Caterer. Paul Edwards was another sad loss to injury, resulting in the return of Chris Cleaver.

A College team is made or broken at the beginning of the year by the Fresher intake. A staggering four out of the five Freshers were snapped up by the University but we managed to hold on to them for the majority of the games. Jamie Spencer could occasionally be seen at training, and, when he was, he was a solid addition to the right-hand side of the pitch. As was Alex Rutt, our reliable right back, whose ability to put in a solid tackle was surpassed only by his ability to put up with abuse. Chris Maynard was an invaluable addition to the team. Watching him dribble past almost every player on the pitch was enough to give our own team, let alone the opposition, a headache and I have been told that soon he hopes to learn how to pass, which might make him even better next year than the player-of-the-season-award-winning display he gave this year. Yusuf played slightly out of position. Apparently a natural left back, he was outstanding playing up front alongside Ben Gibson or Nick Brown. Finally, Chris Tolley showed us all what it is to be a solid midfielder, and will lead the team very well next year from the middle of the pitch, when he takes over as Captain.

It has been a successful season in terms of results and personalities in the squad; it's just a shame we didn't quite manage to translate that into silverware. The omens are certainly looking good for next season.

Tom Verney
Captain



Women's Football

The 2007-08 season got off to a very strong start for Women's Football at St John's. The team, who were only promoted into the First Division last season, won their first game away against Girton 8-0. This was particularly rewarding given the long and fatiguing journey to reach the game. Undoubtedly our finest hour of the season was the 2-1 victory over Jesus, who were the League and Cuppers winners last year. Although our run in Cuppers was ended by New Hall in the quarter-final, the team did finish in the top half of the League, a significant achievement given our recent promotion.

I would like to thank Vice-Captain Anya Perry for all her hard work and perhaps most importantly her in-depth knowledge of (men's) football, which certainly was helpful at training sessions. I would also like to mention Clare Stevenson and Amanda Scott, who did a great job as Social Secretaries this year (despite that Homerton Hall swap), and will be next season's Captain and Vice-Captain respectively. Finally, thanks to everyone who has played this year (including the cameo appearances) and helped to make the team so successful. It has been an honour to play for and to captain St John's and I wish Clare the best of luck for next season.

Lizzie Richardson
Captain



Lady Margaret Boat Club

As you will read below, it has been a good year for the Club. The Reunion Regatta and Dinner in September 2007 was a very enjoyable occasion and brought many old members of the Club back to the Cam and to College. One of the highlights was seeing so many children cheer on their mums or dads (or, in some cases, both!) in the regatta and then taking a turn on the ergos and sitting in a boat. Soon afterwards we welcomed Professor Chris Dobson, the new Master of the College, as President of the Club, in succession to Professor Richard Perham. I am delighted to report that our new President is already the proud owner of an LMBC blazer!

Jane Kennerley (née Milburn), ably assisted by John Hall-Craggs, has been working to complete Volume 3A of the *Lady Margaret Boat Club History*, which is due to be published in the summer. It has been a mammoth task and we owe Jane an enormous debt of gratitude for investing so much time and energy on the Club's behalf. As usual, we are grateful to all those who work on behalf of the Club, particularly Raf Wyatt, our Boat Club Manager, our coaches and supporters. We cannot forget the LMBC Association, whose financial support has made possible our training camps, Henley and the purchase of equipment. Members of the Committee also provide support and advice to those of us in College.

Sadly our sponsorship arrangement with Bank of America comes to an end this year. We are actively looking for a new sponsor and would be grateful for any leads. Another major issue that is affecting the Club is the squeeze on training time. There seems to be less time available during the day for students to train, with the effect that we have seen increasing congestion on the river early in the morning. Stringent new rules are due to be introduced in October, which will severely impact on our opportunities to put boats out to train. We are having to

be more imaginative in the way we train so that we can continue to fulfil our mission to provide rowing activity to those students of St John's who wish to join the LMBC, but you can rest assured that we will do our best.

On a sad note though, Raf Wyatt, who has been an excellent Boat Club Manager for the past two years, is leaving the LMBC and moving back to New Zealand. Much of the success of the Club is attributable to her efforts and she will be missed. A recruitment campaign is underway and we hope to have someone in place for the start of the academic year.

Finally it is with great regret that I have had to resign the post of Senior Treasurer as I shall be taking up the position of Fellow and Development Director at Christ's. I have been Senior Treasurer since 1999 and it has been an enjoyable (most of the time!) role. I have been privileged to hold such a position. I shall remain a Maggie girl at heart and hope to see many LMBC men and women at Henley and on the towpath in the years to come. I leave the Club in the safe hands of Dr Paul Wood, Fellow of St John's and former Fellows' Boat oarsman.

Catherine Twilley **Senior Treasurer**

Women's Crews

The University IVs First IV

Bow Emily Roberts
2 Rhiannon Pugh
3 Clarissa Scholes
Stroke Katie Rickman
Cox Kat McLoughlin

The First Fairbairns VIII

Bow Emily Roberts
2 Alice Eldred
3 Lucy Chambers
4 Vanessa Bingle
5 Kat McLoughlin
6 Rhiannon Pugh
7 Clarissa Scholes
Stroke Katie Rickman
Cox Amy Atkinson

The First Fairbairns IV

Bow Ellie Rye
2 Roisin Hood
3 Eleanor Kelly
Stroke Christina Faranda-Bellofiglio
Cox Pavel Spirine

The First Lent VIII

Bow Lucy Chambers
 2 Alice Eldred
 3 Eva-Maria Hempe
 4 Francesca O'Brien
 5 Francesca Yates
 6 Kat McLoughlin
 7 Clarissa Scholes
 Stroke Katie Rickman
 Cox Dave Barraclough

The Second Lent VIII

Bow Bryony Shelton
 2 Amy Bray
 3 Tilly Wilding-Coulson
 4 Emma Yau
 5 Faith Taylor
 6 Louise Bowmaker
 7 Vanessa Bingle
 Stroke Julia Hine
 Cox Rachel Filar

The First May VIII

Bow Kat McLoughlin
 2 Francesca Yates
 3 Francesca O'Brien
 4 Eva-Maria Hempe
 5 Rhiannon Pugh
 6 Elizabeth Smee
 7 Lara Maister
 Stroke Louise Connell
 Cox Ashraf El-Mashad

The Second May VIII

Bow Bryony Shelton
 2 Clare Stevenson
 3 Vanessa Bingle
 4 Alice Eldred
 5 Lucy Chambers
 6 Alex Rinnert
 7 Emily Roberts
 Stroke Katie Rickman
 Cox Dave Barraclough

Men's Crews

The Henley VIII

Bow Ben Russell
 2 Gerald Weldon
 3 Jan Trnka
 4 Neil Houlby
 5 Patrick Marti
 6 John Davey
 7 William Gray
 Stroke Matthew O'Connor
 Cox Amy Atkinson

The Light IV

Bow Neil Houlsby *
 2 Toby Parnell
 3 William Gray
 Stroke Matthew O'Connor
 * steers

The First Coxed IV

Bow Duncan McCombe
 2 Samuel Palin
 3 William Hall
 Stroke Aled Jones
 Cox Hayley Fisher

The Second Coxed IV

Bow Richard Curling
 2 Rob Gray
 3 Alastair Smith
 Stroke Nick Milton
 Cox Chelsea Wright

The First Fairbairns VIII

Bow Duncan McCombe
 2 Aled Jones
 3 Jan Trnka
 4 Toby Parnell
 5 Neil Houlsby
 6 Michael Shephard
 7 William Gray
 Stroke Matthew O'Connor
 Cox Hayley Fisher

The First Lent VIII

Bow Edward Crossley
 2 Toby Parnell
 3 William Hall
 4 Nick Milton
 5 William Gray
 6 Michael Shephard
 7 Neil Houlsby
 Stroke Aled Jones
 Cox Hayley Fisher

The Second Lent VIII

Bow Alastair Smith
 2 Ciaran Woods
 3 Jake Clarke
 4 James Armitage
 5 Alex Wheeler
 6 Duncan McCombe
 7 Alex Gilbert
 Stroke Eddie Moore
 Cox Amy Atkinson

The First May VIII

Bow	Duncan McCombe
2	Aled Jones
3	William Hall
4	Toby Parnell
5	Neil Houlsey
6	Matthew O'Connor
7	William Gray
Stroke	Michael Shephard
Cox	Hayley Fisher

The Second May VIII

Bow	Daniel Paine
2	Ciaran Woods
3	Chris Robinson
4	Edward Crossley
5	Nick Milton
6	Jake Clarke
7	Alex Gilbert
Stroke	Eddie Moore
Cox	Amy Atkinson

Men's Coaches

Roger Silk, Gerald Weldon, Christoph Rummel, Karen Wiemer, Nick Geddes, John Davey, Andy Jones, Henry Addison, Tony Pryor, Patrick Marti, John Durack, Jamie MacLeod, Sandy Black, Hannah Stratford, Chris Atkin, Richard Curling and Ciaran Woods. Many thanks go to everyone who coached, especially to Raf Wyatt.

Women's Coaches

A big thank you to Ben Symonds, Henry Addison, Hannah Stratford and Gerald Weldon, Alison Gledhill, Cath Mangan, Anna-Marie Phelps, Karen Wiemer, Roger Silk, Steve Fuller, Amir Nathoo, Izzie Kaufeler, Tim Angliss, Elizabeth Davidson and Rhiannon Pugh. Thanks to all those who coached, and in particular, to Raf Wyatt.

The Lady Margaret Boat Club – Men

Henley 2007

The LMBC sent the full First May VIII to Henley Royal Regatta once again in 2007. The crew made the most of the time between the May Ball and the qualifying race to ensure qualification for the Temple Challenge Cup. The crew was drawn against a selected crew, our sister college, Trinity College Dublin. The result was a loss by just half a length. The success of this Henley campaign was made possible by my predecessor, Jan Trnka, and the generous support of the LMBCA.

Michaelmas Term 2007

Seniors

Michaelmas saw half of last year's May VIII return, with healthy retention from the lower boats. The focus for the first half of term was the University IVs races.

LMBC fielded a Coxless IV and two Coxed IVs. The Light IVs competition was thin this year, with our crew gaining a bye to the final, where they were narrowly beaten by First and Third. The second Coxed IV lost to Trinity Hall in their first round.

The first Coxed IV began the week with low expectations after a poor result at Autumn Head. However, the improvements made were clear – we beat Emmanuel by fourteen seconds in our first race, and Christ's by three seconds in the semi-finals. We then succumbed to a fast First and Third crew in the final.

The squad responded to the University IVs results with increased determination, fielding two Vllls for Fairbairns. The Development VIII enjoyed rowing throughout the term and was the thirty-eighth fastest college crew in Fairbairns. The First Fairbairns VIII came a promising third in Winter Head and, with the crew settled, made significant progress to be the second fastest college crew in Fairbairns, only beaten (again) by First and Third.

Novices

The promising results of the senior squad were reinforced with exceptional results from the novices. The club fielded six novice men's crews throughout the term. They first competed at Queens' Ergs, where the First Boat and the Second Boat managed second place, both behind the respective Jesus crews, and the Third Boat won the Lower Boats Division, beating many second boat crews. The First Boat went on to win their division of Winter Head, with the Second Boat in fourth place. At Clare Sprints, four men's crews entered the Plate competition. The Grad boat and the Third Boat both made their semi-finals, where equipment failure caused both narrowly to miss out on the finals. In the Cup competition both the First Boat and the Second Boat were eventually beaten by Jesus – the Second Boat in the quarter-finals and the First Boat in the finals.

The novices showed their full potential at Fairbairns. We were the only college to enter a Fifth and Sixth Boat, which, along with the Fourth Boat, performed well (44th, 51st and 55th). The First, Second and Third Boats all managed to be the fastest crews in their divisions, though due to an unfortunate incident with marshalling instructions and the need for a re-row, the First Boat was denied the official victory. A truly excellent set of results, thanks for which must go to Lower Boats Captain Richard Curling for his tireless dedication to making the LMBC men's novice boats the best on the Cam.

Lent Term 2008

The Lent Term started with training camps at both Dorney Lake, Eton, and on the Cam. Two Vllls spent a week training hard on and off the water in Eton. The opportunity to row uninterrupted on a world-class lake enabled

improvements in fitness and technique, and we are grateful to the LMBCA for their continued support of these camps, without which many athletes would struggle to attend.

The First Boat raced both on and off-Cam, winning Newnham Short Course, and were the fastest Oxbridge College at Bedford Head. Results from the Robinson Head showed significant progress, with the First Boat coming second overall, just three seconds behind First and Third, narrowing the gap from Fairbairns.

All this racing proved excellent preparation for Lent Bumps, where the crew started fourth on the river. On the first day, despite a nervous start, the crew pulled away from Downing and crept up on Caius. The bump was converted just beyond the Railings when Caius was just a canvas off Jesus in front. The second day saw a cleaner row, gradually gaining on Jesus until the bump was made out of Ditton Corner. We went into the third day lying second on the river, behind a First and Third crew who had yet to be pushed. A determined row saw us close inside station in the first part of the course, and remain on station on the Long Reach, but we lacked the speed to challenge closely for the Headship. Two solid row-overs finished the week, leaving us perfectly placed to make the challenge next year.

With Lents completed, the crew resumed training for the Head of the River Race on the Tideway in London. The crew finished a credible one hundred and thirty-sixth, a sign that a top 100 placing is certainly what we should be aiming for in future. Many thanks go to old oar Tom Edwards-Moss and Mr and Mrs Hall for providing accommodation.

The Second Boat was a relatively inexperienced crew but made excellent progress, winning their division of Pembroke Regatta. Starting at the Head of the Second Division in Bumps, they had a comfortable (though interesting due to a boat-stopping crab) row-over on the first day, leaving them to row as sandwich boat for a place in the First Division on the second day. They made their bump on Robinson at First Post Corner, gaining the First Division spot. On Thursday they chased Magdalene, closing to a canvas around Grassy Corner, but unfortunately didn't manage to convert the bump. Robinson were resurgent and came close to making the bump back, but the crew put in committed pushes to retain their First Division place. On Friday it was First and Third II rowing as sandwich boat; they managed to make the bump on our crew just before First Post Corner, leaving the crew back at the top of the Second Division. Two comfortable row-overs on Saturday maintained this position overall, and showed the potential of the crew. Special thanks go to Patrick Marti, who came out of retirement to ensure the crew could race all six times.



LMBC Men

The Third Boat finished down one at Bumps after bad luck resulted in them falling twice in the first two days. A gutsy row-over on the third day, pushing away Clare II when they had overlap, left them making their first bump on Saturday. The Fourth Boat was unlucky to finish down three, and the Fifth Boat narrowly missed out in the Getting On Race.

Many thanks to John Durack for umpiring and thus relieving us of some marshalling duties, and to all our supporters and bank parties who provided valuable assistance throughout the week.

Easter Term 2008

Preparations for the May Bumps started with a pre-term training camp in York for those in contention for the First Boat. The crew was able to make substantial progress, rowing continually for distances unheard of on the Cam. Many thanks to Jamie MacLeod for his hospitality and the LMBCA for their continued support.

We returned to Cambridge and crews were soon finalised, with the Club fielding six Vllls for the May Bumps. The First Boat improved throughout the term. A shaky start, coming fifth at Head of the Cam, was followed with a trip to the Poplar Regatta, where the crew came second in S3 and fourth in S2. Stronger performances at the Champs Head and Nines Regatta left the crew in third and second place respectively.

The crew approached the Mays with growing confidence, starting third behind First and Third and Caius. On the first night, a nervy row saw First and Third take the headship in front of us, ending Caius' eight-year reign, leaving us a relaxed row-over. The second night saw us chasing Caius. A much improved row saw us gain consistently through the corners, emerging onto the reach with overlap – the bump was conceded just after the railings, leaving Lady Margaret second on the river once again. We chased First and Third once more on the third night – a good first half of the race saw us close to around a length but from Grassy corner First and Third pulled away. On the final night, a much better row once again saw us close down to a length, maintaining this until we emerged onto the Long Reach but, despite immense support from the bank, we were unable to get any closer.

The Second Boat settled quickly and made improvements. They showed their form by winning their divisions at both City Sprints and Champs Head, beating many crews close to them in Bumps.

They showed their form by winning their divisions at both City Sprints and Champs Head, beating many crews close to them in Bumps.

They approached the Mays with justified confidence, bumping a weak Wolfson crew very quickly on the first night. The second night saw the crew chasing King's I – a more challenging proposition, with the bump executed out of Ditton Corner. On the third night they followed the First Boat's example, bumping Caius II out of Grassy Corner. Saturday's target was Selwyn I – reeled in around the corners resulting in a bump outside the Plough. This won the crew their blades and secured their position at the Head of the Second Division, leaving them with an opportunity to bump up into the First Division as sandwich boat. Unfortunately a very slow Robinson crew two places ahead left them chasing for the over-bump on Christ's I and resulted in a row-over. Enormous congratulations must go to the crew, containing seven oarsmen who noviced this year.

The Third Boat saw many oarsmen come out of retirement. They enjoyed success at the Radegund Mile, though were denied their prizes due to the organisers not believing that they weren't a First Boat; and won their divisions at City Sprints and Champs Head. They missed out on the top spot at Nines Regatta to CCAT II (who outperformed their First Boat throughout the term).

High expectations were placed on the crew going into the May Bumps. Unfortunately, as is often the case, they didn't have luck on their side throughout

the week. On the first evening, a poor row saw Jesus III bump out in front of them. Trinity Hall II was dispatched before First Post Corner on the second evening, leaving the crew once again chasing Jesus III on Friday. They proved their ability by once again bumping at First Post Corner, leaving them in a prime position to watch the ensuing carnage as the three chasing crews struggled to take the corner. On the final day, the Third Boat also suffered from having a very slow Robinson crew placed two in front of them, leading to a relaxed row-over. The three lower boats trained throughout the term but lacked consistency, despite Richard Curling's hard work. The Fourth Boat was unfortunate to be delayed by carnage in front of them on the first night of Bumps, resulting in them being bumped by the Plough. They were bumped twice more in the following two nights, though Clare Hall I had to wait until after the railway bridge to make their bump. They had a comfortable row-over on the final evening. The Fifth Boat had a good start to the May Bumps, taking advantage of Jesus V's poor start to make a quick bump. Unfortunately they then suffered at the hands of a strong St Edmund's II, who managed a double over-bump. The crew finished the week down six. The Sixth Boat was an enthusiastic Rugby Boat, who began the week at the bottom of the Fifth Division. They were bumped by Emmanuel IV on the first night, leaving them at the Head of the Sixth Division. They then rowed over four times in the next two days, not quite managing to bump back into the Fifth Division as sandwich boat. A weak row on the final day saw them bumped by King's III, who went on to win their blades.

Firstly many thanks go to Raf Wyatt, who unfortunately leaves us as Boat Club Manager at the end of this year. Her first-rate coaching of all crews and hard work in maintaining and improving the boathouse have been greatly appreciated, and the excellent results of the senior crews this year are testament to this. She will be a hard act to follow and we wish her all the best for the future.

I must also take this opportunity to thank Catherine Twilley for nine years' service to the Club as Senior Treasurer. Catherine is moving on to a new job at the end of this year. Her tireless efforts in managing the Club's finances have enabled the LMBC to provide the opportunity to all members of College to learn to row. Thank you and best wishes for the future.

Finally I would like to thank the Junior Committee and, in particular, my Vice-Captain, Toby Parnell, for their support throughout the year. It has been a privilege to be Captain of the LMBC. With both men's Headships ripe for the taking next year, I wish my successor, Neil Houlby, the very best of luck.

Vive Laeta Margareta

Hayley Fisher
Captain



The Lady Margaret Boat Club – Women**Michaelmas Term 2007****Novices**

With the arrival of a large intake of Freshers, three novice crews were set up. The novice crews had a great start to term, as the First Boat finished eighth in Queens' Ergs. The First Boat and the Second Boat entered Winter Head. After an exciting race, with some interesting steering, the First Boat came second out of the college novice boats, beaten only by the Second Boat. In Clare Novice Sprints, the First Boat beat Magdalene I but then lost narrowly to Pembroke I in the second round. The Second Boat beat Robinson II but then lost to a strong Lucy Cavendish boat, which went on to win the Plate competition. The Third Boat beat Fitzwilliam II, Jesus II and Selwyn II to reach the final, where they lost narrowly to Lucy Cavendish II. The crews had some good results in Fairbairns; the First Boat coming fourth, the Second Boat coming thirty-second and the Third Boat coming twenty-fifth. A good set of results, for which particular thanks must go to Lower Boats Captain Rhiannon Pugh and Raf Wyatt.

Seniors

Michaelmas Term saw the women's squad split in two, with the senior women fielding a IV and an VIII. The VIII split into two IVs, one to race in the University IVs and the other to train. The crew performed strongly, beating CCAT I easily in the first round before narrowly losing out to Clare in the quarter-finals.

The IVs then merged back into one VIII, with extra technical skill from spending time in smaller boats. Training continued and the first race entered as an VIII was the Winter Head. The crew performed well to finish ninth out of the college crews in their division. After an eventful race in Fairbairns they again came ninth out of the college crews – a solid result. The IV concentrated on improving technique throughout the term, and only raced Fairbairns, in which they came fifteenth out of college boats.



LMBC Women

Lent Term 2008

Lent started with a training camp on Eton Dorney lake. Two VIII's spent a successful week training hard on and off the water, despite the weather conditions forcing us off the water more than once. Our thanks go to the LMBCA for their continued support of this camp.

Back in Cambridge, a high retention rate allowed us to field three women's crews. The relatively inexperienced First Boat showed steady improvements. The first race of term was Winter Head to Head, where the crew came tenth after a slightly shaky first race together. Some off-Cam racing at Bedford taught the crew a few valuable lessons and in Newnham Short Course the progression was evident with the crew coming fourth.

A rather uneventful start to Bumps saw three days of quite uncontested row-overs, due to a lot of changes further up the division. On the final day, despite steady gains on Clare in front, the crew finally succumbed to Pembroke I just after Ditton, finishing in eighth position.

The rather inexperienced Second Boat had an excellent start to term, coming second in Head to Head and finishing third in Newnham Short Course. They continued this success into Bumps, catching CCAT I on Grassy Corner on the first day. On the second day they caught New Hall I in the gut, the exact same spot where they then caught Robinson 1 the next day. On Saturday they chased a strong Peterhouse I, who finally gave in on the Long Reach to give the crew some hard-earned blades.

The Third Boat had a good start to the term, coming thirteenth in the Second Division of Newnham Short Course. After some solid training they encountered some bad luck in the Getting On Race and narrowly missed out on a place. Many thanks to Raf Wyatt for all her hard work throughout the week and to all those on the bank.

Unfortunately, the women were unable to race in the Women's Head of the River, which this year fell on the Saturday of Bumps. The Henley boat races were raced shortly after the end of term. On Easter Sunday Louise Connell stroked the Blue Boat, which lost by a very narrow margin to the Oxford blue boat, and Joycelyn Williams competed for the lightweight crew, which beat their Oxford counterparts in an exciting race. Congratulations to both.

Easter Term 2008

Unfortunately this year the women were unable to travel off-Cam to a training camp. Despite some losses due to injury, the First Boat steadily improved. The shaky start was evident, coming sixth in Spring Head to Head and eighth in Head of the Cam. A much more solid race in the Champs Head saw them come eighth again among much stronger competition.

In Bumps the true potential of the crew became evident, bumping Trinity Hall just after Grassy Corner on the Wednesday, First and Third Trinity at Ditton Corner on the Thursday and Newnham on Grassy again on Saturday. A very successful Bumps campaign, leaving us sixth on the river.

The Second Boat had some late crew rearrangements before settling onto their final crew, which improved steadily. They had a solid start to the term, finishing third in Spring Head to Head and fifth in Head of the Cam. The crew had a successful Bumps; after being bumped by Robinson I on Wednesday, they bumped New Hall I on Friday to finish level. The Third Boat had a rather shaky start to term, suffering slightly due to the rearrangements in the Second Boat. This combined with a few technical problems left the crew down three in Bumps.

Kathryn McLoughlin
Women's Captain



Netball

This year has been quite a successful one for the St John's Netball teams. We welcomed several new players, all very keen to get involved. The season did not start so well for our First Team, with a few losses, but we managed to pull it back again towards the end of the season and finished a respectable sixth, keeping our place as a First Division team. The Ladies Second Team performed well, finishing fourth in the Third Division. However, it was our Mixed Team that really shone this year, captained by Stacey Kalita. The team put in an outstanding performance to finish fourth in the Cuppers Tournament, taking the eventual winners, Downing, to extra time, and also finished fourth in the top mixed League. I would like to thank Lindsay McMorran, Second Team Captain, and Stacey, for all their hard work. I wish Lindsay luck next year captaining the First Ladies Team and also Pippa Dobson, who will be captaining the Mixed Team.

Caroline Hartley
Captain



Pool

This season was the first time in recent history that St John's has had a Pool Team in the exclusive First Division. Unaware of the challenges before them, the season opened with a tricky away fixture at Fitzwilliam. John's responded with panache, delivering a 7-2 thrashing of a strong team to really stamp their authority on this League. This was to prove a sign of things to come in a season where John's delivered another three 7-2 victories, most notably a comprehensive dispatching of rivals Trinity, a team including the University Captain (who was extremely lucky to beat Martin McBrien), and two other University players, one of whom had the misfortune of twice being matched up against a Gopalan Radhakrishnan firing on all cylinders. This result meant a victory away at King's would put John's top of the League. This proved to be the case as, in the crucial game, Robert English, who came to the table with his opponent already on

the black, delivered the finest individual performance of the season to ensure a 5-4 victory.

At the time of writing, John's are still top of the League with one game remaining. Plaudits go to Jon Nelson, with the best singles record and Sam Gibbons and Dunstan Barnes, the best doubles pairing, only losing one frame all season.

Steve Legg Tier performed admirably when called upon to play in the First Team, and also captained a successful Second Team charge for promotion to the Second Division. He was ably assisted by his team, comprising Dan Andrews, James Martin, Rob Bell, Abu Shoaib, Ed Howarth and Ed Allen.

I wish next year's First Team Captain, Jon Nelson, every success for the 2008-09 season.

Sam Gibbons Captain



Men's Rugby

The beginning of the season marked a realisation that this was a very different team. Michaelmas Term was therefore a testing ground for the new team, taking us a full three games before we scored our first try. However, despite a shaky start, we entered Lent Term having played four and won four and were starting to find our feet.



Men's Rugby

The long promised Jesus rivalry, that had sunk of late, returned in full force this year with the Michaelmas game being a close 6-0. The away Lent match was the League decider, with a loss meaning Jesus would gain the League on points difference. The result was a draw, with Hugo Cartwright reversing his trend when it comes to penalties. He intercepted a Jesus drop-goal attempt with his face, thus sealing the League: P8 W7 D1.

The Cuppers campaign started with a 20-0 victory over a Christ's team that included six Cambridge Mercenaries. The TCS headline of 'Christ's take moral victory' was, in hindsight, not what Homerton would have requested before the quarter-final encounter. This game was possibly one of John's most comprehensive victories, with scores ranging from pushover scrums to

‘champagne’ backs plays. The game finished 47-3 with only Jesus blocking the way to the final. In the semi-final, Jesus took an early lead with a somewhat fortunate try, but this was to be their last, leaving the scoreboard 27-10.

The Cuppers final against St Catharine’s was to mirror the Jesus game, with the opposition gaining an early lead before John’s dominance asserted itself. Four tries from Scot MacLennan are worthy of mention. The result was 36-5 and, with it, the ‘Quadruple-Double’ was sealed.

Will Mayne
Captain



Women’s Rugby

Buoyed by last year’s success in winning the League we were eager to start training and preserve John’s well-earned reputation for Women’s Rugby. The task of whipping the team into shape fell upon new coaches Will Hall, Gus Maclay and Scott MacLennon.

We got off to a fabulous start but injuries took their toll and, after some disappointing matches, we lost the League. With the unfamiliar taste of defeat in our mouths, we set our sights on a greater goal: the Cup. Returning to training with vigour, things started to look up when new recruit Amy Atkinson scored a try within her first ever thirty seconds of match play.

Throughout the year Amanda Scott, Carol Evans and Rhiannon Pugh distinguished themselves playing for University teams as well as for John’s. Resident ‘oldie’ Hannah Lane never missed training, and Angharad Thomas made up for her lack of height by vocal effort and persistent energy. Becca Conroy, Lindsay McMorran and Jo O’Brien kept the forwards strong throughout and Clare Briscoe was a Captain’s dream – playing in whatever position was needed.

It was not an easy ride to the Cuppers final, meeting and beating joint League winners Queens’ and Jesus, and a hospital visit for Vice-Captain, Jo. Determination and big tackles took us all the way to Grange Road, where we faced Girton in the final. Supporters were rewarded with a nail-biting match, which we clinched in the final minute to become Cuppers champions. The Red Girls are back – and clutching a cup this time!

Thanks to Keith for his patience at our ever-changing match times, the huge support from the sidelines at our matches and most of all to Gus, Scott and Will for their unfailing energy and enthusiasm. Carol Evans takes over next year as Captain, with Rhiannon as her Vice-Captain. I wish them all the best.

Charlotte Wheeler-Booth
Captain





Swimming

Men's Team: Dave Allman, Ian Harris, Gareth Keeves, Clarence So.

The College Swimming Team once again put on an admirable show at this year's Swimming Cuppers. Brought together at short notice, and with little opportunity to train due to a lack of pool availability, the team was a somewhat unknown quantity on the day of the heats. Nevertheless a strong and competitive team spirit and some committed swims earned us a top eight finish and a place in the finals in all but two events. This was an excellent result in itself as only two members of the team get regular training through the University, and only one is eligible for the relays due to Blues status.

In the finals, the team once again did itself proud, coming sixth in the women's competition and fifth in the overall and men's competitions. Despite swimming as last-minute additions to the team, Amiya Bhatia and Amy Atkinson earned valuable points in the Freestyle and Backstroke respectively, whilst Carole Evans showed the value of cross-disciplinary fitness as she joined Gareth Keeves in the finals of both the Butterfly and Individual Medley events. The men's Relay Teams also managed to maintain and improve their heats' rankings in the finals, against a strong field. A special mention must go to Ian Harris, who swam the Backstroke despite injury, to Sam O'Hara and Clarence So, who came second overall in their Breaststroke events, and to the women's Medley Relay Team, who came second only to a New Hall team that boasted two Blues.

I would like to thank the team for their enthusiasm and wish both them and the new Captain, Gareth Keeves, the best of luck for next year.

Izzie Kaufeler Captain



Ultimate

Ultimate is a relatively new and little-known sport that enjoys remarkable popularity in Cambridge. It is a seven-player team sport, where the aim is to throw a flying disc (like a frisbee) between your team, before catching it in the opponent's end zone to score a point. For the first time in some years, St John's has managed to field a team for the Inter-College League, almost entirely from new players.



Ultimate

This is a remarkable achievement, given the small number of Colleges that have their own team (most collaborate with other colleges). Of course, with this in mind, we didn't expect much success in the competition, and nor did we have much, with only one win. Nevertheless, the team has been steadily improving, and can look forward to the opportunity to use their experience next year.

Alex Davies
Captain



Water Polo

St John's College Water Polo Club (SJCWPC) started this year having been relegated to the Second Division of the League and hence all involved were looking for a strong start to the season. This start came, with two wins over Selwyn (5-1) and Emmanuel (5-0) in November. The strong defence instilled last season continued to improve, feeding the consistent shooting skills of the forwards (Charles and Goldsmith) and leading to a well-deserved win over a good Girton team (4-3). Dreams of an unbeaten season were unfortunately dismissed by a loss to the Leys (2-5), the scoreline not portraying accurately the closely-fought game.

In Cuppers, St John's fought bravely in a hard group to beat Trinity Hall (5-0), and just lost out to Addenbrooke's (Division I leaders, 1-3) for a quarter-finals place.

With two League games to play, against an underperforming University Ladies and Queens', SJCWPC is looking to complete an altogether satisfactory season by bouncing back into the First Division for next year.

Barnabas Sleep
Captain



SPORTS & SOCIETIES

SPORTS & SOCIETIES



ST JOHN'S COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Every year a committed and sometimes frustrated group of students attempts to find ways for us to come together, solve problems and improve College life. This year's JCR Committee was no different.

After only a few days in office, the new JCRC sprang into action, mobilising undergraduates in a high profile campaign against proposed changes to the room ballot system, which would disadvantage all students without a First.

The JCR

A flurry of emails, hundreds of petition signatures and countless debates soon followed. Despite the clear disagreement between College authorities and students, the JCRC were able to combine vibrant protest with constructive engagement on academic affairs. Exam study skills talks were organised by Academic Affairs Officer, Ben Brodie. Meanwhile, the College has begun to show appreciation for student involvement in education policy and the College's new education research staff and the JCRC are liaising to produce a brand new supervision feedback system.

By far the most fashionable member of the JCRC, Eesa Mohammed, combined his stunning DJing and sense of style to revolutionise St John's Entertainment. Over the past year, he has introduced psytrance, minimal and dubstep, and brought the Boiler Room back from a two year hiatus. Meanwhile, Open Mic Nights have seen the great talents of Johnians. St John's re-emerged as a premier entertainment College with ¡Cuba Libre!, the June Entertainment, which saw Caribbean food, live jazz, salsa, steel pans, comedy, magic, bungee runs and a bucking bronco alongside four top DJs. All of these events were well publicised by Josef Schmalfluss, whose colourful posters and 'guerrilla marketing' really caught the eye.

With around forty events over eight consecutive days, new Johnians were treated to the best Freshers' Week ever. Throughout the club nights, learning support, Back2Skool nostalgia, theatre trips, yoga, films, meeting and greeting, Freshers were supported by a dedicated team of Staircase Reps for the first time. Such attention to student welfare was down to the hard work of Amiya Bhatia. As Welfare Officer, she managed College families, hosted popular film nights, salsa



The JCR Committee, 2008-09

classes, exam drop-ins, raised awareness on key issues and single-handedly ensured that half the College didn't go crazy in exam term, by providing free tea every day. Luckily, she'll be CUSU Welfare Officer next year, so the whole University will benefit from her brilliance.


Michaelmas Term saw the return of JCR campaigning, as controversial new rules banned students bringing a bottle of wine into Hall and the College only serving two glasses per person. The JCRC led a boycott of Hall in opposition and after negotiation it was agreed that each diner would receive half a bottle of wine.

Computing Officer Malte Schwarzkopf's new Rooms Database has given Johnians the opportunity to view, comment on and select their rooms online. Thanks to him, the days of room shopping and queuing outside the Accommodation Office are over. On the financial side, Clare Briscoe has been an excellent Treasurer and her diplomacy led to the lowest room rents increase in over a decade.

Hard work by Services Officer, Merrow Golden, and Richard Curling, the first ever Facilities Officer, has ensured that students have a host of new and improved services including sports equipment and bikes to rent. The JCR Common Room was improved with bean bags, new Apple Mac computers, and the incredibly popular quiz machine. Lizzie Richardson has led the way in transforming our College into a greener, more ethical community. As Ethical Affairs Officer, her initiatives have led to regular free range and Fairtrade food in the buttry,

enhanced recycling facilities and the removal of plastic cups from the gym. Lizzie and Nat Moss (Yearbook editor) ensured the proceeds from collections, themed formal halls and the common room quiz machine were donated to St Michael's School, Uganda.

Luke Lorimer has done tremendous work in showing prospective students around the College. As Access Officer, he organised Johnian involvement in the CUSU Shadowing Scheme and the University of Cambridge Ambassadors Project, which aims to improve access to Cambridge for students from state schools. His work contributed towards an 11% increase in the number of state school students accepted since the previous admissions cycle. Equal Opportunities Officer, Helen Ennos, has helped ensure that St John's remains a welcoming place for all students by liaising with the Women's Society, hosting awareness events and introducing a new officer to her subcommittee to assist students with disabilities.

The JCRC has had a very successful year, showing incredible determination and commitment. It's been a privilege to lead such an inspiring team. Central to success were the efforts of Vice-President, Chelsea Wright, and Secretary, Fran O'Brien. Together they devoted time and energy to ensure that all of our events were a success and supported me through the most challenging parts of the year. Such was Fran's commitment that she will be President next year, and there is no one better qualified to lead the students of St John's College. 

Tom Chigbo
President

The SBR Committee 2008-9 proudly looks back on a year where many projects became reality – from sorting out thorny accommodation issues to getting a Wii!

This would not have been possible without a committed and hard-working team: starting in May 2008 with myself, Eva-Maria Hempe (President), Mateja Peter (Secretary), Carl Scheffler (Junior Treasurer), Danny Weston (Welfare, JCR Liaison), Claire Waters (Dining) and Hugo Vincent (Publicity & Computing, GU Liaison) as the elected Committee, in the course of the year the SBRC grew to up to 13 members.

The SBR

The initial Committee was soon joined by Andrea Kuesters and Nabil Wilf, respectively the Sports and Families representatives. Albertyna Paciorek took over the Graduate Talk seminar series, providing graduate students with a forum to present their work to the College community, John Weisweiler championed the interests of international students and Hunter Williams joined us as temporary Social Secretary – the huge success in transforming the Master's Garden to a Havana hangout at the times of Hemingway must be largely credited to him. Another highlight of the summer, and the baptism of fire for the Committee, was the Borderer's Boules Tournament and barbecue.

Our Freshers' Fortnight was ambitious, with events every day. The Freshers soon did not feel that fresh any more, perfectly blending in with the returning students. During Freshers' Fortnight, the SBRC also introduced the online signup to SBR events. Besides the influx of an enthusiastic bunch of Freshers, the beginning of the new academic year saw the arrival of our SBR Wii and, thanks to Kam Mohaddes, our own pool table. This was rounded off by new magazine subscriptions and boardgames as well as the donation of a large VHS collection and the introduction of the movie night fund.

Following the by-election in November, Cristina Pierro (Women's Officer), Shakir Mohamed (Computing and Publicity) and Nitu Duggal (Welfare) joined the Committee and were immediately thrown into the preparations for the annual SBR Christmas Party in Hall, a festive night with live ceilidh music and enthusiastic dancing!

Achievements in the Lent Term included the start of Family Dining, to enable graduates to bring their children to a special BA table held in the Wordsworth Room, and the Grad Survey, to canvas the views of the SBR members on a variety of issues. Results of this include the introduction of an online booking system for Hall tickets.

Achievements in the Lent Term included the start of Family Dining, to enable graduates to bring their children to a special BA table held in the Wordsworth Room.

Culinary highlights of the year include very successful Tastings – tea thanks to Johnian, Will Cartwright-Higgett, of First Class Teas and chocolate thanks to Linh Tran. Beyond good food and drink, we tried to stimulate body and mind by organising free rental of sports racquets, an acroyoga workshop, and talks about topics ranging from medicine to WiFi in Afghanistan, to name just a few.

As our year drew to an end we tackled our final projects. Firstly, working with the Tutor for Graduate Affairs, we managed to revise and clarify the accommodation policy, introducing a ballot to make room distribution within students of the same year more transparent and guaranteeing accommodation to students in the fourth year of their PhD. The second project was a revision of the SBR Constitution, to ensure a smoother post-election transition and more time for the new committee to settle in. The last project was the introduction of Supervisors' Hall, a possibility for research students to bond with their supervisors outside the normal working environment, and for Fellows to gain an insight into the research of graduate students. A fourth project, which we initiated but will hand over to our successors, is the refurbishment of the Samuel Butler Room; to make a more active and vibrant graduate community than ever.

We want to thank everybody for their support this year; it was a pleasure representing and serving the graduate community of St John's.



Eva-Maria Hempe
SBR President

COLLEGE SOCIETIES

The Women's Society

Only two years from its foundation, the St John's College Women's Society (SJC WS) prides itself as being one of the most active societies in the College.

This year the SJC WS has witnessed a series of talks, aimed at a wide audience within the College and the University. This year, our highly popular 'All about Junior Research Fellowships' attracted over 100 students and obtained very positive feedback.

The 'Women and Careers' lecture series saw prestigious speakers such as Dr Nancy Lane, a pioneer of supporting women in science and engineering through the foundation of WiSETI; Natalie Szarek, our current CUSU Women's Officer, and Wendy Foden, a prominent conservation biologist who delivered an inspiring talk on climate change. Furthermore, we had the privilege to host Mrs Gwenne Henricks, Vice-President of Caterpillar. To hear how this businesswoman climbed to the top of a male-dominated industry and manages more than 4000 employees, was fascinating and helped to bridge the gap between academia and industry.

We have also given particular attention to relaxation, leisure and social interaction amongst students. Hence, we provided Hatha yoga classes on Mondays and Thursdays and in addition, we organized movie nights and theatre outings to provide students with a diverse social base.

The SJC WS prides itself with the establishment of the first 'parents group' in College, with the aim to enhance social interactions amongst Johnian students with families; the Society makes most events child-friendly.

On the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, the SJC WS supported a dinner in Hall, in partnership with the JCR, and organized a special fundraising event for Camfed, who support female education in Africa.

I feel privileged to have worked with amazing people that made the SJC WS what it is today; Anneka Dew (JCR liaison), Amparo Flores (Fellows liaison), Sharmeen Irfan (Secretary), Carla Lancelotti (Treasurer and Webmaster), Amy Milam (Family Officer), Ruth Mokgokong (Social Secretary), Cristina Pierro (Vice-President), Janet Lees (Senior Treasurer) and Alistair Field.



Simona Giunta
President

The Johnian Society

Last year I reported that we were putting in place new events and I am pleased to say that the House of Lords reception last year was a wonderful success. More than two hundred members and guests gathered in the Cholmondeley Room and on the Terrace. Lord Crisp and the Master welcomed everyone. We are holding a reception again this year and we hope it will prove to be as enjoyable an evening.

Later in the year Mr Mervyn King, Governor of the Bank of England and former President of the Johnian Society, kindly arranged for a small group of members to tour the Bank of England and meet him for drinks afterwards. Despite an incredibly busy schedule, Mervyn was able to spend time chatting to members and we are grateful to him for providing this wonderful opportunity.

In March this year we encouraged local members to come to Evensong in the College Chapel and stay for a reception with the Master afterwards. This too was a successful and enjoyable event, with many people commenting that although they knew they were welcome at Chapel Services, they had not been back for some time.



Members of the Johnian Society

Mr John Loosley does a wonderful job on behalf of the Society in organising the annual Golf Competition and the Committee owes him a debt of gratitude.

This year, in response to requests from members, we have decided to offer two dinners in College. The first of these was the traditional Annual Dinner and was held as part of the Society Day on Saturday 12 September. The dinner is a wonderful opportunity to get together with old friends and to make new ones.

The second dinner will take place on Saturday 19 December and will be a Christmas Dinner for members only. We hope that this will appeal to those members who enjoy a gathering in College just before Christmas.

The AGM and Dinner took place in the Hall on Saturday 12 September 2008 with Lord Nigel Crisp, the President, in the Chair. We were delighted that three Johnian generations of the Crisp family were there that evening. Sir Jack Beatson was elected President for one year from January 2009 and Sir David King, who gave a stimulating lecture on climate change at the Society Day last year, has accepted the Committee's invitation to become Vice-President for 2009.

Mr Stelios Elia, Mr John Wyn Owen and Dr Kamal Ahuja have all joined the Committee this year as Ordinary Members and we were sad to have to say goodbye to Lord David Rowe-Beddoe, Mr Geraint Lewis and Mr Adam Balon.

The members of the Committee for 2009 are therefore as follows: Sir Jack Beatson (President), Sir David King (Vice-President), Mr Colin Greenhalgh (Chairman), Sir Alastair Norris (Vice-Chairman), Ms Catherine Twilley (Honorary Secretary), Lord Nigel Crisp (Immediate Past-President), The Master (Ex Officio), Professor Nick McCave (College Representative), Mr Geraint Lewis (Co-opted), Mr Mark Chichester-Clark, Mr Michael Mavor, Dr Jo Griffiths, Mrs Heather Hancock, Professor Peter Hennessy, Mr Graham Spooner, Dr Jeevan Deol, Ms Fiona McAnena, Mr Stelios Elia, Mr John Wyn Owen, Dr Kamal Ahuja, Mr Francis Baron (Co-opted), Miss Rachel Harker (Co-opted).

The Society continues to support the College financially through gifts for the Access Bursary Scheme (£3,000 again this year) and by adding to the income available from the Johnian Society Travel Exhibition Fund to enable a larger number of students to benefit. This year we have again made available six Travel Exhibitions, each of £600. In addition, a generous donation from Mr Neil Thomason, a member of the Society, enabled us to award an additional exhibition of £1,000 this year. We will also be able to award an exhibition of £1,000 in each of the next four years thanks to his generosity. Details of the awards made are available on our webpages.

The Committee has been considering how best to engage both a greater proportion of members in the Society's activities, and to increase the number of members. There are already more than 7,000 members of the Society and we hope that many more Johnians will see the benefit of being part of the Johnian Society. To this end, we are currently offering non-members who left the College before the opt-out system was implemented in 1993, to join the Society for no fee. If you would like to join, please email the Secretary at Johnian-Society@joh.cam.ac.uk.

We hope that you will continue to support our initiatives. Please check the website for updates, www.joh.cam.ac.uk/johnian/johnian_society/ and let us know if you have ideas as to how the Society might offer more to its members.



Catherine Twilley
Honorary Secretary

May Ball Committee

Founded in 1888, the St John's College May Ball marks the end of the academic year for students and Fellows alike. For one night each year – a Tuesday since 1895 – the entire College is transformed into a two thousand guest, twelve hour spectacle. This event is organised by a committee of undergraduate and graduate students under the supervision of two Fellows.

The 2008 May Ball saw guests take a Journey across Europe on the Orient Express, beginning in First Court's London before moving on through Paris – complete with an 8 metre Eiffel Tower – Vienna, Venice and Istanbul. The food, drink and scenery reflected the city and country of each stop on the journey. The College was charmed by the spectacular vocals of Lesley Garret and was treated to the more modern sound of Dizzie Rascal taking over the main stage in New Court. Throughout the night, the Ball managed magnificently to combine the very best of the traditional with cutting edge, supplying an event suited to all tastes.

This year the Committee invited guests to embark on an evening inspired by Voyages of Discovery, retracing the journeys of some of the world's greatest explorers – Captain Cook, Neil Armstrong, Vasco da Gama, Christopher Columbus, Ernest Shackleton, David Livingstone, and Charles Darwin.

Guests this year were treated to everything they have come to expect from a St John's College May Ball: a stunning display of fireworks, some of the best performers that Cambridge can offer, delicious foods, and, of course, a lot of champagne. There was a fairground to entertain the more active of guests, and, to cool off there was Shackleton's South Pole with an ice bar. As they grew tired



Preparations for the May Ball


through the night, they had the chance to rejuvenate with a rest in a Native American tipi, a lie-down on a Pacific Island hammock, or by lounging around in a Bombay boudoir replete with acoustic performances.

In an effort to make the May Ball a more welcoming environment to alumni, the Committee of the 2009 May Ball were pleased to introduce the 1888 Club. Named in honour of the nineteenth century foundations of the Ball, this new 'upgrade' option allowed alumni, Fellows and distinguished guests to enjoy a private lounge throughout the night of the Ball. This 1888 Suite, located in the Parsons and

Wordsworth Rooms, provided these guests exclusive food, drink and entertainment available only to them, and a comfortable and relaxing environment in which to reunite with old friends, meet others, and take a rest from the sometimes overwhelming sights and sounds of the May Ball.

The 2008 Committee included: Finbarr Cosgrove (President), Ian Ralby (Junior Treasurer), Alex Wilshaw (Vice-President), Thomas Fleming (Vice-President), James Colgate (Security), Anya Perry (Drinks), Peter Hughes (Food), Rebecca Dawn Jones (Scene), Slavica Delevic (Creative), Dominic Kraemer & Derica Shields (Entertainment), Justin Houlton (Logistics), Anna Stanley (Employment), Angharad Thomas and Kasie Hunt (Sponsorship), Tim Gordon (Technology), Loren Lam (Graphics), Dr Simon Humphrey (Chairman of the Ball) and Dr Frank Salmon (Senior Treasurer).

The 2009 Committee was comprised of: Ian Ralby (President), Alex Wilshaw (Junior Treasurer), Catherine Kitsis (Vice-President), James Colgate (Vice-President), Aaron Ralby (Security), Sarah Turner (Drinks), Pavel Spirine (Food), Natalie Moss (Scene), Miriam Sharp-Pierson (Creative), Alice Tyler & Ella Belsham

(Entertainment), Andrew Dowsett (Logistics), Rebecca Conroy (Employment), Thomas Muir (Sponsorship), Jon Harrap (Technology), Dr Simon Humphrey (Chairman of the Ball) and Dr Frank Salmon (Senior Treasurer). 

Ian Ralby
President

The Choir of St John's College

September 2008 saw the launch of the Choir's own website, which had been developed over the summer months by Gareth John, the Choir and Chapel Project Assistant. The new website, which is dedicated to Choir activities, can be found at www.sjcchoir.co.uk.

The Choir reassembled on Tuesday 23 September in the magnificent surroundings of the Guildhall in London to sing at the launch of the St John's College Campaign. Over 150 guests joined Fellows and senior members of College staff to hear the Master speak about the future financial needs of the College. The Choir sang music by Byrd, Viadana, Parsons and Wood, and later in the evening the Gents sang a selection from their repertoire. The Choristers were very fortunate to receive some tips on the finer points of rugby from Johnian and former England rugby player Rob Andrew.

The following weekend the Choir travelled to Wales to sing a Concert and Service at Llandaff Cathedral in Cardiff. The Concert was attended by over 400 people, including a large contingent from the Johnian Society of Wales. Music for the evening included *Guerrero O sacrum convivium* and Vaughan Williams' *Lord thou hast been our refuge*, the latter accompanied by Huw Morgan, a talented young trumpeter from Llandaff. The audience was also treated to Telemann's *Trumpet Concerto in D major*, played magnificently by Huw and accompanied by Timothy Ravalde. The following morning the Choir sang Victoria's *Missa O quam gloriosum* at the Eucharist. The Dean of Llandaff, the Very Reverend John Lewis, himself a Johnian, was delighted to welcome back Sam Furness, a former Chorister at the Cathedral. The Choir is particularly grateful to Lord Rowe Beddoe, the Dean of Llandaff, Lindsay Watkins, John Wyn Owen and Geraint Lewis – all members of the Johnian Society of Wales – for organising such a splendid weekend, and to the Furness family for so generously entertaining the Gents at their home after the Concert.

The new academic year saw some new faces in the Choir – John Challenger (Junior Organ Student), Leo Tomita, Dominic Collingwood (altos), Henry Neill, Basil McDonald (basses), Peter Hicks and Justin Stollery (Choristers). We also

welcomed Ethan Bamber, Frances Bushell, Samuel Hill, Matthew Holman, Andrew Jones and Michael Tuft to the School as Probationers.

The Matriculation Service took place on Tuesday 7 October. The service was well attended by Matriculands and the music for the service included *Te Deum in C* by Britten and a rousing rendition of *I was glad* by Parry.

On Tuesday 14 October, the Choir launched the weekly webcasting of services from the College Chapel. St John's College Choir is the first in Europe to offer such a service – the only other men and boys choir to do this is St Thomas Fifth Avenue, New York, where Johnian John Scott is the Organist and Director of Music. A new service is added to the website at noon every Tuesday, 52 weeks a year. The services remain available for several weeks via the Choir's website – www.sjcchoir.co.uk/webcast; many appreciative messages have been received from all corners of the world, including places as far afield as Honolulu!

A generous donation for music from Johnian Philip Oakes enabled the Choir to commission a new work for the service from composer John McCabe.

The second major innovation of the year was the introduction of termly Bach Cantatas sung during Evensong with members of the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment. All the solos, except the soprano arias, are sung by members of the Choir. During the first service, held on Saturday 22 November, the Choir performed *Cantata No 40 – Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme* and Vivaldi *Magnificat*, for which the Choir was joined by Ruth Jenkins and Raphaela Papadakis (sopranos). Two further Cantatas were performed on Saturday 31 January (Pergolesi *Magnificat* and Bach *Cantata No 125 – Mit fried und freud ich fahr dahin*), which included a particularly notable alto aria by Tom Verney. On Ascension Day, Thursday 21 May *Cantata No 11 – Lobet Gott in seinen Reichen*, also known as the *Ascension Oratorio*, was performed, for which we were joined by Emelia Hughes (soprano). All services have been very well attended. The first Cantata of the new academic year will take place on Saturday 24 October 2009.

The Advent Carol Services were both sung to a full Chapel, with the Sunday Service broadcast live on BBC Radio 3. A generous donation for music from Johnian Philip Oakes enabled the Choir to commission a new work for the

service from composer John McCabe: *The last and greatest herald*, which set the words of the seventeenth century poet, William Drummond of Hawthornden, and provided a contrast to other repertoire for the service. It was also the first radio broadcast of Simon Beattie's *Advent Calendar*. Other items included Stainer's *How beautiful upon the mountains* and *As dew in Aprylle* by Warlock.

On Friday 5 December, the Choir travelled to Gresham's School, Holt, for a concert in the School Chapel. A very appreciative audience braved the cold weather to hear the Choir sing a programme which included *O magnum mysterium* by Victoria and *A spotless rose* by Howells sung by Dominic Kraemer, along with organ solos played by Tim Ravalde and John Challenger.

The Christmas tour to Central Europe saw the Choir sing a Concert at the Slovenian Philharmonic Hall in Ljubljana on Sunday 14 December to a very enthusiastic audience of 400 people. Two highlights of the evening were Gareth John singing Vaughan Williams' *Fantasia on Christmas Carols* with bell accompaniment from Francis Williams, and some notable treble solos in Britten's *Ceremony of Carols* with harp accompaniment from leading Slovenian harpist Sofia Ristic.

The Choir returned to College to sing a Concert of Christmas Music in the Chapel on Thursday 18 December. *The Guardian* had listed the Concert at number 31 in their list of '100 Brilliant things to do at Christmas', which generated an enormous amount of interest, with over 600 people in the audience. At the end of the Concert, Andrew was delighted to announce to the audience that Gareth John, Sam Furness and the cellist for the evening, Sophie Gledhill (Clare College), had all recently been awarded Postgraduate Scholarships by the Royal Academy of Music. Two other former members of the Choir, Tom Faulkner and John Lattimore, will also be studying at the Royal Academy of Music from September 2009. These achievements are a great tribute to the remarkable vocal tuition which David Lowe provides to all our singers.

The Choir received an invitation from the producer of ITV's *Dancing on Ice* to record a carol to accompany Jane Torvill and Christopher Dean during their exhibition dance on the Christmas edition of the programme. The composer, Mark Williams, (appointed as Director of Music at Jesus College from September 2009) arranged the music for the Choir, which was made available as a free download from the Choir's website. The Choir travelled to Elstree Studios to film the programme on Sunday 21 December, which was shown on Christmas Day and watched by over 6 million viewers.



The Choir on Ascension Day

The first activity of 2009 was a recording session in January. The Choir recorded the first part of a CD of music by Herbert Howells, the second part was recorded during the Choir Period of Residence in July. Recorded by John Rutter, the repertoire includes the *Gloucester and St John's Evening Services* and *A Sequence for St Michael*, which Howells composed for the 450th Anniversary of the foundation of the College. The CD is due for release in spring 2010.

Over 600 people filled the Chapel for the candlelit Epiphany Carol Service held on Saturday 17 January. Music for the service included *Bethlehem Down* by Warlock, *The Blessed Son of God* by Vaughan Williams and *Jesu Sweet Son Dear* by Robin Orr. Owing to the growing popularity of this Service, a second service to be held on the following Sunday evening will be introduced in 2010.

On Sunday 1 February, the Choir joined forces with the Choir of Gonville & Caius College to sing Eucharist. Andrew Nethsingha conducted Langlais' *Messe Solennelle*, and Geoffrey Webber conducted Holst's *Nunc Dimittis* as an introit. The service was webcast the following Tuesday.

Two weeks later on Sunday 15 February, BBC Radio 4 broadcast Morning Worship live from the Chapel. To commemorate the bicentenary of his birth, the service focused on the life and achievements of Charles Darwin and reflected on the challenges posed by his theory of evolution by natural selection. The Choir began the service with Barry Rose's *Morning glory, starlit sky* and ended with Vaughan Williams' *Let all the world* (from *Five Mystical Songs*). Also included was Harris' setting of the *Benedicite*. The address was given by Fellow and University Professor of Evolutionary Palaeobiology, Simon Conway Morris, author of *Life's Solution: Inevitable humans in a Lonely Universe*.

The highlight of the Choir's year was the two week tour to the United States of America during the Easter vacation.

The BBC returned to the College on Wednesday 25 February for the broadcast of the Ash Wednesday service on Radio 3. Music included the *Allegrì Miserere mei, Deus* (Psalm 51) and Byrd's *Tribulationes civitatum*. The annual Service of a Meditation on the Passion of Christ took place on Sunday 8 March.

The highlight of the Choir's year was the two week tour to the United States of America during the Easter vacation. A wide range of British music was

performed, including Byrd *Mass for four voices* and the exhilarating *Magnificat* by Giles Swayne. The tour started on the East Coast, with concerts in Westport, New Haven and Greenwich in Connecticut. We then travelled into New York to sing at the US launch of the College's Campaign in the magnificent Gotham Hall. After two nights in New York, we travelled down to the Institute of Advanced Study in Princeton, where former Master, Peter Goddard, had invited us to sing a Concert. The following evening, we moved on to Richmond in Virginia at the invitation of Eugene Trani, a Fellow Commoner at St John's in 1998, to sing at the Virginia Commonwealth University. During the Concert, the Choir was joined on stage by members of the VCU Commonwealth Singers for an energetic collaboration in Handel's *Zadok the Priest*, conducted by their Director, John Guthmiller.

From Richmond the Choir flew down to Houston in Texas. We sang a concert in Houston, before moving on to sing in Austin and Waco – all three Texan audiences were at capacity and very, very enthusiastic! We flew home with many happy memories of the warm welcome we had received throughout the tour.

The Choir returned to College on Saturday 18 April to sing a Concert in Chapel as part of the Cambridge Cantat 800 week-long Celebration of Cambridge Choirs. The theme for our Concert was 'Cambridge Composers Past and Present' and included items by Christopher Tye, Orlando Gibbons and Robin Holloway. The Choir was joined on stage by Helen Scarborough on the Cor Anglais, who accompanied *O Lord, thou hast searched me out*, which had been composed for the Choir by John Rutter for the Ash Wednesday Service in 2007. The following evening the Choir sang Finzi's *Lo, the full final sacrifice* during a Festal Evensong as the concluding event in the series.

Kingston Upon Thames Parish Church was the venue for a Concert on Saturday 25 April as part of the Thames Concert Society Spring Series. Music for the evening included Cavalli *Salve Regina*, Bruckner *Christus factus est* and Purcell *My beloved spake* with excellent solos by Tom Verney and Gareth John – both of whom sang at the Church as Choristers before coming to University.

The Commemoration of Benefactors service on Sunday 3 May this year was particularly notable in that it marked the 500th Anniversary of the death of Lady Margaret Beaufort, the foundress of the College. To mark the occasion, the Choir sang *Jesu Rex Admirabilis*, which had been composed specially for the occasion by composer Gabriel Jackson.

In May the College celebrated the seventieth birthday of Jonathan Harvey, Honorary Fellow. The Ossian Ensemble performed his chamber music in the

Master's Lodge and Robert Houssart (former Organ Student) performed his organ works, including a remarkable *Toccata for organ and pre-recorded tape*. At Evensong the Choir sang his stunning and virtuoso *Magnificat* and *Nunc Dimittis*.

Members of Clare College Choir joined the Choir for Evensong on Thursday 7 May, when the setting for the Service was *Dyson in D* and the anthem was Parry's *Blest pair of Sirens*. On Sunday 10 May, the Bishop of Huntingdon, The Right Reverend David Thomson, presided at the annual Confirmation Service.

The newly formed Choir Association of St John's College, Cambridge held its Garden Party in the Master's Lodge Garden on Saturday 30 May. 50 members of the Association, along with the Choir and many family members, enjoyed afternoon tea in glorious sunshine and were entertained to a selection of songs from The Gentlemen of St John's. Having gone through a short rehearsal with Andrew during the afternoon, around 30 members joined with the Choir to sing Evensong to create a magnificent sonority.

Following last year's Joint Service (which was held at Trinity College), the Choirs joined together on Thursday 4 June to sing Evensong in St John's Chapel. The setting for the Service was *Stanford in A* and the anthem was Elgar's *The Spirit of the Lord*.

The Choir received an invitation from the Vice Chancellor to perform with King's College Choir at the Honorary Degree Congregation held at the Senate House on Friday 12 June. Amongst the recipients this year were Bill and Melinda Gates, the Aga Khan, Baroness Shirley Williams and the Master of the Queen's Music, Sir Peter Maxwell Davies. One of the works sung during the Congregation was *One star, at last* by Maxwell Davies.

This year's May Concert was held in the Chapel on Monday 15 June. A packed audience heard the Choir perform Copland's *In the beginning* with mezzo-soprano Emma Selway and, as a joint item with the St John's Singers, Handel's *Zadok the Priest*. The St John's Singers, conducted by Timothy Ravalde, performed Brahms' *Geistliches Lied*, and the College Orchestra, conducted by Bradley Smith, performed Beethoven's *Coriolan Overture*. The Gentlemen of St John's contributed with a selection from their summer repertoire. Other highlights were Handel's *Sonata in A Minor* played by Debbie Hannaway (recorder), Matthew Ward (cello), and John Challenger (harpsichord); Debussy's *Hommage à Rameau* (from Images Set 1) played by Aeron Preston (piano) and the first movement of Brahms' *Clarinet Sonata No 2* played by Laura Biron and Dominic Scott (piano).

The Graduation Service took place in Chapel on Thursday 25 June. The Chapel was filled with graduands and their families prior to their departure for the Senate

House. The Choir sang Howells *Te Deum (Collegium Regale)* and Fauré *Cantique de Jean Racine*.

Haydn's *Nelson Mass* was the setting for the Orchestral Mass which took place on Sunday 28 June. The orchestra for the occasion was led by Imogen Smith, mother of Chorister, George Smith. Lizzie Weisberg and Oliver Hunt were amongst the excellent soloists. A large number of Johnnians, who had attended the Johnnian Dinner the previous evening, were present for the Service.

King's College Choir joined the Choir for a Joint Evensong in Chapel on Thursday 2 July. Again with a Cambridge composers theme, the Choirs sang the Short Service by Robin Orr (in this year which marks the centenary of his birth) as well as works by Judith Weir and Jonathan Harvey.

As part of the Cambridge Cantat 800 Celebrations, several College Choirs combined to sing a concert on Wednesday 22 July as part of the BBC Proms series. This formed the Choir's fourth BBC broadcast of the year. The Choirs were joined by the BBC Symphony Orchestra, former Chorister and Choral Student Simon Keenlyside (baritone) and Thomas Trotter (organ). St John's and King's College Choirs combined to sing Jonathan Harvey's *Come Holy Ghost* and Judith Weir's *Ascending into Heaven* conducted by Andrew Nethsingha and Stephen Cleobury respectively, and the Gents joined with the other Choirs and Orchestra to sing Vaughan Williams' *Five Mystical Songs* conducted by Sir Andrew Davis. The Concert had been hugely oversubscribed, with requests for tickets in the pre-booking period outselling both the Opening and Last Nights of the Proms.

Following on from the success of the Choir's Concert at the 2008 Cambridge Summer Music Festival, the Choir was invited to sing at the 2009 Festival. Music for the evening included Poulenc's *Salve Regina*, Tallis's *Missa Salve Intemerata* and Copland's *In the beginning*, with mezzo-soprano soloist Frances Bourne.

It was an emotional night for the Choir, as it was the final event in the calendar this year and the last time the current Choir would sing together. We were very sad to say goodbye to Oliver Hunt, Tom Verney, Sam Furness, Gareth John and Dominic Kraemer who all leave this summer to pursue their careers elsewhere. And to Choristers Harry Cheatle, Teddy Day and George Smith, who move on to senior school this autumn. Our best wishes to them all.

Information on the Choir's planned activities for the 2009-10 academic year can be found on the Choir's website: www.sjcchoir.co.uk.



Caroline Marks
Choir Administrator

Music Society

The Music Society had a large intake of new members at the beginning of Michaelmas Term and has gone on to enjoy a successful and busy year. We have continued to promote regular musical events in College including our series in the New Music Room and the organ recitals in Chapel. The standard of performance has been consistently high, and particular mention must be made of a set of three brilliant piano recitals given on consecutive days by former Committee member Ian Pong at the end of Michaelmas Term, shortly before he left the College to work in Geneva.

At the Michaelmas Term Concert the stage was shared by the newly-reformed College Orchestra, under the baton of Bradley Smith, and the St John's Singers, the College's mixed-voice choir. The Orchestra's re-establishment this year is one of the Society's most significant successes and it is due to the hard work and musicianship of Brad that it continues to thrive.

While in Michaelmas the Singers and Orchestra performed separately, in the Lent Term Concert their forces were combined for a memorable performance of the Mozart Requiem in the presence of a large and appreciative audience. It was an enormous pleasure to see so many members of the Music Society making music together.

It has been a privilege to work with such a supportive and energetic Committee. I would like to thank Professor Johnstone, Dr Glasscock, Dr Castelvecci, Mr Nethsingha and all my colleagues without whom the Music Society could not function.


Timothy Ravalde
President
History Society

As 2008-9 President of the History Society I am honoured to have taken part in such a successful year. Our tenure got off to a flying start with Easter term's Garden Party, which, in a sign of times to come, was expertly managed by Sian Pooley, Jenny Morgan, Hannah Smith and Emma Macalister-Hall in the absence of the glandular-fever-ridden President. This year's History Society played host to some highly interesting topics. Beginning with Bee Wilson's talk on the adulteration of food, we swiftly moved on to a Gideon Mailer's take on the 2008 American election. By mid-November, however, we returned to more familiar fields with Liz Prochaska's talk on the displacement of the inhabitants of the Chagos Islands followed a week later by Dr Mary Dobson's musings on whether a seventeenth century Johnian discovered a cure for malaria. The next fixture for

the History Society was Dr Helen McCarthy's talk on the relationship between foreign policy and democracy, which was followed by Dr Foster's address on his upcoming book, *Gender, Master and Slavery*. Finally we were delighted to have Professor Hennessy residing over our Annual Dinner, giving us a rather comic discussion of the atomic bomb. We would like to thank them all for such an entertaining year. All that remains is to thank the Committee, without whom this year would not have been anywhere near such a success. May I also wish the best of luck to our successors, Eddie Crust, Andrew Browning, Paul Grethe and Ben Alden-Falconer.



Jamie Spencer **President**

Economics Society


The St John's College Economics Society has enjoyed a variety of interesting events this year. We started off Michaelmas Term with a welcome evening to meet and greet the Freshers. In Lent Term, we held our Annual Options Evening with useful advice from older years, as well as invaluable input from Dr Geraats.

However, the highlight of this year was undoubtedly the Networking Evening jointly hosted with Trinity College Economics Society. We invited five distinguished alumni from different areas of finance and business to join us for an evening of information exchange and informal networking. We listened to a wealth of experience and advice from John's alumni: Andrew Nutter, Philip Russmeyer and Tammy Holmes, whose experiences range from venture capital to private equity, investment banking and economics consultancy.

The Annual Black Tie Dinner was an occasion to reflect on the year and to wish everyone the best for exams.

The Annual Black Tie Dinner was an occasion to reflect on the year and to wish everyone the best for exams. More recently, we invited Todd Buchholz, who is currently a Visiting Fellow Commoner at St John's, to speak to us about the 'Current State of the US Political Economy'. As a former Senior Economic Advisor to the White House, Todd has brushed shoulders with many influential people,


and is also the author of several bestselling books. He delivered an energetic and exciting talk on a very topical issue.

We end the year with our Annual Garden Party before handing over to our newly elected Co-Presidents Alex Cakir and James Forbes-King. There has been a much closer bond between the John's Economists this year, we are confident that next year will be just as great. 

Lisa Chen and Chris Robinson
Co-Presidents

Medical Society

It has been another busy year for the St John's College Medical Society, with a wide range of speakers and events throughout. Our Wednesday evening talks, organised with the kind help of Professor David Lomas, have been very successful and we hope to continue them next year. In total we welcomed six speakers to the Society to talk on a diverse array of subjects related to medicine. Our inaugural speaker in Michaelmas Term was Kourosh Saeb Parsy, famous amongst medical students for writing a textbook as an undergraduate, who gave a talk on transplant medicine. In addition we had Robert Winter, well known to first year anatomists, and Professor Martin Gurnell to talk about respiratory disease and acromegaly respectively. In Lent we welcomed Professor Martin Bennett and Dr Sadaf Farooqi to talk about coronary artery disease and leptin and rounded off the term with a very entertaining talk entitled 'An unusual case of amnesia' by Dr Jeremy Webb. I give a great deal of thanks to all of our speakers.

On the social side we have also had a busy year. In addition to the Part II choices drinks, our yearly dinner was also a great success and once again we thank Professor Lomas for giving the after dinner speech. In the upcoming Michaelmas Term we hope to add to the social aspect, by holding drinks to help third years choose their clinical school. We would like to invite anybody who is still studying at any of the hospitals around the Cambridge area to get in touch with the Society as we would be very pleased to have you in attendance. Finally, I would like to introduce our new website www.stjohnscollegemedicalsociety.com, please do take a look and pass on any feedback that you may have. Next year the President of the Society will be Leanne Burgess and I wish her all the best. 

Ben Brodie
President

The Adams Society

The Adams Society's year kicked off in style with our annual Garden Party, held in the Fellows' Garden. Croquet, strawberries, and of course Pimms all contributed to a very enjoyable afternoon. May Week saw an influx of Trinitarians to our pitches, to take on the Society's cricketers. In an upturn of fortunes, we defeated them for the first time this century, with 174 runs to their 109.

We welcomed the new Mathematics Freshers with a successful squash at the start of Michaelmas Term. Our termly speaker meetings began with Professor Tom Körner talking about Mathematics and smallpox. We also learnt about various ways of trisecting angles from Dr Keith Carne. The Term concluded with the ever popular desserts party in the Wordsworth Room.

The final meeting was rounded off with Professor Ben Green talking about the Riemann Hypothesis but unfortunately not proving it!

Lent Term began with a talk by Professor Ray Goldstein, on 'The Evolution of Biological Complexity', including several interesting videos. The second talk was given by Dr Richard Nickl, who gave us 'An Introduction to the Foundation of Frequentist Statistics'. The final meeting was rounded off with Professor Ben Green talking about the Riemann Hypothesis but unfortunately not proving it! The end of term saw the Society's Annual Dinner in the Senior Combination Room, and was an evening enjoyed by all.

I would like to thank all of this year's speakers, as well as the Mathematics Fellows and students of the College for their continued support of the Society. Finally, I would like to take the opportunity to thank this year's Committee, and to wish success to Adam Bennett, the new President, and next year's Committee.




Vanessa Bingle
President



The Larmor Society Dinner

The Larmor Society

2008-9 was a busy year for the Society which began with the annual book sale and Freshers welcome event. These events gave new students the chance to meet Natural Scientists from across years. Later in the year, the society organised the Parts IA and IB desserts evenings. These evenings were a great opportunity for students to discuss their subject options for the following year with other students. Given the breadth of choice of subjects offered within natural sciences, this is a difficult decision to make and advice from senior years is important.

One of the most exciting events organised by the Larmor Society was a talk by Professor Fiona Watt, a leading scientist in stem cell research. The talk gave us an interesting insight into the possibilities and future avenues in this highly topical area. The talk appealed to both biological and physical natural scientists. The final event of the year was the annual dinner which was a grand event that took place in the Senior Common Room. It was during this dinner that the results of next year's Committee were announced with Alice Flint being named the Society's President for next year and I wish her the best of luck. 

Katie Graham
President

The Winfield Society

The Winfield Society has once again had a very successful year. A particularly exciting event in Michaelmas Term was the Winfield Society Networking Event, organised by the Development Office, held at Lovells in London. Sir Richard Aikens, a Johnian, who had recently been appointed Lord Justice of Appeal, gave a talk on the settlement of international disputes in English courts. Afterwards, current undergraduates had a chance to talk to alumni of the College; many Johnians commented on how much they enjoyed talking to current undergraduates, and sharing memories of their time at St John's.

This year has seen the Society become more active in providing careers advice and networking opportunities for our students. We hosted a workshop with Robert Boyle, from Macfarlanes, on interview technique; Mr Nolan organised a talk about the Commercial Bar with members of Erskine Chambers, including Alex Barden; and Emily McKechnie, from Wilberforce Chambers, came to give an advocacy skills workshop. All of these events were well-attended, and the students found them useful and interesting.

The final event in Michaelmas was the annual Christmas party, generously sponsored by Freshfields.

Mooting featured heavily in Lent Term. David Sheard, an LLM student, provided some intensive mooting coaching for our first years in preparation for the annual Freshers' Moot, the standard of which was very high. The final was held in February, and Sarah Docherty was announced as the overall winner, with Andrew Dinsmore as runner up. We also had a number of students participating in University competitions.

We would like to thank Dr Fox, our Senior Treasurer, and our Committee for all of their support over the year. We have been delighted with the Society's achievements, and wish the Committee for 2009-10 the best of luck for next year.



Natalie McNamee and Paul Reynolds
Co-Presidents

COLLEGE SPORTS

The Eagles

The Eagles of St John's College go from strength to strength, continuing to lead from the front in both College and University sport.

The Rugby club achieved an unprecedented 'Quadruple Double' under the leadership of Eagle Mayne. Where he left off, Eagle Hall began, with the Red Boys wrapping up formalities by early February to pick up their ninth successive League trophy. At University level, Eagle Hall, assisted by Eagle Shephard, captained the U20 XV to Varsity victory at Twickenham. Eagle Lum gained University colours for his efforts at LX Club Varsity. Eagle Reid gained his second Blue in an exciting, yet sadly unsuccessful, Varsity Match, while Eagle MacLennan got on the field for his first Blue.

In Hockey, Captain Eagle Mackenney's enthusiasm and flair have played an integral part in the club's progression in both League and Cuppers. He has been ably assisted by Eagles Morrison and Samuelson, and Eagles Hall and MacLennan. At University level, Eagle Robinson started in goal for the Blues in March, whilst Eagle Mackenney played a part in a winning seconds Varsity.

In Football, Eagle Redmond unfortunately did not represent the University this year due to a bruised metatarsal, but was lucky enough to find a spot on the bench for the Third XI. The First XI, with Eagle Tolley at the helm, has sailed smoothly over treacherous waters, with Eagle Hambleton at the bow and Eagle Verney from the stern.

On the water, Eagle Trnka and Eagle Shephard took the LMBC First VIII to second on the river in Mays. Meanwhile, Eagle Sleep has gained his Half Blue in Water Polo.


Eagle Hambleton led the Cricket XI to a successful season, while at University level, Eagle MacLennan followed in Eagle Smith's footsteps to gain a Blue.

In Racquets, Eagle Douglas has tried his hardest to break all University sporting records. The tenacious Geordie took his tally to eight undergraduate Blues with a win in the Squash Varsity, even playing with a broken finger.

Eagles are generally known for their size and powerful build, and nowhere was this more evident than in Eagle Wells' attempts for a Half Blue in Weightlifting. Secretary Eagle Whittington, when not organising varied and extensive social events, has been Secretary of the University Golf Club and is on course for his second Blue. Eagle Tolley has captained the St John's College Darts Squadron to an unbeaten season, whilst on the mat, Eagle Macleod remains an integral part

of the Cambridge Karate team and Eagle Kolodynski has been teaching the University Judo team.

All that is left is to thank our senior members: Dr McConnel, for both entertaining us with his Dark Blue fancy dress and for serving us tirelessly as Senior Treasurer, and both his and Wendy Redgewell's help in organising the dinner; Dr Linehan for continuing to provide a wicket for the post-dinner room cricket; the Master for all his support; and Keith Ellis, for continuing to excel in his role as Groundsman.

It is tremendous honour to be a part of such an institution and I am incalculably proud to lead a club that remains at the forefront of University sport. 

Scott MacLennan **Captain**

Men's Rugby

The Red Boys settled into the 2008-9 League fixtures with victories against Downing and Trinity. The nerves present at the start of the season began to ease as the Freshers proved that the club had lost none of its strength and depth, showing that a historic five doubles in a row was within grasp.

This year also saw a record number of Red Boys represent Cambridge at all levels. Alexander Torrens led seven Red Boys in the U20As successful retention of their trophy. Eleven Redboys helped the U20 XV. The LX Club saw a great performance from Will Mayne and Richard Lum, before Sandy Reid and Scott MacLennan



The victorious Red Boys

represented Cambridge in the main game at Twickenham. Aaron Sonenfeld managed to pick up a well deserved Rugby League Half Blue.

2009 began in style with the Red Boys winning their ninth consecutive League title. The Lent Term saw the resurrection of the SJCRUFC Second Team who were cruelly denied a place in the League. The mighty seconds destroyed Robinson before the dream of an all John's Cuppers final was put down by St Edmund's.

After a lengthy break, the First Team returned with victories against Queens' and Jesus. A cancelled semi-final against Hughes Hall ensured a well lubricated annual dinner and a final against a St Edmund's side that contained an All Black, an England international and eight other Blues. With a fifth double on the line the Red Boys came out of the blocks at the required tempo with the game ending 23-12 and bringing with it the 'Quintuple Double'.

All the Red Boys are extremely grateful to Groundsman Keith Ellis for his continuing hard work. Thanks to Dr Samworth for his support and to Dr McConnell as Senior Treasurer. I would like to thank the rest of the Committee for their invaluable help. Good luck to next year's Committee and team, hopefully next year will see Freshers attempting to find the word for what six in a row is...



William Hall Captain

Women's Rugby

The great achievement of winning Cuppers last year meant the pressure was on for SJCWRFC for 2008-9. Aided by coaches Aaron Sonenfeld, Alex Cheetham and Sandy Reid, we set about polishing off the cobwebs. Unfortunately, the first game of the season came too soon and John's lost to eventual League winners Murray Edwards (New Hall).

Undeterred, we returned to beat Fitzwilliam and Selwyn before the Christmas break. Credit must go to Amanda Scott for nine tries in three games, which contributed greatly to our excellent points margin. Freshers Natacha Crooks and Viki McEvoy made fantastic debuts, alongside Hockey star Franji Scott, converted footballer Belen Tejada-Romero and boatie Kat McLoughlin. Returning stars Becca Conroy and Lindsay McMorrان joined the backs, where a fantastic performance by Becca earned her two tries in her first match on the wing. Veteran Clare Briscoe continued to be a Captain's dream – arriving early for training and playing in whatever position needed.



The Women's Rugby Team

The forwards were led by Vice-Captain Rhi Pugh, who was summoned from University retirement to join the Second Team in the winning Varsity squad. Forward Hannah Wells and scrum half Charlotte Wheeler-Booth also earned starting positions in the University Team. In our final match of the season Charlotte converted 100% to seal the win over a strong Emma side. Team spirit and dedication pushed us to second in the League, marginally missing first position due to the number of tries scored.

This season Cuppers changed to a one-day tournament played in the Easter Term, where John's were hoping, at the time of writing, to defend their title. Meanwhile, thanks goes to Keith Ellis for his tolerance of our ever-fickle fixture list, to our supporters and to our fantastic coaches who have helped to improve the level of Women's Rugby in John's.

Hannah Wells takes over as Captain next year, with Belen Tejada-Romero as Vice-Captain. I wish them the best of luck and hope the growth and success of SJCW RFC continues.



Carol Evans
Captain

Men's Football

Ours was a season that finished strongly, with the team eventually coming in second in the First Division on 17 points, with 5 wins, 2 draws and 2 tight defeats. We managed an unbeaten run in the League from November through to the end of the season, which showed potential Title-winning form, but we were let down by our unconvincing start to the year; and, if anyone asks, Cuppers never happened.

The team was glad to see a few new faces join this year. The athletic Pete Stovall added strength and commitment to the back line, the dynamic Kit Fitton offered pace and short-range passing ability at right-back, while Jamie Day brought with him an unbelievable work rate. Nick Cross also deserves a mention for his persistence, and somewhat surprising enthusiasm, at officiating matches this year – not only as a referee but also as a linesman.

Unfortunately this has also been the farewell year for a number of players. Martin MacQuarrie and Wayne Redmond will be vacating the positions they have held so well on opposite wings, while Paul and Mike will be leaving an irreplaceable Edwards-shaped hole at centre-back. Nick Pantelides will also be leaving after some remarkable years of College football.

After coming so close to League success this year, and with the core of the team – the indomitable Jack Hambleton up front, Chris Maynard, Jamie Spencer, Yusuf Mohammad and myself in the midfield, and Tom Verney in goal – staying on at College, the omens for next season look promising. Alex Rutt, the new Captain, will inherit a team primed for silverware.

**Chris Tolley
Captain****Women's Football**

This year St John's Women's Football achieved something that has never been achieved before; winning the Plate. Having lost several of our seasoned players, we kicked off the year with a relatively inexperienced side, leading to a less than desirable performance in the League and a knock-out in the first round of Cuppers by Jesus, who went on to win. All was not lost, however, and a combination of hard training (including morning runs around Jesus Green) and sheer determination saw the team beat the likes of Downing, Newnham, Magdalene and Caius to go on to win the Plate.



The Women's Football Team

This victory could not have been achieved without the dedication of each of the players involved. Amanda Scott's Vice-Captaining will be remembered by all, for those character-building morning fitness sessions and player-of-the-season runs down the left wing. I'd also like to thank Anna Ettl and Rebecca Colley for all their work as Social Secretaries. Hazel Lindsey's dedication both on and off the pitch was something to be admired as well as Natacha Crooks' stunning performances in goal; the two go on to be Captain and Vice-Captain respectively next year. John's will be very sad to lose Lizzie Richardson, who has been a major part of College and University football over the last three years; Captaining and coaching in her second year and providing a solid defence and general advice throughout. We also say goodbye to Carol Evans, who has played some great matches in defence (when she wasn't too busy captaining the mighty Women's Rugby team).

Thanks to everyone who played this year (including the cameo appearances) and helped make the team so successful. It has been a real honour to play for and captain St John's and I wish the team the best of luck for the next season. 🏴󠁧󠁢󠁥󠁮󠁧󠁿

Clare Stevenson
Captain

Netball

Expectations were high and player potential impressive as the 2008-9 Netball season started. In their first game, the Mixed Team were narrowly defeated, which was not unexpected following the key losses of last year's graduates. The Ladies' Team also had a shaky start, but a positive attitude and hard work in practice saw them steadily climbing the League table with well fought wins. Convincing victories for both teams left them sitting comfortably in the top half of their respective First Divisions by the end of the first term.

Unfortunately, both teams were hit by a string of injuries. The remaining members ploughed on doggedly, playing in all nature's elements, and deserve recognition for the way they maintained morale. Although movement on the court remained excellent, the final scores did not reflect the teams' overall performances.

Both teams displayed determination, despite severely depleted squads, at the 2009 Cuppers Tournament. The Mixed Team secured a place in the quarter finals, but Emmanuel defeated them in extra time by one goal. The Ladies' Team fell just short of a quarter-final place, sidelined by an incredible performance by the eventual winners, Trinity, and a one goal deficit against an impressive Trinity Hall. It was a day of spectacular performance and camaraderie.



The mixed Netball Team in action

It was a great season, for both teams, in terms of team spirit. We bonded at our inaugural Rubix-cube themed social, whilst the annual Netball dinner remains, for many, one of the highlights of the social calendar. Sadly, both teams' hard work on court, undermined by injury, may not be reflected in League positioning, but we have every confidence that this performance dip will be rectified next year. We wish Natasha Williams, assisted by Dawn Kelly and Kate Cope, every success as Captain next season!



Pippa Dobson **Captain**

Men's Hockey

2008-9 saw John's look to a new era of College Hockey, with five Freshers regularly making the side, we began the season with a 4-3 victory against a strong St Catharine's side.

While University Hockey helped the College form of Denver, Dickens and Mackenney, it unfortunately stole the Blues talent of Yelland and Robinson from our set up. This did not stop John's from dispatching Jesus 4-1, which saw us challenging for the Michaelmas League First Division. Unbeaten until a final match defeat against a respectable Cambridge City outfit, it proved to be a highly successful first half of the season. This success stemmed from the interchangeable obstacles of Armitage and Hall in goal, with Brooks, Dickens, Paluch, Olliver and Lock offering extra protection around the D.

The midfield workhorses of Turner, Birks, Mackenney and MacQuarrie gave further flair and stability to the side, while Morrison even found time in his hectic management schedule to grab us a couple of vital goals with his trusty drag flick. Up front Vice-Captain Samuelson and Denver worked tirelessly, collecting the majority of our goals.

Unfortunately, the season was not so much one of two halves, as the format of the League dictates, but a far more stop-start affair than all would have liked and saw our Cuppers hopes dashed in the semi-final. The weather during the Lent Term conspired against us; heavy snowfall postponed three matches and meant a disjointed end to the season. Nevertheless, a strong display against the Cambridge City side, who denied us the Michaelmas League title, was a fitting end to an enjoyable season. I wish incoming Captain, James Armitage, every success in his tenure next season.



Peter Mackenney **Captain**

Men's Cricket

For the Cricket Team this year it was a season of fresh faces and great enjoyment but ultimately disappointment in the Cuppers competition.

A humbling batting collapse in the opening match of the season against the Suffolk Gents meant we started with a loss, in a performance that was to define the rest of our season. An excellent bowling performance followed in the inaugural match against sister-college Balliol, particularly from Chris Tolley and James Linney, but once again the batting was poor. We went into the first Cuppers match with Emmanuel with little form behind us and that showed when we were 9-3, chasing 126. Fortunately Hunt came to the rescue with 33 and it was left to the skipper to hit the winning runs in what was a sweet victory. The joy did not last long, however, as we were knocked out of the competition by Trinity Hall two days later.

Fortunately Hunt came to the rescue with 33 and it was left to the skipper to hit the winning runs in what was a sweet victory.

Despite the poor results there were some excellent individual performances throughout the season. James Linney was excellent with both bat and ball, while Simon Lock's bowling and Tom Sutton's spin picked up plenty of wickets. Unfortunately, with former Captain, Jack Hambleton, not finding his form of last year, the batting struggled, but in Charlie Dewhurst, Akash Pancholi, Jenan Wijayasri, Oli Hunt and Tim Allen there is much hope for the future. We were grateful, as always, to the experience the graduates (Muhammed Irfan, Chris Rice, Nic Ross and Ed McNeilly) brought to the team.

My thanks go to Keith Ellis for his outstanding efforts in organising matches and preparing the pitch for these games. It has been a very enjoyable summer leading this enthusiastic group of players and I look forward to playing with them again next year.




Jonathan Ariyaratnam
Cricket Captain

Mixed Lacrosse

As Lacrosse is a little known sport, played by few and understood by fewer at St John's, the loss of many of our most experienced players in summer 2008 presented the club with new challenges. Rebuilding the team began in earnest at the Freshers' Fair where, jostling for attention between more prestigious clubs and societies offering free cake, we fought to attract new members. Chief among the recruiters was Toby Al-Mugheiry, whose scintillating chat resulted in a horde of keen Freshers assembling for our training sessions.

Instructing this motley crew was greatly helped by Polly Mitchell and Rosanna Dawes, who guided new members in training. Over the course of a few weeks our novices, who initially struggled to pass, catch and maintain possession, were transformed into proficient players, who relished the heat of battle.

Such spirit was shown in an epic contest against Magdalene. In the midst of driving snow, St John's put in a heroic defensive performance to hold a bigger, faster and more skilful side to a goalless draw. In fact, the 0-0 became something of a speciality this season as Adam Whyte, Osagie Omokhodion and Will Johnston distinguished themselves at the back. Helen Morgan-Rees, Susannah Keene, Gina Blake, Sarah Wedmore and Livvy Richards provided metronomic passing going forward. Creativity in attack came from Fresher Lauren York, who also represented the University Team.

Unfortunately, our uncompromising checks and our cheerleaders could not take us past the quarter-finals of Cuppers, where we lost an absorbing encounter against Jesus. While silverware proved elusive, the Committee successfully maintained club ethos of inclusivity, fun and brutal tackling. Luke Lorimer and Sejal Mahida organised social events, Jon Shephard secured funding for new equipment. I wish Toby Al-Mugheiry, the new Captain, all the best. 

Tom Chigbo Captain


Ultimate

Ultimate is a relatively new and little-known sport that enjoys remarkable popularity in Cambridge. It is a seven player team sport, where the aim is to throw a flying disc (like a frisbee) between your team, before catching it in the opponent's end zone to score a point.

For a second consecutive year St John's has fielded a team in the inter-College League, aided by a large and remarkably keen bunch of Freshers, most of whom

were new to the sport. This was very encouraging, especially as many colleges have to collaborate together to put a team out, and has allowed us to build on what was a fairly unforgiving introduction to the sport last year.

Rapid improvement throughout Michaelmas and Lent Terms, with development of a new defensive strategy, as well as plenty of substitutes, and a Great Britain player now places us top of the Second Division; a massive improvement after finishing bottom of it last year!


We've enjoyed some really comprehensive victories, giving us a very pretty points difference, some amazing diving catches and general team spirit. Playing in the Easter Term is particularly enjoyable, as better weather, especially less wind, makes playing a lot easier and a lot more fun. 

Nick Jenkins
Captain

Ladies' Badminton

The Ladies' Badminton Team have had a brilliant year. After being relegated in the League last year, the First Team were able to turn things around, and following a successful string of wins in Michaelmas Term were promoted to the First Division. The Second Team have maintained their position in the Third Division, coming very close to being promoted at the end of Lent Term.

At the end of the year, our Cuppers Team: Mengying Dong, Julia Hine, Emma Macalister Hall, Sarah James, Su Liu and myself comfortably beat Newnham and Homerton, giving us a place in the semi-finals. Very unfortunately, we came close, but didn't quite manage to defeat Trinity for a place in the finals. Nevertheless, considering that we were unable to put out a full team for this tournament last year, this is a remarkable improvement!

Finally, these results are fantastic given that many team members were completely new to the game and played matches against old hands. I would like to say a huge thank you to the Co-Captain of the First Team, Emma Macalister Hall and the Co-Captains of the Second Team, Nicola Hughes and Kathryn Maude, who've all helped make this year as successful as it has been. 

Lisa Chen
Co-Captain

Men's Badminton

This year John's First Team saw a return of veterans Nick Jenkins, Chris Thomas, Varadom Charoensawen and Amar Shah; they were joined by Freshers Hamish Peebles, Adi Gurtu and University player Lisa Chen.

The First Team began in the Second Division in Michaelmas Term. It soon became clear that they were far too good to be there. John's First Team became a name to be feared, emphatically beating all opposition, often by scores of 8-1 or more. We won a total of 40 games out of 54 to finish top of the Second Division and were promoted to the First Division at the beginning of Lent Term. The First Team continued to perform solidly in Lent Term despite coming up against some very tough opposition and finished fourth overall.

John's first team became a name to be feared, emphatically beating all opposition, often by scores of 8-1 or more.

The Second Team consisted of Luke Lorimer (Captain), Matt Turner, Defeng Wu, Kan Lu, Fumi Mori, Dahir Alihassan and Patrick English. After a League restructure, they found themselves in a strong Third Division in Michaelmas Term, which would be a big challenge to stay in given the almost complete turnover of players from last year's squad. In Michaelmas we managed to consolidate our Third Division status and in Lent Term our play improved, as we managed to finish mid-table.

The Third Team was also placed in a tough Division in Michaelmas Term with four other college First Teams. Third years Dave Nissenbaum, Pip Coen and second years Amar Marthi and Dan Lu (Captain) were joined by Patrick English, Samir Javeri, Derrick Sim, Martin Swinton, Paras Bakrania and Seb Hollington. Unfortunately, results did not go our way and the team was relegated. However, they showed great dedication and determination to finish mid table at the end of Lent Term.

This has been a promising season both in terms of the results and the signs of new talents coming through. I have every confidence that next year's Captain, Nick Jenkins, with his great motivational and organisational skills, will be able to take the club to new heights.




Di Liang
Captain

Pool

The successes of last season were always going to be a hard feat to follow, especially with the majority of the First Team moving on to pastures new. The situation was further compounded by the retirement of Gopalan Radhakrishnan, who has faithfully served St John's Pool for many years. However, the new look team of Jon Nelson, Dunstan Barnes, Steve Legg Tier, Dan Andrews, Abu Shoaib and Alex Senninger were able to give John's a great start by defeating Homerton, a team with two University players and high ambitions. A run of near-misses followed, including a close game against defending champions Robinson, until a fine team performance saw a 5-4 dispatching of rivals Trinity, one of the pre-season favourites. Wins soon followed again with a controversial exchange against Peterhouse and a comprehensive beating of Magdalene, to see that John's are rooted in mid-table of the top flight as the season closed.

The Second Team, of Rob Bell (Captain), regular players Ed Howarth, Ed Allen, Tom Sutton, Arash Moavenian, and squad members Adam Wawrzynski, Jack Yelland and Arnold Lee, had a more difficult season in the Second Division. However, it was instrumental in unearthing some promising young talent, most notably Tom, whose fine form saw a call-up to the First Team, where he won his singles game.

Next year promises more stability in the side, and I wish the new Captain every success in another assault on the First Division title in the 2009-10 season. 

**Jon Nelson
Captain****Lady Margaret Boat Club****Women's Crews***The First Michaelmas IV*

Bow	Kat McLoughlin
2	Rhiannon Pugh
3	Francesca Yates
Str	Lara Maister
Cox	David Barraclough

The Second Michaelmas IV

Bow	Bryony Shelton
2	Fran O'Brien
3	Megan Leitch
Str	Amy Bray
Cox	George Davies

The First Fairbairns VIII

Bow	Bryony Shelton
2	Amy Bray
3	Alex Reichl
4	Fran O'Brien
5	Francesca Yates
6	Rhiannon Pugh
7	Kat McLoughlin
Str	Lara Maister
Cox	David Barraclough

The First Lent VIII

Bow	Amy Bray
2	Ellie Fielding
3	Hermione Mackay
4	Francesca Yates
5	Kat McLoughlin
6	Ursula Moore
7	Rhiannon Pugh
Str	Bryony Shelton
Cox	Calum Bambro

The Second Lent VIII

Bow	Rachel Elliot
2	Sarina Kidd
3	Alice Meredith
4	Kat De Rome
5	Alex Reichl
6	Fran O'Brien
7	Sarah Docherty
Str	Pippa Howell
Cox	David Barraclough

Men's Crews*The Henley VIII*

Bow	Duncan McCombe
2	Toby Parnell
3	William Hall
4	Alex Gilbert
5	Hector Gray
6	Mike Shephard
7	Neil Houlsby
Str	Aled Jones
Cox	Hayley Fisher

Light IV

Bow Neil Houlsby*
 2 Aled Jones
 3 Edward Crossley
 Str Hector Gray
 * steerer

First Coxed IV

Bow Ciaran Woods
 2 Daniel Paine
 3 James Armitage
 Str Edward Moore
 Cox Kayla Kindon-Bebb

Second Coxed IV

Bow Richard Curling
 2 Sebastian Lapinski
 3 Jake Clark
 Str Nick Milton
 Cox Jen McCann

Third Coxed IV

Bow Dave Lewis
 2 Alastair Williams
 3 Giles Colclough
 Str Alastair Smith
 Cox Susannah Keene

The First Fairbairns VIII

Bow Edward Crossley
 2 Aled Jones
 3 Jake Clark
 4 Matthew O'Connor
 5 Neil Houlsby
 6 Leo Scott
 7 Alex Rose
 Str Hector Gray
 Cox Kayla Kingdon-Bebb

The Second Fairbairns VIII

Bow David Lewis
 2 Richard Curling
 3 Robert Emberson
 4 Ciaran Woods
 5 Giles Colclough
 6 Alastair Smith
 7 Jan Trnka
 Str Daniel Paine
 Cox Jen McCann

The First Lent VIII

Bow Jake Clark
 2 Toby Parnell
 3 Edward Crossley
 4 Alastair Smith
 5 Neil Houlsby
 6 Leo Scott
 7 Alex Rose
 Str Hector Gray
 Cox Jen McCann

The Second Lent VIII

Bow Dan Knights
 2 Brian Biggs
 3 Steve Purvis
 4 Oliver Withers
 5 Joe Allen
 6 James Robinson
 7 Richard Curling
 Str Daniel Paine
 Cox Gina Blake

The First May VIII

Bow	Steve Purvis
2	Aled Jones
3	Alex Rose
4	Toby Parnell
5	Leo Scott
6	Hector Gray
7	Neil Houlsby
Str	Matthew O'Connor
Cox	Kayla Kingdon-Bebb

The Second May VIII

Bow	James Phillips
2	Richard Curling
3	Oliver Withers
4	Joe Allen
5	Alastair Smith
6	Pierre Guerin
7	James Robinson
Str	Jake Clark
Cox	Ben McCann

The Third May VIII

Bow	George Irwin
2	Hamish Gordon
3	Adam Jones
4	Iain Olliver
5	David Lewis
6	Charles Compton
7	Giles Colclough
Str	Brian Biggs
Cox	Georgina Blake

Women's Coaches

A big thank you to Roger Silk, Ben Symonds, Henry Addison, Lance Badman, Hannah Stratford, Karen Weimer, Nathalie Walker, Gerald Weldon, Alison Gledhill, Cath Mangan and Belen Tejado-Romero for all their coaching.

Men's Coaches

A big thank you to Edward Crossley, Ciaran Woods, Karen Wiemer, Nick Geddes, Lance Badman, Bill Budenberg, Hannah Stratford, Jan Trnka, Gerald Weldon, Henry Addison, Tony Prior, John Durack, Jon Rhodes, Bill Harcourt, Roger Silk, Andy Jones and Sandy Black for all their coaching.

**The Lady Margaret Boat Club – Women
Michaelmas 2008****Novices**

The novice crews had a great start to the Term, with the First Boat coming fourth in the Queens' Ergs final but in initial heats were the fastest of all Cambridge colleges. In Clare Novice Sprints the First Boat beat Homerton in the first round

but then lost narrowly to the eventual winners, Anglia Ruskin. The Second Boat performed extremely well in the first round, beating City, but narrowly lost in the second round. The Third Boat beat Downing Women's Seconds before losing out to the eventual winners of the Plate, Jesus Second Boat. The First Boat performed fantastically, winning the Women's Novice VIII Division, a tremendous well done to the entire crew, their cox and coaches. The Second Boat had an eventful race, finishing 41st overall. The Third Boat had a fantastic race finishing 33rd beating six first boats. The Fourth Women were the fastest, and only, Women's Fourth on the river finishing in 43rd overall. A great set of results for which thanks must go to all the coaches, Lower Boats Captain Fran O'Brien, her vice Bryony Shelton and Lance Badman.

Seniors

With the arrival of a rather large intake of Freshers, Michaelmas Term saw the squad split in two. We started with two IVs for the University IVs race, in two separate divisions. The First IV beat Churchill easily in the first round, before unfortunately being knocked out by Christ's, who lost to the eventual winners. The Second IV got knocked out in the second round, also by Christ's

The IVs then merged into an VIII after the racing. Training continued and the first race entered as an VIII was Winter Head; the crew performed well to finish fifth out of the college crews in their division. The First IV also entered coming fifth, despite extreme fatigue. The crew had a slight change and got settled into training for Fairbairns. After a disappointing race in which we came eighth in Fairbairns we decided to focus more intently on high pressure training.

Lent Term 2009

The Lents started with a training camp in Seville, a fantastic new experience for LMBC. Two VIIIs of seniors and ex-novices spent a week training hard on and off the water. Our thanks to the LMBCA for their support of this camp.

Back in Cambridge, selection began. A high retention rate allowed us to field three women's crews. Under excellent coaching the First Boat showed steady improvement. The first race of term was Winter Head to Head where the crew came sixth and the Second Boat won their category. The next race was Newnham Short Course where both crews came fourth in their respective divisions. Pembroke Regatta was the final race before Bumps, with the Second Boats showing their potential by winning the Second Division. The First Boat performed well, before eventually being knocked out by Christ's in the second round.

A disappointing result on the first day saw First Boat get bumped by Queens' on the reach and after some confusion and a re-row on the second day the First Boat

eventually got bumped by Christ's outside the Plough. After a well fought row over on the third day we had our final bump on the fourth day, catching Clare in under two minutes.

On the first day the Second Boat were bumped by Peterhouse First Boat on Ditton Corner, and after a row over on the second day were bumped by Magdalene First Boat on the third day, pushing Fitzwilliam First Boat all the way. On the last day they had another row over.

The Third Boat didn't race until the Getting on Race, narrowly missing out on a place in Bumps.

The Henley boat races were raced shortly after the end of term. Eva-Maria Hempe performed extremely well in the two seat of Blondie, who defeated their counterparts Osiris by two lengths. Congratulations to her.

May Term 2009

Unfortunately due to unavailability the women were unable to travel off Cam for a training camp. The term started well with First Boat victory in Head of the Cam. The First Boat and the Second Boat both travelled off-Cam to take part in Poplar Regatta. The First Boat lost by one foot to Thames RC in the INT2 division, and after some questionable steering on the part of their rivals came third in the INT3 final having won their heat. The Second Boat performed extremely well, beating Murray Edwards First Boat easily in the Novice division to win their pots. Champs Head was disappointing for Women's Firsts who came fifth.

Francesca Yates Women's Captain

The Lady Margaret Boat Club – Men Henley 2008

A slightly weakened First May VIII was sent to the Henley Qualifiers where the crew missed qualification by a couple of seconds. We are very thankful for the continued support from the LMBCA who make the Henley effort possible. We were very sorry to see our Boatman and Head Coach Raf Wyatt leave. Thanks are also due to last year's Captain Hayley Fisher who led the club through a very successful season.

Michaelmas Term 2008**Novices**

A large contingent of novices proved their strength at Queens' Ergs. The First Boat came second to Anglia Ruskin, the Second Boat won their category and the Third Boat came second in theirs. The Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Boats were the fastest Fourths, Fifths and Sixths Boats respectively. The Sixth Boat notably beat several First Boats, including King's.

More success followed with the First Boat winning Clare Sprints, in a field of 32. In Fairbairns, the novices continued their extremely successful Term; the First Boat won the First Division, the Second Boat came second in their Vllls and having the fastest Third, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Boats.

Seniors

We started Michaelmas Term by welcoming aboard a new Boatman, Lance Badman. With lots of enthusiastic oarsmen including several First May colours we were able to enter one Light IV and three coxed IVs into University IVs.

The Third IV punched well above their weight winning two rounds against Second Boats, but eventually losing in the semi-final to our Second IV, who had previously beaten First and Third. The Second IV succumbed in the final to a strong Emmanuel IV. The First coxed IV, who bore the brunt of the injuries, lost in their first round to a strong Trinity Hall crew. The Light IV won their category over a relatively large field this year, the highlight was beating Downing in the semi-final by twelve seconds in one of the fastest times of recent years.

The senior Vllls had mixed fortunes at Fairbairns; the First Boat never quite came together, coming fourth out of the Cambridge colleges. The Second Boat, however, won their competition by a whopping forty-four seconds.

Lent Term 2009

This year saw a pre-term training camp in Spain. Four Vllls trained on the river Guadalquivir in Seville. Significant technical improvements were made under the watchful eye of Lance Badman. The perfect rowing conditions made this a highly successful winter training camp. We are very grateful to the LMBCA, for without their support many athletes would struggle to attend.

Winter Head to Head was the first performance indicator of the term with one of the coxed IVs from the First Boat winning; the First Boat, however, did not perform so well. The Second Boat, consisting mainly of novices, showed potential and narrowly came second. The First Boat made significant improvement with some coaching accompanied off-Cam to the Head of the Trent

by the Second Boat. At the Head of the Trent the crews were slightly weakened due to an outbreak of mumps.

Meanwhile the Third Boat, which proved to be the fastest Third Boat at Winter Head to Head, followed up this success by being the fastest Third Boat in Newnham Short Course and coming second at Pembroke Regatta.

It was very pleasing to field a Fourth and a Fifth Boat in the Lent Term. The Fourth Boat won two rounds at Pembroke Regatta; only being knocked out by the Third Boat in the semi-final. The highlight of the term was the fact the both crews qualified for Lent Bumps; LMBC being the only club to field five boats in the Lents. The Fourth Boat did very well bumping Selwyn Second Boat and Christ's Third Boat. The Fifth Boat finished the highest Fifth Boat in Bumps.

For the first time in several years, both the First and Second Boats continued to train after the end of Term before racing at the Head of the River Race on the Tideway.

In the Lent Bumps the First Boat had an unsettled row on the first day and never achieved a powerful rhythm, which resulted in getting bumped by Downing. On the remaining three nights the crew put in stronger performances, staying close to Downing, but not able to bump back up. The Second Boat did not fair so well either on day one, being overbumped by a fast Peterhouse First Boat on its way up. They had a brave second day's racing however, fighting off Caius Second Boat. They then rowed over clear of Caius in the remaining days, but couldn't catch Robinson First Boat. The Third Boat were the most successful Maggie crew this Lents – rowing over, bumping Girton Second Boat, then Trinity Hall Second Boat, before rowing over again. Congratulations to them.

After Lent Bumps Hector Gray and Neil Houlsey raced in Trinity Second Challenge pairs; we beat all other college pairs, but lost narrowly to two lightweight Blues.

For the first time in several years, both the First and Second Boats continued to train after the end of Term before racing at the Head of the River Race on the Tideway. The First Boat found itself boxed in for most of the race and had a gutsy row. The crew finished slightly behind where it started, at 150th. The Second Boat, despite trailing

a splash-top for part of the course, came 344th, notably beating several Oxford and Cambridge college First boats. Many thanks to Tom Edwards-Moss, John Davey and Jocy Williams; ex-LMBC rowers who hosted the crews before the race.

May Term 2009

The May Term was preceded by potential First and Second May Boat oarsmen participating in a training camp at Ely. Many miles were covered in Vllls and IVs and seat racing was used to help make some tough selection choices.

The first event of the Term for the top boats was Wallingford Regatta. Middle IV of the First Boat made the final of Intermediate two IVs, coming fourth out of thirteen IVs. The First Boat had a gutsy row in Intermediate Two just missing the final. The Second Boat fought hard in what was their first multi-lane regatta, narrowly losing to a couple of significantly more experienced crews. The following week both crews went to Poplar Regatta. The First Boat qualified for the final of Intermediate Two, had a fairly quick row in the final, coming fourth overall. We then had a straight final in Intermediate One against Hampton School First Boat. After losing a length in the early part of the race, the crew clawed it back and after a much more effective sprint finished just a quarter of a length down. The Second Boat came second in Novice, and raced hard in Intermediate Three, unfortunately not qualifying for the final.

Back on the Cam the Third Boat was the fastest Third Boat in Spring Head to Head.

Back on Cam the Third Boat was the fastest Third Boat in Spring Head to Head. The Fourth Boat was the second fastest in its category. The Fifth Boat (Graduates and Fellows boat) did well as the only Fifth Boat, beating all but one Fourth Boat, including our own. The Fifth Boat then beat several Third and Fourth Boats at Champs Head.

The First Boat made progress throughout the Term but narrowly missed qualification to the final in Intermediate Two at the Metropolitan Regatta.


As always, in the May Bumps, some very unusual races were seen. The Fifth Boat (Graduates and Fellows) and the Sixth Boat (Rugby boat) had both bumped and been bumped in the first three days and were three boats apart on Saturday. The crews in between them bumped out. An ejector crab was then caught in the Fifth Boat; in the period of time it took the Sixth Boat to gain the five lengths the ejected four-man climbed back in and Fifth Boat restarted just ahead of the Sixth

Boat who then careered into grassy corner. It was very close, but the overbump was given by the umpires.

The Fourth Boat did well to row over three times before bumping Jesus Fourth Boat on the last day. The Third Boat were most successful boat in the Mays going up three by bumping Girton Second Boat, Robinson Second Boat and Fitzwilliam Second Boat. Well done to them.

The Second Boat rowed over four times in the first two days as sandwich boat; an extremely tiring feat. They were bumped by a fast King's First Boat on the Friday and rowed over again on Saturday, closing in on Robinson First Boat but unable to catch them.

The First Boat rowed over on Wednesday; on Thursday they were bumped by a fast Caius crew who almost reclaimed the headship. On Friday the First Boat almost held off Jesus and were disappointed to be bumped just before the finish. On Saturday the prospect of a down three loomed as Downing claimed overlap, at that point technique seemed to go out of the window in exchange for power. This found the First Boat at the railings a canvas clear. After an epic fight up the reach Downing were bumped by Pembroke at the Railway Bridge and the crew trailed over the line, extremely relieved.

We would like to thank Lance Badman for his efforts and LMBC are lucky to have him for future years. Again, thanks to all members of the LMBCA who provide the support allowing LMBC to exist. Finally, thanks to the Junior Committee who have helped with the running of the club and good luck to Matt O'Connor who will be taking over Captaincy next year. 

Neil Houlby & Will Gray Captains

Water Polo

After successful promotion to the First Division, St John's College Water Polo Club has had a mixed year. With strict new rules limiting the number of Blues allowed in the water, we lacked enough players for our first two matches, this resulted in losses against Magdalene and Christ's. After a burst of enthusiasm our next match against The Leys B saw a great win with almost everybody in the water getting at least one goal. Keeves and So were excellent returning performers, while Alden-Falconer and Scott were two great additions to the team. This result was enough to keep our team full for the rest of term, though the remaining matches were against the two best teams in the League. Our match against The Leys A resulted in a heavy loss whilst our match against Addenbrooke's saw us come closest to

beating them of any other team. Despite these losses we came fourth in the League and this will allow us to continue playing high class Water Polo next season, even though the scores might not be as favourable for us!

With the Cuppers rules allowing multiple Blues players in the water, we managed to field a nearly full squad of eleven players. We won both of our Group matches against Selwyn and a tough St Catharine's team to go through to the quarter finals against Queens'.

Queens' were a very tough team to beat and it came down to a last minute goal for us. The semi-final against Christ's was hard and unfortunately we could not keep up with them.

Thanks to everybody who has played this year.



Chris Charles
Captain