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Get in Touch:

eubcgraduatesec@gmail.com

or

rowing@ed.ac.uk

24h Fundraising Erg

Front Cover Photo Credit: Gavin Ross

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Welcome to this issue of Celeste!

There have been a number of EUBC firsts in the last few months of summer racing. The women's first eight finished in 6th place at the Women's Eights Head of the River Race, which is a new record in Edinburgh's history. Maddie Arlett was awarded her first senior GB vest by racing at the 1st World Cup in Belgrade where she took a bronze medal in the lightweight women's double, only 3 seconds behind the selected senior double. Josh Armstrong impressively led the entire GB sculling field for much of the A-final of the GB senior final trials. He was only defeated in the last 500m of racing by a strong field, but at only 18 years of age it's clear that we can expect to see some great things from this young sculler. Just watch out for him and his single at the next World Cup in Poznan in mid June! The future is bright. The future is baby blue.

The summer season is fast approaching and our crews are making their final preparations for this year's Henley Women's Regatta and Henley Royal Regatta. It looks to be an incredibly promising summer of racing, and we are excited to show the breadth and depth Edinburgh has to offer when we come up against some of the best club and university crews in the country, and indeed the world. We have also been granted the honour from the Henley Stewards of a row past to celebrate our 150th anniversary. We'd love to hear your shouts from the bank so please join our 150th celebrations on the Saturday tea time of HRR, don your baby blue finery and let's see if we can't give the Remenham roar a run for it's money.

With heavy hearts we learnt of the loss of EUBC graduate and former VP, Ben Dodson. The club paid tribute to his passing with all athletes racing with ribbons during the Scottish Boat race. We remember Ben as he was, full of energy, determination and laughter, so it felt only fitting to pay respect to him during this event that reflects so much of his personality and to which he was closely tied.

It's this energy that is so striking about EUBC, there is such vibrancy and excitement in our club which is why I think we keep going from strength to strength. I promised you a summer of impressive results... I can't wait to see the baby blue army deliver.

Polly
Three things I have been thinking about this week: Climate, Complexity and Community. Let me expand…

Climate. We are not known for having one which is conducive to joyful outdoor activity. However, I write this sitting in the sunshine looking out over the sparkling waters of Strathclyde Park. The coaches next to me are eating ice creams (it's all work work work…), the athletes are topping up their one-piece tan, the dreaded ‘Fun Boats’ are out on the water producing their own particularly destructive brand of wash and all seems well with the world. With this change in climatic fortunes comes a noticeable uplift in spirits. Exam halls are left behind and all that stretches out before us is a Summer of Pimms and medals, icy days on the canal a distant memory to be pushed from the consciousness until next season rolls around.

Complexity. Once, writing the training programme was a fairly simple affair. Do some ergs, do some rowing, lift some tin: Go. Now, however, as I sit in my ‘Home Office’, cat pawing at the keyboard as I stare blankly at the screen summoning my inner Jurgen, there are so many different things to consider that the random entries from the furry ginger paws can end up being as relevant as anything my wall of textbooks provides… This is a nice problem to have, I tell myself frequently. We have so many fantastic athletes at every level of the rowing spectrum from Beginner to Senior International that the monthly programming session feels like a great responsibility to ensure that those who are achieving so much are supported with a plan commensurate with their own ability. It makes the job harder, but I wouldn't have it any other way.

Community. I’ll confess, I was stung a little bit by a comment at BUCS recently. Someone said that there were a couple of other clubs who seemed to have a better culture or feel about them as they all gathered round to support each other at medal presentations etc. I took this on board, and brooded on it a little as I made my weary way back up the M6 at the end of another great 3 days for the club. By the time I rolled into Strathclyde Park I had reconciled it in my head: Firstly, a glimpse of the club during racing at BUCS (when everyone is busy warming up, cooling down, winning races etc etc) is not a reflection of the community that exists. ‘Outsiders’ have not seen the support our athletes give each other day in, day out, through hard morning ergs or icy days on the water. They don’t see the bonds that are made that last a lifetime, and will see crewmates greet each other like brothers and sisters for years to come.

In a month where we mourn the loss of one of our own, it is significant that we reflect on the community we have, how special it is and the support that it can provide through a lifetime.

Yours in rowing,

Colin
Edinburgh University Boat Club

THE EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY BOAT CLUB
CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO OUR ANNUAL

HENLEY ROYAL REGATTA
RECEPTION

ON SATURDAY, JULY 2ND
AT SEVEN O’CLOCK

HENLEY CRICKET PITCH
HENLEY ON THAMES RG9 2LS

TICKETS: 25 POUNDS / 20 POUNDS STUDENTS AND
ALEXANDRA BOAT CLUB MEMBERS

Tickets for sale online: http://www.epay.ed.ac.uk/conferences-events/student-and-academic-services-group/development-and-alumni/edinburgh-university-boat-club-henley-royal-regatta-reception

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Community Outreach

An Update by Amy Sweeney

Cycle to Damascus

EUBC recreational squad helped the University cycle to Damascus to raise funds and awareness for refugees.

Eastern Amateur Rowing Club

The Eastern Amateur Rowing Club have continued their involvement with EUBC by using the KG in the pleasance gym for weekly erg sessions.

Stressbusters

EUBC ran a number of stressbuster sessions during exam time, giving non-rowing university students the chance to try out rowing. They learnt to row on the erg in one hour sessions run by our own EUBC athletes.

Port Edgar Dragon Boat Club

The Boat Club will be coordinating with the Port Edgar Dragon Boat Club for them to participate in the Edinburgh Canal Festival's Flotilla on the 17th of June. They are a club of Breast Cancer survivors and supporters, so this will be a great opportunity to promote awareness. They will be launching from our boathouse to participate. Please do come along for the day to show your support if you are already in the area. More information on the Port Edgar Dragon Boat Club can be found through the following link: https://www.portedgardragons.co.uk

Photo Credit: Port Edgar Dragon Boat Club
WEHORR by Amelia Donovan
WEHORR 2017 was a historical moment for EUBC with the first eight finishing in 8th place, smashing their top 10 aims. This was the best EUBC has ever placed in WEHORR and it is a testament of the girls in the first eight and coach John Higson for all the work over the past few years.

Our second eight placed the highest an EUBC second eight has placed, coming 38th out of over 300 boats competing. This really just shows the depth within the senior squad, with the majority of the crew made up of last year’s novices.

After last year’s fantastic performance from the novice women’s squad, this year’s novices knew they had big shoes to fill. Stepping up to the challenge, they placed 4th novice crew overall, a repetition of last year result.

This weekend was a very positive sign for the coming summer racing season. Congratulations to all the girls who raced!

Heineken Roeivierkamp by James Temple
In the run up to the Head of the River the Senior Men headed to Amsterdam to compete in the Heineken Roeivierkamp. Flying to a race always adds to the anticipation, and for many of the 18 athletes taking part this would be their first race abroad. Equally excited were our fellow travellers, looking forwards to a different kind of weekend away! Having arrived we received a warm welcome at the Nereus “pasta party” before bed.

The racing itself was different to anything we had experienced before. The streets and buildings of the city were closer than on the Tideway, the atmosphere halfway between Henley and an evening T20 cricket match, with beer flowing and the local Nereus supporters roaring. The race format was equally novel: 2.5k and 250m races on Saturday and 5k and 750m races on Sunday.

The first race of Saturday followed a steep learning curve. Racing in the Konig Willelm I, an old boat loaned for the weekend, the First VIII misjudged the unusual 2.5k distance by settling into a fast head race rhythm. The opposition, which included Dutch, German and British crews, approached it more like an extended regatta race with a long finish, and their strategy paid off. Our time for the 2.5k placed us equal 7th in the Top Division, 6 seconds behind rivals Imperial College BC who we had beaten convincingly at BUCS Head. Following a spin we queued up for the 250m sprint alongside Skadi, the crew which had equalled our time in the 2.5k. The start of the race was rolling, and our interpretation of the “Voor Start” or “Pre-Start” proved a little over-excited as we had gained a length over Skadi before even crossing the start line. Nevertheless, we pushed away from them, finishing in a time which placed us 4th equal with three other crews and 0.1 second ahead of Imperial.
Race Reports continued…

The Sunday format was the same but over longer distances. The 5k was the race that really mattered given that we were here primarily as preparation for HoRR, and an aggressive performance earned the First VIII 5th place. Importantly, this put us 6 and 9 seconds ahead of Imperial and Thames RC respectively. Promising stuff against 2 crews which would expect to take top 10 finishes at HoRR. For the 750m grand finale we faced IC in a British University showdown: they were currently ranked 3rd in the division, we were 4th. A fast start saw Edinburgh draw away from Imperial by almost a length, but a technical breakdown past the deafening support at the Nereus boathouse enabled Imperial to move back on us. In the end we held on to another 0.1 second win, but it was insufficient to take 3rd, and we ended in 4th position overall.

In the Second VIII, coach Colin Williamson raced as super sub. They faced stiff challenge from the Dutch university clubs who demonstrated the depth of quality in their eights. In the Second Division for Men’s Eights, which included most clubs’ top boats, Edinburgh managed 26th. The result was a slight disappointment for those involved, but reflected injuries and absences in the lead up to the race.

Overall, everyone had an excellent time. Given the disappointing cancellation of HoRR this year we were glad to have had a chance to race the eights at such a competitive standard, and we hope to do so again next year. Many thanks to Colin for organising the trip.

GB Final Trials by Helena Brecht
EUBC travelled down to Caversham for final trials in April, producing some outstanding results. Racing in the lightweight single sculls, EUBC’s men’s captain James Temple finished 4th and Matthew Curtis finished 1st in their U23 lightweight category. Gavin Horsburgh, another one of Edinburgh’s top lightweights, had had to pull out after the time trial. Oli Wilkes and Calum Ivine won the C-final of the Senior Men’s Pair, putting Oli into a good position for further testing for the U23 team. Josh Armstrong finished 6th in the Mens Openweight Single A final, leading this race up until the 1000m mark against many former Olympians. This saw Josh easily win his U23 category. Maddie Arlett came an impressive 5th in the A final of her first Senior Trials. Racing as a lightweight sculler, the A Final saw less than 0.5 seconds separating third and fifth, with former EUBC Robyn Hart-Winks coming in at third.

These results are a testament to both the athletes and their coaches. Thanks must also go to Scottish Rowing, Winning Students, and sportscotland institute of sport. They provided a support team that included an exercise physiologist and a physiotherapist for the week, ensuring all our athletes could perform at their optimum.
Strathclyde Park Regatta by Amelia Donovan
SPR is always a favourite with the opportunity to race on home water before the upcoming BUCS regatta. It was a chance for all our squads to earn valuable race experience before travelling down to Nottingham in the coming week. The weekend saw some promising results with top universities such as Durham and Newcastle competing. Highlights from the weekend were the boys eight winning gold in the open eights and the girls eight also winning the open women’s eight category ahead of Newcastle A.

Castle Semple Regatta by Anna Parry
The recreational squad had a busy but successful day of racing at Castle Semple Rowing Club on May 20th. Despite only being able to train in boats together for a short time, each crew was ready to go. The morning started with the women’s fours races. The first four made it through to finals, where they fought hard and finished in fourth place overall, only a short distance behind the third place finishers. The second four also had a strong heat, despite an equipment malfunction during their start. Later, the men’s four faced off a headwind to come in third in their straight-to-finals race. We are especially thankful to Heriot-Watt and Nithsdale, who graciously allowed us to borrow their boats for racing. Overall, the squad is more than happy with the day’s results and looks forward to working even harder for more results next year!

BUCS Regatta by Eddie McDiarmid
At this year’s BUCS Regatta, the boat club ended up coming home with 3 golds, 6 silvers and 2 bronze. EUBC’s first gold of the weekend was won by 2015 Junior World Champion Josh Armstrong, followed by a silver in the Women’s Championship Quad. A mention must be given to EUBC’s Men coming 4th in the Championship 8+ with some tight racing against Oxford Brookes and The University of London. Sunday saw EUBC’s James Temple and Matt Curtis win gold in the Men’s Championship Lightweight Double, for the second year in a row, resulting in 4 consecutive wins for EUBC in this category. The afternoon saw EUBC win silver in both the Men’s Championship Coxless 4 and Women’s Beginner Quad. EUBC’s Women’s Beginner 4+ took bronze from UCL by 0.04 seconds, while the Women’s Championship 8+ came through in the closing stages to take bronze.

With the weekend being characterised by strong winds and tight racing, EUBC’s success continued into Monday with Lydia Currie and Anne Rodahl winning gold in the Women’s Intermediate Double. James and Matt added to Sunday’s win by taking the silver in the Men’s Championship Lightweight Pair, while our Novice Women came away winning silver in the Beginner 8+. Of the 72 institutions racing over the weekend EUBC finished 4th in the overall BUCS rankings with 534 points ahead of Cambridge with 482, Durham with 468.
Race Reports continued…

**World Cup in Belgrade by Helena Brecht**
After an impressive result at her first Senior Trials, Maddie Arlett, senior women’s captain, was chosen to represent GB at this year’s first world cup in Belgrade. Partnered with Emily Craig, they were GBs second lightweight double. Finishing ahead of the GB A lightweight double in both the time trial and the semi-finals, it was only in the final that the two girls were beaten by their GB teammates. Arlett and Craig ended up coming third, with Maddie thus taking home a medal after her first senior international event. Congratulations Maddie!

**Scottish Boat Race by Eddie McDiarmid**
After having completed a 16km technical session at SCP on Saturday morning, EUBC loaded their boats onto the trailers and boarded the bus to head to the Riverside Museum in Glasgow for the annual Scottish Boat Race against Glasogw University.

The first race of the day was the alumni boat, which saw Edinburgh take home the day’s first win. The second race of the day was the Men’s Beginner VIII, where the boys took a quick lead over Glasgow off the start to finish with another considerable win. The Novice Women too, had a convincing win over their Glasgow counterparts, pulling away early and finishing strong. The Men’s Second VIII had the biggest lead of the day over Glasogw, finishing the race in front by numerous boat lengths. The Women’s 2nd VIII continued the winning streak of the day, a feat that was repeated by the Men’s and Women’s 1st VIII as well. With seven wins already in the bag, EUBC was looking forward to the erg relay, with the aim of finishing the day with every gold medal available. Here, Edinburgh was quick off the start, but with a bit too much excitement, one of the EUBC girls had some trouble finding her seat, seeing Glasgow regain some meters and take the lead. However, all lost distance was quickly recovered, with Edinburgh taking the win in the end by around 30m.

All in all, an excellent weekend for EUBC!
Race Impressions

Womens 2nd VIII at WEHORR
Photo Credits: Jet Photography

Senior Women celebrating their top ten win at WEHORR
Photo Credit: Andrew Gray

Senior Womens 1st VIII at WEHORR
Photo Credit: Andrew Gray

Senior Mens 1st VIII in Amsterdam
Photo Credit: schurwanzpics.nl

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Senior Women 4 at SCP Regatta
India Somerside (b), Jenny Stevenson, Flora Blake-Parsons, Lauren Gray (s)
Photo Credit: Scottish Rowing

Novice Man Taliesin John at SCP Regatta
Photo Credit: Scottish Rowing

GB Final Trials in Caversham
Calum Irvine and Oli Wilkes
Photo Credit: Rob Eyton Jones

Senior Women Lightweight 4x at SCP Regatta
Hannah Havelock-Allan (s), Helena Brecht, Sophie Parsons, Laura McDonald (b)
Photo Credit: Scottish Rowing

Novice Women
Photo Credit: Pip Conlon

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Beginner 8+ at BUCS wins bronze
Photo Credit: Not Just Rowing

Novice Man Boris Wagner in the Beginner Single Sculls at BUCS
Photo Credit: Not Just Rowing

Anne Rodhal and Lydia Currie win gold in the Championship Double at BUCS
Photo Credit: Andrew Gray

Novice Man Boris Wagner in the Beginner Single Sculls at BUCS
Photo Credit: Not Just Rowing

Senior Women's 4x
Photo Credit: Andrew Gray

Josh Armstrong wins gold in the Men's Championship Single at BUCS
Photo Credit: BUCS

Senior Men Rufus Scholefield and Ryan Morrison at BUCS
Photo Credit: Andrew Gray

Anne Rodhal and Lydia Currie win gold in the Championship Double at BUCS
Photo Credit: Andrew Gray
Championship 4x wins silver at BUCS
Photo Credit: Helena Brecht

Senior Women’s 1st VIII at BUCS
Photo Credit: Andrew Gray

Matthew Curtis and James Temple win gold in the Championship Lightweight 2- at BUCS
Photo Credit: Not Just Rowing

Maddie Arlett wins bronze in Belgrade
Photo Credit: British Rowing

Novice Mens VIII at SBR
Photo Credit: Pip Conlon

Maddie Arlett at the World Cup in Serbia
Photo Credit: FISA Igor Meijer
Edinburgh University Boat Club

Rec Squad at Castle Semple
Photo Credit: EUBC Rec Squad

Sophie El-Masry as part of the EUBC relay team at the SBR
Photo Credit: Pip Conlon

Senior Mens 1st VIII at SBR
Photo Credit: Ken Wilkie

Senior Captains James Temple and Maddie Arlett in preparation for the SBR
Photo Credit: Ed McDiarmid

Scottish Boat Race Winners
Photo Credit: Pip Conlon

Rec Squad at Castle Semple
Photo Credit: EUBC Rec Squad

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Blues and Colours

Jenny Dunn – awarded Colours
Jenny has shown tremendous commitment and time investment in her roles as Novice Women’s and Novice Men’s Captains. Not only does she volunteer early mornings and evenings during the week, and at least one day on the weekend to oversee novice training, she also travels to regatta weekends several times a semester to assist with organization and crews. She has also given up time during holidays for coaching, planning, and helping with rowing, and is one of the driving forces behind the yearly EUBC fundraisers. Jenny has carried her role out with dedication and high competence. She supports and adds to the coaching of the squad, represents the squad as a committee member, and acts as a form of pastoral support to the individuals in her squads. It is for her exceptional contribution to EUBC that Jenny was awarded Colours.

Eleri Connick – awarded Colours
Eleri has served the club in various capacities for nearly three years now. In particular, as graduate secretary last year she elevated the Boat Club Alumni relations by redesigning the now quarterly newsletter, the Celeste. This year Eleri served as Secretary. Notably, Eleri served as Secretary during the year in which the Boat Club has had an Honourary President. Consequently, she has stepped up well beyond her role to work with the Vice President in overseeing all executive decisions. Eleri has done so competently and without complaint, and all members of the squads and committee recognise that not a day goes by in which Eleri is not working for the Boat Club. Her meticulous and detail-orientated quality of her work has raised the standards of the functioning of the Club tremendously. It is for this dedication to EUBC Eleri was awarded Colours.

Kieran Tierney – awarded Colours
Kieran joined EUBC as a former Junior Canadian international, rising quickly to establish himself as a key and central member in the EUBC Senior Men’s top boats. The Henley winning 4+ crew was the first Scottish University crew to win at the Regatta since its foundation in 1839, and only the second Scottish crew ever to win the event. It was for the historic Henley accomplishment that the crew were awarded the President’s Trophy, for most outstanding Team of the Year, at the 2017 Sports Union Awards. Henley epitomises all of the commitment Kieran puts into being a part of EUBC, and it is for this that he was awarded Blues.
Our current Secretary, Eleri Connick, will be leaving the Boat Club to become the next Vice President of the Edinburgh University Sports Union.

Eleri began rowing as a Novice with EUBC in her first year of university before spending 2 years on the Boat Club Committee. First as Alumni Officer and then as Secretary, she also took on presidential roles of the club this year. She has worked tirelessly behind the scenes throughout to ensure the very best for our club. Eleri was also one of the Boat Club members who organised this year’s 150th Anniversary Ball, which was commended as one of the best at Edinburgh University.

On behalf of the whole of EUBC we would like to thank Eleri for all her hard work and dedication to the boat club. The Boat Club would not have functioned without her this year. We wish her the best of luck moving into her new role and look forward to having a member of our baby blue army on the SU Committee.

We will miss you Eleri!
Alumni News: Ben Dodson

by Anna Donegan

Through each generation of EUBC, there are always members who signify the ethos of the club's spirit, bringing it to life through their energy and passion. And there are always those who appear larger than life. Ben Dodson was both of these types of people.

Ben joined EUBC as a novice in 2009. Being older than the rest of the novices, he soon became like the big brother within the novice squads, always willing to go out of his way to help you. Simultaneously, he was the ultimate joker, with his shenanigans meaning he ended up acquiring an umpire’s flag as a souvenir from Henley that same year. As one of the few over the age of 21, he also began driving the squads across the country in the minibus early on. I don't think you could write about him without touching upon his driving style. His handbrake turns were more suited to a rally circuit than Meggatland, and he certainly woke people up on the 6am drives to Auchinstarry! But, we never missed a 9am class due to his liberal interpretation of bus lane rules. At the end of his novice year, his impact and popularity within the club were clear, and he was elected as Vice President.

As part of the Committee, his light-hearted yet stubborn nature was welcome while tackling the challenges that faced the boat club. One of his responsibility as VP was to organise the 2011 training camp. I will always have Ben to thank for this ‘cultural’ learning experience. Only once we had arrived on training camp did I realise that it was, in fact, just next to Murder Mile. The week progressed with members of squads being struck down with a mysterious illness and accusations by members of the public for being Swan killers. Personally I think the water had something to do with both of these.

It is EUBC’s loss that Ben was a member for only such a short time, but he truly made a significant impact on those around him. Whether it was early morning travelling, on the water, going to (every) Big Cheese, or Henley shenanigans, Ben was always inspiring people to be their best, and have the best time they could.

Sleep Tight Ben.
Calling all Alumni: ways YOU can help EUBC

Do you want EUBC to continue to go from success to success? The following ways allow you as alumni to help EUBC go above and beyond.

Make a minimal annual donation of £20.

Think of this as your Alexandra membership subscription, including invitations to the various events throughout the year and subscription to Celeste. You can set up an annual direct debit through the following link: http://www.ed.ac.uk/sports-union/alumni/donate

Please note that you can increase the value of your donation by completing the Gift Aid declaration (if you are a UK taxpayer).

Support an individual athlete.

Alexandra has worked with Development & Alumni and Sport & Exercise to set up a process for creating bursaries to provide financial support individual students. A monthly donation of £35 would, if Gift Aided, provide a £500 bursary for one year to support a student rower. This would help meet their travel costs to train at Strathclyde Park or attend GB Rowing Team trials. For more information about setting up a bursary, please contact Ruth Strain at Development & Alumni (ruth.strain@ed.ac.uk).

Leave a legacy.

If you would like to remember EUBC in your will, please contact Morag Murison at Development & Alumni (morag.murison@ed.ac.uk)