Edinburgh University
Boat Club

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Front Cover: Harry Newmark playing the bagpipes at the 2018 Bow Ball

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Dear alumni and friends of EUBC,

Welcome to another edition of Celeste!

With Strathclyde Park drained and closed for repairs, Auchinstarry frozen, and the country closed for snow, the last few months have seen EUBC turn into an indoor rowing club. At least I’m having fun! Anyone following the Club Instagram @edinburghuniversityrowing will have seen Colin’s best Husky Power impressions (look it up on YouTube, I think we do better).

Despite this limited water time we achieved excellent results at BUCS Head: both Beginner VIIIs placed first (the women racing time only because of an administrative error); and both First VIIIs won Championship Silver. There will be some exciting inter-squad competition come summer.

We enjoyed similar success at the Tideway Heads, including 7th place for the Women’s First VIII, a first ever Top 10 for the Men’s First VIII, and a University Beginner win for the Men’s Novice VIII. Reports from both races can be found later on in this issue, as well as on our website.

Within this edition you will find among other things news from Matt Loader, EUBC alumnus and now excitingly the architect for the new Boat House project! Bow Ball and racing impressions, as well as a list of the host of Sports Union and Scottish Rowing awards won by club crews and athletes this season.

Enjoy reading, I hope to meet/ catch up with some of you at the summer regattas,

James
As festive celebrations died down, leftovers became scarce and the NYE headaches waned, EUBC returned to Edinburgh en masse for their annual winter training camp. In a fresh approach from previous years, 2018 brought the beginner and senior squads together for a week of intense work on the ergs and in the gym, culminating in a ‘special’ finale; an octathlon type event cooked up by Colin to identify ‘Mr & Mrs EUBC’ as the strongest all-round athletes in the club. The beginner athletes bravely accepted the challenge and were met with encouragement (and perhaps a little trepidation) by all in the senior squads. Christmas calories burnt off and over-all squad rankings finalised, the athletes launched into Semester 2 with all eyes focused on the big boats (aiming for the Tideway and the end of winter training for another year).

In the previous issue of Celeste, John offered some sage advice for EUBC athletes and coaches alike – ‘don’t get caught up in planning too far ahead’. This could not have been more apt considering the months that followed. From bouts of illness, unrelenting icy spells and Strathclyde Park closing for maintenance; it seemed the God’s were truly against putting the ‘winter grind’ behind us, let alone allowing us to plan ahead towards the upcoming events. The never-ending erg sessions even drove several athletes (and coaches) to start pining for the blustery, cold, gloominess of Strathclyde Park!

By all accounts, this string of bad luck should have been the downfall of EUBC, or at least have seen our results suffer. However, just as the coaches were starting to despair, the athletes dug in their heels and showed their mettle. All four squads brought back medals from Inverness and BUCS Heads and with the ‘Beast from the East’ out the way, the coaching team tentatively looked for light at the end of the tunnel in time for WeHORR and HORR.
Unfortunately the weekend kicked off with some serious mechanical issues (taking out both our truck and trailer) but after way too many hours spent beside the motorway rather than on it, both boats and athletes made it to London to enjoy some pre-race paddles on the water. EUBC entered three women’s and three men’s crews (First, Second and Novice VIII’s) to WeHORR and HORR respectively, and came away with overall placings of 8th, 31st and 90th on the women’s side and 10th, 54th and 108th on the men’s (picking up a cheeky pennant on the way!). With both squads breaking previous club records and our reputation as the strongest beginner programme in the country intact, we are happily putting the head race season behind us and are getting excited about the summer. Please stay tuned for news and results to come. If we’ve learned anything from these past few months, it’s that EUBC’s athletes are a force to be reckoned with; water time or not.

Yours,

Meghan.
Awards

Scottish Rowing Awards

International rower of the year
International Rower of the Year was won by Gavin Horsburgh of Edinburgh University Boat Club who stroked the GB Rowing Team lightweight men’s quad scull to a silver medal at the World Rowing Championships, adding to his junior and under 23 world gold medals won in 2015 and 2016.

Junior rower of the year
Junior Rower of the Year was won by Jane Hardie of George Heriot’s School Rowing Club, who as the Great Britain junior women’s single sculler at the 2017 Coupe de la Jeunesse won silver and bronze medals.

Coach of the year
John Higson, senior women’s lead coach at the University of Edinburgh, who led his squad to a record breaking season including coaching Maddie Arlett to a place in the GB senior team before making his debut as a coach for the GB Rowing Team at the World Under 23 Championships.

Crew of the year
Crew of the Year was won by The Edinburgh University Boat Club women’s eight (pictured at the bow ball above), the first Scottish single club crew to qualify for the Remenham Challenge Cup, an international standard event at Henley Royal Regatta, where they enjoyed a memorable race against the New Zealand national women’s eight.
Sports Union Awards

**SU Male Athlete of the Year**
Many congratulations to Gavin Horsburgh (pictured on the left surrounded by Jim Aitken, Director of Sport and Exercise and Eleri Connick, SU Vice-President) received the award for ‘male athlete of the year’.

**Ian Stevens Alumni Award**
Congratulations to Eleri Connick for receiving the Ian Stevens Alumni Award for her efforts involved in the Boat Club’s 150th Anniversary celebrations last year.

We would also like to congratulate Eleri for being elected as the new 2018-2019 Edinburgh University Student’s Association President and thank her for all her services to EUBC over the years both as Graduate Secretary (and editor of Celeste!) and Secretary.

Photo Credits: Edinburgh University Sports Union

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Senior Men Report by Matthew Curtis
Division 1 saw the Edinburgh Championship 4x got off to a strong start, overtaking Imperial college, but unfortunately were heavily affected by waves from the safety launch at half way, taking on a lot of water. Even with this the quad still managed to place 3rd. Edinburgh's Championship 4- finished 4th behind UL, Durham and Newcastle. EUBC's Championship 4+ finished 5th behind UL, Newcastle, Durham and Imperial. Division 2 saw EUBC's 1st 8+ set off in what was shortened second division, down to 2.5k. They were followed by UL who had previously beaten them by over 40s at Rutherford head and managed to reduce this gap down to just 6s, taking silver in championship 8+ ahead of IC and Durham. EUBC's 2nd 8+ finished a tight 4th behind Newcastle A, UL A and Newcastle B.

Senior Women Report by Lauren Gray
With very little time on the water due to ice, and some very last minute substitutions, the Senior Women's squad managed to show their adaptability and laid down some solid performances this weekend. The first 8+ were a close 1.6 seconds behind a very strong UL crew, which is a substantial improvement from Rutherford head back in November. The Second 8+ had a good race and just missed out on bronze, coming 4th behind a Bristol first crew. Our 3rd 8+ was mainly made up of novices with our senior woman Hannah Davis in the stroke seat setting up a silky rhythm to follow. They came 22nd out of 40 crews in their category, many of who were not novices! Second division was cut short to a 2500m race due to the choppy waters, meaning a big change of race plan was needed. The championship W4- took silver (4 seconds behind UL). The championship W4+ came 6th, WInt4+ (A) 6th and WInt4+ (B) 19th.
Race Reports: BUCS Head, Newcastle

Novice Men Report by Gina Geffers
The past weekend was the first real test at BUCS Head for our Novice Men, determining where in the country they would be ranked amongst other university novices. The Tyne can be tricky to steer and row at this time of year but already in the first race, they showed that they are extremely strong. Coming away with a Gold Medal in the Men’s Beginner 8+, they showed their team spirit and exceptional dedication towards this sport involving the hard training of the past months. The second division saw them taking the second fastest time in the MB4+ and the Silver in the MB4x - a boat they have never previously rowed or trained in before! Sunday was their chance to reproduce a good race by putting out the 8+ in the MInt8+ category, beating several universities’ A and B boats along the way. As tiring and exhausting as the weekend may have been, our Novice Men have shown that they are a force to be reckoned with and that they are in a position to challenge for the rest of the season. After all, they have come away from BUCS Head being the most successful Novice Men’s squad EUBC has ever had! Saturday: Men’s Beginner 8+ - 1st, Men’s Beginner 4+ - second fastest time, Men’s Beginner 4x - 2nd Sunday: NM in Int8+ category - 31st out of 41

Novice Women Report by Brianna Siddle
BUCS Head was a challenging weekend for the Novice Women with many ups and downs. Our WBeg4+ A took home the Bronze despite a footplate malfunction in bow and our WBeg4+ B placed 9th, and we were the only university that had two Beginner crews place in the top 10 proving how strong a team they are. The WBeg8+ had a standout performance, where everyone truly left everything on the water, coming home with the fastest time of the day. On Sunday, our Beginner crews held their own in the Intermediate categories placing 22/40 in the WInt8+ and 19/28 in the WInt4+. This weekend highlighted the strength of these Novice Women and despite it being a difficult weekend, they have come out knowing they are a force to be reckon with and the only way is up for them.
Men’s first 8+ at BUCS Head

GBRT Trials, *Boston Lincolnshire*

Dale Flockhart (pictured below on the left) finished first of the Edinburgh lightweight men attending trials in Boston, Lincolnshire.

Dale Flockhart LW1x

James Temple LW1x

*Photo Credits: Brookes Photography GB*  
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Record Highs on the Tideway for Edinburgh University

Report by Colin Williamson

A bumper weekend of racing yielded club record finishes for both Men and Women, and spectacular London debuts for our all conquering Novice squads.

In an unusual departure from the traditional rowing calendar, both the Women’s Eights Head of the River and Head of the River Races were scheduled for the same weekend. Whilst this presented some logistical challenges, it made for an even more heightened sense of anticipation and excitement as almost the whole club raided over the border and into the heart of the capital last week.

Recent years have seen the weather claim many of the headlines for these races, particularly for the men, but it seems winter was truly cast off with the departure of the ‘Beast from the East’ as the ‘Pandas from the Pentlands’ basked in the relative warmth of the South-East and settled in with their welcoming hosts at Thames Rowing Club and Westminster School.

Ice, and the closure of Strathclyde Park for maintenance work, had severely hampered opportunities for water work since the turn of the year. However, buoyed by strong performances at BUCS Head a fortnight ago, and confident in the work put in on the ergs in the Dame Katherine Grainger Rowing Gym, both squads set about familiarising themselves with the fast flowing waters and iconic landmarks of the Tideway.

On Saturday, it was the Women’s Eights Head of the River. After a few years of steadily climbing the rankings, culminating in last years 8th place finish, hopes were high for the Women’s 1st 8+ as they started amongst the elite top 10 crews. Led by GB Junior Worlds athletes Alex Rankin and India Somerside in the stern, this crew has a youthful look, which could see it grow from strength to strength over coming years, bolstered by the introduction of Fresher and u23 World Champion Lucy Glover in the 5 seat, making her debut on the Thames for the Baby Blue. A strong row saw them come home in 7th, another rung up the ladder, and just 1 second off the Senior Pennant. They also have the accolade of being the second fastest student crew behind an impressive Cambridge Boat Race line-up.

Not to be outdone, the 2nd 8+ climbed 5 places from their starting position into 31st, signalling the growing strength in depth of the squad as they claimed a finish position of which the 1st 8+ would have been pleased in previous years.
Our Novice programme has always been strong, and its reputation as one of the best, if not THE best, places in the UK to learn the sport was enhanced yet again at the weekend.

The Novice Women’s 8+, entered as Intermediate as a consequence of earlier, but abandoned, plans for a combined 3rd 8+, raced to 90th position, comfortably faster than anyone in the Novice category and meaning they are already in the top 30% in the country after just 7 months of rowing. The future is bright!

WeHORR 2018 Women Crews
HORR

After the girls had laid down a strong marker, Sunday was the Men’s turn.

Denied the chance to race in 2017 due to the wind, it was the record high of 14th from 2016 which the 1st 8+ sought to better. Starting in a ‘Newcastle sandwich’, chasing the Blue Star Heavyweights whilst being chased by their lightweights, the boys, 6 of whom have raced on the World stage for their country, steadily closed the gap. Battling through the wash, they gained overlap coming down the Putney embankment to produce a crowd-pleasing side-by-side finish. When the results appeared, the elusive top 10 had been achieved, and 4th best student crew behind the all-conquering Oxford Brookes and perennial rivals UL and Imperial.

The 2nd 8+, rowing together as a unit for the first time, found the Tideway traffic heavy going, but expertly weaved their way through for a strong position just outside the Top 50 in 54th, again a position that would not have been rejected out of hand by many a 1st 8+ on the day.

The Novice men seemed to take inspiration from their female counterparts the day before as they stormed down the track for the first time, and simply blew away the novice opposition to claim the Novice Academic pennant (a club first) and a highly respectable 108th overall.

EUBC’s proud boast of developing rowers from scratch is alive and well. 2 of the Women’s 1st 8+ and 1 of the Men’s, as well as many of the 2nd 8+’s, learned their craft on the Union Canal and the results of this years class show that there is no signs of the production line stopping.

Many a tired body made its way back to Edinburgh by plane, train or automobile, much of the fatigue likely induced by raucous, but well deserved, post-race celebration.
Edinburgh University
Boat Club

HORR 2018 Men Crews

1st VIII
BOW: Harry GETHING
2: Hugh REILLY
3: Matt CHRISTIE
4: Josh ARMSTRONG
5: Calum IRVINE
6: Oli WILKES
7: James TEMPLE
STROKE: Matt CURTIS
COX: Rosie MARGOLIS

2nd VIII
BOW: Finlay WATSON
2: Dale FLOCKHART
3: Tom GILES
4: Connor COCKERILL
5: Oli FENTON
6: Eddie MCDAVID
7: Ryan MORRISON
STROKE: Laurence ELLIS
COX: Megan WALLACE

Novice VIII
BOW: Rory MILLIGAN
2: Callum HAY
3: Alex LAMBERT
4: Stewart BRIGHT
5: Bruce PATULLO
6: Harry MCCAGHEY
7: Taitvydas SKROLIS
STROKE: George RAYNES
COX: Dan BAILLACE

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Clockwise from top: 1st M8+, MB8+ and 2nd M8+

Photo Credits: Nancy Dickinson

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Senior Women’s 8+ and Novice Women’s 8+ racing down the Tideway. Captured by Werow.

Photo Credits: WEROW.co.uk

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Bow Ball 2018

The Principal Hotel George Street provided a spectacular venue for our annual Bow Ball took place on Saturday 27th January. Many thanks to the organizing committee, our lovely social secretaries Alexandra Ming and Naomi Rogers (pictured below), for all the efforts put into organizing such a successful evening of celebrations.

Naomi Rogers (L) and Alexandra Ming
Who wore it best: Lydia Currie (L) or Rosie Margolis?
Pictured with James Temple

Cheers!

Tom Young, JT, Carys Girvin, Matt Christie
Edinburgh University
Boat Club

Lucy Glover (L) humbled to be pictured alongside Gavin Horsburgh

Matt Christie, Finlay Watson and Laurence Ellis

Ceilidh lessons from Calum

Senior Women Abbie Craig, Jane Hardie, Tara Grimsley-Moore, Immy Greig-Connor and Louise Howat

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Senior Women: Maddie Arlett, Jenny Stevenson, Lucy Glover, Laura McDonald, Lydia Currie and Lauren Gray (L to R)

Novice Girls’ captain Brianna Siddle (L) and Novice Boys captain Mollie Martin (middle)

Lauren Gray, Maddie Arlett, Lucy Glover and Josh Armstrong

Senior Women: Maddie Arlett, Jenny Stevenson, Lucy Glover, Laura McDonald, Lydia Currie and Lauren Gray (L to R)
Like many of you, I spent my formative years while at university as an active member of EUBC. I made some of my closest friends while at the club (indeed, it was where I first met my wife Kerra), and the training regime which rowing at EUBC established also gave me a discipline and rigour which underpins everything I do professionally to this day.

I’m sure everyone would agree that watching EUBC go from strength to strength over the past few years has been incredibly impressive as an outsider (albeit I hold a twinge of regret that I’m not still at university!), so when the opportunity to lead a team responsible for delivering EUBC’s new home at Strathclyde Park was published, I didn’t need a second invitation. To then be selected in front of some tremendously talented architectural practices is something that to this day fills me with pride and excitement.

We started the project by asking ourselves two fundamental ‘open’ questions; What makes boats go fast? What prevents them from going faster? We wanted to take a ‘no assumptions’ approach to the design of every aspect of the building to help maximise the performance of the rowers, to ensure that the current upward trend in performance becomes an established and expected outcome for all future generations of EUBC.

Colin Williamson and I visited some of the leading rowing institutions in the UK including Leander and Caversham, seeking to understand why people perform so well at these places, and how the facilities support and underpin this performance. What we want to do is better them.

The design, which has now achieved planning permission, takes an uncompromising approach to all aspects of the scheme. Of course, it is being designed to a budget, but if there is something which will meaningfully increase boat speed, it has been considered and will be present.
Beyond all the usual stuff you’d expect (wide boat bays with lots of storage space, decent crew room, good kitchen, coach’s office, sensible changing facilities with lots of showers, etc) there are other things which are unique to this boathouse. I’m sure we all remember the stress associated with spending two full days at Strathclyde Park Regatta (or Strathclyde International Regatta for our older readers) which is conveniently timed just before exam season. The new facility includes a designated quiet study area away from the crew room to alleviate this stress as far as practicable. There is also a designated video feedback area where the crews will analyse their rowing between sessions.

The project is expected to move onto site in late August or early September this year, with construction taking 10-12 months – so it’ll be ready for the 2019-2020 season.

I sincerely hope the building is one with which all club members, both past and present, can be very proud to be associated, and that it establishes a clear and lasting legacy of engendering and supporting excellence at EUBC. On a personal level, it’s been an incredibly rewarding and enjoyable project so far and I know we’re designing something really rather special.

I can’t wait for it to be finished.