

# The Argonaut

Newsletter for Alumni & Friends of GUBC



Volume 2  
New Year  
2009

**Happy New Year** to you all, we here at GUBC hope you have had a fine festive holiday. Welcome to the second issue of the Argonaut, we hope you all enjoyed the first issue. Please find enclosed more news keeping you in the loop of what's happening down on the banks of the Clyde and around GUBC.

## Club Dinner A Great Success

Saturday 22nd November saw the Glasgow University Union play host to the annual club dinner. It was a wonderful evening and fabulous to see so many old and new faces, over 100 in all. The highlight of the evening was the speech given by University Blue and former Club Captain Dr. Kenneth Grossart. He entertained seasoned veterans and those new to the sport with his fond memories of the Club during his time there in the 1940s. This included a collection of photographs including one of his crew mates all enjoying, the now removed, communal bath in the changing room!

The night also had speeches from President Charles Westwood and current Club Captain Gordon Du Cane. Including Kenneth there were 7 Club Captains in attendance to brew up the famous GUBC Punch for the ceremonies. An abundance of trophies for dolling out the drink allowed the punch to flow and everyone to get involved.

Many old faces were around from the racing earlier on in the day and some even managed to squeeze themselves back in to a boat to race (see Results below). There were even more familiar faces in attendance for the after dinner ceilidh and the band gave a great set with over 2 hours of dancing. Many thanks must go to Steven Beck, Social Secretary, for putting such effort in to organising the event.



Dr. Grossart recounts GUBC circa 1944



GUBC makes it 9 in a row

## Boat Race 2009

May 16th, this year sees the 10 Anniversary of the re-inauguration of the Boat Race. And it promises to be a great contest. The Men's VIII are pushing for a 10th successive victory while the Ladies are looking for their first in 5 years.

Competition looks to be tight with Glasgow losing many of last years contingent while Edinburgh are looking to build on last years very close race. The Ladies have had promising results this year and are looking to build on this with solid performances this term.

To commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the re-instated Race we will be having the **Boat Race Ball** on the Saturday Evening. This will be open to all rowers, alumni and friends of Glasgow and Edinburgh.

The venue is yet to be confirmed, but as always the night promises to be a fantastic one. and we are currently in talks with a high profile guest speaker. With a big push amongst both Alumni associations we are looking to have around 200-300 people in attendance.

## Argonaut Watch

Here is a quick note to mention what some Alumni have been up to

**Fran Jacob (GUBC '00-'02)** - Had a fantastic year, spending many training sessions with the guys squad (Whether that helped or hindered her progress is debateable), she became National Champion in the W1x along with wins at the Scottish Champs and at Metropolitan Regatta.  
**Imogen Walsh ('04-'05)** - Former Club Captain won Scot Champs (W11x) and Womens Henley along with HIR selection for Scotland.  
**Kieran Docherty ('05-'08)** - Spending a year down on the Tideway with Imperial College under Olympic Gold Medalist Steve Trapmore's tuition.

So please do put the date in your diaries now (16th May) and inform any other associates of the club you may be in touch with, we really would like to see as many of you there as possible. Further details are to follow but please get in touch if you and a group of others are looking to come



## Boat Purchase

**Fund** *Charles Westwood  
President GUBC*

“You will not be surprised to hear that like all amateur sports clubs there is a continuing need to raise funds. GU has been very generous to the club and has recently agreed to fund a boat replacement plan over a 5 year programme but this is very much a minimal arrangement. They have also committed to defraying coaching expenses for 5 years. However they have also made it clear that they expect Uni clubs to raise funds themselves and to organize their alumni to help as part of the

overall annual spend. Increased costs of equipment, kit and travel mean that an active rowing athlete in our club (or their parents) will spend between £1500-£2500 per season.

I am aware that as alumni generally, and despite some generous individual donations, we have not organized ourselves to make regular donations to support these young people's efforts. Attached you will find a pro forma standing order which you might be kind enough to complete and send to Paul McAllister, if you do not already have one in place. In re-

turn we will do our best to produce regular updated newsletters to keep you advised of progress and forthcoming events. In my experience non-specific requests for donations are easy to ignore.



So I would like to re-inaugurate and commend to you the new 'Boat Purchase Fund', founded this year with the tangible objective of raising £6000

to buy a much-needed competitive pair for GUBC. Ideally, our aim is to place an order by Easter 2009. Please send cheques, which will be gratefully received, to Paul Mc Allister.

## Twinnage

This newsletter is not only for Alumni but friends of GUBC, this includes those members of Canottieri Sebino Lovere. The boat club of ex-GUBC rower Aristide Bonomelli (GUBC '06). Since becoming twinned with them in 2007 we have built up fantastic relations, with the Club providing wonderful facilities and conditions for us to have two training camps so far.



A collection of old and current faces turn out for GUBC at Clydesdale Head

## Results

### Clydesdale 8s and 4s

This very belated head (postponed from the previous season) saw our old boys dusting off their lycras, some dustier than others mind, to pit their wits against all challengers in Open 8s.

After a good first 500 those in the bows started to remember why they gave up the sport, but managed to hold on for 3.5k for an impressive result of 2nd in Open 8s and posting the third fastest time of the day. The guys also

sent out a Men's R2 8 that won comfortably.

### Clyde Head

The last race of the calendar year was another postponed race from earlier in the season and saw a multitude of boats sent out by GUBC.

Due to lack of competition however many top crews were left to race only time only unfortunately. Nevertheless we still had victories in MRI 4+ and WR2 8s.

## Past Henley Crews

GUBC are currently looking to gather as much information about crews who have participated in Henley Royal or Womens Henley over the years.

The aim is to ultimately have an extensive collection of crew details and results at both regattas from Glasgow University crews. We are therefore asking any of you who any info to email us with it.

## Burns Supper

Saturday 24th January sees us host our annual Western Eights Head of the Clyde, this year aptly sponsored by West Brewery. After the day's racing they will also be hosting our own Club's Burns Supper.

It should be an exciting evening with the traditional recitals as well as a ceilidh to boot. They are located just off the edge of Glasgow Green, behind the People's Palace.

We encourage as many of you as possible to come and make an appearance at what always promises to be a fun night of addresses to haggis and hilarious renditions of the Bard's famous recitals.

Tickets will be priced £26 and available by getting in touch with either the captain or Steve, our social secretary (socialsec@glasgowubc.com).



## Contact Us:

Website  
[www.glasgowubc.com](http://www.glasgowubc.com)

Email:  
[captain@glasgowubc.com](mailto:captain@glasgowubc.com)

Phone:  
07809 897 437