



End of an Era



2015 really was the end of an era for CAIBC. Coleraine Inst has finally merged with the Coleraine High School to form Coleraine Grammar School. And secondly the Legend that is Bobby Platt MBE passed away. We are all aware of his great achievements in life, but besides the glamorous honours and the list of World class athletes he coached, what made Bobby such a great man? It was in no small part due to his dedication to all the boys he coached from the weakest to the strongest, as long as they were putting in the effort. He maintained his interest in them long after they had left school, and

was always interested in hearing how they were doing. This was part of the reason that he encouraged us setting up the old boys club, and the annual dinner.

He thoroughly enjoyed his time coaching, especially on the water and took great pride in seeing a crew work hard on the River Bann, or further afield. As a scrawny 2nd year out in a wooden IV+ I remember looking over at the other IV+ and seeing Bobby coxing and coaching, which is beyond the call of duty for a 71 year old coach! He was a consistent presence in my 5 years of rowing at Inst, assisting Sid

Grey to run the club. It was his enthusiasm that helped motivate me to row harder, faster, longer, but also pushed me into coaching at the club.

“Mileage makes Champions” was the apt phrase that was often heard during coaches meetings as one rowing legend quoted another (Steve Fairbairn). Time in a coaching launch always flew in as we chatted about life, the race (the human one obviously), the boat race, the houses he’d built or the land he’d sold along the river, the old days of rowing on the Bann and beyond, his previous team mates and

coaches, the crews technique, its fight, its prospects, its erg scores, the crew members individual attitudes and attributes, their brothers or other family members who had also rowed, where the family were from, what schools they went to, what jobs they had, the list goes on. Its surprising we ever had any time left to coach the boys!

It still surprises me to this day that many ills in a rowing boat can be ironed out with miles of square blade rowing. I used to think it was just because we couldn't think of any other exercises to do, but I was wrong; correct hand heights are essential. Bobby also taught me the mystic secrets of interval times, and how they're calculated, $T_a = T_d + (T_u - T_d/3)$ if you're interested in the simplified version. And as for encouraging the boys, there isn't an old boy that has left the club in the last 30 years who isn't strangely inspired by the phrase "top of the wall".

Races were a pleasure with Bobby there, and not just for the endless Bacon Baps or lunches he generously provided. Life as a coach who has to ask the race officials to rejig the racing order to suit his crews was infinitely easier with Bobby at your side! There is no club in Ireland (and many outside it) who didn't owe Bobby a favour. I was quite surprised at one Athlone Regatta to be able to borrow a boat from



a Galway club because Bobby had brought down crews to race them in the 70s! And if you ever came across the closed barrier down to the boathouses at the Irish Champs, you only had to say Bobby was in the car, to get it opened pronto. Journeys to and from races were not long tedious affairs if Bobby was the chatty navigator. Be it Belfast, Portadown, Enniskillen, Newry, Dublin, Athlone, Galway, Cork, Dumfries, or London, the trip was always well organised, smooth running and enjoyable, with seemingly little effort. But it was a mirage. It took endless hours of work and effort over decades to be able to organise and run things so well. Bobby has

put in many hours of work coaching, and many more in admin, preparation, boat repairs, travelling, planning, etc. Anyone who has been at CAIBC in the last 40 or more years owes a huge deal to Bobby.

Even after retiring from active coaching duty he maintained his keen interest in rowing, both as President of Bann RC and Patron of COBRA. The passing of Bobby has been a huge loss to us all personally, the sport of rowing in Coleraine, and much further afield.

William Wright – COBRA Chairman.

Privileged to have been coached by Bobby from 1993 to 2015.

A Boat for Bobby

It has been a busy few months for the school club, COBRA and our members, as this bumper edition of the Newsletter shows. Among the many things happening this year, COBRA is fundraising to buy a new coxless four/quad for the school. So far this year we have raised a whopping £9,530 so thank you for your generous donations to date, and we would encourage all our members/friends to make a donation if possible (the last appeal was 4 years ago and the next one will be a long time away!).

During our last fundraising effort in 2011, we provided an VIII+, which was presented to the school by the late great Bobby Platt MBE. We are minded to name the boat after the legend himself (how does "Bobbie II", "Queenora", "Top of the Wall", or even "The Green Mazda" sound?), so if you can, I would ask you to please help us get the 'Boat for Bobby', by donating at the website <https://mydonate.bt.com/events/cobra2015> or by posting a cheque made payable to "COBRA" to 11 Bannvale, Coleraine, BT51 3JB.

Thank you very much for all your support.

COBRA



Target £15,400
Raised £9,530

University Rowing 2015

Over the 2014/15 season COBRA had two members involved in university rowing, Graham Hunter for the University of West England (UWE) and Corey McDowell for Reading University. Both oarsmen had productive head seasons and were able to fine tune their racing skills on training camps to Gravelines, France and Banyoles, Spain respectively towards the start of regatta season.

First up for the COBRA men was the BUCS Regatta held in Nottingham. This regatta is open to all universities and colleges throughout the UK and attracted a record entry of 1099 crews from 68 universities in 2015! On day one, Graham sat in the 2 seat of the UWE intermediate 8+ and managed to qualify for the A final, where in a blistering race they were unlucky to finish 4th behind two Oxford Brookes crews and Newcastle. Day two saw Corey race in the lightweight 2x and Graham in the intermediate 2x. After a particularly tough time trial Graham qualified for the B final where he came 6th, Corey managed to scrape into the A final in his time trial and finished a respectable 4th amongst top-level competition. Day 3 was the final day and saw Corey racing in the inter 4x and Graham in the lightweight 2-. Corey's quad just missed out on the A final but made up for it by winning the B final with ease. Graham's pair also missed out on the A final and placed 3rd in the B final in a fiercely competitive event.

Next up was The Metropolitan Regatta,

held on the London 2012 Eton Dorney Lake. Categories were well entered and competition formidable. Corey raced in a straight final in the elite 4x and placed 6th out of 7, a ferocious tailwind

producing tricky conditions and very fast times. The IM2 8+ was one of the most competitive events of the regatta and Graham's crew had a strong row but were knocked out in the semi-finals.

Both Corey and Graham chalked up good wins at Reading Regatta, the main rehearsal race for Henley Royal. Graham's boat secured a comfortable win over Manchester in the IM2 8+ and Corey's crew easily dispatched Bath to win the IM2 4x on home water.

Marlow Regatta was the final race before Henley Royal, again held at Eton Dorney Lake. There was controversy surrounding the UWE IM1 8+ as an error during the time trial meant Graham was placed in the wrong final, and suspicions were confirmed when they won the D final by over 30 seconds. Corey's elite 4x went out hard in their time trial and achieved a middle lane for the B final, but in the final itself Reading struggled in the latter stages and faded to 3rd place after leading most of the race.



(Student Eights). UWE pre-qualified for the regatta whilst Reading were one of the 5 crews to qualify on the Friday time trials for their event. First up to race was Graham on the Wednesday in the UWE boat and they were against King's College Queensland, the Australian U19 champions. Despite falling 1/2 length behind at the 1/4 mile, the UWE boat settled into a powerful rhythm and by the barrier had taken the lead. They extended their lead down the course and went on to win by 3 1/4 lengths! Corey's race was on the Thursday and Reading were drawn with Oxford Brookes/Leander (this boat had ex-Bann rower Joel Cassells in it). Reading went off the start hard in order to keep up with the composite crew, but struggled after the barrier when the Brookes/Leander boat made some big pushes. They went on to win the race by 4 lengths, Reading doing themselves proud against such strong opposition. Graham was up against Columbia University from the USA in the 2nd round of the Temple. Columbia would prove to be a much sterner test for UWE, so Graham's boat also went off hard in order to take the race to the Americans. Unfortunately, UWE couldn't much the power of the Columbia 8 and they went on to win by 3 3/4 lengths, a fair result with UWE making Columbia work very hard for their victory.

Overall a great season for COBRA's university rowers, with the 2015/16 season looking very promising indeed!

Corey McDowell



The culmination of the season was Henley Royal Regatta. Corey stroked Reading's 2nd boat in the Prince of Wales (Intermediate Quads) and Graham sat in the 2 seat in UWE's boat for the Temple

International Regattas



The 2015 rowing international season yielded highs and lows for our Coleraine rowers.

Joel Cassells, a recent past pupil from the school, was not only able to secure his third consecutive Under-23 World championship silver medal, this time in the lightweight quad, but he went on to compete in the senior World championships in the lightweight pair – where he won! He is not only the reigning World champion, but also the 2015 European champion in the same event.....with Peter Chambers. Peter moved to the lightweight four after the Europeans and competition was tight. Having finished 4th and 6th in the final two World Cup regattas, the GB team were only able to finish 9th overall at the World championships in Aiguebelette, France in early September. This was enough to secure Olympic qualification

for a GB crew for next year's Rio Olympic Games.

It was great to see the return of Alan Campbell mid-way through the 2015 season. Although not selected for last year's World championships in Amsterdam, Alan persevered and returned to A-final performances in two World Cup regattas this year. At the World Championships Alan performed well but ended up in the B-final, with only three slots available for Olympic qualification. In his final, Alan went off the start strongly and took the lead before half-way. He held that lead until close to the end and was pipped by 0.11 seconds into second place (8th overall) by the Belarusian sculler. Critically Olympic qualification was secured.

Richard Chambers maintained his streak of World championship medal winning performances, with a fantastic silver

medal in the lightweight doubles event, partnered by William Fletcher, finishing behind France and narrowly ahead of Norway. Richard started the season with silver in the European championships, followed by strong World Cup performances of 3rd in Varese (Italy) and 5th in Lucerne, but with such tight competition medals were not guaranteed. The work running into the worlds obviously paid off, and Richard maintains an enviable record of medal winning performances since his first senior World championship medal in 2007.

All credit to the performances of all four Coleraine rowers and no doubt there will be much competition for seats next year in Rio. Let's hope Coleraine can increase its record of three rowers at the same games in 2016!

Richard Archibald



Rowing in the 70s



Whilst the last few years have seen great achievements by individuals from CAI on the rowing front, with GB and Irish International honours as well as University and adult club successes, the 70's must rate as the school's greatest era for Championship winning crews, plus annual Wray Cup and Craig Cup successes.

The writer was asked to take a look back at rowing in the 70's era, as the stroke of the last school crew (unfortunately) to win the Irish Senior Schools 8 Championships in 1975, albeit a composite crew of Bann/CAI.

Looking at school rowing in the recent era compared to the 70's there are several key stand out reasons for the 70's success:

Each level/year, Cadet, Colt, Junior and Senior (Sid Grey) levels all had their own dedicated coach, with Mickey Eyre then having overall Rowing Master responsibility.

With the involvement of Sid Grey and Mickey Eyre at both Irish and FISA rowing committees, new training regimes being introduced at

International level were brought to CAI. Most notable of these being the infamous intervals introduced by Sid Grey, just below the railway bridge. How many of us can remember afternoons toiling between the 2 markers on that stretch of water doing interval after interval.

Rowing at school was mandated as an all year round sport whereas other schools, notably Portora, did rugby during the winter and only started rowing Easter onwards thereby missing out on the invaluable steady state miles and land based weights etc. done by CAI during the winter months.

Finally sheer numbers. With a thriving Boarding school and school numbers up around 1200-1400 the selection base was so much higher than the school has had in recent years.

As with most sports the Championship became a self-fulfilling prophecy, with all boys wanting to row at school and go for the Irish Championship.

Whilst this was an era of great Championship success, on reflection whilst preparing this article, one of the

downsides of the 70's was that, unlike today, were many individuals leave school and go onto great success in adult rowing, almost without fail in the 70's when we stepped out of the boat after winning the Irish Championships and then the Home International, almost every individual never set foot in a rowing boat again. Exceptions to this were myself, who went onto row in London at Thames Tradesmen plus the likes of Colin Hunter and Geoff Canning. But they represent pretty much the sum total of those that continued rowing.

I think a key reason for that was that in an effort to produce Championship winning crews the crews were worked so hard that most lost their enjoyment and enthusiasm for the sport, effectively retiring at the grand old age of 18!

That being said there was a wonderful energy and attitude in the Club during this time, with the sole aim of getting basic rowing skills into new starters, developing them into winning Colts 8's and then grooming the Colts 8 into a Championship winning crew. If one was to look at Colts 8's and then 2 years later the Championship winning 8's, pretty

much the same individuals were in both. Even in my own case whilst I went to Bann after being in the Craig Cup winning Colts 8 in 1973, I was back in the Championship crew 2 years later, if though in Bann colours!

I can't cover the 70's era though without a little reflection on that 1975 Championship crew.

As many will recall it was a composite Bann/CAI crew – one of the last years composites were allowed at schoolboy level.

The early season for both clubs were very inconspicuous, with Bann having a 4 that was winning in the North but not the South and CAI an 8 performing pretty much the same. A conversation between Mickey Eyre and Bobby Platt (starting the era of Bobby's involvement at CAI) changed all that. It was decided to pool the strengths of both crews with myself and Ernie Nevin joining the 8 at stroke and 7.

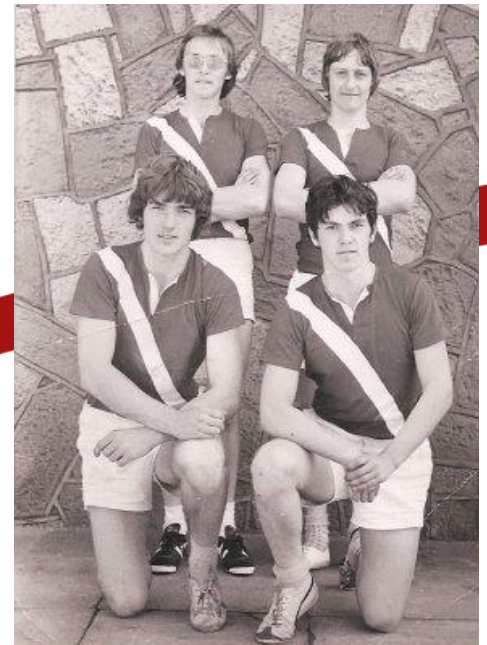
First outings gave no indication of what was to come, with the School 2nd 8 easily keeping pace with us over long distance and sprint paddling – not a great start with two quite different styles being moulded together very quickly. One Saturday morning though that all changed. On a long row to the bar mouth and back, again being paced by the 2nd

8, the return journey saw our boat suddenly click, leaving the 2nd 8 well in our wake. This form continued in interval and regatta course racing leaving us ready for our first outing at Galway regatta.

St. Josephs had a fantastic 4 in 1975 – eventually went on to finish 2nd in the Senior Irish Championships. This 4 combined with 4 others to produce a very fast 8, up to then unbeaten in Ireland. Our first regatta as a composite was in Galway. Due to windy conditions the regatta was moved from Lough Corrib to the town course – a very unfair course in 2 boat racing but totally unfair in a 3 boat race due to the first bend and we of course had the outside lane on that bend. To everyone's surprise though St Joseph's came 3rd with us losing to St. Ignatius by about 1 foot – great result from our first regatta.

Training continued and eventually Championship weekend and Blessington beckoned. The build-up and row to the start of the race couldn't have been better, with everyone feeling strong and very confident that if we rowed to our potential we had the Championship in our grasp.

Unknown to Mickey, as we were a lightweight crew, we decided to do our normal 10 stroke start but instead of then striding out, we pushed for another



10. We had a length on all crews after those 20 strokes and the rest is history.

We were then selected to represent Ireland in the School 8's at the Home Internationals, held that year in Castle Semple, with Trinity rowing in the Senior 8's event.

Friday on Castle Semple was like a mill pond, excellent water for our lightweight crew. So well were we going that we paced Trinity throughout the days training session. However, Saturday arrived with the conditions we had dreaded – very rough water and a head wind!!

Whilst we had a reasonable row, in the conditions, we eventually lost by 1 length to St. Georges Weybridge, who represented England, but finishing ahead of Scotland and Wales. It was the same in the 4 and 8 with St. Josephs and Trinity also coming in second place.

So the end of an era and last school crew to win the School's 8 Championship. I will continue to watch progress at the school, hoping to see the name of CAI once more on the Championship trophy. It will be 40 years this year – a good time to do so!!

Paul Dinsmore

School 1st 8 1975 and Irish School's 8 Champions 1975



The Inst.

The rowing season began with a number of changes, a new rowing coach and a new training plan. Early season training began well with much enthusiasm and focus placed on preparing for racing later in the season. Core Gym helped play a big part in this with strength and conditioning sessions led by Angus Warwicker-Le Breton proving to be a hit with all those taking part. In the winter months we also focused on fund raising with a couple of events organised, a successful bag pack in ASDA raised well over £1000 and an excellent Christmas hamper was provided by the Evans family which was raffled off to raise a successful sum!

Head season proved to be useful. Despite a series of disappointing results, we learned that we had a few boats that could be competitive over the summer months and so focus could be placed on them. The club raced at Bann, Festive, Lagan, Erne and Lagan Scullers heads. Over the winter we also had a number of drop outs from the squad, however, this left us with boys who trained hard and were committed to the club.

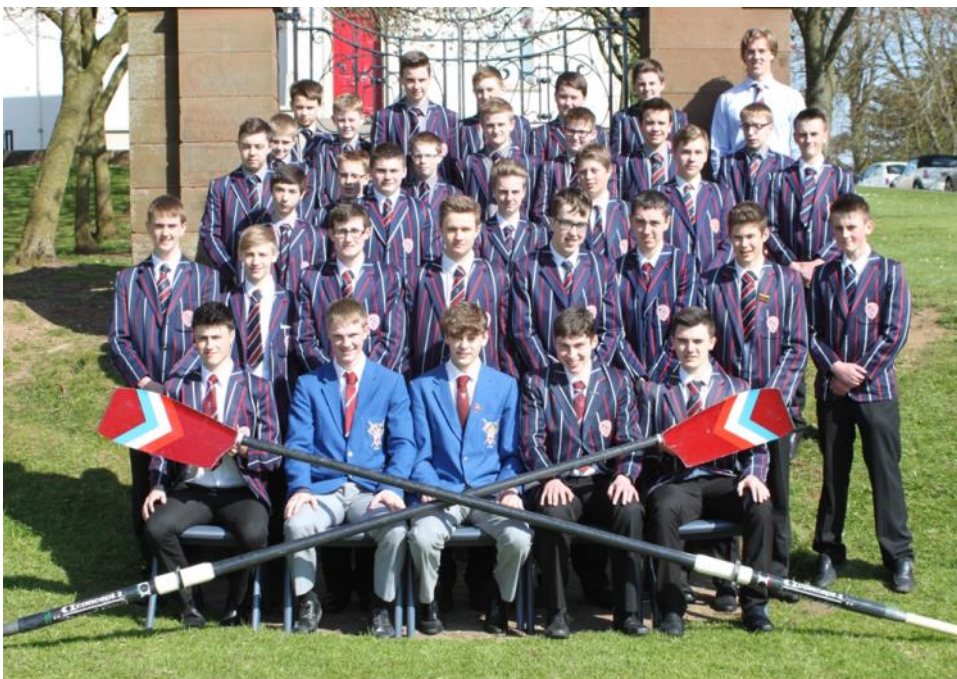
COBRA day was a back to formula race with the COBRA crew winning with clear water which was disappointing for the school boys after the win they had put over their more mature counterparts the week before at the Festive head.

A small contingency of the rowing club travelled to Limerick to represent the school at Limerick Regatta and the Irish Schools' Regatta over the 1500m course. The standards at these regattas are very high with many of the winners forming part of the Irish squad for junior European level.

On the first day our 12 boys raced in 6 boats in miserable conditions and at one point the regatta was almost cancelled due to the weather damaging the buoy lines. When the regatta began again our junior 15 quad finished 2nd. The junior 18

pairs came 3rd and 4th and when they raced as a four, came up against the top two crews so didn't get past their heat. The intermediate double had the unenviable task of racing some ex-international oarsmen but put in a good performance in their debut race this season.

The next day at the Irish Schools' Regatta was met with perfect conditions and



blistering heat, this time only 3 of our crews raced with the junior 15 quad finishing 2nd, the first four finished 3rd and the inter double again had international competition but learnt a lot from their races.

On the following weekend the rowing club journeyed to Portadown for the second regatta of the season and despite the weather our spirits were not completely dampened. For a number of boys this was their first experience of side by side laned racing and they all benefited from it, special mention goes to the junior 15 8 who beat Methody in their final to secure one of the club's three medals. The other medals came from the club level quad and double who beat competitive crews from

RBAI and Portadown on the way to securing their wins.

The junior 15 quads, junior 16 double and single and junior 18 boats all raced well against their opposition with 2 of them progressing to the semi-finals.

With 20 boys travelling to compete, and 13 of them returning with a winner's medal this has been our most successful trip so far. All boys conducted themselves

above and beyond, keen to help other clubs and encourage each other.

Seven days later the club competed in the beautiful Castlewella forest park at Queen's Regatta, another 1500m course. Despite our captain coming down with food poisoning, we fielded all the racing crews and had some great races. The junior 15 quad continued their racing season of good results with a 3rd place behind two monstrous crews, one from Limerick, the other Sligo. They also raced a junior 16 four and were 2nd here, our other Junior 16 four were unfortunate to have equipment failure put a halt to their race. The club 4 had a very exciting race, they finished 5th but Queen's were less than a second ahead, and a BRC crew well beaten. The club quad finished 3rd and

the 18 4 4th. Unfortunately three of our doubles did not qualify however, the 15 2x had a great victory over Portadown and learned a lot from it in their first racing season, and the 16 double did beat some solid opposition in the heat to finish 6th in the final.

A small group from the boat club headed to this year's Dublin Metropolitan regatta, the first four competed in two events against tough competition. Our four competed in the J18 4 and Club 2 fours categories. There was a disappointing entry in the junior 18 4s with only 3 crews entered however, thanks to the grand league format the boys got some good racing and put in two great races to finish second in the event behind Athlunkard who we have gotten closer to each time we race. In the club 2 fours the boys raced against 5 university crews and 3

club crews which is good experience for this group as they are too old next year to row junior. Although we weren't in contention for the top spot our boys had a good battle with UCD B crew but were robbed of their 4 second victory due to a mix up by the regatta organisers!

Unfortunately this is the last racing season the rowing club as CAIBC will have, despite plans to race at the Irish championships, a number of key rowers became unavailable over this time. Despite this the boys this year have had the opportunity to race at higher standard events which although frustrating from a results point of view is vital for the development of the club in the coming years.

I'd like to thank Trevor Gage, William Wright, Gordon Anderson and Richard

Archibald for giving up their weekends to drive us to regattas and providing mature and calm heads of wisdom! Also to Bann rowing club for letting us share their trailer when travelling to Dublin.

Special thanks also goes to all the old boys who helped out with coaching, Ross Cochrane, Andrew Wright, Matthew and Scott Warke, Phil McCullough, Callum Marshal, Alex Humphrey and Andrew Richardson. It is great to see some of the newest members of COBRA stepping up and giving back to the club.

Finally, I wish to also thank the school for their continued support of the club, it is great to see the club racing in the south again where the main rowing competition is and many comments from other clubs have supported this.

J P Mitchell

Mizen to Malin



In August, Coleraine Old Boys Rowing Association gave 5 of its finest...athletes...the task of cycling the length of Ireland from Mizen Head in the South, to Malin Head in the North. Over 3 days our team overcame mountains, mechanical failures, rain, wind and saddle sore to reach Donegal in good time and were glad of the help from George Hull and Richard Archibald on the final day!

The effort raised almost £1500 to go towards the purchase of a new boat for the school, and COBRA would like to thank everyone who donated. A special thanks goes to Alex Humphrey who had the unenviable task of being support driver for the event, and had to listen to plenty of excuses!

The team were JP Mitchell, Steven Archibald, Philip Hamill, Adam Millar and Calum McBurney.

Calum McBurney

50 Year Reunion at HRR

“TURN round Ian,” said Mike Clarke with a broad smile, as seven former CAI 1st VIII comrades met at the entrance to the Steward’s Enclosure at Henley Royal Regatta, for the first time since we raced there 50 years ago!

Facing him and looking a shade puzzled I did as requested, turned round and he laughed and said, “No, you still look the same!”

Mike rowed 6 in that memorable crew, I rowed 7 and we were collectively trying to decide whether we’d changed much in those fifty years. Mind you very few of our vintage think we’ve aged that much until we spot our reflection in a mirror, but a camera doesn’t lie – at least that’s what photographers say!

I was finding it hard to believe that the letter I sent out to all the crew precisely one year earlier, in fervent hope that I might persuade a few of us to meet up at Henley to celebrate that special reunion, had resulted in seven out of nine of us getting together at Henley Royal Regatta. Established in 1839, HRR is widely regarded as one of the most popular rowing events in the world with a huge and fashionable spectator following and a strict dress code. It was hoped that some at least of our wives/partners could join us, but sadly it was only feasible for Pauline Clarke to make the trip. Pauline made her mark right away when she discovered that her dress was not quite the regulation length for entrance to the Steward’s Enclosure, but undaunted, she talked her way past the ‘style police’ and not only managed to do so once but at least on two other occasions that day. Immediately she shot to the top of the class as far as the crew was concerned and had no trouble becoming one of the ‘boys’ for the day!

What a day it was – hot, sunny, packed with the great and the good in the world of rowing and a lot of others who



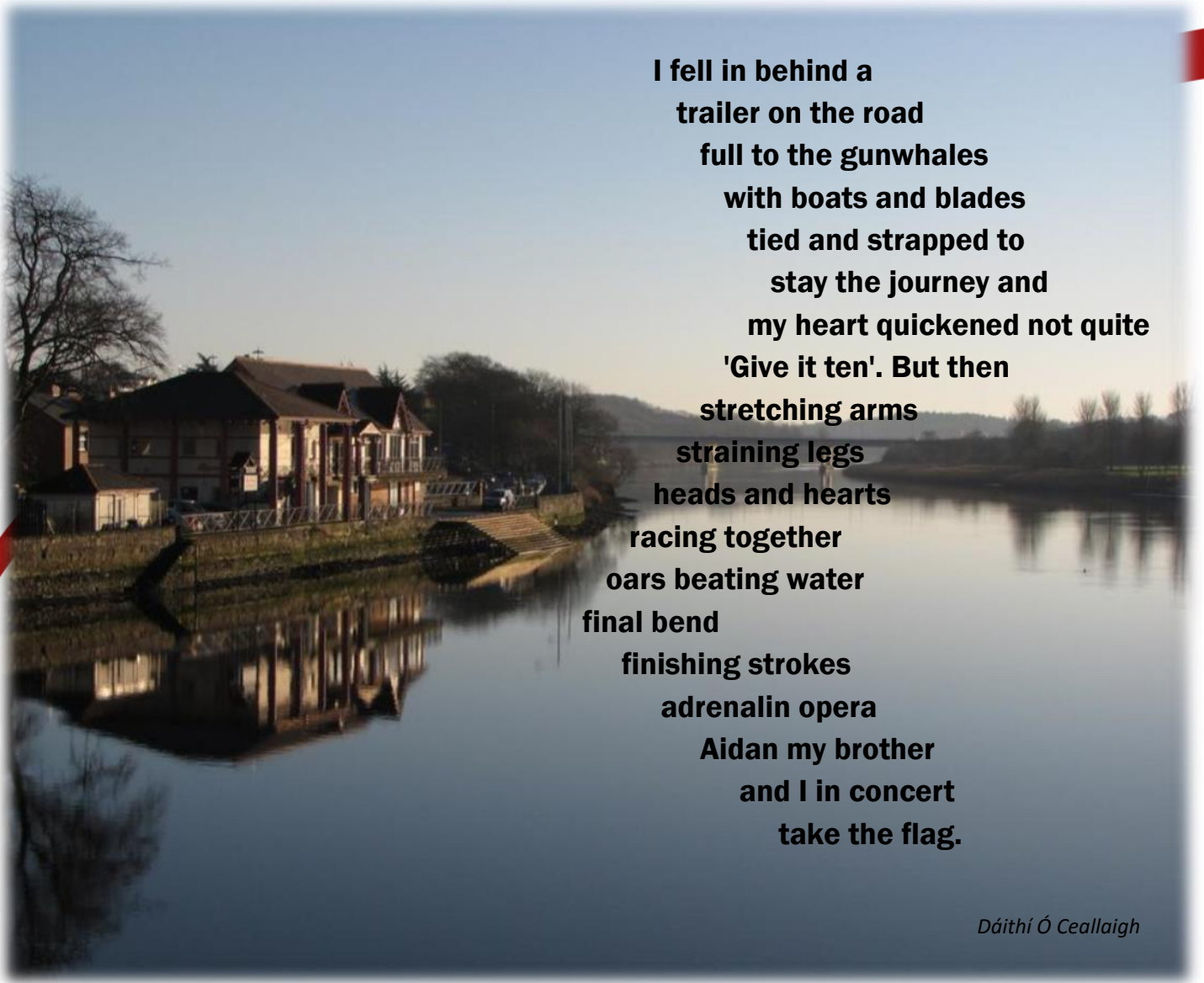
evidently liked to be seen in their company. Inevitably there was consumption of some excellent hospitality during the day from mid morning to dinner in the evening when we sat down to a sumptuous meal in the famous Leander RC restaurant. In-between we watched some fantastic racing and perhaps one of the highlights of the day was a hotly contested heat [forgive the pun] of the Princess Elizabeth Cup, with quarter-finalists, Phillips Academy of Andover, USA being beaten by the fancied Westminster School, who were later defeated by St. Pauls School in the Final. For us, it was like watching a ghost from fifty years ago, when US School Champions Phillips Academy beat us in a heat of the same race and in doing so, equalled the course record. In that unforgettable year of 1965 Phillips was defeated by Tabor Academy USA in the Final. What actually laid that ghost to rest was meeting up with the Phillips crew of 2015 at the crew tents when they came off the water, all of them just as tall and impressive as their 65 crew. Despite their race disappointment they seemed pleased to have made our acquaintance and more than happy to have their photo taken with us. One of their assistant coaches turned out to be an ex-Trinity rower and a Northern Irishman,

which made the whole occasion somehow even more special.

It was an unforgettable day and evening when we conversed with each other on another level, as adults, in a totally different way to our time as schoolboys and rowers. The great thing was that we seemed to share a sense of humour and re-kindled the rowing comradeship and spirit that our late lamented coach, ‘Mickey Eyre’, had worked so hard to infuse in us. Ray Cochrane, Ken Hunter, Rowan Bell, Mike Clarke, Des Hill, Norman Hamill and I had the rare privilege of meeting each other again in convivial surroundings at a place we all remember well where we did our best for the sport we loved at that famous regatta. Ken had flown all the way from Canada to be with us, which in itself was a real tribute. It was an occasion that wouldn’t have been the success it was but for the efforts of our former stroke and captain, Des Hill and cox, Norman Hamill, who pulled the magic rabbit out of the hat and organised, tickets, schedule and a dinner to equal the best - for the best! My humble contribution involved individual copies of a special commemorative edition of the menu and engraved glass tumblers to remind us of that day, the 3rd July 2015, but how could we forget!

Ian Harvey

Bann Regatta Coleraine 1967



**I fell in behind a
trailer on the road
full to the gunwhales
with boats and blades
tied and strapped to
stay the journey and
my heart quickened not quite
'Give it ten'. But then
stretching arms
straining legs
heads and hearts
racing together
oars beating water
final bend
finishing strokes
adrenalin opera
Aidan my brother
and I in concert
take the flag.**

Dáithí Ó Ceallaigh

A note from the school

Any Old Boys who haven't visited the school recently will not only be surprised to see the new river pavilion, opened officially in 2013, but even more shocked to see the boathouse being frequented by female pupils! Just over a month after the formation of Coleraine Grammar School, girls are now making up a considerable percentage of the 80 plus pupils that are rowing regularly and ensuring that rowing remains a key sport on the Bann.

Since my involvement with rowing began in 2005 the sense of ownership that

COBRA members and the input they have to their former school has really impressed me. COBRA has continually offered help both in terms of coaching and equipment for which the oarsmen and school have been extremely grateful. In August Richard Archibald and I had the pleasure of joining Jonathan Mitchell, Steven Archibald, Adam Millar, Callum McBurney, Philip Hamill and Alex Humphrey as they made their way from Mizen Head to Malin Head by bicycle in COBRA's latest fundraising initiative (Richard and I took the easy option and

joined them for the last day of their 3 day 130+ mile per day trip). This fundraiser highlights the lengths that our Old Boys will go to support the school's rowers – 400 miles approximately!

In the last few weeks it has been good to see some of our more recent Old Boys getting involved with coaching and we look forward to COBRA's continued involvement, not to mention their first female members!

Dr George Hull
Teacher in charge of Rowing at CGS.

COBRA Timeline, 2000 - 2015...

Present - 60+ paid up members, new website and fundraising for new four/quad

Sept '15 - CAI and CHS merge to form Coleraine Grammar School

Aug '15 - Mizen to Malin fundraiser

Oct '12 - Stampfli 8+ purchased for CAI

**Sept '11 - New pavillion boathouse built,
Ergs purchased for CAI**

July '11 - Source to Sea fundraiser

Sept '09 - CAI appoints paid rowing coach

Dec '08 - Hamburg Trophy presented

Jan '08 - Set of 10 sculling oars purchased for CAI

Oct '07 - Quad, Double & two Singles purchased for CAI

Oct '07 - Floral art fundraiser

Sept '05 - Set of 8 sweep oars purchased for CAI

Feb '06 - First newsletter

Apr '04 - First table quiz

Dec '03 - First annual dinner

Dec '02 - First Old Boys vs School Boys Race

Dec '00 - COBRA formed and registered as Ltd. company and charity

For more information on COBRA or rowing past or present at CAI, visit our website at

COBRARowing.co.uk

or

facebook.com/COBRARowing

Editor: Alex Humphrey

If you have any comments or would like to contribute to the next newsletter, please get in touch at alex.humphrey@gmail.com