



LANCASTER UNIVERSITY  
**BOAT CLUB**

# ALUMNI NEWSLETTER 2021

## **Happy New Year and welcome to 2021!**

Well what a year it has been. When COVID-19 first made its emergence about a year ago, no-one would have ever imagined we would still be here, fighting the pandemic and now entering our third national lockdown. It has proven to be a difficult time for many and we now realise how important our friends and family are. We all know, now more than ever, how essential fitness and exercise is not only for our bodies but also for our mental well-being. It is essential for everyone to keep a positive mind-set during this difficult time and it is with this spirit that LUBC has continued to support its members, both new and old.

Due to this epidemic, it has, therefore, not been possible to continue and take part in our usual annual events. The year started off by cancelling our Summer Ball with the possibility of postpoing it to October. However, the virus continued to spread and so, that too, was revoked. Equally, all races in Michaelmas term were cancelled due to the high risk and finally our Winter Ball could sadly not take place. It has not been an easy year for all our members but we are looking forward to the time where we can all re-connect on the water and bring back that competitive spirit!

I'd just like to say a quick thank you to all our Castrum members who continue to support us. Your donations make a huge difference and we are so grateful that you choose to spend your money on improving LUBC further. We couldn't do it without you.

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## NOVICES

Despite COVID, our club has continued to grow with an influx of novices at the start of the academic year. It has not been the usual start, however, with circuits moving online, training bubbles limited to 6, maintaining a 2m distance and constant cleaning of both ergs and boats. Yet, our eager new members adapted very well and continued to turn up to their training with enthusiasm and dedication. Already making progress with the help of their squad captains, the novices have learnt the rowing technique on the erg before going out on the water, albeit hindered by the typical Lancaster weather conditions. With some inter-novices competitions, they have remained engaged and involved in the LUBC community. So far, they have a firm foundation in preparation for this term and next year where we expect they will have the opportunities to improve and hopefully get involved in races and competitions.

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## SENIORS

Both the Senior Women and Men's squads have integrated well and continue to make improvements becoming efficient units. At the very start of term, there were opportunities to get out on the water but unfortunately, they had to stop due to our second lockdown. However, they have collectively and successfully adapted to online coaching whilst continuing to commit to the high levels of training. After the Christmas training plan, we are looking forward to persisting with this progress.

The men's squad did, however, take part in Movember where they individually raised money and donations. This helped to encourage a strong community spirit and provided positivity to the entire club which was needed at this time.

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# ALUMNI HISTORIES



## Joseph Osborne, 2010-2015

- **Positions Held:** Men's Captain, Events Secretary
- **Degree:** Mechanical Engineering
- **Achievements:** Rowers Rower of the year, Russel Trophy twice,
- **Best Crew:** Fours Head Crew: Tim Mitchell, Harry Tarrant, Adam Jackson
- **Best memory:** cold, still, quiet mornings on the river
- **Current occupation:** Senior Analyst, O&G
- **Advice to Novs:** just stick at it and go with it. Soon you will not have the time to do it.
- **Races:** BUCS, Roses' Head, 4s Head, Met, Marlow, Wallingford, Durham, Hexham, Tyne, Tees, Lancaster, Dee, Worcester (in snowstorm)





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## Tim Cape, 1965-1968

- **Positions Held:** Club Captain, 1966-67 and Club Chairman, 1967-86
- **Degree:** BA (Hons) History and Politics
- **Achievements:** Survived 77 and still going
- **Best Crew:** Tideway HoR 1967 - Bow - Mike Crawford, 2 - Rob Rose, 3 - Bernard T.J. C, 6 - Ian Askin, 7 - Pat Sinnott, Str. Alan Bookless, Cox Brian Willcock, Coach Douglas Melvin, without whom we would have achieved nothing
- **Best memory:** Tideway HoR 1967. Apart from Ian Askin and me, all the crew were novice oarsmen. We borrowed a clinker 80, started 284th, overtook 15 crews on the course and were placed 84th. I cannot believe that any of the first 83 crews were rowing in clinkers like us!
- **Current occupation:** Happily retired in SE Asia
- **Advice to Novs:** Rowing is really a very simple sport which will always reward hard work and discipline. Watch your puddles!
- **Races:** Roses Boat Race 1966 v York (won easily); Roses 1976 (won easily); JS Coxed 40 Northwich Regatta 1966 (won); Bridgewater HoR 1966 (won); Tideway HoR 1967 (84/400+ crews); Elite Coxless 20 (with Ian Askin) won at Northwich and York Regattas; Silver Goblets Henley 1967 (lost to Olympic finalists SC Einheit Dresden. Rated 3 = overall by Rowing Magazine)



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## Tom McNerney, 1985-1986

- **Positions Held:** N/A - except designated minibus driver
  - **Degree:** MSc in Operation research
  - **Achievements:** Survived 77 and still going
  - **Best Crew:** Most of my rowing time was spent in a four with Martin O'Connor and Graeme Rook, with the remaining spot taken most of the time by a guy called Tim whose surname I unfortunately forget and in the summer with Francis Russell
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- **Best memory:** May bank holiday weekend when we took in 3 days of races at Chester and Northwich. On the Saturday at Chester I found myself coxing the ladies boat which somehow won the novice four pot, and I can't remember ever shouting as loudly as when we crossed the line ahead, replete with 11-stone cox and four significantly lighter ladies. My men's crew was a little down as we couldn't match this win, but on the Sunday at Northwich we held our nerve and won our own novice 4 pots, albeit we remained relatively sober in celebration given we wanted to do as well as possible the next day too. Whilst we made a good start in what was then Senior C, sadly in the semi-final, whilst ahead, a nameless crew member caught an enormous crab and we weren't able to win a second pot (or at least be eliminated in a good fight)
  - **Advice to Novs:** My only advice to novices would be: put in the work, don't be disheartened if you don't win at your first couple of regattas since as the summer runs on the competitions get easier as you improve, and make sure you enjoy yourselves as much as I did



## CHANGES

### **Alumni Ball**

Even though COVID has stopped us from taking part in races and our annual events, it has not prevented us from using this as an opportunity to consider how we run our future alumni events. After deliberation, it was decided that the Summer Ball will remain every year as a celebration of the club's achievements. Although not an official alumni event, you will still be invited to join as honoured guests of the club. As another opportunity to come up to Lancaster, we will now be holding a biennial Alumni Ball that will coincide with a home Roses where you are welcome to join in with the events of the weekend. You will be part of the club again that you hold so dear and will be reminded of the competitiveness that you once felt.

### **Castrum Membership**

It has also been decided that the way our alumni members pay for Castrum will change in order to benefit everyone and to encourage a greater uptake. There will now be a three tier system where each alumnus can choose how much they would like to spend.

- Tier 1 - £25 per year (this will cover attendance at events)
  - Tier 2 - £35 per year (this will give you access to LUBC equipment)
  - Tier 3 - £8 per month/£100 per year (this remains the same, giving you access to both ball and equipment and an additional contribution to support the club)
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You can still sign up to become a member of our Alumni Boat Club CASTRUM where you will have access to LUBC equipment and the Boathouse facilities. This is a great way for you to show your support, whilst helping to finance the club and at the same time, re-connecting with previous members.

For more information on how to sign up for membership or if you have any other questions, please contact me on: [alumni.lubc@gmail.com](mailto:alumni.lubc@gmail.com).



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