

## Sports Newsletter Hilary 2016

### Women's Football, Carlota Esguevillas

This term women's football has really taken off. Team numbers have soared as new faces have joined the team. We finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in our division of the league, an impressive achievement considering that at the beginning of the year we only had 5 players in the whole team. We played excellently in each game, successfully implementing our tactics from training and team spirit has never been higher. We finish this term proud of our achievements, and look forward to more successes in Trinity Term's 5-side Cuppers tournament.



### Netball, Molly Scull & Bethan Waskett

After a rocky start, netball has seen huge improvements this term!! The team has excelled over the course of the term, culminating in our huge 17-1 defeat of Lincoln. Our overall number of wins is not reflective of some great play and I am hugely pleased with how Hilda's have stepped up since last term!



### Women's Hockey, Saumya George

This term, Quilda's (the joint women's hockey team that St Hilda's runs alongside Queens) played in Cuppers, the annual intercollegiate knockout tournament. As reigning Cuppers champions and following our brilliant performance in our League games last term, we were favourites to reach the later stages. We played excellently in each round of the tournament, eventually reaching the final where we were to defend our title against St Catz, whom we hadn't been able to play last term due to poor weather conditions. This could have made for some pre-final nerves as St Catz hockey team have a number of blues players. However, the women of Quilda's refused to be daunted by this challenge and scored an early goal, played incredibly well as a team, and ultimately came out victorious, winning 1-0! Cuppers champions for another year running: what a fitting end to a fantastic season of hockey.



## Rowing, Alice Witt



This term, culminating in an incredibly exciting four days of racing at Torpids, has been possibly the most successful in SHCBC's recent history. Despite difficult and frustrating weather conditions for a number of weeks in the middle of the term, the squads did not lose commitment or focus and continued with land training, waiting to see if Torpids would actually go ahead. This was the first year where the boat club had a competitive M2 squad, and although they only just didn't qualify for Torpids, they should be commended for their hard work and effort this term- we can't wait to see them on the water at Summer Eights! In the regatta itself, each day brought a new race of tenseness, excitement, surprises and, for both M1 and W1, a bump! M1 bumped St John's III, Pembroke III, Worcester II, and Regent's Park; W1 bumped

Pembroke II, John's II, St Peter's and Merton. This meant blades for both teams! Both crews rowed extremely professionally despite the lack of water time that river conditions had permitted in the run up to the regatta, and 7 of the teams' combined 8 bumps took place within the first 500m of the course. This year's Torpids marks a number of feats: it is the first year in history that SHCBC has been awarded double blades (ie both men's and women's crews won blades for bumping on all four days of the regatta), with the women winning blades for the first time in 10 years; the men's first boat, having been entered in at the bottom of the divisions only a few years ago when the college became co-educational, is no longer the lowest first boat in the divisions after they bumped Regent's Park; and St Hilda's, out of all other competing colleges, had the highest number of bumps per crew, and were the only squad to achieve all the bumps available to us. After such huge success and a very exciting term, we cannot wait to get back on the water ready for Summer Eights!

## Men's Football, James Smythies

As the football season draws to a close, the St Hilda's Men's Football Club continue to enjoy success. Buoyed on by a spirited, enthusiastic and extremely talented squad, both the First and Reserve Teams have consolidated their positions in the JCR 2nd Division and the JCR Reserves 3rd Division, respectively. The Reserve Team has enjoyed unprecedented success, battling hard throughout the season and falling agonizingly short of promotion. Meanwhile, the First Team have achieved their highest finishing position in the team's history, maintaining the triumphant momentum attained via last season's JCR Third Division title win. The squad now looks forward to Trinity term's 5-a-side Cuppers contest in which we hope to go one better than last year's runner-up finishing position



## **Men's Rugby, Charlie Pope**

This term has been another strong one for St Hilda's rugby. After narrowly missing out on a second league promotion, Hilda's have secured their place in Division 3 and will be looking to move on to even greater heights next season. In Cuppers we had an unfortunate first match but have gone on to beat a number of strong sides including a convincing win over Div 1 team Worcester. We are now in the semi finals of the bowl with high hopes of bringing home some silverware next term. The standard of rugby has improved over the team, with our signature flair providing some fantastic champagne rugby moments. In the AGM meeting, new captain Blake Lewis and vice captain Ross Digby Patel were elected and will lead the team to further success next season. The combined social sec duo of Ben Shelley and Josh Thomas promises to make next season a very social one indeed. All in all, a great term for Hilda's rugby and we look forward to defending our 7's Cuppers trophy next term

## **Men's Hockey, Nick Wood**

The St Hilda's Men's Hockey team has had another very successful term in both the league and cuppers. Having finished second in the league in Michaelmas on goal difference, we are currently top of division one this term with one game to go. We also managed to reach the furthest in cuppers than ever before. Wins against St Peter's, Teddy Hall and Lincoln left us facing a strong Worcester team in the final. After coming back from 3-0 down to draw 4-4, we missed out on the trophy on penalty flicks. To reach the final was a huge achievement and the standard of hockey at each stage of the competition was unbelievable. A huge thank you goes to all of the players for making this year so successful. We managed to reach the cuppers final, win 10 games in a row and will hopefully win the league at the beginning of next term.

