

cross in both services. Sadly, I do not have any record of the names of oarsmen who carried crosses.

THE NEW BOATHOUSE!

My records on this subject are silent, but my memory is clear (I think!). The new boathouse as I recall opened in the Michaelmas Term of my year. The move was a great shame for the club in many ways.

The old King's boathouse was the last boathouse of the original set, standing on the right of Downing and two away from Emmanuel, with Banhams boatyard to it's right. The three clubs had a degree of community spirit and John, the Emmanuel boatman and Claude Lester the King's boatman got on well. The Cambridge Scouts shared our boathouse keeping, I think, 2 boats there. Whilst the building was somewhat dilapidated through want of maintenance, the dilapidation was of that type which occurs in old, once fine buildings where quality of build is still evident. It was all ours and served the Club very well. Although the gas geyser which served the showers blew up from time to time, everything worked reasonably well and the needs of the Club were amply met.

The new boathouse was necessitated by the City deciding to put a bridge over the river and landing the bridge support on the boathouse site. I also suspect that the College made money on the deal and escaped the potential costs of refurbishing the old boathouse.

The new boathouse was always going to be a problem. It was designed cheaply as its present state stands testament to. It was designed by committee and the University Architecture Department. One of these approaches could have scuppered the project alone, but together? Despite having 20 or more boathouses to use as examples, the architects decided to improve the design of boathouses! When first built the hard was eighteen inches above the water - this solved the problem of the need for duckboards when the river is in spate - it also prevented the launching of boats at any other time! So, it had to be dug up and re-layed. The boat racks were originally set on 25 feet spacings so that the outer racks were 50 feet apart - ideal for an eight which is 60 feet long. However when we pointed out that boats are racked upside down and that the saxeboards are only about 45 feet long the racks had to be dug up and moved! The capacity required for boats was achieved more economically than building a bigger boathouse by buying racks whose top rack is so high off the floor that even tall crews need boxes to stand on - to the irritation of generations of users. The pumped effluent system used regularly to fail. Putting four clubs together and sharing Claude (plus A N Other of minimal ability) did nothing for the spirit of the place or for the standards of the boats, despite Claude's diligence and skill. The showers were never good and I see that they are not used now, so that crews go home smelly!

To the extent that I was a member of one of the committees and Presided over the opening, I apologise unreservedly to all oarsmen and women who have suffered there since. The advent of women was not envisaged at the time, but could and should have been.