

January 20, 1989

Dear President Cotter and Board of Trustees:

We, the members of the Colby College Rowing Association, do formally propose that the crew club be elevated to the status of a varsity team. We feel that we deserve this designation because of our tremendous commitment, which is demonstrated in various ways: 5:45 am practices that are well attended by team members, afternoon practices ending at dusk, long weekend trips to regattas in neighboring states, successful fund raising events, and a roster boasting sixty-three active rowers and coxswains.

Attached is additional information supporting our above request, which includes:

- A complete 1988 Fall roster
- A history of Colby Crew
- Information on Colby and other NESCAC teams
- 1988 accomplishments for Colby Crew
- Future Projections

The elevation of the Colby Rowing Association to varsity status will improve the quality of the Athletic Department by providing another opportunity for students with diverse interests and abilities to enrich themselves. Also, it will improve the prestige of the school because of the historic tradition associated with the sport.

We are willing to continue our fundraising efforts to meet the financial obligations of crew. However, due to the increased interest and participation in the sport we can no longer meet the team needs on our own.

We urge you to seriously consider our request and thank you for your attention. We look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

Karen S. Diver  
On behalf of the Colby  
College Rowing Association

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact:  
Karen Diver at (207) 872-3007 or David Kew at (207) 872-3052.

cc: Frank Fekete  
Stanley Nicholson  
Janice Seitzinger  
Richard Whitmore

## History of Colby Crew

Colby's rowing program was started in the Fall of 1983 by a handful of enthusiastic students. These students did the initial groundwork for the program, starting on-shore ergometer training practices and raising interest for the sport around the campus. After a generous donation of two Schoenbrod fours (shells) by an anonymous source, and the student funded purchase of eight oars, the program was under way. Arrangements were made to begin rowing on Great Pond and to store the shells on racks in the boatyard near the marina. There was no formal coach so the experienced rowers rowed with and coached the novices.

The following season a recent alumnus of the University of Massachusetts agreed to help out with coaching responsibilities, receiving a small stipend from the Student Activities Association, as well as contributions from students. Enthusiasm and dedication were high among rowers and the desire for competition soon led them to compete in the Head of the Connecticut regatta in Middletown, CT., as well as the Heads of the Merrimac, Charles and Snake regattas.

The crew team improved each week and each boat placed respectably in all events. The following season brought Colby's next coach, John Gemery, a recent graduate of Wesleyan University and a dedicated rower. He was able to devote large portions of his time to coaching and results continued to improve. The funding for regattas and equipment continued to come from student dues and parent contributions, and interest remained high.

Then the team was able to lease a launching site only four miles from campus on land owned by an Oakland resident who was also willing to let the team use his lakefront property for storage. Interest in the crew team doubled. The number of interested novices clearly outweighed the amount of coaching time and equipment available to meet this demand.

Two and sometimes three practices were held each day, and when Coach Gemery left the following Spring, students continued to coach themselves. In the Fall of 1987, Rob Brooks, a recent graduate of Harvard and captain of the lightweight eight, agreed to coach the team. He was able to continue the three-practice-a-day schedule and he brought valuable knowledge to the team.

Through continued fundraising (mainly the selling of t-shirts) money for a new Concept II ergometer was raised and, later, a new Schoenbrod heavyweight four was bought with money from students, parents, and contributions from the school. These two new pieces of equipment greatly improved the team workouts and allowed more people to be on the water at one time.

The Spring of '88 was a successful season for Colby Crew. In regular season competition Colby boats defeated Bowdoin, UVM, Notre Dame, and Bates' junior varsity boats. The team finished their season at the New England Championships, rowing against 21 colleges from all over the northeast. Colby boats placed in the middle of the field in most categories, and the lightweight women went to the finals. Earlier that Fall these women won the Head of the Snake, receiving Colby's first trophy which is on display in the fieldhouse.

Past victories at the Textile River Regatta, as well as the victory at the Snake and many fine performances in the past prove that Colby Crew is out to win and very serious about competing. The Head of the Charles, the largest rowing event in the U.S., draws over a quarter of a million spectators each year, including a large contingency from Colby. Being able to race and compete against crews from Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Navy, Penn, etc. is challenging and helps Colby to improve. We feel that it is commendable that we are able to perform respectably against such powerful competition.

Colby College

History: See attached

Land

Currently looking for launch site

Boathouse

None

Boats

3 Schoenbrod four man shells

Oars

8 Dreissigacker oars (1983)

4 Dreissigacker oars (1988) @ \$200 each

Dock

Wooden dock

Ergometers

1 Concept II (1984)

2 Concept II's (1988) @ \$635 each

Coaching

Fall 1988 season was totally student run. Currently looking for a part time coach for the Spring 1989 season.

Budget

\$4,650 this year (this is meant to cover all team expenses and equipment purchases)

## Bates College

History: Founded 1986. Began as an "interest group" - much like Colby. Donation of two old Colby shells purchased with Colby student money helped Bates crew to get started.

### Land

4 acres in Greene, Maine, valued at approximately \$20,000<sup>2</sup>

### Boathouse

Boathouse built 1988, valued at approximately \$20,000<sup>2</sup>

### Boats

- 1 Schoenbrod 8 man shell (1988) \$10,000<sup>3</sup>
- 1 Stamfl 8 man shell (1973) \$2,000<sup>3</sup>
- 1 Schoenbrod 4 man shell (1986) \$5,500<sup>3</sup>
- 1 Pocock 4 man shell (c. 1972) \$800<sup>1</sup>
- 1 Pocock 4 man shell (c. 1948) \$200<sup>2</sup>

### Oars

- 24 Dreissigacker @ \$200 each<sup>2</sup>
- 6 Pococks}
- 4 Alyungs} @ \$400 each<sup>1</sup>
- 3 Croakers}

### Dock

70' x 10' Olympic-style docking<sup>2</sup>

### Ergometers

- 5 Concept II's (1987) @ \$500 each<sup>2</sup>
- 1 Concept II (1986) @ \$400<sup>1</sup>

### Tools

Misc. wrenches, screwdrivers, etc. \$300<sup>1</sup>

### Trailer

- 1 Kashper boat trailer (1988)<sup>2</sup>

### Coxboxes

- 2 @ \$200 each<sup>2</sup>

### Coaching

Student run or strictly voluntary from interested citizens in the past. At the recent All Maine Rowers Banquet, they announced that they have found two coaches for their future seasons, salaries unknown.

### Budget

- \$750 this year (equipment not included). Fundraising brought it over \$2,500.
- Next year looking to go over \$10,000 in "boat drive."
- Fundraising, erg-a-thon, community service, are part of "boat drive."
- Solicitation of team parents allowed - compensates for small budgetary allotment.

Bates petition President Reynolds in the 1987-1988 season, asking for money to prevent bankruptcy of club. He helped them out.

**They now have an excellent program and row well at every regatta.**

<sup>1</sup> Paid for via fundraising, small donations, budget.

<sup>2</sup> Paid for via President Reynolds through general funds.

<sup>3</sup> Private donations

## Wesleyan University

History: Founded 1960's. Has been a varsity sport ever since.

### Boats

Men - Five 8-man shells}  
- Two 4-man shells} paid for by fundraisers  
Women - Three 8-man shells}  
- Two 4-man shells}

Priority given to 8-man shells in training. Allows for twice as many people on the water at once.

### Ergometers

10 Concept II's

### Boathouse

Funded by school

Currently being rebuilt to include locker rooms, showers and storage.

### Coaching

Men's coach - Phil Karney

Women's coach - Elizabeth Emery

Paid for by Athletic Department as well as alumni contributions

### Budget

Unavailable

## Connecticut College

History: Founded 1972. Has been a varsity sport ever since.

### Boats

8 Vespoli 8-man shells}  
4 Vespoli 4-man shells} school funded

### Oars

Complete set for each boat - school funded

### Boathouse

Boathouse and docks located at launch site

### Coaching

Two coaches for men's and women's teams.  
Salaries- \$20,000-\$30,000

### Budget

\$20,000-\$30,000 per year  
Completely school funded

## 1988 Accomplishments

Colby Crew was very successful this year, boasting twice as many members as last year, bring the roster to sixty-eight active team members. Boats of experienced and novice rowers raced at four United States Rowing Association sanctioned regattas this season, the Head of the Androscoggin, Textile River Regatta, Head of the Connecticut and the Head of the Charles.

Fundraising this Fall netted our team \$4,300. We sold Head of the Charles t-shirts and sponsored an erg-a-thon, where 46 rowers erged 812 miles. We are currently organizing two fundraising events for the spring which have projected earnings of \$1,500. The money from these fundraising events is designated to go toward building a boathouse as well as aiding in funding for a coach.

We have purchased two Concept II ergometers and four new oars with the money allotted in our budget.

We did not have a coach this season and were entirely student coached. This proved very trying on students' schedules. Paul Irgang served as our faculty advisor and was a tremendous help, volunteering his time to operate the chase boat and travel to regattas with the team.

Enthusiasm was again high this season and we expect the same amount of interested rowers to return for the Spring season.

At the All Maine Rowers Banquet this past fall at Bates College, President T. Hedley Reynolds established the President's Cup Award which will circulate among the best novice teams from Colby, Bates and Bowdoin, according to performance of novice crews throughout the season. President Reynolds asked each school to have a trustee be on the President's Cup Advisory Committee. Mr. Richard L. Abedon graciously accepted our request for someone to fill the position.

## Future Projections

The Colby lawyers are currently trying to acquire a parcel of land. The land was donated nineteen years ago by a Colby professor to the State of Maine, with a stipulation that it be used and maintained as public property or ownership shall shift to Colby. It has not been maintained and it appears that it may well be given to Colby. If we attain this land, the next step will be to build a boathouse (Bates built a boathouse in 1988 for approximately \$20,000). Fundraising by the team to help cover the cost of this boathouse has already begun.

Perhaps the most important addition to our team would be an experienced and knowledgeable coach. Although we have survived with student coaching, we are not professionals and are not able to spend as much time as is necessary to coach the team. We love the sport and want it to continue to grow at Colby. Because of this we feel a coach would be important to the team by giving the athletes the opportunity to concentrate on rowing.

In the near future, we would like to acquire a used eight man boat in order to get more rowers on the water to practice. This is important because of the rapid expansion of the team.

The members of the Colby Crew Team have always shown dedication and willingness to help raise funds to pay for equipment and expenses. We expect this tradition to continue but hope that the school, seeing this dedication and enthusiasm, will decide to increase its financial support.

## Acknowledgements

Headwriter

James F. Connolly, '89

History

Elisabeth Fowlie, '91 - Coordinator

Kendra Smith, '92

Phil Purcell, '87

Randy Catlin, '88

Arthur Nagle, '87

NESCAC Schools

Forsyth Kineon, '89 - Coordinator

David Kew, '90

Michael Rooney, '91

Lauren Patterson, '89

Future Projections

Karen Diver, '89 - Coordinator

Kristin Nixon, '92

David Crowe, '91