

## The Radley/Yardley Trophy

The oldest trophy we have at MAABC was first presented in 1902. It was presented to the winner of an eights race between Anglian Boat Club and Ibis Rowing Club.



The inscription reads

Inter - Club Challenge Bowl  
Anglian Boat Club v Ibis Rowing Club  
Presented by  
Messrs Radley and Yardley

We are not sure who Messrs Radley and Yardley were - but a J Yardley was captain of Ibis in 1872 so perhaps Radley was an Anglian man. Anglian had been running club regattas from their foundation in 1878 out of the Devonshire boathouse (Maynard's) up above where UL now stands, so they must have got into running an inter club challenge with Ibis at some stage. The bowl is a handsome and robust piece of work. Its dimensions are height (with plinth) 28 cms and width just under 28 cms.

Ibis won the 1902 race but then Anglian won 7 of the 8 races from 1903-1910. It was often a fairly even match and close racing - see for example this cutting from The Times of 1926, with Anglian usually winning, but enough leeway to make the contest interesting.

## ANGLIAN B.C. v. IBIS R.C.

The eight-oared race for the Radley-Yardley Challenge Cup between crews representing Anglian B.C. and Ibis R.C. was held over a course from the Anglian Boathouse at Strand-on-the-Green to the "Ship" at Mortlake. The cup, which is raced for annually and has been held by the Anglian B.C. since the 1923 race, was again retained for 12 months. The Anglian Eight, rowing in the Surrey station, led from the start and won a very keen race by three-quarters of a length.

The result was:—

SURREY STATION.—ANGLIAN B.C. (J. H. H. Sharpe (bow), E. L. Walker, C. K. Warren, H. G. Bodman, N. E. Clark, G. E. Taylor, H. M. Rudman, G. E. Johnson (stroke), and J. B. Freebairn Smith (cox.) 1

MIDDLESEX STATION.—IBIS R.C. (C. Geary (bow), F. E. Rayner, G. J. Gould, A. J. Lindley, S. C. Darby, R. E. Smith, W. W. Kelsey, C. S. Oakes (stroke), and C. E. Brown (cox.) 2

In more recent times, we used to fill it with beer when we won and then try to drink from the bowl. There is a trick to that. There is one place on the bowl rim where this is possible and you need to cover various gaps in the filigree silver work to either side with your finger tips - otherwise the beer pours out through the gaps and you get soaked in beer. Great fun.

Whichever club won, the bowl was kept in the Ibis (Prudential Assurance Co) vaults. We had nowhere to keep/display it securely. Just before Ibis were moved out of the boathouse by the Pru over 93/94, we had one last race with Ibis, involving all who could row and any boat, not just two eights. We won that final race, but the bowl stayed in the Pru's vaults for some years until it eventually emerged and may now be displayed, as it should be, in our MAA boathouse - which once housed Ibis.

Noel Durkin