



FITZWILLIAM COLLEGE BOAT CLUB

Easter 2017 Newsletter

Fitzwilliam College Boat Club, University of Cambridge.
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M1

Men's Captain: Jordan Chong **Cox:** Emily Young
Coaches: Alex Markham, Mike Taylor, Antony Moule & Josh Briegal

The return of Robbie Sewell from the University Lightweights Crew fuelled our confidence going into May Bumps this term. Unfortunately, that confidence was slightly shaken by reports that the crews around us were very quick, and certainly not helped by disjointed training as a result of exams and scheduling conflicts. Nevertheless, we remained hopeful going into the first day of May Bumps.



Finding out that the Hughes Hall crew behind us had four members of the Cambridge Blue Boat this year, we knew that it would be a mammoth task staying away from them. Despite this, we managed to get distance from the Hughes crew after they caught a big crab, while rapidly advancing on the Maggie M2 crew ahead. Sadly, we couldn't quite make up the distance and had to settle for a row over.

On day 2, a similar story ensued as we aimed to get the bump on Maggie M2 with Hughes Hall at our tails, looking for revenge from the day before. A solid row from our crew managed to bring us within 3 feet of their stern, but not enough to secure the bump.

For day 3, we started in front of a very quick Wolfson crew who had bumped Hughes the day before. Although we had a good start, we couldn't hold them off for the full length of the course and were bumped 500 metres from the finish.



course and were bumped 500 metres



On the last day, we knew we had another tough challenge with Homerton chasing us. Unfortunately they were just too quick and caught us coming onto the reach.

Down 2 for the week and a respectable bumps campaign overall. With most of the boat returning for next year, hopefully this should lead to a very successful 2017/18 season.

– Jordan Chong, Men's Captain

W1

Captain of Boats/Women's Captain: Helen Fishwick
Cox: Robert Machado **Coaches: Alan Marron,**
Antony Moule & Anna-Rosa Gejlsbjerg

When I became Captain after W1's success in Mays' last year, I was concerned that W1 had peaked. My challenge, therefore, would be to ensure we didn't lose our place in the first division this summer. Thanks to the incredible squad and supportive coaches I got to work with this year, I needn't have been worried.

For the first time in a while, there was seriously close competition for seats in the first boat, which led to some tough trial races. Although this led to some disappointment, it pushed each member of W1 to train harder and moved the crew forward as a whole. Nevertheless, we owe a lot to everyone who trained with us all year long; helping to form the final crew that went on to race bumps.



Huge credit must also go to the crew members themselves. Everyone has worked incredibly hard, both in the gym and on the water. Going into bumps, we hadn't done a single race and we'd had fewer outings as a full crew than there are fingers on my hand. But, luckily, we knew we were fast, having recorded the fastest splits during an outing that Alan's ever seen from a W1.

On the first day, we bumped Queens' at first post, getting our long-awaited revenge for the disappointing row-over at the end of last year – a great start to the week! This continued with straightforward bumps in roughly the same place every day on Magdalene, Jesus II and finally Pembroke. Although the racing wasn't particularly good for spectators, as we never made it past first post on any day, this term definitely epitomised Alan's favourite saying of 'train hard, race easy'.



Overall, it's been a fantastic year for everyone in W1 – from those with 3 blues to those who'd never sat in a boat until October – culminating in going up 4 in the first division. Having already risen 7 places in the previous two years, this makes us the highest place Fitz women's crew in history. I hope to see this trend continue next year, and to see everyone continuing to enjoy their rowing. – **Helen Fishwick, Women's Captain**

M2

Captain: Matt von Lany

Cox: Matt Hill

Coaches: Austin Tiffany, Gautham Venu, Alistair Hamilton & Matthew Bergin

Training began in earnest following a vacation of hunting ergs over chocolate eggs. A set crew from the beginning brought the continuity required for rapid improvement. Early mornings also became more enjoyable with the warmer weather and brighter starts. Was this too good to be true for M2...?



Although we had all at least once believed that “rowing equals life”, most of us found ourselves torn between rowing and passing our exams during Easter term. The initial golden weeks of training ended abruptly, as we began to rely heavily on subs to fill the seats of those facing the wrath of Tripos. A massive thank you to all those who subbed, especially to Sergio and Rob, for often stepping in at short notice.



Even with our sights set on May Bumps, following the grand achievement of Spoons in Lents, M2 had a rather limited idea of what bumps actually involves. Had we done enough training to avoid repeating history?

A strong team effort led to rowing over on Wednesday. The length of the full bumps course came as a shock to all, including our cox who wasn't exactly sure where the finish was! With the possibility of spoons shattered, the only way was up! Thursday proved a tough battle, and a strong Queens crew could not be stopped despite a committed row. Friday had us sandwiched between Queens and Jesus M3 who bumped us in Lents. A masterful line around Grassy by our Matt Hill forced wayward steering by Jesus, allowing us to reopen the gap to get the row over whilst their bow side untangled from the nettles.

We had one aim on Saturday and that was to bump. From the start, the Churchill crew ahead found it tough holding off the mighty M2. Power 10s (20s, and 30s) closed us in to a solid bump as we found an unbeatable rhythm on the reach. M2 did it! A completely novice crew and cox who had never sat in an eight, eight months ago, bumped.

In summary, -4 in Lents, 0 in Mays - I'll let you extrapolate our performance for next year! – **Matt Von Lany, M2 Captain**



W2

Captains: Ilona Szabo & Lizzie Knight **Coxes:** Lizzie Knight, Tom Franks-Moore & Gautham Venu
Coaches: Mike Parrott & Hilary Wong



W2 this term started off very strong with each member of the crew striving to improve. With 9 rowers and only 8 seats, there was a lot of rotation between seats. Our training was looking very positive despite not having a permanent cox with a mixture of Gautham, TFM and Lizzie, but we still managed to have our outings to prepare for bumps. Even during exams, we kept up the training by substituting outings for ergs. We were coached this term

by Mike and Hilary who were amazing at giving advice, pushing and inspiring the crew to be better each outing.



Going into bumps week W2 was feeling positive as a strong and together crew. However, the odds were against us. We started ahead of some extremely fast crews, which resulted in us getting bumped early each day. Despite this, W2 remained positive and managed to hold off each crew for a little longer each day, improving throughout the week and ending with a very strong row. Although W2 may have gotten spoons, the progress made throughout the term was amazing and we would like to thank everyone who had a role in helping us improve throughout Mays. – **Lizzie Knight & Ilona Szabo, W2 Captains**

“We’ll Get a Bump From This Crew”

(Adapted from and to the melody of “I’ll make a man out of you” originally by Matthew Wilder & David Zippel)

Let's get down to business to defeat [crew ahead]
Did they send me students when I asked for rowers?
You're the saddest bunch I ever met
But you can bet before we're through
Somehow, we'll get a bump from this crew
Tranquil as a forest but on fire within
Once you find your center, you are sure to win
You're a spineless, pale, pathetic lot
And you haven't got a clue
Somehow we'll get a bump from this crew
(Get the bump) You must be swift as a coursing river
(Get the bump) With all the force of a great typhoon
(Get the bump) With all the strength of a raging fire
Mysterious as the dark side of the moon
Time is racing toward us till [crew behind] arrives
Heed the cox's order and you might survive
You're unsuited for the rage of bumps
So pack up, go home you're through
How could we get a bump from this crew?

M3

Captain: Gautham Venu

Cox: Jessica Halliday

Coaches: Matthew Bergin & Jessica Halliday

"We chose to row M3. We chose to row M3 in this bumps, and not row for other boats, not because it was hard, but because it was easy."

Our story began with a simple question - "Why does bumps have to be so hard?"

Exhausting ergs, miserable mornings, rowing in the rain. Does it have to be this way?

Do you really need to train?

On 26th March 2017, Team M3M3 was born, with a view to finally answering this question. The goal was simple - assemble a dream team of Fitzwilliam's finest (former/novice) rowers, coxes, and Ross; and row bumps with no ergs, no early starts, no exasperation.



Through our ~~three~~ MANY training sessions, most of the crew slowly began to rediscover their form. [The more novice members of the crew were unfortunately also distracted by the form of passing women's VIII's.] By the end of our rigorous training regime, guided by our coaches and paragons of patience Matt Bergin and Jess Halliday, we headed confidently into the getting on race.



Unfortunately, despite SEVERAL training sessions, and with two ringers, W1 rower Alisha Levermore and University Lightweight [cox] Juliet Armstrong, Team M3M3 failed to qualify; unable to overcome such titans of the river as Christ's M4, Emmanuel M5, and Clare M6. Nevertheless, it was by far our finest row, with only 2 crabs and one incidence of a seat falling off.

Thus the story ends. M3 were not able to row bumps, but we were able to definitively answer the question, "Do you really need to train?" **Yes. Yes you do.**

RIP Team M3M3 2017-2017. 'Gone, and hopefully forgotten.'

– **Gautham Venu, M3 Captain**

Full Crew List

Cox - Jess Halliday [Fitz W1]

S - Gautham Venu [Fitz W2 Cox]

7 - Ross Hunter [ARU M1]

6 - Austin Tiffany [Former Fitz M1/M2]

5 - Zach Brubert [Former Fitz NM2]

4 - Saeed Kayhanian [Former Fitz NM2]

3 - Alisha Levermore [Fitz W1]

2 - Juliet Armstrong [Lightweight Cox]

1 - Rob Machado [Fitz W1 Cox]



Town Bumps – July 2017



This July, for the second time, the Fitz 'Old Farts' competed in Town Bumps. This Billygoats' crew, with illustrious Head Coach, Tony Moule, at bow, ages ranging from 23-70, manned the Ray Kelly and took to the Cam after one practice outing. Starting at the 12th station of Div2, we got off to a dramatic start, getting bumped on First Post reach by Mike Taylor's Nine's crew! But not to worry, after a quick crew shuffle, we rowed over on Day 2, and bumped a truly abysmal Champs crew on Day 3. Day 4 saw all our suspicions confirmed, that with a week's more practice we would have presented a crew so formidable as to strike fear into the hearts of surrounding boats; finishing the week with a fantastic row over. Special mention to our injured leader Robert 'CommoDoe' Doe for organising us. We'll be back again next year! – Samantha Tarling

Gallery



Acknowledgements

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