

# Fitzwilliam College Boat Club

## Michaelmas 2015



# Fitzwilliam College Men's 2nd Mays Boat

## Coaches

### • 2015 •

M.R.TAYLOR Bow, M.A.ELMS, ...11.3  
 A.J.HAMILTON 2 W.M.MARKS...11.3  
 W.R.DOE 3 J.L.MASTERS...15.10  
 A.E.B.MOULE 4 A.D.BUNCE...16.1

5. R.J.HUNTER.....12.8  
 6. A.M.E-S.ALI.....18.8  
 7. T.D.FRANKS-MOORE.10.3  
 Str. M.J.McAULEY.....12.4

Cox. H.R.HOLMES

Bumped: CLARE III • KINGS II • JESUS III • CLARE HALL I • GIRTON II •

Fitzwilliam College Boat Club, Fitzwilliam College, University of Cambridge. Find us online at [www.fitzbc.com](http://www.fitzbc.com) and on Facebook.



# Fitzwilliam College Boat Club

## Michaelmas Term 2015

Dear Billygoats,

Here is our late Christmas present; the Michaelmas Term FCBC Newsletter. It's a bumper issue, with reports from 6 Novice Vllls and the 2 senior squads, plus an account of our first ever, highly successful, Christmas Pudding Races. It has been a remarkable term in many ways for the club, so I'm sure that you'll find it an interesting read!

- Ross Hunter

FCBC Alumni & Publicity Officer 2015-16

### W1 Coached by Alan Marron, Mike Parrott & Anthony Moule

W1 did not let the fact that almost everyone had left the women's side dishearten us, and our 3 rowers and cox had a fantastic term of rowing. We started out by learning to scull, and in Cantabs Winter Head we raced in the quad (with Hannah from NW1) and won our category. A few weeks later, Andrea and I sculled at Bedford Star Head and didn't win, but it gave us so much more sculling confidence, and it was so much fun!!

The grand finale of the term, however, was Fairbairn's. With Mike Parrott's housemate, Bailee, in our 3rd ever outing together as a crew, we won the invitational IV+ division, also beating the fastest college IV+ by 25 seconds. Despite our small number, our commitment paid off, and I couldn't be more proud of the crew!

- Alice Hobson, FCBC Women's Captain & W1



### M1 Coached by Anthony Moule, Mike Taylor & Robert Doe

Before we started we knew it wasn't going to be easy having lost seven out of eight rowers from the Mays M1 and now having a crew with only two rowers that weren't novices at this stage last year. As well as this over half the boat had a commitment with a novice crew, either coaching or coxing one. It would be a lie then to say it's all been plain sailing because there have been frustrating moments over the last term. However, it has been a term of big improvements and a great chance for rebuilding and learning. In the Winter Head we placed 7th in our category and 14th overall out of around 250 boats with a time that was only a couple of seconds slower than last year. In Fairbairn's, the crew came together to produce a solid and determined performance to place 17th, and the 13th fastest college crew, with only four seconds separating us and the four boats in front. Considering the relative inexperience of the crew at the start of the term this was a fantastic result, especially as our GPS data proved the speed didn't drop off at all through the race. Thanks to our coaches as always, and it looks to be a great Lent term with the success of novices this term.



- Will Marks, Captain of Boats & M1 6-seat



# NM1 *Coached by Anna Rosa Gejlsbjerg*

Winners of Clare Novices and Fairbairn's, it is safe to say that NM1 had one of the most successful terms than any Fitz crew has had.

At the Cantabs Winter Head, their first experience of racing, NM1 were set off behind a very slow moving First and Third crew, who could not move over when caught, resulting in a big collision. But, an 11<sup>th</sup> place finish in a division of mostly senior crews was very respectable. At the first event solely for novices, Emma Sprints, they eased over Emma in round 1 but fell to Christs in the second round. This would not dishearten them though, and at Clare Novices they were ready to prove themselves. Again, it was Emma in their first round, and again it was an easy victory. A powerful start led to a victory by a



length against the unknown Caius. LMBC went down by a length, St Edmunds by a length in the semi-finals which led to the awaited final with First and Third, winners of Emma Sprints. Another fast start by Fitz, and some clean rowing led to a lead, which they never let go.

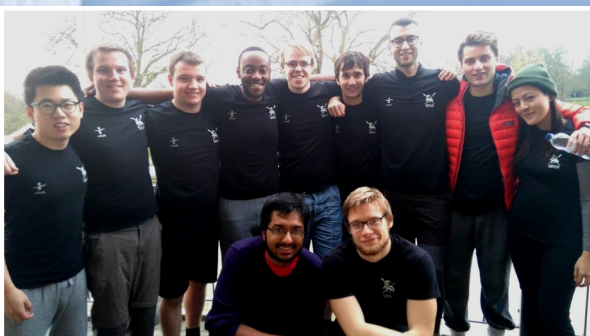
The final race of the season was Fairbairn's, in which they would try and consolidate their claim as the fastest NM1 on the river. The Fitz crew crossed the line in a time of 9:55. Victors again, with First and Third second in a time of 10:00. Thanks go to all the subs from NM2 and NM3 who we had to use in various outings and races, and our coach Anna-Rosa for coaching the fastest novice boat on the river.

# NW1 *Coached by Josh Briegal & Andrea Stefkova*

NW1 had a fantastic term, with 8 keen and sporty girls being selected for the first novice boat, plus Tom Franks-Moore (a rower-turned-cox) bringing valuable experience. Within 3 outings the boat was rowing all eight and we kept improving from there, beating all college crews in Winter Head in our first race (ever) and coming narrowly second to a UCL boat. We carried this momentum into Emma Sprints, beating crews who had been much stronger in Queens' Ergs (where we got through the final 14 with a notable performance from stroke, Melody Swiers). We were overall winners in Emma Sprints. 2nd in Clare Novices and 7th in Fairbairn's were both fantastic results for FCBC women and for a fantastic boat of novice oarswomen. The senior squad will hugely benefit from the upcoming talent come the Lent and May Bumps.



# NM2 *Coached by Ross Hunter & Gautham Venu*



Looking to create a history of successful NM2 crews for Fitzwilliam, this year's talent turned hard work into good progress in the first few weeks. A week was lost to yellow flags coming into Emma Sprints, and our inexperience told as we lost out in the Quarter Finals. Mirroring the NM2 before them who were also knocked out at this stage, they entered Clare Novices as a wounded animal, with a point to prove. With the Captain of Boats and then one of their coaches stepping in to cox, NM2 breezed aside all challengers in the first 3 rounds by at least three lengths each with a consistently composed and – more importantly – consistently fast start. A confident Sidney Sussex crew awaited in the final, and in one of the most

exciting and dramatic races I have ever been a part of, it was Fitz NM2 who took home the Clare Novices Men's Plate for the second year running. Confidence was high for Fairbairn's; and a great race for the crew and their novice cox Happy Cordon saw them again as one of the fastest NM2 crews on the river.

We as coaches thoroughly enjoyed the fantastic opportunity to coach a great novice crew; one that saw all their hard work pay dividends. They came, they rowed, they enjoyed, taking home some silverware in the process too. Special mention has to go to David Bulger for subbing in multiple times and all the other subs who helped out, in the cox seat too. Also thanks to Tom's lucky tights, but the important thanks from me go to the whole crew for really sticking with us to the end.



## NW2 *Coached by Jordan Chong*

NW2's motto for the term was 'Row well, and win'. This aim was almost achieved in the term with two heart-breaking second place finishes at Emma sprints and Clare Novices, and a third place finish at Fairbairn's.

At Emma Sprints, we eased through our first race against Hughes Hall/Lucy Cavendish NW2, along with some clever, also very illegal steering from our cox, Helen Fishwick. Wolfson and Magdalene NW2s soon followed and we were in the final against Christ's NM3, which had 6 men and 2 women in the boat. After a hard fought battle, we lost out to the controversial male boat in the final.

After the heroic run up to the final the previous weekend, the whole crew was raring to go one further at Clare Novices. Downing B, Clare B and Pembroke B fell and yet again, we were in the final against Lady Margaret B. Another eventful race, but they were the stronger crew and came out victorious by a length. Fairbairn's was our last chance to finally get the deserved win. It was the best race of the season, but unfortunately, it was only a third place finish, losing out to Magdalene and Jesus. I'd like to thank the whole crew for continuously turning up on Wednesday and Thursday mornings, with the former always seeming to be raining, all of the subs, Lizzie Knight, and Isa Bonachera, and Tom Franks-Moore for subbing into the cox seat.



## NM3 *Coached by Austin Tiffany, Peter Gurry & David Wells*

NM3 had a really great term of rowing in Michaelmas. Throughout the term, the boat consistently overcame wacky weather, injuries and sicknesses and developed into some excellent rowers. The term began with Queen's Ergs, where the boat beat a lot of NM3 crews and even a good number of NM2 crews! Led by our formidable cox, "Grautham", the boys gave a gutsy row in Clare Novices but sadly fell short in their early morning race. All wasn't lost, as Fitz NM2 went on to win the division (they're just lucky they didn't have to go up against us). The term ended with a spectacular row in Fairbairn's, and the progress made throughout the term was on full display. Once again, NM3 beat a number of good second and third boats in their division. Well done, boys!



## NW3 *Coached by Rhiannon Philps*



NW3 had a disrupted term, with crew changes virtually every week, which were only finalised in week 6. They were very keen however and turned up to extra erg sessions (which they seemed to enjoy!). This worked to our advantage for Queen's Ergs as some fantastic performances meant we came 7th in the W2 division, beating many strong NW2 crews. This great potential was not fully realised on the water however as lack of outings meant they didn't get sufficient time to row together as a crew before Fairbairn's. A particular high/low of the term was getting caught in a tree and being stuck on the river for seemingly hours! Despite Fairbairn's not being the smoothest race, with multiple crabs and restarts,

there was some good, solid rowing, which showed the crew's potential if they'd had more time. Many are keen to continue rowing meaning the women's side will have fantastic strength and depth which promises success!



# The "Christmas Pudding" Races

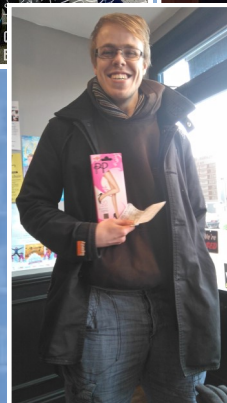
On Saturday 6th December 2015, as part of the Michaelmas Boat Club Dinner celebrations, the Boat Club hosted the very first edition of the annual Fitzwilliam College Boat Club Christmas Pudding Races. A scratch-eight knockout regatta on the long reach, this event was open to all alumni, seniors and novices. Despite some of the worst weather of the term, I am glad to say the event was a huge success, with 4 eights on an otherwise empty river, featuring crews of all ages and experience. It brought together old friends and new friends, Olympic champions alongside rowers of only several weeks, and was a beautiful celebration of the Boat Club past and present. A massive thanks go to Robert Doe as the person who gave the most to make sure the races would come to fruition. We hope the event will expand in the future to include more Billygoats and more current rowers, so make sure you don't miss out next year!

With everyone out on the river, not many photos were taken of the actual rowing. But here are a selection from before and after in between copious amounts of mince pies and - as you might expect - Christmas Pudding!



## Novices Gallery

They say a picture tells a thousand words...



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