

Fitzwilliam College

Boat Club

Lent 2016



Fitzwilliam College Boat Club, Fitzwilliam College, University of Cambridge. Find us online at www.fitzbc.com and on Facebook.

Fitzwilliam College Boat Club

Lent Term 2016

Dear Billygoats,

Yet again we have a packed newsletter in store from another eventful term at FCBC, including the Lent Bumps and reports on both the Women's and Men's Head of the River Races. This should be the editor's final issue; it has been a privilege to write these newsletters for you. I hope you have enjoyed reading them!

- Ross Hunter

FCBC Alumni & Publicity Officer 2015-16 & M1 4-seat

W1 Coached by Alan Marron, Mike Parrott & Anthony Moule

The fact that W1's first bumps race was also our second outing as a full crew in a month is testament to quite how many issues we faced this term. Five of us, at various points, were too ill or injured to row. Despite this, we have had a really successful term. This was down to the crew's fantastic commitment and positivity, the brilliant coaching we received from Alan, Antony and Mike, and the wonderful subs who ensured that we could still have outings! The thing that made Captaining W1 so rewarding this term was the boat's endless drive for improvement. We started in January with the City Head-to-Head Race, the first senior race for the three ex-novices, and finished as the 18th Cambridge college. There was no misery or anger at this result, we just thought about what we needed to improve on, and we did it. By the time we got to Bedford (how else would you want to spend Valentine's Day?!) we had come a long way, and placed second in both of our divisions (IM2 and IM3) and were the 4th fastest women's boat at the race.

By the third day of the Lent Bumps, however, we were feeling frustrated. We had had three row overs, which certainly wasn't bad, but we were hugely determined to make our last day our best day and bump Selwyn. Jesus II were chasing us, and despite coming five places above us in the Head-to-Head only a month before, they only managed one whistle on us before Selwyn conceded.

Our final race, however, was our best. All of that hard work and determination (and all of those row overs...) led to our fantastic performance at the Women's Head of the River Race. We placed 94th out of around 300 boats, with a time of 21:38.6, beating three quarters of the Cambridge crews entered. It was the first time since at least 1995 that a Fitz crew has placed in the top 100.

This term has therefore been hard work, but W1 did not shy away from hard work. We pushed ourselves to improve, and this was clear from the results we came away with in each successive race. Well done ladies and Rob!

- Alice Hobson, FCBC Women's Captain & W1 6-seat





Photo of the whole boat club, including coaches, coxes, rowers and Billygoats, present after the Lent Term Boat Club Dinner in the college Hall on Saturday 27th February.

M1 *Coached by Anthony Moule & Mike Taylor*

It's been a term of mixed emotions for M1, both having come so far as a crew, but then not quite getting the results we deserved in bumps. We started off with Newnham Short Course in February, where we placed firmly within the pack, with only 8 seconds between us and the winners. Pembroke Regatta was less kind to us, losing in the first round to the eventual winners, LMBC. Finally, with two M2 subs it was onto Bedford, where two solid races under our belt finalised our preparation for bumps.

It was the first time I had gone into bumps without a clue of what might happen. Despite being cast as the underrated underdogs on the river going into bumps, M1 had a strong week, even if the results perhaps don't reflect the full story. Day 1 saw us row over ahead of Clare, grabbing two whistles before Catz bumped out ahead. Some excellent coxing from Sammi avoided a clash (given how close we were to bumping Catz when they bumped out) and we showed we were firmly at the party. Day 2 was perhaps the most controversial and emotionally challenging race for us all in our bumps career. Despite overtaking Girton on the reach and pulling away from a fast Churchill crew, it was claimed by an umpire that we were bumped before we had bumped Girton. Video footage of the race left us convinced that Churchill – although coming close – never actually bumped us (a true 'Hand of God' situation). Sadly we couldn't repeat what we did on the first day, as Day 3 saw us bumped by Clare. By this point the faster crews were on the way up, but Day 4 saw us push off of Trinity Hall and prevent them from bumping us until halfway down the reach in an incredibly determined row.

Having gone up 5 places last Lents, we knew it would be a tough challenge this year. A different decision on the second day and we'd have had a very different week. Indeed, we were faster than the Catz and Girton crews ahead, but it's just the luck of bumps that we had faster ones behind. We've come an incredibly long way as a crew this term and we'll be back even stronger in Mays, having learnt lessons and matured in our rowing as a result.

- Will Marks, FCBC Captain of Boats & M1 2-seat



M2 Coached by Anna Rosa Gejlsbjerg, Matt Bergin & Robert Doe

M2 had an excellent term of rowing. There were six novices in the boat, bringing both the enthusiasm from a very successful novice term and challenges adjusting to senior rowing. Due to a slightly later start and annoyingly consistent yellow flags we decided to focus our outings on bumps, forgoing the races throughout the term in favour of long, technical outings. Day by day, outing by outing, the crew began to gel and the rowing improved dramatically. When bumps came around, we found ourselves in Division III but an unexpected few days followed. The first day we bumped Wolfson II shortly after the motorway bridge, a great first experience for everyone in the boat! The next day we chased Robinson II and closed in on them multiple times. Credit to Robinson, they made us produce a gutsy row over. At the doctor's orders, our stroke was unable to finish the last two days of bumps. With a last minute shuffle of the crew order and adjusting to a new stroke, we were sadly bumped the next day, but not because of a lack of motivation or effort. The final day brought another man down with illness and yet another man in the stroke seat, but the crew was determined to end bumps on a good note. Chasing Darwin II after a bizarre re-row, we kept pressure on the boat in front of us the entire race, ultimately rowing over after a very solid performance by both boats. All in all, it was a very fun term that saw our crew take great strides and prove our resilience. We now enter the break with our eyes set on May bumps!

- Austin Tiffany, FCBC Men's Vice Captain & M2 Stroke-seat

W2 Coached by Hilary Wong & Rhiannon Philps

W2, being entirely made up of people who had only started rowing the previous term, made a fantastic transition from novice into senior rowing. Everyone committed in every outing and the improvements from the beginning of term to the end were really quite remarkable! Despite not having a permanent cox, the crew bonded really well and their enthusiasm made it a pleasure for those who did volunteer to cox and coach. The Getting on Race was their first and only race of term, and they knew it would be tough to get through to Bumps itself. Although they had a last minute sub panic, they rowed the best they had done all term and put out a really solid performance. Although they ended up a few boats away from getting on to Bumps (primarily because of the fewer divisions for women...), they couldn't have done any more and the improvements they made promises good things for next term!

- Rhiannon Philps, FCBC Women's Vice Captain & W1 Stroke-seat



Head of the River Races

This year both the men's and women's first boats competed in their respective Head of the River races, with WeHARR taking place first, on Saturday 5th March. W1, as you may remember from earlier, placed an amazing 94th, with a time of 21:38.6.

M1 took on the tideway two weeks later, coming 199th out of around 400 with a good time of 20:18.4, well amongst the crews around them in bumps. You will soon be able to find photos and videos from the day at fitzbc.com.

Gallery

