



FITZWILLIAM COLLEGE BOAT CLUB

Lent 2017 Newsletter

Fitzwilliam College Boat Club, Fitzwilliam College, University of Cambridge.

Find us online at www.fitzbc.com and follow us on Facebook.

All reports written by respective crew captains and edited by the Alumni & Publicity Officer.

M1

Men's Captain: Jordan Chong

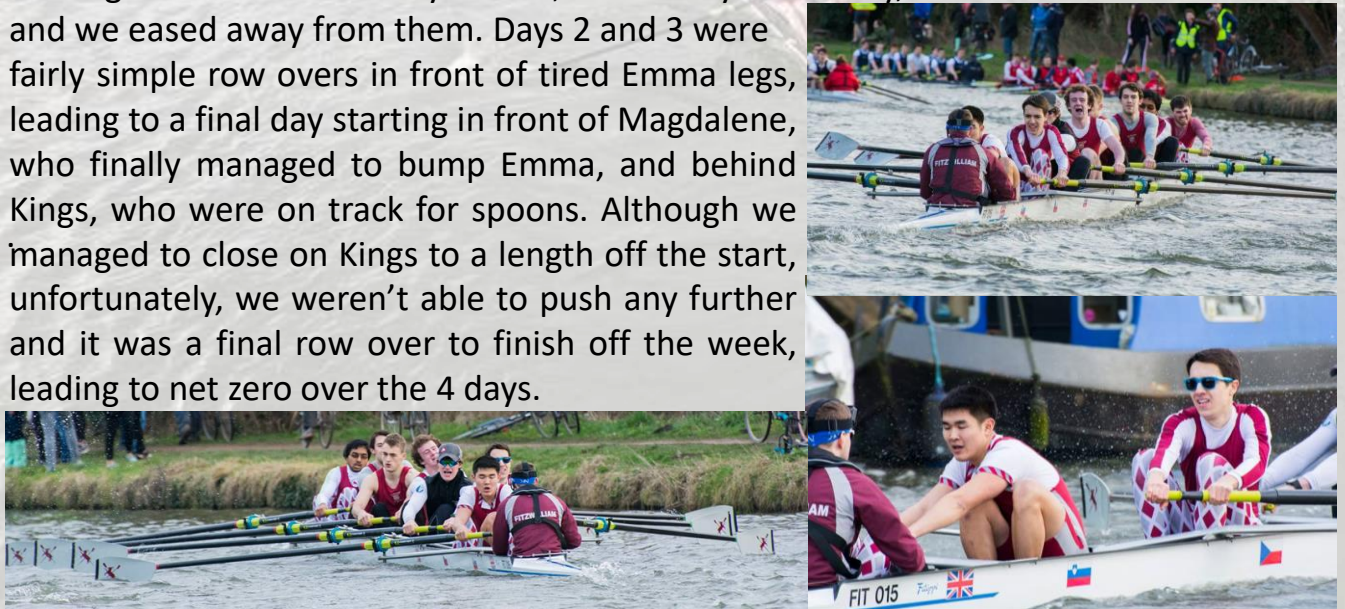
Cox: Thomas Franks-Moore

Coaches: Mike Taylor, Antony Moule & Josh Briegal

With only 6 seniors returning from last term, and Robbie Sewell having left us permanently for the lightweights, a couple of our novices had to step up straight into our senior first boat. With a very short term, our two novices did extremely well to adjust to senior rowing and slotted right in.



Obviously the main focus of the term was Lent Bumps and we knew that we had to put in a strong performance on the first day to stay away from the very fast Emma crew behind us who had beaten us by over a length two weeks before at Pembroke Regatta. Having already had to row over that day, Emma came flying off the start and got one, then two and three whistles on us through the Gut. However, we did not give in, holding them around Grassy corner; and slowly but surely, three whistles became two and we eased away from them. Days 2 and 3 were fairly simple row overs in front of tired Emma legs, leading to a final day starting in front of Magdalene, who finally managed to bump Emma, and behind Kings, who were on track for spoons. Although we managed to close on Kings to a length off the start, unfortunately, we weren't able to push any further and it was a final row over to finish off the week, leading to net zero over the 4 days.



Training did not stop there though, and we were hoping to end the season on a high at the Head of the River Race. Unfortunately, the race was cancelled the day before and we did not get the chance to race. Overall, a very respectable term, and with many seniors returning for the final term, hopefully the senior men can have a successful May Bumps campaign!

W1

Captain of Boats: Helen Fishwick

Cox: Robert Machado

Coaches: Antony Moule & Alan Marron



Both the 1st and 2nd boats on the Women's side began the term with a mixture of experienced seniors and enthusiastic ex-novices, and keenly took on the challenge of producing coherent crews by Lent Bumps.

W1 entered Bedford Head as their first race of the term, but had a disappointing result, finishing a long time behind Kings I, who we were due to chase in bumps; and Jesus II, who would be chasing us. With two weeks left until bumps, every member of the crew continued to push themselves through the rigorous training schedule in an attempt to make up as much speed as possible in the remaining time.



Come the first day of bumps, we were able follow Kings closely for the whole bumps race, not quite catching them, but rowing over closely behind. Meanwhile, Jesus II were hardly a threat from behind at all. Come the third day, we were able to bump Magdalene in a straightforward chase lasting only until grassy. On the last day, Homerton posed slightly more of a challenge, but we stuck to our plan and managed to catch them at the start of the Long Reach. Overall, an enormous amount of progress was made in a very short space of time, and I think we surprised both the crews around us, and ourselves, with the speed we were eventually able to produce. The term ended with an enjoyable day at the Women's Head of the River. The conditions were much more pleasant than has been the tendency in recent years, and we had a spirited row, beating quite a few of the other Cambridge Colleges who had entered.





With many novices staying on to row after Michaelmas, the start of Lent term involved juggling between the 14 men still clutching onto the Fresher's Week promises of what rowing delivers. Continually rotating the crew meant there wasn't the continuity required to make real progress, despite the best efforts of our extensive coaching team consisting of Austin, Gautham, Joao, and Matt Bergin.

Moreover, finding a lean, mean and most importantly keen cox was halting progress. The outlook was bleak...but then we found Matt Hill. He may have tried to give up coxing after Michaelmas, but as we all know too well, rowing doesn't let you do that!



It has been said Bumps is all about catching, and for M2 this was certainly true; sadly this wasn't with regards to catching the boat in front, but a certain crustacean that lurks in the murky Cam. Bumps flew past in a blur of canons, shouting, the odd whistle and long rows home. Even armed with Joao's metaphors inspiring us to 'make it look good,' we couldn't escape the unavoidable and our campaign ended with wooden spoons...but hey, as a wise individual once pointed out, spoons are much easier than blades to transport home!



Joking aside, for a crew who all but one, were novices the previous term, M2 have a vast amount to be proud of. The progress achieved throughout Lent term bodes well going into Easter. Moving forward, a lethal combination of sessions set by Max 'land training' Burrows policed by Zhe 'the enforcer' Wang's late fines, should keep the crew focussed and well grounded. Lent is just the beginning...



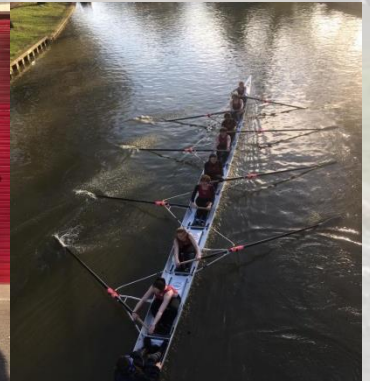
W2

Captains: Ilona Szabo & Lizzie Knight
Cox: Emily Young
Coaches: Mike Parrott & Hilary Wong

Fitz W2 started out the term with a solid training plan and a crew of surprisingly keen rowers. With only a handful of returning seniors and many ex-novices, we strived to create a fun and friendly training atmosphere to bring some team spirit to the crew.



We've been coached this term by Mike Parrott and Hilary Wong, though we should also say a big thanks to Hilary for subbing in whenever we asked! Cox Emily Young has made some big improvements this term, with some excellent steering and unforgettable calls.



Our main focus of this term was the Bumps Getting On race, as Fitz W2 haven't had a permanent starting position in Lent Bumps for several years. After a good start, we had a very spirited race and hopefully exceeded a lot of people's expectations; I was particularly proud of the final push the girls put in just before the Railway Bridge. Sadly we were 8 seconds short of qualifying for bumps, but we took advantage of the empty river that week and were able to put in some valuable training in preparation for Easter Term! With what looks to be an even stronger crew next term, we're already looking forward to the challenge of qualifying for Mays.



Light Blues at Fitz

We also congratulate our Blues (university-level) rowers from Fitzwilliam College who all enjoyed a successful term with fantastic victories at The Women's Boat Race 2017 and Henley Boat Races 2017 .



Ashton Brown (2nd Year PhD in Education) returned as CUWBC President and her third Boat Race this year, leading the Light Blues to their first victory on the Tideway in the record time of 18:34, dominating the race from beginning to end. She was also in the CUWBC crew that won the University division and came 2nd overall in the Women's Head of River Race 2017 in the time of 18:17. Here's the boat race report: <http://theboatraces.org/news-article/316/the-2017-cancer-research-uk-womens-boat-race-report>

Robbie Sewell (1st Year in Engineering) (Right in picture) won his first race for Cambridge in the Lightweights Men's VIII Crew at the Henley Boat Races, as the only lightweight to be taller than 2 metres! Check out the full race report: <http://www.culrc.org.uk/?p=559>



Melody Swiers (2nd Year in VetMed) (Left in picture) who noviced at Fitz last year won in the Women's Lightweights Reserves' race at Henley "easily". Read the race report here: <http://henleyboatraces.com/article/35/henley-boat-races-2017-racereport>



Cambridge won all 5 womens' races this year under Ashton's tenure as CUWBC president. "The last time Cambridge women won all three eights (Blue Boat, Blondie and Lightweight) was back in 1997, when Fitzwilliam alumna Sarah Winckless MBE (NatSci 1993) was President." (<http://www.fitz.cam.ac.uk/news/fitz-rower-leads-cambridge-victory>)

Fitz alumna & Olympic medallist **Sarah Winckless** (Right in picture next to Ashton) also umpired the Women's Boat Race this year.