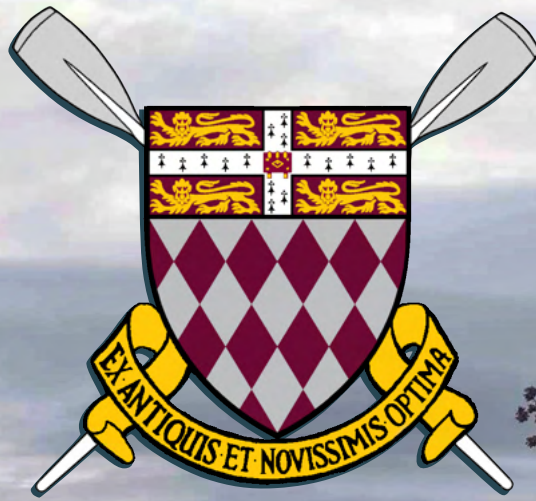




Fitzwilliam College Boat Club

Michaelmas 2022 Newsletter

Seniors



M1

As no one from last Mays first boat came back to row for Fitz this term, the men's and non-binary side faced a difficult challenge: rebuilding a competitive first boat with guys who had never rowed before arriving in Cambridge.

Fortunately, the squad showed great enthusiasm from the start of the term! Two weeks in, they were one of the three college first eights at the startline of Autumn Head together with Peterhouse and First and Third. Fitz M1 came third in their division, but racing this early in the term in adverse weather conditions helped them build the strong team spirit they needed to power through the next 7 weeks of training.

After many cold outings, long ergs and tough weights sessions, the crew really came together at Winter Head. They placed 10th out of 20, which was within 25 seconds of the podium and 10 seconds of Pembroke, Downing and Jesus M1. The crew then improved on this performance two weeks later at Fairbairns where they were the 8th college first boat, which is 6 places higher than last year and only the second top 10 finish in the last 20 years.



Overall, the crew and the coaches have overcome the lack of experience and built a solid unit that is now among the top 10 first boats on the river and shows great potential for the coming bumps campaigns!

Captains: Octave Oliviers, Mans Holmberg

Coaches: Tony Moule, David Gubb

Coxes: Pok-Man Ho, Emily Parry

M2

Coaches: Tony Moule,
David Gubb, Alex Markham

Coxes: Elizabeth Torley,
Ellie Wilding

The term started with a renewed M2 crew, welcoming a few new rowers with previous experience from outside Cambridge. The first weeks of training focused on unifying the team and building a stable platform.



The crew showed persistence during the cold early mornings, and when it was time for Winter Head - all this hard work paid off. They came 8th, beating Christ's M2 and several others, finishing only a few seconds after King's and First and Third.

After a successful race, M2 started preparing for Fairbairns. They endured numerous hard erg sessions together as many of their outings got cancelled due to a yellow flag, an opportunity they took to focus on both power and technique. When it was time for the final race, the crew was ready. In the end, they finished 11th in the Fairbairns M2 division, highlighting their success.





W1

Captains: Emily Parry, Shannon White

Despite a strong May bumps campaign last year, the senior women's and non-binary side struggled with numbers at the start of this term, only managing to put together one senior VIII. However, with the help of a few super subs, W1 entered an VIII in both Winter Head and Fairbairns, putting in solid performances at both.

Our first race of term was Winter Head for both W1 and NW1, with W1 finishing 8th out of the college first boats and less than a second behind Caius W1. These results helped to boost our confidence heading in to the final half of term.

Despite not entering a W2 for Fairbairns this year, we were pleased to welcome back a strong team of former Fitz rowers in the women's alumni VIII and tried to learn from their calm composure. It was a challenging race for W1, with a (second) rib fracture and wrist injuries attempting to thwart our efforts. But we didn't let this stop us from placing 13th out of 27, matching the time of Christ's W1.



We end this term with heaps of potential heading in to Lent term, with both the senior and novice women's and non-binary rowers laying fantastic groundwork for what should hopefully be a strong performance in bumps.

Coaches: Jo Lee, Tony Moule, David Gubb
Cox: Emily Parry

Novices

NW1

We started Michaelmas with a small (but perfectly formed) group of novices. They were strong and committed from the start, despite being stuck behind other crews for most morning outings! Our keen bean novices entered every race this term: at Queens' Ergs, NW1 put in a super strong performance to finish 2nd in their division, missing out on the final by mere seconds. This lit a fire under NW1 as they prepared for Winter Head the following weekend, their first race on the water. A solid row meant they completed the 2.5 km race with zero crabs and enjoyed the experience of rowing uninterrupted for more than 5 strokes!



With some practise starts under their belt, NW1 arrived at Emma Sprints with quiet confidence and some excellent goat-themed headgear. They won their first race against Selwyn and then lost to First and Third (who went on to win the division). Despite some chaotic marshalling (well done to Aurora for coping admirably with this!), NW1 also had a strong performance at Clare Novices the following weekend. They comfortably beat Queens', and then lost to Eddie's in the quarter-final by 2 lengths.

We had huge faith in NW1 as they arrived at Fairbairns, and they put down the best row we've seen from them all term. They finished 22nd out of the women's and NB crews, with a huge push in the final 500m that could've rivalled the seniors. A special congratulations to Aurora, who was awarded the novice coxing prize after her stellar performance throughout the term. We're so proud of how much you've all improved and hope you stick around for Lents!

Coaches:

Alice Hughes,
Elizabeth
Eaton-Banks,
Chloe Todd,
Lizzie Knight

Cox: Aurora

Barrera James



NM1+2+3



Coaches:

Jakub Mickech,
Daan Timmers,
Mans Holmberg,
Harry Rogers

Coxes:

Hugh Foley,
Dina Parkus,
Huma Siddiqi

We can look back on a very successful and enjoyable term for the novice men's and non-binary rowers. We started out with a group of 30 new rowers, ranging from first-year JCR and MCR students to a fifth-year who spent years maintaining he would never take up rowing. Throughout the term the group condensed into three novice boats. We tried to show the novices all the different aspects of rowing: next to water sessions we taught them how to use the rowing machines, took them to the Downing tank and to the college bar. Their improvement throughout the term was impressive, especially when it came to racing in the second half of the term. We were one of the few colleges to enter novice boats in Cambridge Winter Head in early November, and some of our boats raced almost every week up to the end of term.

All three boats made it to novice Fairbairn's with minimal losses (two bow-balls were lost along the way). NM1 was the 11th fastest novice first boat on the Cam, NM2 was the 2nd fastest novice second boat, and NM3 the 2nd fastest novice third boat. NM2 especially formed a close-knit and highly committed squad, and did exceptionally well: unexpectedly they were 2 seconds faster than NM1, which means we had two boats among the fastest 15 overall. We are very happy with what the novices have accomplished, and are especially pleased with the depth of the novice squad. Having up to three competitive and enthusiastic boats looks very promising for next term, as we welcome the newly-graduated novices into the senior squad.



Other news



A group of rowers from FCBC travelled to St Edmund Hall, Oxford (Fitz's sister college) in October for some friendly racing and socialising - thank you to the Billygoats for supporting this trip!

Fitzbillies Claire Brillon, Felix Craig-McFeely and Duncan Huntley raced at Fours Head with CUBC in November. Claire also stroked the "Mead" crew for the women's Trial Vllls - we hope to see her in the Boat Race next year!



We were delighted to welcome back 3 alumni crews for Fairbairns (a women's crew, the *1982 and friends* reunion crew, and the *Not the 1982* crew). We also hosted the pudding races after Fairbairns, which was a festive and semi-competitive outing for all alumni, seniors and novices involved.