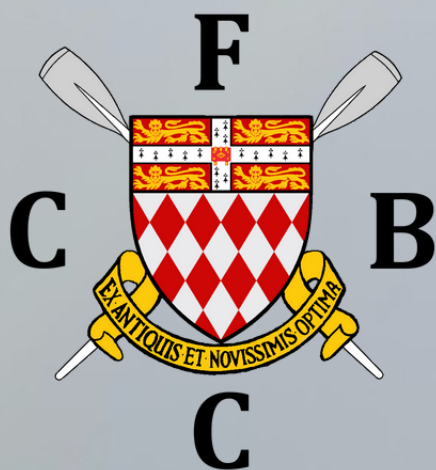




Fitzwilliam College Boat Club

SUMMER 2024
NEWSLETTER

M1 started the term with the goal to bump up into Division 1. The term was tough, and it took people trying almost every position in the boat (and a brief excursion into a bow-rig) for the right seat for everyone to be found. This cemented a very strong crew, that not only got this goal achieved, but also went on to earn blades! The plan for the first day was a solid row over to set up the rest of the week, but a combination of an ideal racing line and a quick start with clean blade-work meant that Trinity Hall M1 were caught at the top of the reach. Building on this high, M1 went on to bump Caius M2 on day 2, becoming the sandwich boat. In a surprisingly decisive race, the crew escaped this position by bumping First and Third M1 down into the 2nd division (for the first time in FaT's history!) On the final day, the crew came face to face with the reality that blades were on the table, but the team ensured they kept their nerves at bay and focused upon securing a solid start and gaining on Robinson M1 every stroke. As vowed, the crew set off strong and despite a shaky patch underneath the motorway bridge came together as a team to reset and recover. Coming into the First Post corner, Aurora managed to get the inside line, a move that ensured the bump would come quickly and encouraged the boys to put in one final push. In unison with the cries of support from the Billygoat party on the bank the crew bumped on First Post corner! Overall it was a fantastic week for M1, setting the crew up for future success and acting as a perfect send off for Marian who provided crucial experience from the stroke seat.



M2 went into Mays ready to use the experience in the boat to work together and pull off a result the whole boat could be proud of. Despite uncertainty resulting in the crew not being set until about halfway through term, the crew, alongside their cox Ishaka, were consistently impressing all the coaches with their dedication and amazing speed. In the spring regatta, the crew was even able to win their category. This showed the huge potential going into the Bumps. The boys got off to a strong start, bumping Christs II and Robinson II quickly on days one and two respectively. On day 3, Selwyn II bumped Churchill II ahead of M2, leaving Fitz with a clear river ahead. However, the crew began to close the gap between them and Trinity Hall II. It was a long and strenuous race, but it paid off when the crew made the over bump happen. Now the only thing standing between them and their blades was Queens II. On the final day, the boys were able to take them quickly and get the bump needed for their blades! This Bumps campaign was incredibly successful and really showed how hard work makes the boat go fast.



FCBC was able to enter three boats from the men's side this term thanks to a very successful novice campaign. From winning their category in the Radegund mile at the start of term, the third men's crew had a great level of dedication to both each other and the Boat club. Going into the bumps, the crew had a good mix of power, skill and experience and had been guided by an array of coaches and their cox Dina. Bumps came up fast and M3 were positioned at the bottom of their division, where unfortunately Lucy Cavendish II came and bumped them on the first day. The next day M3 were sandwich boat and pulled off 2 strong rowers to maintain that position on the river. On day 3 the rowers were tired from their marathon row the day before, and despite their best effort they were caught by a Maggie crew. On the last day, the crew put down their best performance of the whole week and were able to pull off their first bump of the week on a different Maggie crew! The whole crew did themselves proud and hopefully we'll see a lot of the boys back next year!



W1

W1 started the term once again as one of the least experienced first boat's on the Cam, but this didn't stop them from making the most of the term. Much of the crew had been to Henley training camp and were keen to put what they learnt into practice! From crew ergs to water sessions to races, the whole crew put in maximum effort during outings and races to ensure that they were in the best position possible going into the Bumps. Many of the crew were first years, and were sitting their first Cambridge exams while training for their first Mays! The girls also made it down to Bedford regatta, the first off Cam racing experience for many. The crew had some great outings in the sun with their new cox Jack, who kept up with the best of them through the weeks! Nerves were high for the first day of bumps, but the term had prepared us and we were able to keep rowing strong and put down good power. Despite this, Queens W1 was quicker. Unfortunately, the week continued similarly, with W1 putting down excellent performances but getting caught by more experienced crews. This never kept the crew from smiling, a great show of resilience. Following a well deserved BCD, the crew ventured over Jesus lock to row on the backs, making for a very special end of term for the whole crew. We're all so grateful to Tony, Dave and especially Jo for all of their support!



W2

W2 were a strong crew from the start of term, under watchful guidance of coaches Lizzie, Andrew and Dave. The crew showed great determination from the start of term with good attendance at the Henley training camp and then at all trainings, both land and water based. Despite some ups and downs with coxes, the crew was able to get out and enjoy the sun while training for the May bumps, with Ellie in the coxes seat making sure we were rowing our best. Bumps week came quicker than anyone was expecting, but feeling confident in our starts and our endurance, we felt ready to take on the challenge. Despite the heat we were able to row over on the first day with boats breathing down our necks the whole way! On day two a superb push from FaT meant they caught us at first post, despite our multiple whistles on Emma. By day three the crew was tired but once again pulled off a strong rowover despite pressure from behind. On the final day, the pressure was on to try and get a bump, and with a strong start and consistent pace, the crew kept the pressure on Emma and got a bump just before the railway bridge! BCD was a great chance to celebrate our greenery and enjoy the end of term!



FCBC 2024

