

FCBC During Lockdown

Easter Term 2020

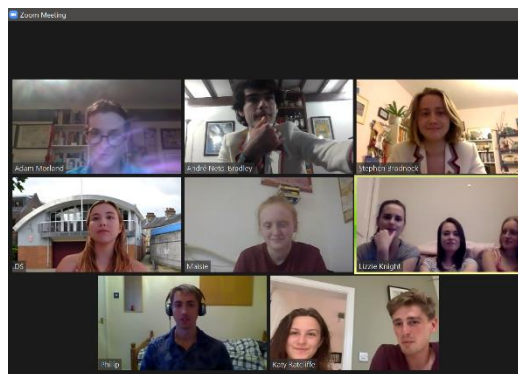


In these unprecedented times the aggressive swans, sweaty erg sessions, and drama of Bumps week on the Cam may seem a distant memory. Rowing may be the last thing on people's minds, but it is precisely at such a time that a little reminiscence might be a good thing. That we may remember the fun we used to have on the water and remind ourselves that we can look forward to returning to it again in good time.

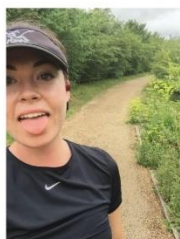
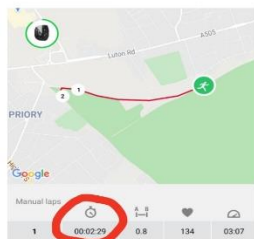
This year marked 40 years of women's rowing at Fitz and plans for a reunion have like so many other things been cancelled by the pandemic. But the Women's Captains put their newfound free time to use to produce a beautifully illustrated commemorative programme, rich with stories, and historical records courtesy of Ken Drake. It is a beautiful reminder of the how college rowing at Fitz links generations of students, each playing their part and making their contribution to the story.

Zoom Circuits & Virtual Bumps

While the term's rowing was cancelled and everyone was back home, FCBC has managed to stay active. Throughout term time we held weekly circuits sessions over Zoom where we motivated one another to stay fit, get our press-up and burpee count up, and awkwardly listen to the Captains gradually get more out of breath while everyone else muted their microphones.



The term ended with Virtual May Bumps which featured a curiously complicated running-based alternative to the May Bumps. Crews started in their positions from the Mays, although results will not count towards next year's starting position. Eight rowers and a cox all had to run 800m every day for four consecutive days. The average of the first, middle, and last three times was used to calculate our 'boat speed' through each third of the bumps course, and a simulation was run to determine when we would Bump. At 8pm each day we tuned into CamFM to hear the 'race' commentary live.





With absolutely no idea how we stacked up against the crews around in an 800m sprint it was always going to be a week of surprises. Our women's squad have been impressive on the water this year with strong performances in the Lents, but sadly being good at rowing is no guarantee of being fast runners and WI got virtually bumped over the first three days by Girton, Christ's, and Homerton. A heroic last push on Saturday saw them avoid virtual spoons.

With a number of bad knees in M1 our bench was lined with substitutes ready to jump in. Despite some of us getting interrupted on our runs by social distancing, we managed a row over on the first day with quick bumps on Girton and Hughes Hall on the following two days. A final day push was not enough to catch Trinity Hall and we ended our virtual campaign up two.

At the end of the week many of the virtual Mays squad logged into Zoom for a virtual BCD where we all agreed that sprinting in a boat was far better than sprinting on foot. A special mention was reserved for Adam Morland who was the John Adams Prize winner for 2019/20, whose dedication to FCBC over the years as Novice Captain, Lower Boats Captain, and Secretary has been an example to all.

New Committee

We wish our newly elected committee all the best in the year to come, whatever form rowing may take! Our new committee is:

<i>Captain of Boats</i>	Sam Kirkbride
<i>Women's Captains</i>	Maisie Matthews, Phoebe Heathcote
<i>Men's Captains</i>	Kesavan Sivanesan, Sam Kirkbride
<i>Secretary</i>	Lizzie Knight
<i>Men's Novice Captain</i>	Oren Hargreaves
<i>Women's Novice Captains</i>	Lauren McGravey, Chloe Todd
<i>Coxing Representative</i>	André Neto-Bradley
<i>Junior Safety Officer</i>	Andrew Salkeld
<i>Kit Officer</i>	James Ashkettle
<i>Alumni and Publicity Officer</i>	Ellie Wilding
<i>Graduate Officer</i>	Mateja Soretic
<i>Social Secretary</i>	Jamie Sykes Macleod

I could not end without thanking our committee this year for their fantastic work building on the success of last year and delivering one of our best recent showings in Lent Bumps, with four crews on, all of which ended the week moving up the table. I'd also like to thank our Boatman (Antony Moule), Coaches (Alan Marron, Alex Markham, Mike Taylor, Joao Moraes, Freddie Scott, Mike Parrott, Jo Lee, Jess Halliday, Andrew Salkeld, Clare Pearson, Anna-Rosa Gejlsbjerg) and the Billygoats for all their support this year.

André Neto-Bradley
Captain of Boats 2019/20