



FITZWILLIAM COLLEGE BOAT CLUB

**Easter
2019 Newsletter**



Fitzwilliam College Boat Club, University of Cambridge
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Women's Captains: Rob Machado; Emily Lees

Coxes: Rob Machado

Coaches: Antony Moule, Alan Marron, Mike Taylor



The women's squad had a fantastic lead up to term, with a visit to Norwich for training camp that allowed us to clock lots of miles on long, straight stretches of river before getting started on bumps preparation. Thank you very much to the Billygoats in helping us to fund this!

Training camp was followed by an even more exciting event - a visit from the Lionesses of the University of Venice. We challenged them to racing in their galleone last September, and now they came for a return visit, putting on a very impressive performance in St Radegund's mile against a Fitz composite crew. We were also incredibly lucky to have Sarah Winckless joining us for the weekend, leading an alumni 4 in the race, and being a very welcoming and inspirational presence to Fitz and Venetian rowers alike.

Now, W1. This term we started strong with a great performance at Head to Head, winning the college event and being the fastest women's crew of the day. We also took a 4+ to Nottingham, coming in an agonising 0.9 seconds behind Maggies in a hard fought 2k race. Jessica Halliday represented FCBC in the Small Boats Regatta

on the Cam, where she won the Women's Fairbairn junior sculls event, adding to her Star Head title from earlier in the year.

We were lucky to have Lou Brett rejoin us from the Lightweight squad towards the end of term, but sadly this coincided with Eleanor Toms injuring her shoulder and being unable to row with us for bumps this term. We really missed her enthusiasm and incredibly contagious laughter in the boat, but were very happy to have Jemima Gasson stepping back up into the crew.

Bumps week got off to a strange start, with our being awarded a technical bump due to Christ's having an illegal cox (who helpfully advertised this by rowing up wearing trousers which said 'Peterhouse' on them). The following day we were chasing FaT, who proved a very tough crew – we made it to within 1 length of them for much of the race, but unfortunately never beyond this. On Friday we were faced with another tough race, with FaT catching Girton quite early on, leaving us to row over the rest of the course with an increasingly fast Christ's crew on our tail, who were themselves being hotly pursued by Catz. Some fantastic rowing and grit got us to the end of the course, setting us up to bump Girton on Saturday, just after Billyfield and leaving us in the highest bumps position ever seen by a Fitz women's crew.



**Emily
Lees,
FCBC
Women's
Captain**



Men's Captain: André Neto-Bradley

Cox: Emily Insanally

Coaches: Antony Moule, Alex Markham, André Neto-Bradley



Nottingham City Regatta

Our first race of the term saw us head to Nottingham for Nottingham City Regatta, getting in some practice at side-by-side racing. In our first event up against Christ's and Royal Chester amongst others, we were determined to claim some scalps. We pulled ahead to a length clear of Royal Chester and a length and a half on Christ's with the other competitors trailing at the halfway mark. Christ's continued to fade, but Chester were not done and made a big move eating three quarters of a length out of our lead with 250m to go. A final increase in the rate by stroke man Derek and a subsequent burst for the finish saw us finish a third of a length ahead of Royal Chester, and so we got our hands on the crockpots with the impressive time of 6:26 over the 2km.

May Bumps

This Mays we were eager to reverse the misfortune of the previous year's broken rudder episode and to stop our slide down the May bumps table. Starting day one we were determined to bump Eddies before Corpus could have a go... and that we did, dispatching Eddies coming out of Grassy. Day two was always going to be the most difficult, with a fast St Catz ahead. We gained inch by inch all the way along plough reach, getting one, then two, then three whistles on the long reach, and getting overlap for nearly 100 metres, but the coin didn't fall our way and we had to settle for a row over. A fierce Caius M2, which featured some of their Lents headship crew, were chasing us the next day, and despite a valiant fight from our crew we did get bumped on the reach. But a loudly confident Pembroke M2 were no match for us on the final day as we rowed over, finishing five lengths ahead of them, denying them blades. We moved up two overall in the year in Lents and Mays - the first positive tally in nearly a decade as the tide finally turns for the Fitz men.

From our May's first boat we have selected a coxed IV for Henley, which will attempt to qualify for the Prince Albert Challenge Cup on the 28th June.

After a strong showing in Lent Term, winning Norwich Head and climbing two places back into the first division of the Lent Bumps, we started Easter Term with a spring in our steps. We made a few crew alterations after trials at our Easter Training Camp and welcomed back last year's Captain Joe Everest at 2, and Freddie Scott at 7.



André Neto-Bradley, FCBC Men's Captain

W2

Cox: Gabby McHarg **Lower Boats Captain:** Hiu Ki Wong
Coaches: Matthew Bergin, Jo Lee, Anna-Rosa Gejlsbjerg,
Rob Machado, Jess Halliday

W2 put in an incredible amount of work this term, both on and off the water, to build on their speed from last term, and it really payed off. The first day of bumps was a somewhat frustrating one, with their chase of Caius III curtailed by Queens' III failing to clear properly and causing a hold up of the crews behind them. A technical row over was awarded to both crews, meaning that the chase was afoot again on day 2 – sadly, this time Caius caught their opponents before we could close in on them, so a spirited row over brought W2 the chance to chase Catz III on Friday. Some fantastic rowing and steering around further chaos by Gabby McHarg brought W2 their first bump for 5 years! Sadly, on Saturday this was not to be repeated; whilst chasing Anglia Ruskin, another poor clearing effort led to Fitz having to steer wide on grassy corner, ultimately hitting the bank, and allowing Catz to return the bump. Overall, a net finish of 0, and some very promising progress to take into next years' competition. A huge thanks to Clare Pearson for stepping into the boat at short notice after Eleanor's injury.



W3

Cox: Leila Fahmy, Jess Halliday, Rob Machado **Coaches:** Clare Pearson, Emily Lees, Bluebell Drummond, Hiu Ki Wong



We were incredibly excited to have a W3 crew this term, made up of a mix of continuing novices from Lent term, and some returners – the crew rowed a brilliant getting-on race, claiming a spot in the W5 division. This was the first time Fitz has fielded a W3 for bumps since 2013. Unfortunately, the randomisation process meant that we spent the first 3 days of competition being chased by other college W2 boats, being bumped by Churchill, FaT and Robinson respectively, but holding out for longer each day. On the Saturday, Downing W3 also proved surprisingly speedy, but some fantastic grit from the W3 crew made their chase a lot longer than they expected. So sadly -4, but a great benchmark to be able to field a W3 and fuel for us to continue developing the squad, in order to make W3 a feature in future bumps competitions. Thank you to Irene Jessel, Emily Insanally and Emily King for joining us for the racing, and to Ken Drake for coming down to watch his boat in action on Saturday!



**Emily Lees,
Women's Captain**



M2**Cox:** Adam Morland**Coaches:** Joao Moraes, Mike ParrottAdam Morland,
FCBC Men's Lower
Boats' Captain**M3****Cox:** Leila Fahmy**Coaches:** Andrew Salkeld, Joao Moraes, André Neto-Bradley

The term got off to a great start, with Fitz fielding three boats on the men's side. Working around exams was often difficult, but everyone's enthusiasm to help sub into other boats, and keep the outings going, got us through. It also enabled us to have M2 and M3 race in Champs Head, and M2 in Nines Regatta. Results showed how much we were improving, and fueled us on to keep up the work. All of this culminated in May bumps. M3 bumped day after day, on the Friday saving Jesus from the hefty fine their boat club would have faced if their M5 had been able to bump their M4. Both that day, and on Saturday, under the leadership of their cox and captain Leila Harris-Fahmy, they showed true tenacity and grit. Luck may be required to win blades, but only their determination over the course of term to improving their technique and fitness won them both of those three-boat-sandwiches.

Sadly, M2's campaign did not get off to such a great start, with defeat being snatched from the jaws of victory on grassy. Recovering from such a start to the week is never easy, particularly when your cox is disqualified for crashing into a stationary boat. But I was impressed by the hard work the team put into the week, and thankful to Leila for stepping in to cox them. This term brought us mixed results on the river, but with over half of our rowers and coxes sticking around, I hope that next year will bring us positive results all around!



Photo credits to various members of the boat club and their families, and to Giorgio Divitini