

FITZWILLIAM COLLEGE BOAT CLUB

Lent 2019 Newsletter



**Fitzwilliam College Boat Club, University of Cambridge
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M1

Men's Captain: André Neto-Bradley

Cox: Emily Insanally

Coaches: Antony Moule, Alex Markham



Our Lent campaign got off to an early start with a training camp the week beforehand, when we sized up our new intake of novices from the previous term, and welcomed Eryk Sokolowski and Constantin Kilcher from last term's NM1 into M1.

Newnham Short Course

With two weeks together as a crew, and some productive time on and off the water, the crew were keen to see what they could do. Our crew of André Neto-Bradley (Str), Derek Rutter (7), Peter Winch (6), Philip Owen (5), Adam Fyfe (4), Constantin Kilcher (3), Daniel Riches (2), Eryk Sokolowski (Bow) were off to a brisk start, and St. Edmund's M1, starting behind, soon disappeared out of sight. The boys went on to clock a brisk 6:43 from bridge to bridge, finishing 4th out of 11 colleges, only a few seconds behind Lady Margaret and Pembroke. It was a promising start to the term; now that we knew we were fast, what could we accomplish?

Norwich Head



Not limiting ourselves to competing on Cam, we took on the challenge of competing off-Cam, especially since the 5km course would be good practice for Head of the River later in March. We also wanted to test ourselves against some non-collegiate competition, and besides, who can say no to a weekend fieldtrip?

With Robbie Sewell subbing in for an injured André, and a rearrangement bringing Dan from 2 to stroke, the crew was confident and in high spirits on the bus ride over. Following a spirited paddle up to the start, cheered

on by some local Billygoats, the boys proceeded to clock the fastest time of the day, completing the course in under 17:30 to take home some crockpots and silverware!

Lent Bumps

The fate of the men's crews in the Bumps races over the past few years have not made for kind reading (it had been over two years since M1 had bumped another crew in either Lents or Mays.) Starting second in division 2, surrounded by the likes of Wolfson, Emmanuel, King's, and Magdalene's M1s, Fitz was facing a difficult week. There had been no shortage of trash talking, but finally, day one had come. Our boys were off to a lightening start and stuck on Emmanuel, getting a whistle on Ditton corner, but we only managed to hold station to the finish line.

Nine lengths behind, a 'chasing' Wolfson M1 and Caius M2 seemed to be competing in a different race. Day two saw the weather taking a turn for the worse. With the surrounding line up unchanged, we had a second go at Emmanuel. The crew stuck it out and ploughed through the waves on the Reach, holding station, and then charged from the railway bridge. One whistle, 400m to go, two whistles, Emmanuel's cox looked around worriedly, barking out for more from his tired crew, and still we closed. But the finish line came to the rescue for Emmanuel, and it was another row over for us.

But day three brought with it good news from above, as Girton's spoon-barge-in-waiting was making industrious downward progress (down 4 in two days) and was now the sandwich boat, following a 30 stroke affair against Emmanuel the day before. And no sooner were we off, it was over – in less than 30 strokes, a bump for M1.

And it was not to be the last. On the final day, after an assertive row over at the top of division 2, we had our chance to bump Churchill and climb back into division 1. A strong start from both crews, Churchill were not about to lie down. One whistle past the motorway bridge, but Churchill fought on, and the rate stayed in the 40s for both crews. Still we gained. Two whistles, and gaining. Then came First Post and three whistles, Churchill still fighting hard, but fading while we ploughed on. Onto Grassy and a well timed concession for a photo finish bump. Up 2 for the week, with M1 firmly back in division 1.



André Neto-Bradley, FCBC Men's Captain



Women's Captains: Rob Machado; Emily Lees

Coxes: Rob Machado

Coaches: Antony Moule, Alan Marron, Mike Taylor

W1 has had an incredibly exciting term. We were fortunate to have a wealth of experience compared to usual Lent terms, even having to trial people for a place in the Lents boat, which is almost unheard of! Harriet, Jess, Hazel, Jemima and Eleanor all returned from Michaelmas' W1, and were joined by Izzy who graduated from NW1, and Lizzie, who has been a stellar member of the club for the past 4 years.

We have done a lot of racing this term, seeing some excellent results:

Newnham short course – Finishing 4th of 11 colleges with 7:56 from bridge to bridge

Bedford head – Finishing joint 2nd in Band 3 eights with 7:07 over 2k

Norwich head – Finishing 2nd to City's W1, completing the 5k course in 19:12 to their 18:45



Emily Lees, FCBC Women's Captain

This year's Lent Bumps produced our most successful set of Bumps since 2013, moving up 4 places and securing a place in Division 1 at station 15. The first two races saw Fitz crush King's and Lucy Cavendish colleges within two minutes, securing us a place in Division 1. Day 3 was the toughest race against Queens', but our fitness paid off as we wore down Queens' stroke by stroke before pouncing in The Gut.

Day 4 saw another overwhelming performance against St Catherine's W1, but our plan of following in Caius' wake spluttered when they failed to bump Churchill. Day 5 came and we aimed to overbump on Churchill and complete the job. As Caius bumped Girton, we slalomed between the clearing boats and slammed on the accelerator and were closing rapidly. 5 lengths, 4 lengths 3 and a half... but Churchill eventually bumped out on Murray Edwards and our dream finish, sadly, did not come to pass.



Knowing Day 5 would be difficult, we had set ourselves the target of completing the incredibly windy course in under 11 minutes; we managed 10:43.

Up 4 places, into Division 1 in 15th place, and after training supremely hard among the fastest women's boats on the Cam in the Lent term. Although there was no WeHORR this year (weather, again), we finish Lent term in high spirits and very ambitious for Mays.



Rob Machado, FCBC Captain of Boats, Women's Captain

M2**Cox:** Adam Morland**Coaches:** Joao Moraes, Mike Parrott**M3****Cox:** Leila Fahmy**Coaches:** Andrew Salkeld, Freddie Scott**M4****Cox:** Justin Yu**Coaches:** William Davies, Max Barseyvich

This term has been a great one for the boatclub. Earlier today, Ken Drake showed me a list of the number of crews on the BCD menus for each term. The record goes back as far as the 1940s, but no Lent menu has ever contained more than seven crews, a record we've beaten this term, with eight crews. M2 has also beaten some records, gaining our first over-bump for more than 10 years, even if the crew we over-bumped had no idea who we were: post-bump their cox turned around to give us three cheers, only to stumble as she realised that she didn't know which college she was cheering. Those results came from a hard term of training and some great commitment from the team, but equally impressive in their training and commitment have been our M3 and M4. Sadly, M3 didn't quite make it onto Lent bumps, and they couldn't compete in the Talbott Cup due to bad weather, but they have improved hugely over the past term. M4, largely being a novice boat, couldn't compete in the getting on race, and our hopes about the Talbott Cup were dashed when it was cancelled, as we'd hoped it would give them the opportunity to demonstrate how quickly they've learnt to row with style. And across all three boats, we have some really promising rowers, who I hope will stick around for next term, and the year afterwards!



Adam Morland, FCBC Men's Lower Boats' Captain

W2

Cox: Gabby McHarg, **Coaches:** Anna-Rosa Gejlsbjerg, Matthew Bergin, Mike Taylor, Rob Machado

With 7 returning novices in the boat this term, there was much work to do in a short span of 6 weeks. Multiple yellow flags cancelling our outings meant that we had much less water time than expected, but that did not deter us – the enthusiasm brought us closer and spurred us on. We gained much needed experience rowing at race pace in Newnham Short Course and Pembroke Regatta, and even took a quad to Norwich Head where we were the second fastest boat in the division! A massive thank you goes to Emily Lees who has tirelessly subbed into our boat to race with us. The main aim remained to qualify for Lents. Despite a fantastic performance this year, we did not qualify for Lent Bumps. However, this has been a very solid term of rowing for W2, and I look forward to a stronger crew in Mays!



Hiu Ki Wong,
FCBC Women's Lower
Boats' Captain

W3

Cox: Victoria Chris, **Coaches:** Emily Lees, Maya Zakrzewska-Pim

W4

Coxes: Hiu Ki Wong, Sara Seguro Arnedo

Coaches: Clare Pearson, Emily Lees, Maya Zakrzewska-Pim

W3 this term was a small but perfectly formed crew of 4 of our novices graduating from Michaelmas term. They had a varied term, trying their hand at sculling in the quad, making rapid progress, with the assistance of a brilliant new cox, Victoria. For their other outings they were joined variously by members of W2, W4 and M3/4 to make an eight so that they also got some miles in doing sweep rowing, as we hope to have 3 women's crews competing in May Bumps this year! Unexpectedly, we were also able to set up a W4 crew this term – this is the first time we've done a full novice crew during Lent term, which has been exciting. Given the amount of yellow flags in the first couple of weeks we wondered if this boat would ever make it out onto the Cam, but they made fantastic progress over the term and for the last 2 weeks, joined forces with W3 to form W3/4 meaning that they've all got to do some longer outings, and are looking in good shape to step up to racing next term.



Emily Lees,
Women's
Captain

Other News

Henley Boat Race 2019 (March 30th)



Our very own Lou Brett represented Cambridge University Women's Boat Club against Oxford University Women's Lightweight Rowing Club at Henley on March 30th 2019. The women put up a valiant fight, but unfortunately lost to Oxford – better luck in 2020!

Henley Training Camp and Head of the River 2019 (March 30th)



This year Head of the River Race (HoRR) fell a good two weeks after the end of term, and so to whip our crew back into shape we held our Easter training camp in the days beforehand. Eager to pick-up a lost tradition of holding an off-Cam training camp in Easter, we headed to Henley, boating from Upper Thames RC alongside the Oxford Women's Lightweights who were preparing for their race against Cambridge that weekend. M1 3-man 'Stan' asked if they wanted to spar; they declined his offer.

We were fortunate to be hosted by Billygoats Carole Wright and Dan George, each of whom hosted a crew, and made sure we were well-fed after the long and productive days out on the water.

Come Saturday, and over to Furnivall we headed to boat up for HoRR on an incredible spring day (some of the crew managed to get a healthy sunburn). Our M1 and M2 with quite a number of substitutes put on a fine display of rowing, with M1 managing a respectable time of 20:03; good enough for a 154th place finish, 7th amongst the college crews present.

André Neto-Bradley, FCBC Men's Captain

