

FORWARD

NEWSLETTER

Edition 2: Michaelmas 2018

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Welcome to the second edition of Forward, Churchill College Boat Club's termly newsletter. The aim of this newsletter is to keep you up to date with race results and Boat Club events, as well as providing some stories of rowing interest from both students and alumni.



Michaelmas term 2018 in Review



Above: Try Rowing Day

Well what a term that was.

As we all know Michaelmas term is only really about one thing - teaching novices to row and somehow we seem to have done it.

Despite the heavens opening on Try Rowing Day, we started the term looking at having between four and five novice boats and it's testament to the work of the Lower Boats Captains that we managed to still have four full novice boats (and a few subs) by the end of term.

Speaking of the seniors, they've had a pretty productive time too. M1 started the term with only three returning members from May's crew, but the five new rowers have come on leaps and bounds and a rhythm has been found. M2 have been blessed with having more rowers than seats and so have run a very successful rotating squad. I look forward to seeing them lead by example across our M2 and M3 next term.

The Women weren't so lucky with numbers with many of the May's boat having graduated, but their IV has really performed this term and their enthusiasm looks to be paying off as it looks like we'll have both a W1 and W2 VIII next term.

Ultimately there are two metrics that I think you should use to judge Michaelmas term: performances in Fairbairns and retention of rowers. At Fairbairns the club showed fantastic strength and depth with seven boats racing and all of our top boats (M1,W1,NM1,NW1) getting top 11 finishes in their divisions. On the second point we are in a position where over two thirds of our novices want to continue into next term.



Left: M2 and Right: W1 at Winter Head 2018

However, whilst Michaelmas may be about novices, two events in particular stand out:

Earlier this term CCBC organised a charity erg attended by rowers from across eleven colleges in memory of recent coach Silvia Breu. Over the course of twelve hours our combined efforts results in over one million meters rowed and raising over £2500 for Cancer Research UK. Silvia was a popular coach who was admired and loved by so many rowers. It was humbling and inspiring to see people dig so deep to help us achieve these goals.

The second event was the arrival of the new Women's 1st boat. Shall We Fly was very kindly donated by Lydia Luckevich and the Luckevich-Pinchin family. Lydia's late husband Donald (Don) Pinchin did a PhD at Churchill in the 70s and it was the community he found at CCBC that he remembered. We are very thankful for the new boat as it joins Shall We Dance (the Mens 1st Boat that was also donated by the Luckevich-Pinchin family). We look forward to seeing it bump next term.



Above: The naming of the new Women's first eight, Shall We Fly. Photo: Churchill College Development Office



Right: Churchill's novices getting in some training at the Cambridge Rowing Tank. Left: M1 after Winter Head

Lent promises to be an exciting term, we can expect to have 6 boats (M1-4 and W1-2) and I'm already excited by the prospect of getting 5 boats onto Lent Bumps which would be a fantastic achievement.

Forward

Thomas Upton - Overall Captain 18/19

Results



Above: NW1 celebrating after coming 2nd at Emma Sprints

Queens' Ergs:

NM1: 2nd in their heat and 10th novice men's crew overall

NW1: 4th in their heat, and therefore just missing out on a spot in the final

Winter Head:

W1: 3rd in the Women's Student 4+ category, and 2nd out of the Cambridge colleges W4+

M1: 7th in the Men's Student 8+ category and 6th from the Cambridge colleges

M2: 13th in the Men's Student B 8+ category and 6th from Cambridge M2s

Emma Sprints:

NM1: lost in their first round after some controversial umpiring and were unfortunate to not have a second race. However, while rowing home they managed to overtake one of the crews racing in front of them despite starting three lengths back!

NW1: after some fantastic rowing, they made it to the final (comfortably beating three other boats) where they lost to the Hughes Hall NW1 by less than 1m!

NM2: lost in their first race, but comfortably overtook Darwin NM2 in their second race

Fairbairns:

NM1: 11th Novice boat

NW1: after illness resulted in several last minute subs, they placed 6th fastest novice women's boat after racing for time only.

NM2: 8th NM2/3 in their division (due to the windy conditions the divisions weren't comparable)

NM3: 4th NM3 in their division

W1/Alumni 8+: 2nd invitational W8+

M1: Joint 8th College M8+

M2: managed to gain on many of the crews that had beaten them at Winter Head

Alumni W4+: 2nd invitational 4+

Below: NM1 (left) and NM2 (right) preparing to race at Emma Sprints



Alumni

For this edition of the boat club newsletter I'm delighted to share with you two stories I have received from Professor Angus Mackay (1970-73) and Arthur Pearse (U62). If there are any Alumni who might be interested in writing for the Boat Club's newsletter in the future, please do get in contact with us!

I rowed at 4 in the Churchill 1st eight that won the Fairbairn regatta in 1970. Thereafter at 4 or stroke in various Bumps, and, I seem to recall, one appearance of the Churchill eight at Henley Royal. However, my main passion became the coxless Pair - a fine shell by the splendid name of "Three's a Crowd". I rowed stroke and bow was a colleague from the eight, Dan Moore, a post-doc in Stephen Hawking's department. We competed in the Goblets at Henley Royal, won the Prince Philip cup for elite B pairs at Oxford Royal Regatta and won the Moseley Sprints, all in 1973. We also completed the Lincoln to Boston Marathon in 1973 and 1977 - masochistic madness! So Dan and I proudly flew the Churchill colours in several settings in addition to the Cam.

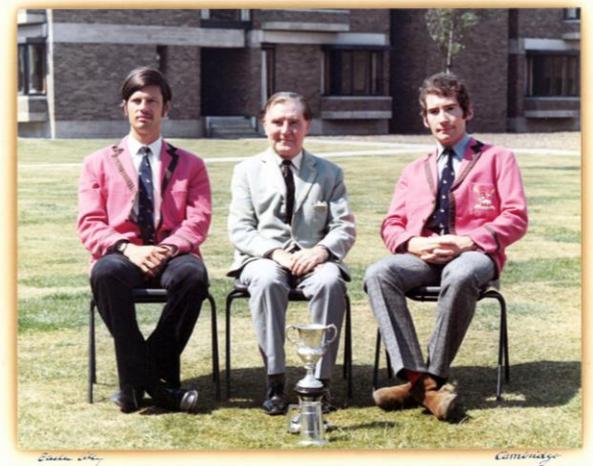
We were, of course coached by Canon Noel Duckworth. He was even more extraordinary in life than his reputation, bursting with enthusiasm, but also very kind. He christened my eldest daughter in the Churchill chapel and was Godfather to my eldest son during the time my wife and I lived in the Churchill flats. I attach a photo of Noel, Dan and I taken around that time.

It will amuse you to know that I still row (after a fashion). We live on the shores of Loch Fyne in Argyll and I have a sea-going skiff rigged usually as a double scull. It is a proper rowing machine, with riggers, sliding seats, stretchers and complete with yellow hatchets. I row it on Loch Fyne with the daughter who was christened in Churchill.

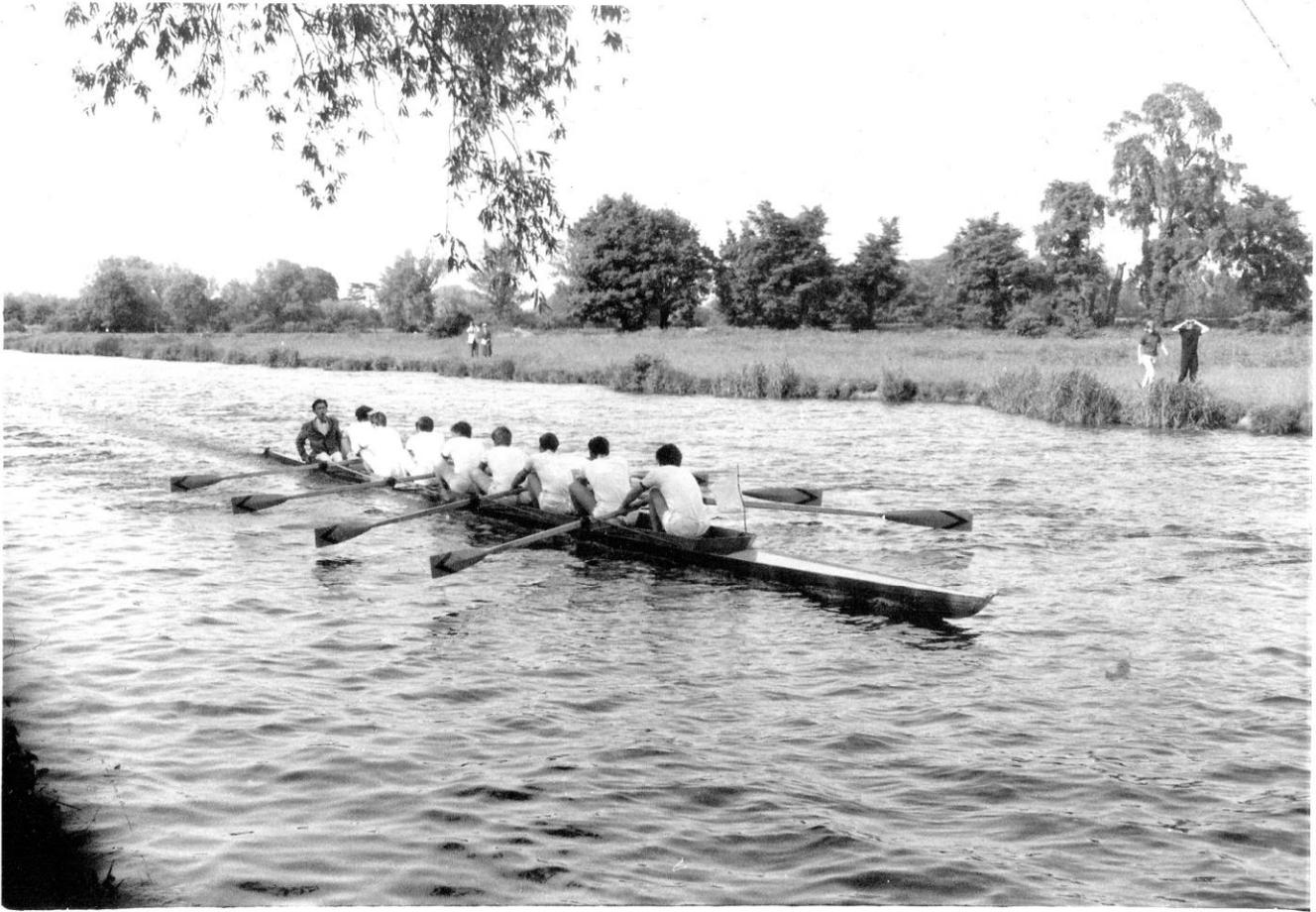
Professor A.V.P. Mackay

V for Victory

While recently browsing on-line videos of the Bumps, I noticed that Churchill crews were using pink blades; plain pink that is. It seems that the original design had been forgotten and I thought that a pity. For the benefit of current CCBC members, the original blades were pink with chocolate chevrons, pointy ends to the tip. Chocolate and pink were Sir Winston's racing colours and of course the chevron symbolized the famous V for victory sign. As evidence (if such is needed) I submit a picture of Churchill 2nd May boat 1965, on the day we rowed up into Div III. I use this picture today to illustrate the correct catch position to new rowers at Iroquois, Ontario (St. Lawrence RC).



❖ Dr. D.R. Moore - ❖ Canon J.N. Duckworth ❖ Dr. A.V.P. Mackay ❖
Bow Coach Stroke



Oars have changed over the years, and in those days we were still using "toothpicks". Anyone who thinks these look easy compared to today's hatchets should know that they were higher geared (longer outboard) and required no less effort!

The boat in question is Sir John Cockroft, a Tideway built clinker boat, crewed by, from cox to bow; Geoff Bibby, yours truly, Nigel Wrigley (who despite his name did not upset the balance), John Connor, Mike Hayton, John Miller, Rob Walker, Jack Feltbower and Nigel Dale. Geoff Bibby also recalls we made 2 of our 4 bumps on the day we rowed up, and on the last day rowed over, chasing a possible double overbump all the way to the finish.

Another observation is the rudder which is huge by comparison with what are common today. Taking Grassy Corner at race speed must be quite the adventure.

Anyway, in closing I hope that the CCBC will maybe consider returning to the true original blade colours.

Arthur Pearse

Dates for your diary

- Lent Bumps: 5th-9th March
- Lent Boat Club Dinner: 10th March

- May Bumps: 12th-15th June
- May Boat Club Dinner: 15th June

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