

# FORWARD

## NEWSLETTER

Edition 3: Lent 2019

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Welcome to the third edition of the Churchill College Boat Club's termly newsletter, Forward.



# Lent Term Report



Above: M2 celebrating their bump on LMBC M3

After the very promising recruitment last term, this Lent very much showed that the club is heading in the right direction.

On the Women's side: W2 (with only one rower who had competed in bumps before) qualified via a very competitive Getting on Race to compete in Bumps and will be looking to build that experience on to next term. Meanwhile W1 (five of which had noviced this year), improved dramatically and unrecognisably since the start of term to strengthen their bumps position by going up one and now sit just outside the top 10 in the first division.

On the Men's side, there were four training crews this term. M4, despite making considerable progress this term, were sadly unable to compete in the Getting on Race but should be well placed for making it on to May Bumps. M3 put in a very fast time to qualify for Bumps but were unlucky starting in the footship position and having some technical issues during the race. M2 manage to break their Lent bumps' curse by bumping for the first time in four years. M1 were also unlucky in being chased by crews who sit well within the top 10 in May bumps; however, they more than proved their ability during HoRR (finishing 4/15 college M1s) and all they need now is to find a way of translating this into bumps.



Left: M3 in the Getting on Race and Right: W2 during Lent Bumps

Whilst we have had many great races and socials this term, the one moment that most stands out would be the Getting on Race where we managed to get a bank party of nine for M3 and then eleven for W2. The Getting on Race may not be the most glamorous of competitions, but to get bank parties bigger than the boat from across the whole club is a great statement for the cohesion and integration within the club.

Next term brings the return of evening outings and of course will be culminating with May Bumps. After Lents I think the minimum expectation would be for five boats competing; however, I hope that we can achieve six!

Forward

Thomas Upton - Overall Captain 18/19

# Head of the River Race Report



Above: M1 racing in Lent Bumps

As WeHoRR was cancelled due to stormy conditions, it was left up to M1 to take on the Tideway on their own. Here's how they got on:

Churchill took on the Tideway today as their M1 raced the Head of the River Race for the first time in three years. They placed 140th out of 300 crews with a time of 19:56.8, and were the 4th best college crew beating the likes of Downing, Jesus and FaT!

It was a completely new experience for everyone, and for half of the crew it was their first time rowing off-Cam, let alone on the Thames! After a brutally early start, we reconstructed the boat at Barn Elms and pushed off for a pre-paddle. But, no sooner had we left the shore were we swamped by the wash of a passing motorboat - not something you get in Cambridge - but we kept going. I must admit I spent the first 100 strokes of that paddle just gawping at the scale of the river and the bridges, but cox Kieran was grinning at all the space he had at his disposal! After the paddle we refuelled and fan-boyed at all the Oxford Brookes crews who were boating from the same place (and, rather surprisingly, the Chinese National crew). We also tried the newest CCBC game: M1 Top Trumps, ready for general release soon...

Finally, we boated once more and headed to marshalling. Since we had not raced last year we were allocated starting position 269, near the back of the grid. While marshalling, Kieran pointed out the crew we were behind and ordered us to “take them down in the first k”... We didn’t need a whole km! After them there was a gap then a cluster of five boats. We closed in and knocked them all off as we rounded Chiswick Eyot and came under Hammersmith Bridge. At one point we overtook a crew, then immediately overtook another crew, who were themselves overtaking a third! Four-boat wide racing with Churchill in the lead! In the final 800m we went ballistic and toppled a final crew to make it seven for the day and charged to the line.

Admittedly, it was fun to snipe the likes of Imperial College E, but not a real victory. That came when we parked and found that we had a set a sub-20 minute time, come 140th overall and beaten nearly every other college who turned up! To that end we headed to Spoons for a well deserved pint. As you can probably tell I’m a very proud MC today. My crew rowed as well as I’ve ever seen them row, and did so in front of huge crowds at the biggest national rowing race! Lastly, I’d like to say a huge thanks to our boatman Roly who came down with us today, made sure we were calm and had everything sorted.

Forward to the next adventure,

Ross.

Churchill’s Men’s Captain.

# Results



Above: W1 celebrating their bump on Girton W1

## Winter Head to Head:

M1: 9<sup>th</sup> fastest M1

## Newnham Short Course:

W1: Slowest W1, with some subs in the boat and a lot of lessons learnt

M2: 7<sup>th</sup> out of 13<sup>th</sup> in the M2 division

M3: 8<sup>th</sup> out of 13 in the lower boats division

## Pembroke Regatta:

M1: Lost in their first round against St Catharines M1 after an unfortunate collision with a swan

W1: won their first round against Kings W1, before losing in their second round to Trinity Hall W1

M2: Won their first round against Christ's M2 before losing out to Jesus M2 in the second round

Bumps:

M1: Bumped by Magdalene M1, Emma M1 and Fitzwilliam M1 to finish as head of the second division

W1: Technically bumped by Trinity Hall W1, bumped up on Girton W1 and Murray Edwards W1 to finish 11th in the first division

M2: Bumped Clare M3, LMBC M3 and Fitzwilliam M2 to finish 10th in the third division (with a technical overbump on Clare Hall M1 overturned)

W2: Bumped by Caius W3 to finish 5th in the W4 division

M3: Rowed over every day in the footship position

M1				
W1				
M2				
W2				
M3				

For this edition of the boat club newsletter, many thanks must go to Robert Oeffner who has supplied this exciting race report from his time rowing for Churchill! As ever, please get in touch if you have any stories you wish to share for future editions of the newsletter.

## The Cambridge 99 Regatta and The Mother of all Races

A few years ago, when I was rowing for Churchill College, I was fortunate enough to be part of a successful crew. The crew was made up of two University trialists; an experienced cox; plus a bunch of freaks who to a greater or lesser extent were all inflicted with psychological scars or childhood traumas. As such they were obsessively compelled to always prove their fitness in various unreasonable and often unhealthy ways. Everyone took the crew and the training extremely seriously. We raced about every two weeks during the Easter term. One of these was the Cambridge 99 Regatta, which always stands out in my memory as one of the highlights for that crew.

The race is 1100 metres on the Long Reach starting from Ditton Corner and finishing at the top finish near the Green Dragon foot bridge. Our first race in the draw was against Caius M1. We thought "Bugger it!" Caius M1 had gained blades in the Lent bumps last term and had climbed up to the 2nd crew in the 1st division of the Lent bumps. We knew that literally they would rather die at the end of their oars than losing a race. They had showed that on the last day of the Lent bumps when they achieved their blades: one of their crew members was taken to hospital as he collapsed after the race. So Caius had a reputation that was quite formidable on the river. On the other hand, we had one trialist who equally was a die harder and was stroking our crew. He gave us a massive improvement from his experience with CULRC. As the day to race Caius came, I must have been to the toilet at least three times before we were all summoned at the boat house to talk things over and focus our minds in the May room. Tactics were summarised by the experienced crew members; how to keep our calm, when to have pushes, what if plan A, or plan B, or plan C.

In our small universe this race against Caius was *The Mother of All Races*. I still recall nervousness moisturizing my armpits with sweat and the adrenalin tickling in my fingertips. Out we went on the river; marshalled up to Plough Reach and practised a few starts, concentrating on not looking at our opposition who already were there. Our starts had been well drilled by our coaches. We knew that we had fast starts in part because we were a light crew. The draw had given us the tow path side and Caius the meadow side. Our weakest point was the railway bridge where the river bends about 11.36 degrees towards the meadow side thus giving Caius a significant physical advantage of about two sevenths of a canvas length as they would be on the the inside of that corner. Later on, just before the Pike and Eel the river would bend again to the other side slightly negating their advantage.

Off the start we immediately gained on them and quite unexpectedly got clear water somewhere before the railway bridge. We were still fighting hard as Caius inch by inch reeled us in. Them being a heavier crew, they were bound to have more stamina than us. However, at the finish we won by half a length. Both crews were absolutely knackered at the finish to the point of vomiting, but at that moment the pain felt like pleasure. During our race we were rating 37 strokes/min and had lots of cover. I remember that we were so happy and cheered many times at the Caius crew.

# SPORT

Monday, May 20, 1996

Phone Sportsdesk: 01223 434432, Fax: 01223 434415

**The Curry Queen**  
Tandoori Restaurant  
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106 Mill Road, Cambridge  
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## SPORT in brief

### Edwards — knee is not a problem

ATHLETICS: World triple jump champion Jonathan Edwards has denied rumours that he has a knee injury.

Edwards, who won his first competition of the year in Atlanta on Saturday with a windy second round jump 17.59, withdrew from the remainder of the contest, limping out of the landing area after his next clearance of 17.45.

"Yes, I have been having problems with my left knee for the past six weeks, but that is nothing unusual in a power event such as triple jumping," he said. "What made me pull out of the event was nothing more than cramp. I might add severe cramp at that."

Black back to his best — Page 32.

### Ridgeon's flier

ATHLETICS: Jon Ridgeon raced back to the top of the British 400 metres hurdles rankings on his comeback run in Istanbul.

The former Cambridge University student from Burwell — a world championship sprint hurdles silver medalist — was second to former world champion Samuel Matete in 50.7 seconds in the European clubs championship.

The run makes Ridgeon favourite for the Europa Cup in Madrid in a fortnight as he makes his latest recovery bid after Achilles tendon problems.

### Promise kept

## Churchill's gallant few send out a warning



HERE WE GO . . . Churchill send out a warning to the rest of their May Bumps rivals by cruising to victory in the premier event of the Cambridge Regatta over the weekend. Report, pictures — Page 33.

Picture: Michael Hall.

## Venables to nurse Arsenal skipper through

## Mason's a real stunner

LISA Mason put the Huntingdon Club on the European gymnastics map with stunning performances in Birmingham.

The 14-year-old Milton Keynes-based youngster, trained by Terry Sharpton at Huntingdon six days a week, finished ninth overall in the junior all-round competition at the European Championships at the weekend.

It was the best result by a Briton in a European or world championship, and Sharpton was thrilled.

"It's just amazing," he said. "We were up against gymnasts from countries where they have a professional system and we are only amateurs. It just shows how talented Lisa is."

Mason scraped into the all-round competition for the top 24 performers in the previous day's team event and improved by 14 places with her overall mark of 37.193, just 1.3 behind winner Alexandra Marinescu, of Romania.

We had two more races against Pembroke M1 and Fitzwilliam M1 to finish off before we eventually won our cup from the Cambridge Regatta. We won both of them fairly easily, but what made our day was definitely winning *The Mother of All Races*, the one against Caius M1! The local tabloid newspaper quickly commented on our victory suggesting we were sending out warning messages to other crews before the May bumps. Unfortunately, this never materialised. But we did have another close call with Caius M1 during the May bumps.

In the wider picture our victory had a profound impact on Caius Boat Club as well as on Cambridge University Boat Club. The Caius M1 crew was so shaken and distraught by their defeat to us that three of their oarsmen in repentance went on to trial for CUBC the following year. Two of them won their respective races against Oxford. In the following years Caius gained headships of the Lent and the May bumps, sometimes just for the men both in the Lent and the May bumps the same year. Other years both for the men and the women. To most freshmen from Caius, Churchill doesn't register to them with any significance. However, to this day when you meet alumni members from Caius Boat Club a sense of humility and gratitude among them is palpable immediately once they learn you are from Churchill. Philosophically speaking we were the seed for their future success and victories against the dark side.

That was one of the happiest days I remember with that crew. We celebrated the victory with a beer and curry at the Maharajah Indian curry house on Castle Hill.

## Dates for your diary

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

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