

FORWARD

NEWSLETTER

Edition 4: Easter 2019

INSIDE

THIS

ISSUE

PG. 2

Review of Easter Term 2019

PG. 4

Results

PG. 8

Alumni section

PG. 11

Dates for the diary



Welcome to Edition 4 of Forward, Churchill College Boat Club's termly newsletter. The aim of this newsletter is to keep you up to date with race reports and Boat Club events, as well as providing some stories of rowing interest from students and alumni.



Easter Term 2019 in Review



Above: M3 approaching their final bump on Day 4 of May Bumps, about to achieve blades.

With all the signs pointing forward at the end of Lent Term the hard work of rowers and coaches has yielded Churchill's best May Bumps in 4 years.

The Women's squad has had a fantastic year. W1 have pushed on and finished +1 to be 8th on the river. Last year we didn't have a W2 but with 8 members of the crew making their Mays debut they righted the wrong from last year and bumped up 2 times, a fantastic performance and one which bodes really well for next year.

On the Men's side we had a depth not seen in recent years. M1 finished down 1, but did record the first M1 bump in 3 years, and were unlucky to have half of the Blues Boat chasing them down (albeit not for very long). M2 mirrored their Lent's performance with another +3, and with only 4 members of M1/M2 graduating this year there should be a lot of competition for these boats next year.

After footship spoons in Lent, M3 had a fantastic revival to blade in the 4th division, bumping a 3rd, 2nd and even a first boat on the way. Only 3 members of the crew weren't in the Lent's boat so it's a phenomenal improvement from this crew. M4 put out a fantastic performance to qualify for bumps and whilst this mixed gender crew finished down 1 and with a stern pair that hadn't rowed before the start of term it represents a fantastic level of progress.



Left: W1 at Bedford Regatta. Right: M4 in the Getting On Race. Below: M2 celebrate a successful bumps campaign.

With new W1 blades, and plans in place for a pair to aid training, next year should be a fantastic culmination of the work put in by many of this year's boats, and whilst I am graduating and won't get to be part of it, I am looking forward to seeing what next year brings.

Forward

Thomas Upton - Overall Captain 18/19



Results



Above: Members of W1 collecting the plate for winning their category at Bedford Regatta

Champs Eights Head:

W1: 7th in W1 division

M1: 7th in M2 division

M2: 2nd in M3 division (and only 5s slower than M1!)

M3: 4th in M4 division

W2: 9th in W4/GOR division

Bedford Regatta:

M1: Lost to strong Abingdon and Christchurch College crews

W1: Beat Emmanuel and Jesus College to win the Women's College Eights category

Peterborough Regatta:

M1: Came 4th in the A-final (within a few seconds of the winners, UAE)

Bumps:

W1: Bumped Girton W1 and Clare W1, bumped by Pembroke W1 to finish 8th the first division (highest since 1998)

M1: Bumped Girton M1, bumped by Trinity Hall M1 and Hughes Hall M1 (both blading crews) to finish 3rd in the second division

M2: Bumped Peterhouse M2, Lady Margaret M3 and Trinity Hall M2 to finish 8th in the third division

M3: Bumped St. Catharine's M3, St. Edmund's M2, Girton M2 and Anglia Ruskin M1 to achieve blades and finish 11th in the fourth division

W2: Bumped Fitzwilliam W3 and technically bumped Homerton W3 to finish 2nd in the fifth division

M4: Bumped by Caius M4 to finish 5th in the sixth division

W1				
M1				
M2				
M3				
W2				
M4				



Left: Churchill's May Bumps results. Right: M1 model their striking new socks on Day 4, and celebrate a week of solid rowing.

Churchill and CULRC

CCBC has a long tradition of sending some of its members – most of whom learnt to row or cox at Churchill – on to trial for university boats. This enriches the club, as rowers and coxes return with enhanced skills and a level of experience from which everyone benefits, and is also a fantastic testimony to the talent and dedication we have here.

This term, two of our members, Angela Harper and James Crossley, made it into the CULRC Dev Squad 8+ racing at BUCS. Coxed by Angela and with James in the 6 seat, the dev squad boat placed in the IM8+ E Final, which they won by a wide margin. As a club, we are really proud of them! Angela has remained involved in CULRC, going on to cox the lightweight 4+ (racing as Granta) at Marlow Regatta, where they placed 4th in the University/College 4+ category – a hugely impressive result for a lightweight crew.

Having the opportunity to take part in the BUCS CULRC Dev Squad was an incredible experience. Despite having just four sessions to train, the passion to succeed became apparent from everyone; rowers, coxes and coaches alike. It's there on the wall the minute you walk into Ely boathouse: "This is where we prepare to win boat races". It may have been the E final, but win our race we did.

It was fantastic to have two members of Churchill in the boat, and great to see Angela go on to cox the Lightweights at the Henley Qualifiers. There's a lot of talent in Churchill and I hope this spurs many others in the club to trial in the future.

James Crossley

Left: Angela coxing a Development Squad boat. Right: The CULRC 4+ at Marlow.



Prizes

A number of prizes are awarded annually by CCBC at the May Boat Club Dinner.

The Pinchin Prize

The Pinchin Prize is awarded to the Committee member who has gone above and beyond their role to give the most to the boat club. This prize is voted on by the entire boat club. It was awarded to Tom Upton, the outgoing Overall Captain, who I think we can all agree has done a fantastic job; besides organising a brilliant training camp, Tom has put a tremendous amount of time and effort into coaching novices and lower boats this year, which allows the club to run smoothly and provides real depth within the squads.

The Coxing Prize

The Coxing Prize was awarded to Kieran Heal, who coxed M1 this year. Kieran has been a huge asset to M1, working closely with the coaches to help implement better technique into the boat and frequently running uncoached outings, where he has coached very effectively from the cox's seat.

The Cameron-Lloyd Trophy

The Cameron-Lloyd Trophy goes to the CCBC crew with the best May Bumps performance. Clearly, this was awarded to M3 and will be kept for the year by their captain, Sam Smith, following their amazing achievement of bumping up every day, earning blades – even more impressive given that this is largely the same crew who got footship spoons in Lent Bumps!

Below: M3 rowing home on Day 4 of Bumps, having achieved blades.



Alumni

In this edition we have two fantastic stories about the rowing experiences of Mike Edge (U79) and Garry Lindberg (G60). 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!

Mike Edge

I came up to Churchill in October 1979, and the thought of rowing couldn't have been further from my mind. Football was my thing! Still I got tempted into the Boat Club Squash by the free beer and soon found myself in a bank tub. I missed the selection for the crews, and focused on the football trials. But on about my 5th day in college, I was walking past staircase 36 late at night, when a ground floor window flew open and Roni, who I'd met a couple of times, called out "What are you doing at 6 o'clock tomorrow morning? We've got 7 men for our novice 8." So that was it - I was in one of 4 eights that trained on the water 6 times a week.

To say that chance shout from Roni changed my life is a massive understatement. I'm still rowing now, training 6 or 7 times a week and still racing. I've won "pots" for 15 different clubs, and this year won my 100th pot for my current club, Wallingford. I just don't know how to stop.

At Churchill in '79, we were not a good novice crew - we were last but one in the Fairbairns and dumped out of the Claire Novices. To my surprise, I was put up into the college second VIII at the start of my second term - I was probably selected solely on my height (6'7"). I was stuck at bow and rowed dreadfully that term - and was even caught on TV swinging embarrassingly away from my rigger as we got bumped on the opening day of Lents. I didn't expect to get called up for trials at the start of the summer term, but maybe my height still impressed the coaches. In the trials I got to row away from the bow seat and, to my amazement, I could row. It turned out that the rigger at bow in the second boat had been bent and I'd had about 2 inches less room than I should have had. We had a good second VIII, but only managed to go up once in the Mays. At the end of that year, I won my first ever regatta in the Emma Sprints in a four with guys from the first VIII.

In my second year, I rowed at 5 in the first VIII. We came second in the Fairbairns to Jesus, and were the fastest Oxbridge College at Peterborough Head, but we couldn't manage blades in either bumps.

At the end of my second year, my Director of Studies took great delight in telling me that I was in the bottom 3 people to scrape a Third, so I abandoned plans to try for the Blue Boat, switched courses and dropped out of rowing. Work and football would have to do. But I subbed into the first VIII at Kingston Head in March and before I knew it, the coach was asking me: "Do you want a 2:1, or a 2:2 and blades?". Once he put it like that, it was an easy decision. I got a 2:2 and blades.

After college, I didn't really appreciate that there was club rowing outside of university. Cambridge was so insular in those days - I hope that's changed. I didn't row until 4 years later when my wife, Rachel, wanted to do an MSc at the other place. We lived in Wolfson College, Oxford, and they asked me to row in their college VIII, even though I wasn't a student. We won Christchurch regatta, which is for 'B' class college crews, and went up three in both bumps. I was amazed how short, crowded and ill-disciplined the Oxford stretch of water was.

The following year I joined City of Oxford Rowing Club. If I learned to row at Churchill, I learnt to race at City. In '87 at the age of 27, I won my first open regatta - 'Elite Vllls' at Monmouth.

I stayed at City of Oxford for 13 years, and was captain there in '93 (never again!). Along the way I picked up 4 medals at the National Championships, getting gold in the coxed pair in '93. Then on Christmas Eve in '94, I heard that there was a big squad building 10 miles down the road in Wallingford, so I moved there. I got into the first IV, with a 21 year-old Oxford Blue at stroke, a South African international at 3, and another good ol' club rower like me at 2. Our goal was the Britannia Cup at Henley Royal Regatta. We won every race we entered that season until we got to Docklands Regatta, where we led at half way, but University of London rowed through us on both days. Some serious soul searching meant that we would train twice a day, every day, from then on. We were so focused, it was the most intense thing I've ever done. We moved into a farmhouse just outside Henley a few days before the regatta and rowed three times a day. Even during the regatta, we rowed every morning before racing started, raced, and then rowed every evening after racing had finished. We made our way through the first 3 days beating Tideway Scullers, a German U23 crew and a Neptune crew full of Irish ex-internationals. In the Saturday's semi we were way too confident, so we tried to break the record to the Barrier as we had done in training, but missed it by a second, and rowed badly to win by just over a length.

We'd got through to Sunday's final where we came up against University of London once again. We were a length down at the top of the island, less than a minute into the race. I remember thinking that I was going to be a 'Henley Finalist' but never a 'Henley Medallist' - there are no medals for coming second at Henley. I shut out the race and focused on my rowing. Next time I looked was at the Barrier, and UL were still sat exactly one length up on us, they hadn't been able to break away. "We can win this" I thought to myself. We didn't draw level until the Progress Boards - that's less than 10 strokes to go, but once we did, they collapsed and we won by 1/3 of a length. The last recorded rate on our meter showed 45 strokes a minute. We'd won in the 3rd fastest time ever, behind Harvard and Cambridge Universities and our time was not bettered for the next 23 years.

I collected my winners medal proudly wearing my Churchill blazer. I remember that the original mission statement of Churchill Boat Club was to win a round at Henley Royal. I wonder if I was the first person to win there having learned to row at Churchill. I'd be very proud if I was.

The Henley Brit crew raced at Lucern two weeks later, where we lost to the GB crew by half a second (but beat Holland), and I lost the final of the Thames Cup in '98 rowing for yet another club. For the last 20 years, all my racing has been at veteran. A recent highlight was racing in the Head of the Charles, which is the biggest rowing event in the world in terms of the number of competitors. We won 'Masters 50' in 2016 and then broke the record a year later.

I do a bit of coaching these days, and we have a fantastic stretch of the Thames here in Wallingford with 6 miles between locks. Cambridge came to train and race here in December. If ever Churchill wanted to come, just let me know.

Mike Edge

Garry Lindberg

Your story of rowing on the Tideway sparked great memories. I was in the first ever Churchill Boat to row in the Head of the River Race...It was 1962. To back track, Churchill had entered its first ever eight in the May bumps, 1961, entering in the seventh and last division and finishing with mediocre results.....but the bug had bitten many of us. Canon Noel Duckworth arrived that fall together with the first intake of undergraduates and a lot of rowing activity started.

In the Lent Bumps, the first boat won its oars, bumping Pembroke V, Emmanuel IV, Sidney III and Kings III. We were a mix of graduate students and undergraduates, Kenny Macrae stroke, myself 7, Mike Cooper 6, Barry Schepens 5, John Haines 4, G. le M (Graham) Campbell 3, Howell Peregrine 2 and Malcolm Postgate bow with cox Lu Sham. Based on that apparent success, the Canon announced that we would row in the Head. Most of us had no idea of what we were getting into. But off we went .

The Canon had connections and he borrowed a boat for us and we only had to bring our oars. The boathouse was quite close to the start and we entered the river with great excitement. We started at the bottom, 314th I believe and finished 168.th. We were all very pleased. Besides being on the biggest river any of us had rowed on, my memory is looking back to the sides and seeing the many boats that had finished long before us and were now slowly making their way back to their boathouses. It seemed strange that we still had many minutes to row. And then of course, we had to row back to the boat house, a long slog.

Noel took us to the Heads the next year too and we moved up a few places but it was not nearly as exciting as the first time.

Oh yes, Noel took three of us to dinner at his club the night before. It was the first time he had been there for twenty five years or more since he had been abroad before coming to Churchill. He had some difficulty finding it but he then ushered three poorly clad students into the Aethenaeum!but that is another story.

Choomphing yours,

Garry Lindberg, Class of 1960.



Dates for your diary

- Try Rowing Day: 12th October
- Michaelmas Boat Club Dinner: 1st December
- Novice Fairbairn's: Thursday 5th December
- Senior Fairbairn's: Friday 6th December

- Lent Bumps: 25th-29th February
- Lent Boat Club Dinner: 29th February

- May Bumps: 10th-13th June
- May Boat Club Dinner: 13th June

Contact us:

- Website: www.churchillboatclub.org.uk
- Facebook: @churchillcollegeboatclub, www.facebook.com/churchillcollegeboatclub
- Twitter: @CHU_BC
- General Boat Club information:
Katie Kirk, Overall Captain: kjk40@cam.ac.uk
- About the Newsletter:
Xanthe Malcolm, Website and Communications Officer: xgm20@cam.ac.uk

