

FORWARD NEWSLETTER

Edition 5: Michaelmas 2019

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Welcome to Edition 5 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: The two M1 coxed fours at Ely, having come first and second in their division.

Like most things, Churchill College Boat Club goes in cycles. There's the annual cycle which sees a new batch of novices start the academic year learning to how to put their blade in the water and finish the year by getting their blade out again having successfully put some power down during the stroke. There's also the shuffling of last year's novices into higher boats as seniors and onto committee positions to help with the running of the club. Beyond that there's the longer term ups and downs of a club in terms of overall numbers, experience and of course, race success.

It's certainly easy to say that following the successes of last year, the boat club started the academic year in a pretty decent state for the seniors. On the men's side, while a handful of spaces opened up in M1 (most notably due to a CCBC triallist as well as the usual graduating students) these vacancies were quickly filled by some new faces with previous rowing experience in addition to the return of a veteran Churchill rower. Buoyed by such a strong Michaelmas squad, M1 tackled a number of races this term including visit to Ely for a blustery 5km head race on the Ouse in which they placed first and second in the college 4+ category. Unfortunately injuries, sickness and a certain Oxbridge ski trip caused havoc on the rest of the term. Despite this, they made technical progress and recorded some strong 2k tests; but the results at Winter Head and Fairbairns were less exciting than they could have been (albeit comparable with recent years).

There was also a strong M2 crew this term, comprising the remaining M2 and blading M3 of last year. With a consistent line up and expert coaching (as well as a lesson in leggings going on top of the all-in-



W1 (left) and W2 (right) after Winter Head.

one), the crew were the second fastest college 8+ at Winter Head (just over a second off the fastest crew) and third fastest at Fairbairns.

With only a handful of W1 and W2 continuing to row this term, the senior women's squad was very much about development, with a couple of last years W2 (and M4 crew) progressing into a rotating W1 4+ and the W2 8+ bulked up by a number of people who learnt to row from scratch over the summer. Massive technical changes were made throughout the women's squad, and the results are promising for next term too, with the W1 4+ coming 3rd (of 6) at Winter Head and 4th (of 10) college W1s at Fairbairns (and 5th overall), the W2 8+ coming 6th of 11 at Winter Head (ahead of some University crews) and 4th at Fairbairns. The senior women also made a trip to Ely to get enough rowers with a British Rowing race ahead of WeHARR next term, and came in 4th in the women's 8s category beating Jesus W1 in the process. The sheer number of senior women is a feat in itself, as Michaelmas term often sees the senior women reduced to a coxed four. As such having the depth in numbers bodes well for the rest of the year.

As always Michaelmas term is very much focused on our annual novice campaign, and despite a cold blustery BBQ and Try Rowing Day, over 75 people turned up. As the term went on this number whittled down to 4 competitive novices boats (2 on each side) and a rotating boat of more casual rowers. In addition to the usual coaching from LBCs and current students, this novice term saw the return of a crack team of alumni coaches including a recent ex-Overall Captain in charge of NW1 and a team of U80 alumni in charge of NM2 and NW2.

The novice races got off to a strong start at Queens Ergs with both NM1 and NW1 qualifying for their finals, eventually placing 4th and 8th overall (and recording some of the fastest times for Churchill novice crews for the last few years). NM2 won their heat of the lower men's division coming third overall, while a truly mixed third crew (novice men/women and a couple of seniors) meant that everyone who wanted to was able to take part in the Quergs experience. The evening also saw Churchill record the fastest individual novice women's time.

From there it was on to Emma Sprints which saw some Vikings, Reindeer, Winston Churchill/Charlie Chaplins and some Gangsters compete for Churchill. Both NM2 and NW2 were competing in the mixed

third division, and after successfully defeating all their other opponents, they faced each other off in the final. With the time difference recorded between finishing their respective semi-finals, NW2 were sent off with a 30s head start on NM2 and were ultimately able to hold the boys away down the 500m course to win the division. NW1 were up next in the novice women's first division and after winning their first three rounds easily, they came back from half a length down against Caius to win by clear water. Unfortunately, despite winning their first round convincingly against Downing, NM1 lost in their second against eventual division winners Caius.

Then it was only Fairbairns left to race for our novices. NM1 were off first and a speedy row down the 2.7km course saw them finishing 8th. NM2 weren't much slower, and despite a boat-stopping crab requiring them to restart half way down the course, they finished as the second fastest NM2 and the joint 13th fastest men's crew of the day. Following on from their success at Emma Sprints, NW1 were aiming for the win, and with some delaying tactics at the start to prevent them catching the crew ahead, they tackled the course a whole 4 seconds faster than the next fastest crew Caius, giving them a well deserved win. Unfortunately NW2 could also have done with the delaying tactics as they were so fast off the start they had to wind it down just after the boathouse to avoid overtaking before they were allowed. Despite being impeded they managed to finish as the third fastest NW2 and the 17th fastest novice women's boat!

In other exciting news, Churchill College Boat Club has secured sponsorship from MathWorks for the next few years. A massive thanks must go to David Sampson for his help in organising this in addition to his all coaching with W1. Thanks must also go to everyone who has coached this term, be it our student coaches who squeeze in the extra outings on top of their own training and work, or our alumni who equally fit it in around family and jobs of their own. Finally, thanks to the new committee, who have survived their first term in post and come out pretty successfully as the above results show.

With Michaelmas term now done, in the new year we move on once again to Lent term which brings with it Lent Bumps. The novices will join in with the seniors and we look set to have 7 boats hoping to get on and by the results of this term, be fairly competitive too. While it's too early to predict what will happen in the rest of the year, there's a really great community in the boat club this term and I'm quietly optimistic that this year we're continuing upwards in this cycle.

Forward.

Katie Kirk - Overall Captain 2019-2020

Results



Above: The NM2 Vikings regarding their coxswain with appropriate awe and fear after Emma Sprints.

Ely Head:

M1: 1st and 2nd in Men's College 4+ division

W1: 4th in Women's 8+ category

Queens' Ergs:

NM1: 4th place in final

NW1: 8th place in final, with the fastest individual women's time of the night

NM2: 3rd in men's lower boats category

And with the help of some seniors, a mixed boat was also able to enter (time only), giving everyone who wanted a chance to participate.

Winter Head:

M1: In two 4+s, came 3rd and 4th (of 7) and then in an 8+ came 2nd (of 5) in the Student 8+ category

M2: 3rd (of 11) in College M2 8+ category

W1: 4th (of 7) in the College 4+ category
W2: 6th (of 11) in the College W2 8+ category

Emma Sprints:

NW1: winners of W1 division!
NM1: knocked out in their second race (by the overall winners)
NM2 and NW2: both made it to the final of the W3/M3 division, where NW2 (given a 30 second head start) were the victors by a close margin

Fairbairns:

NW1: winners of NW1 category!
NM1: 8th in NM1 category
NM2: 2nd fastest NM2 boat
NW2: 3rd fastest NW2 boat

M1: 10th fastest college M1 8+
M2: 3rd fastest college M2 8+
W1: 4th fastest college W1 4+
W2: 4th fastest college W2 8+



Above: M2 racing at Winter Head.

Dates for your diary

- Duckworth Day: 26th January
- Lent Bumps: 25th-29th February
- Lent Boat Club Dinner: 29th February

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

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