

# FORWARD

## NEWSLETTER

Edition 7: Michaelmas 2020

# INSIDE

# THIS

# ISSUE

 PG. 2

Review of Lent and Easter Term 2020

 PG. 4

Results

 PG. 5

Alumni section

 PG. 6

Contact details



Welcome to Edition 7 of Forward, Churchill College Boat Club's termly newsletter. This edition is dedicated to Jim Cameron, boatman for CCBC for over 30 years. 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.



# Michaelmas Term 2020 in Review



## W1 and M2 spinning on the reach before sparring

Before my report, I'd like to mark the passing of Jim Cameron earlier this year. Jim was the boatman for Churchill College Boat Club for an astonishing 30 years, and although I did not know him myself, I know he will be intrinsically associated with the boat club for many alumni. Jim was a master craftsman and could repair all manner of broken boats and blades. Of all the anecdotes I have been told, my favourite is one from around 1990: Churchill were entering the Free Press Head Race and had the idea to row in a 12+! When Jim heard, he threw himself into helping them build it. He took the hulls of two old 8s and spliced them together! As the story goes, the Churchill 12 won the head race against the top college 8s, although I have no idea how they managed to turn the boat around at the start line!

The boat club squeezed a remarkable amount of activity into only four weeks of Michaelmas before the start of November's lockdown. We had six boats-worth of novices join the club, and that kept our captains very busy alongside the five senior boats! Rowing was one of the few ways for students to meet people from different households, and I'm especially glad that we could help freshers make the most of their first term. Even throughout lockdown we ran socials and fitness sessions online to keep up the community spirit.

The women's side is moving from strength to strength at the moment. W1 claimed yet another trophy in the only race of term! They won Christmas Head against a field of top crews including Jesus and Queens'. Amazingly, we also had more novice women sign up this term than men - and we had no shortage of men! This was partly thanks to the college's own record-breaking intake of women, and we're pleased to see it feed through to the boat club.



Left: W1 after their win at Christmas Head, Right: M2, who came third at Christmas Head as the fastest M2 crew

The novices unfortunately were not able to enter any races, but they learnt a lot in the time that they had. I hope the forecast for Lent improves, because no novice term is complete without experiencing the cacophony of the "Queens' Ergs" 8x500m race, and the madness of their first side-by-side race at Emma Sprints. It is also not complete until their first Boat Club Dinner, where they would see what the social side of the boat club is all about, but I fear that is a way off yet!

Unsurprisingly, there were plenty of new restrictions to get used to. For example, all ergs had to be done outdoors, and I can report that a cold, autumnal evening is a great incentive to pull a little harder. The coxes also had to wear a visor during outings, which was great until a rainy morning rendered all coxes half-blind! So, we invested in some water-repellent spray after that. A lot of club members started to learn to scull and row in small boats this term, so we made good use of our new pair and owe thanks to the Leys school for allowing us to use so many of their small boats.

One final thing to talk about. For the first time in our history, we have fenced off a small endowment for the club. The aim of the endowment is to provide a stable income, primarily for maintenance and replenishment of the club's equipment. This is especially important for our lower boats who all-too-often have to interrupt or cancel outings due to equipment failure. Our long-term ambition is to grow the endowment so that it can purchase whole boats and secure the future of the boat club.

So all-in-all, Michaelmas was a brief term. But we achieved so much thanks to the hard work of the committee and captains to get rowing going so quickly and so safely. Well done to the whole club for working together to stay safe. Thanks to our boatman, Roly; our Senior Treasurer, Fran; and Churchill College's bursar, Shelley; for guiding us through a complex term. Now, we look forward to the next one.

Ross Tooley  
Overall Captain 2020-21

# Results



Left: W2 racing at Christmas Head (Photo from Giorgio), Right: A Novice Women's crew in training

## Christmas Head:

W1 came first in the women's college 8+ category, over 10s ahead of Jesus W1!

M1 came second in the men's college 8+ category, with M2 in third (over 30s ahead of 2 college M1s).

W2 came 5th in the women's college 4+ category (as the only W2 crew), with some gutsy rowing and despite being crashed into by three other boats along the course



Left: A crew of seniors and potential novices heading off for an outing on our try rowing day.

# Alumni

The Alumni section this term is a little different than usual. The Boat club was recently sent this photo of the M5 boat from May 1963 by the sister of the stroke seat, MC Gray. It is thought that this crew won their blades, but if anybody has any stories about MC Gray or this crew, we (and the family) would love to hear from you!



As always, if you have a photo or a story you would be willing to share with the club, please get in contact with us by email.

## Contact us:

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