

FORWARD

CCBC NEWSLETTER

Edition 9: Easter 2021

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

-  PG. 2 Review of the term
-  PG. 6 Results
-  PG. 10 Prizes
-  PG. 11 Alumni
-  PG. 13 Contact Details



Welcome to Edition 9 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 2021 in Review



W1 racing in June Eights Regatta

Students, in general, have had a year to forget. Often scapegoated as the viral vectors who drive up the R rate with our endless parties, the reality is that many students have struggled with loneliness this year. We were bounced between home and university and relentlessly sent stern emails about the consequences of leaving our staircase. In light of this, there has never been a more rewarding year to run a boat club!

We were allowed to resume rowing in March and we had even more sign-ups than in Michaelmas. This meant we had nine boats training in Mays and six racing in the June Eights Regatta. Rowing was a great way to get out of the house in lockdown, be energetic, and meet others. As the restrictions relaxed we could also go to the pub in half-crews, have multi-crew socials on the Churchill fields, and finish the year with Boat Club Dinner in the hall.

We ran a vacation-rowing program over Easter as students were trickling back to university. It was a good chance to mix crews and try out different boat sizes and made it possible to race scratch crews throughout the term to overcome covid and exam disruption. A few of the novices also used vacation rowing to make the jump into senior crews, where they rowed very well.

Of course the university Boat Races were also running over Easter and our very own Angela Harper was selected to cox Blondie. Angela learnt to cox at Churchill 3 years ago and quickly moved up to the university squads. Blondie stormed the race this year and beat Osiris by seven lengths!

Churchill took part in eight races this term - almost one a week - and we won pots in two of them. We won the mixed category at 99s Spring Regatta with a surprisingly effective scratch crew of four men sandwiched by two pairs of women at bow and stern. It clearly found the correct balance of technical rowing and brute force. We also won the men's second division at XPress Head (and came third overall) which happened to be my own final race and it was one of the best performances I've been part of.

We managed to get off-Cam too and race at Peterborough Regatta. There were a few scalps that day! The men's eight raced against their coach's crew and tied with them, embarrassing their coach so much that he promptly moved to a new club! The men also entered an A four and a B four, only for the B four to win, and then for the women's four to show them both up.



M1 at Peterborough Regatta

There were few opportunities for novice racing, so we took matters into our own hands one afternoon and sparred our three novice crews against each other. We lined the bank with about 10 seniors to prevent carnage and made NM1 promise to rate-cap at 26 (which they ignored). It worked very well. So well that Selwyn attempted to join but couldn't keep up.

Our novice crews carried that experience into the biggest race of term, the June Eights Regatta. This race was the replacement to May Bumps, which was cancelled on safety grounds because of the limited time for coxes to practise. Nevertheless, some crews (NW1) tried to make it feisty anyway and there were some big blade clashes in the week... maybe they are preparing for a future Boat Race? The best performances of the JER came from NM1, NW1 and M1 who all qualified for the top division. NM1 were the second fastest novice crew in the time trial, NW1 fifth, and M1 thirteenth which significantly outperforms their current May-Bumps ranking. The side-by-side racing was also positive with every crew enjoying a couple of side-by-side victories.

And so our year was complete! Training is now on hold until October, except a few casual summer regattas, and hopefully the next year will be more normal. I think the club, the committee, and all our members have done an excellent job preventing and mitigating disruption this year, and we should start next year in a much better state than most colleges. Nonetheless, I would like to issue one cry for help! Our main issue next year will be a lack of experienced club members. Rowing has been disrupted for the last two years and bumps have not happened since Lent 2020. This will have a big impact on our novice coaching because normally the novices and the lower boats are coached by seniors. If you would like to help us coach the novices or the lower boats then please get in touch. You don't need coaching experience (none of our senior rowers do...!), just the knowledge of what a good rowing stroke looks like!



Getting ready to spar

Finally, this year was the club's 60th anniversary and we intended to invite all our alumni back to celebrate on the last day of May Bumps. We had to postpone this for obvious reasons, but we will be running it next Mays on our 61st anniversary instead! The afternoon will be spent by the river watching the racing, and the evening will be spent at Boat Club Dinner! We hope to see as many of you there as possible, so keep a mental note for now and we'll be in touch soon with more details!

Ross Tooley.

Overall Captain 2020/1.

Results



M1 racing in June Eights Regatta

Head of the Cam

CCBC men raced as a scratch crew in the first race of term, finishing 15th overall (including the town clubs) with a time of 9:52

City of Cambridge's Big Weekend

The Senior Men raced in the Head to Head race on Saturday (consisting of two lots of 1.9km), which saw them negatively splitting between the two pieces (and the only senior men's crew to do so).

On Sunday both the Senior men and a mixed novice crew raced in City Sprints. The Senior men were unfortunately knocked out in their first round, losing to eventual winners Jesus M1 by half a length. A mixed crew of novices were also racing for the first time and rowed admirably against a mixed senior crew from Hughes Hall.

Nine's Spring Regatta

A mixed W2/M2 VIII won both their races convincingly to win the mixed event.

After a nervous start, M1 lost their first race to the eventual division winners. However, after a much improved second start they narrowly lost their second race by 2 seats.



W1 IV+ at Peterborough Spring Regatta



W2/M2 after their win at Nine's Spring Regatta



NW2 preparing for June Eights Regatta

Peterborough Spring Regatta

Two M1 4+, an M1 8+ and a W1 4+ took part in Peterborough regatta, racing down a 1km course.

- One M4+ qualified for their B final, finishing in 4th Place.
- The other M4+ qualified for the C final, finishing in 2nd place.
- The M1 8+ qualified for their B final with the fastest 1k time by a Churchill men's 8+ in recent years, finishing in 4th place.
- The W1 4+ qualified for their A final with a time of 3:56.0, finishing in joint 3rd place.

X-press Head

M1 won their division and a scratch W1 crew came second in their division.

June Eights Regatta

A four day, Swiss-style regatta, with crews competing against other crews in their division on a 1km course down the reach.

M1 in the M1 division: lost against LMBC M1, Fitz M1, and Christs M1 despite respectable performances, before winning on the final day against Trinity Hall M1.

W1 in the W2 division: lost to FaT W1 before winning against Medwards W2 and Pembroke W3. They had a bye on the third day so did not get to race.

M2 in the M2 division: lost against LMBC M2, Darwin M1 and a Jesus mixed boat but won against Peterhouse M2 by over a length.



M2 racing in June Eights Regatta

NM1 in the NM1 division: won against Darwin NM1, Pembroke NM2 and Pembroke NM1 despite a last-minute injury and sub, but sadly lost to FaT NM1. They were the second fastest novice men's crew in the Getting on Race.

NW1 in the NW1 division: won against Homerton NW1, lost narrowly to Caius NW1, had a bye on the third day, and received a DQ on the last day due to blade clashes against LMBC NW1 (a race they would have won).

NW2 in the NW2 division: lost to Selwyn NW2 and Lucy Cavendish but won easily against Clare NW3. Sadly, they had to scratch on the final day due to a positive covid result.



NM1 at June Eights Regatta

Prizes

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 this year to Kieran Heal, the incoming Overall Captain. This year he was both Junior Treasurer and LBC.

The Coxing Prize

The Coxing Prize for this term was awarded to David Rousso who coxed NM1 throughout this term, as well as an M1 IV+ at Peterborough Regatta. He made outstanding progress over the year, from complete beginner to safe and skilled coxswains, and is an asset to his crew, and to the boat club as a whole.

The **Cameron-Lloyd Trophy** usually goes to the CCBC crew with the best May Bumps performance but was not awarded this year.

Alumni

The Churchill Twelve

Andy White got in touch earlier this year, remembering the mixed Churchill 12 circa summer of 1990. The crew list (below) features a few boat club captains, a Goldie and a CUWBC president, not to mention the mother and father of our outgoing Overall Captain, Ross Tooley – an impressive line up!

Crew List:

- 1 - Dave Klemptner
- 2 - Steve Tooley
- 3 - Cat Lee-Elliott
- 4 - Phil Ancliff
- 5 - Neil Tooley
- 6 - Isobel Bush
- 7 - Me
- 8 - Paul Swainston
- 9 - Mark Harrison
- 10 - Pete Monaco
- 11 - John Hobdell
- 12 - Jon Swinburn
- cox - John Palmer



The 12 rowing past the Goldie Boathouse

'It was all a big team effort from everyone, great fun and quite wet by the end. Jon Swainston was possibly the captain at the time we rowed - I remember him writing a letter to the ARA magazine about it. I think the story was that a 12 took to the Thames, coxed by someone Rodney Bewes (moderately famous 1970s TV actor), and claimed to be the first ever 12. We obviously took issue with that, so he wrote the letter.'

Maybe a Churchill 12 will return in the future at some point!



The 12 outside the boathouse. Apparently the rather impressive lycra was the first women's at the time.

Contact us:

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