



Churchill College Boat Club

End of Year Report 2015

Dear Members of Churchill College Boat Club,

This has been an incredible year of results for Churchill College Boat Club, the most successful in a good number of years, with the Churchill crews inching their ways back up the Bumps tables in both Lents and Mays. With a fantastic influx of new and dedicated rowers, everyone at CCBC is hopeful that these trends may continue for years to come. Several members of both the Men's and Women's squads are also currently trialling for the University Development Squads over the coming weeks, so the best of luck to them all.

We are also proud to announce our new committee for 2015-16 as follows:

Overall Captain:	Dan Jones
Men's Captain:	Dan Manela
Women's Captain:	Anna Welch
Women's Vice Captain:	Katy Surman
Men's Lower Boat Captain:	Jonathan Morell
Women's Lower Boats Captains:	Paula Wulff and Sarah Carlotti
Junior Treasurer:	Beth Small
Secretary:	Gabriella Johanssen
Equipment and Safety Officer:	Jos Swanwick
Coxing Representative:	Anna Myerscough
Webmaster and Communications:	Jeremy Parker
Social Secretary:	Rachel Snow

This report is a summary of the term's activities from the crew captains, so I'll let them speak for themselves.

Dave Roche

Alumni and Webmaster 2014-15

Overall Captain's Message : Jeremy Parker

Dear Members of Churchill College Boat Club,

The academic year 2014-15 has been an amazing success for Churchill College Boat Club. We won both the Marconi and Pegasus Cups for Lent and May Bumps, and collected an impressive four sets of blades in the process.

It's crazy to me to think that a whole cohort of Churchill rowers has finished their first year without ever knowing what it is like to be bumped.

All this without the use of our boat house, which is being demolished as I write. The first few months of next year (and for those using the boat house over the summer) will be difficult, though I know we all look forward to electricity and toilets making a temporary return from the middle of July.

Next year should be another great one - lots of strong rowers are staying on, both on the women's and men's sides, and we welcome the prospect of a brand new boat house, and a brand new boat for M1.

Jeremy Parker

Overall Captain 2014-15

Men's 1st VIII Report : James Green

C -	Marla Gillow
Stroke -	Dan Jones
7 -	Mark Hollands
6 -	Daniela Manela
5 -	Iolo Squires
4 -	James Green
3 -	Alastair Thomas
2 -	Jos Swanwick
Bow -	Jeremy Parker
(9) -	Matthew Symes

Coaches : Silvia Breu, Stefan Butlin

A bit of an unusual term report in that it begins right after our success in Lent Bumps, and will continue right up until Henley Royal Regatta in July. It is a testament to how hard that we've worked as a crew that we can say we've taken CCBC to national events and hold our heads high given we're 'just a college crew in a 14-year old Janousek'. Lent term ended with a fastest-Cambridge College result at KeHARR, 20th out of 200 crews, backed up by a brilliant HARR, placing 3rd Cambridge College and 113th of 327 crews (including the CUBC 'Goldie' crew!). Generously giving ourselves a 2week break (read painful cross-training schedule) we approached training camp full of confidence. Aside from setting a benchmark for onesie tans and British-standard BBQs we ended the camp as a very strong unit. The next day, and our first in Cambridge I unfortunately lost a fight with a car, leading to a fractured collarbone, shoulder, and the prospect of many hours on a static bike. Needless to say the rest of the guys took it in their stride, absolutely smashing BUCS with the 7th fastest time of the day in the intermediate University classes, and missing out on the A final by the narrowest of margins.

Back on the, now very small-looking Cam, we decided to 'do a Caius', losing out only to said crew in the 99's Regatta. In truth we flew under the radar for most of Mays, whether because of Roly's new 'camo' paint job on our bows, being so light, or just fast I'm still not sure! In truth though, despite all the returning blues we've quietly got on with the job in hand, pushing on and again relentlessly improving session-on-session.

Bumps got off to a great start, hitting Fitz, a crew that also 'superbladed' in Lents, and putting to bed years of chasing them in bumps! We also walked away from Magdalene, a boat overflowing with CUBC stash, and continued to do so every single day, a high accolade. Although the rest of bumps didn't go to plan, restricted by crews ahead of us, our +1 is still a very respectable result in div. 1. If anything this made us hungrier for 'fairer' victories off-Cam. Plenty of training through May Week led to a great result at Marlow Regatta, placing a close 3rd in the IM3.8+ final - with a time that would have got us 3rd in the IM1.8+ final, and beating a number of University and all the other Cambridge Colleges. Our next focus is Henley Royal Regatta Qualifiers on 26th June, our aim to become the first Churchill Crew to Qualify in almost 2 decades, I'm very excited to see what we can do!

James Green

Men's Captain 2014-15

M1 in action during their May's 2015 campaign



M1 take on Henley qualifying, along with Tim Nye, the guest cox from Girton College

Congratulations to the boys who achieved their blades in Lents 2015



Women's 1st VIII Report : Gemma Eastham

Bow –	Anna Welch
2 –	Saara-Anne Azizi
3 –	Sarah Carlotti
4 –	Katy Surman
5 –	Paula Wulff
6 –	Gabriella Johansson
7 –	Dorottya Nagy
Stroke –	Rachel Snow
Cox –	Gemma Eastham

Coaches: Chris Burfiend (Head), David Sampson, Chris Owen, Rob Oeffner, Matic Horvat, Sue Brown

This term began with a great training camp attended by most of W1, Silvia helped us make a lot of progress during the intense but fun week and set us up on a solid platform to begin our May's campaign. The hard work really showed when we came 3rd at Spring Head to Head, beaten only by Downing and Emma, and beating, amongst others, both Jesus and Caius.

Our successful term continued with Nottingham regatta on the 16th May, the first experience of proper lane racing for most of the crew. We went with the goal of making the final in the IM3 division and came away with pots after winning the final by 17 seconds!! It was an amazing experience and one I'm sure none of us will forget. A very determined crew then took on Xpress Head and won our category.

The finale of the term was an amazing bumps campaign, we bumped St Catharine's on the 1st day, followed by Peterhouse on the 2nd, we then rowed over on the 3rd, as crews bumped out ahead of us. The final day we had an epic bump on Queens, as our kill call took us from 1/3 length to overlap in 15 strokes as we came on to the reach, Queens fought hard for a further 500m with their 7 seat shortening her stroke in order to avoid the bump but with one final push we sent them to spoons and took ourselves to a final result of up 3.

Overall it has been a great year with 3 pots won, up 2 in Lents and up 3 in Mays both in the 1st division with the majority of the boat being novices. We would not be where we are today without the hard work of our fabulous coaches who have taught us how to maximise our power and strength whilst improving efficiency with better bladework and control. Particularly Chris Burfiend, who has put in a lot of time and effort to bring up our boat full of novices to W1 division standard over the past 2 terms.

Forward!

Gemma Eastham

Women's Captain 2014-15

The W1 girls winning IM3 division at Nottingham Regatta



W1 celebrating a very successful May's week.

Bumping up on St Catz W1



Men's 2nd VIII Report : Jack Jervoise

Cox : Anna Myerscough
Stroke : Jack Jervoise
7: Joe Cammack
6: Tom Broatch
5: Matic Horvat
4: Karolis Misiunas
3: Matt Symes
2: Philip Mair
Bow: Vahe Tshitoyan

M2 Report:

M2 came into this Mays off the back of a very successful Lents campaign in which they moved up 3, with the aim this term being to better this result. The pre-term training at Molsey gave us an opportunity to have extended period on the water and proved invaluable in getting ahead on training, as well as giving several members of the crew a chance to brush up on the capsize drill... Training camp was followed by trials back in Cambridge, and in turn by 4 weeks of hard training. Our first race of the term was Champs VIII Head, in which we placed third in our division and came in several seconds ahead of boats in both the M1 and M2 divisions. Our second race, Nines Spring Regatta, was an improvement on this still. After a close semi-final with Magdalene M2 we won our final race clearly and took home our first pots of term.

This success continued into Bumps with the crew earning its first set of Mays Blades since 1998. The first 3 days resulted in Bumps at First Post Corner on Trinity Hall M2, First and Third M3 and Selwyn M2. The final day saw us chasing a much tougher crew, Robinson M2, and despite an incredibly tight sandwich with both crews overlapping with the boat ahead, we got the bump opposite the Plough. There is no finer reward for what has been a term of hard work for the crew, and I now graduate from Churchill knowing that the ghost of M2 going up +3 in the past few Mays has been put to rest.

Jack Jervoise
M2 Crew Captain May's 2015

M2 get their blades!



*Having to chase as
third boat in a 3-boat
sandwich*

Women's 2nd VIII Report : Natalie Boonzaier

Cox – Ella Lloyd
Stroke – Jessica Walsh
7 – Natalie Boonzaier
6 – Beth Small
5 – Kathryn Dodds
4 – Gillian Pan
3 – Sara Saheb-Kashaf
2 – Amanda Chen
Bow – Laurel Anderson
Sub – Michelle Kelley

Like many last-minute ensembles, W2 started off a mess with little hope for the GoR. The positive and keen attitudes of those in the crew, however, had us improving with every outing. Within the second week we realised we were a crew with potential and, from there on out, it was go big or go home- an amazing transformation. With the unquestioned dedication of Michelle, our soon-to-be "not-sub", we were able to get a fair amount of outings in per week. With massive determination and an active and collective decision to perform as we'd been taught, W2 rowed with heart and got on. From there, Bumps was fairly straight forward. Race times got slightly longer with each day, yet remaining relatively short. We worked our way up the ladder, bumping Clare W4, Jesus W4, Queens' W3 and Clare W3, ending our May Bumps with Blades.

My sincerest gratitude goes to all our subs, without whom many outings would not have happened; our second coach, Eddie Powell, who was encouraging, positive and pushed us to limits we weren't sure we could reach; Rob Oeffner and Chris Burfiend; everyone that helped keep us on the water – thank you! Thank you Jess (co-captain), for taking over while I was gone and for keeping us competitive. Lastly, thank you to our head coach, Giorgio Divitini, for keeping us on our toes and kindly reminding us how *scrappy we can become when not focusing. I am so grateful that I had you to guide me through this. This has been a great term for CCBC and I thank W2 for making this an amazing way to end my rowing here at Cambridge.

Natalie Boonzaier

W2 Crew Captain May's 2015



W2 at BCD celebrating a successful week of bumping

Another successful bump for the W2 ladies!



... and blades for W2!

Men's 3rd VIII Report : Jonathan Morell

Bow – Bradley Kemp
2 – Jake Bland
3 – Robert Murphy
4 – Nick Rogers
5 – Christopher Finch
6 – Nick Taylor
7 – Jonathan Morell
Stroke – Flaviu Bulat
Cox – Natasha Michael
Sub. - Ellie Miller
Coaches – Jack Jervoise, James Green, Roly Beevor, Giorgio Divitini

This has been an interesting term for M3, where we have both our fair share of luck but also a lot of hard work. Due to the construction of the new boathouse, we had to share M2's boat, Canon Duckworth (which was bow rigged), with them. This meant the only competition we entered this term was May Bumps. Our training program started off slowly, as our 5 seat (Christopher Finch) suffered a leg injury from Ice Hockey and finding subs proved difficult during the exam season. As well as this, we had to hold retrials after a couple of weeks, due to surplus bow siders wishing to row.

Calamity struck when our Men's Captain got into a fight with a car (and lost) and left a bow side hole in the higher boats, leaving M2 to pinch our stroke. After some reshuffling of the crew, Nick Rogers stepped up and began training with us in the 4 seat. At about week 5, our training began properly kicking in and we began moving the boat more cleanly on the water and looking like a proper crew. However, we all panicked about the Getting-on Race, and so we trained hard.

The next two weeks saw us preparing for the GoR, which (it turns out) was unnecessary as we later found out that there had been some crews who scratched, meaning we automatically qualified for Bumps. However, M2 decided it was necessary to take our stroke. Again. 1 week before bumps (Thanks Jack). Two frantically organised outings, in what was supposed to be our rest days before bumps, prepared the crew (and our new stroke) for what I dreaded was about to be a spooning campaign. Credit where credit is due, the crew adjusted to a new stroke amazingly well, and Flaviu took on the role bravely and accomplished a hell of a lot having never stroked before. Before we knew it, bumps was here.

On our first day of bumps, we were chasing Darwin III and being chased by Clare IV. The Darwin boat was subtitled 'Gents and Fellows', and included some rowers with grey hair, which excited some of the crew. The ever-wise James Green warned us not to get complacent and he was right to do so. After a long race, we managed to bump them in front of the crowds at The Plough, and sent them on their way to spoons. Many thanks to Ellie Miller who subbed in as the cox in this raced and urged us into the bump.

The next day, we knew Darwin would want payback. After such a long race, I was worried they'd hit us hard in order to get even, however I did not need to worry. We bumped Corpus III within a minute of racing, and their race report likened them to a 'beached whale, accepting the cruel fate that nature [or Churchill] intended'.

The third day was our most disappointing. We knew that Kings III were the best crew we had yet to face, but were quietly confident due to their performances on previous days. However, they decided to parachute in ex M1 rowers, including an alum, which meant they got an overbump on a very weak Jesus IV after we valiantly held them on station up to The Plough. Upon appealing though, CUCBC decided to award us a technical bump, since on any other day of the campaign we would have easily bumped Kings.

On our final day, we were on +3 but knew there would be all to play for, since Kings would but very bitter about losing their precious overbump. However, wiithin 30 strokes of the starting cannon, we bumped Trinity Hall III, well before First Post Corner. I hasten to add that we also pulled a fair way away from Kings, which proves that the technical bump was the correct decision, and meant that we thoroughly deserved the blades which we had won.

There are too many people who I need to thank for their help this term, but I would like to single out Jack, James, Giorgio and Roly who all helped to turn us into a proper crew.

Jonathan Morell
M3 Crew Captain May's 2015



M3 celebrating winning their blades at BCD

More Churchill celebrations on the river!

