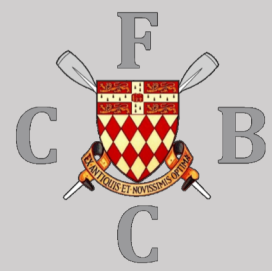


FITZWILLIAM COLLEGE BOAT CLUB



Michaelmas 2019 Newsletter



**Fitzwilliam College Boat Club, University of Cambridge
Find us online at www.fitzbc.com and follow us on Facebook
& Instagram (@fitzbc)**

Senior Men

M1 & M2

Men's Captains: André Neto-Bradley, Philip Owen
Coxes: Leila Fahmy (M1), Adam Morland (M2)
Coaches: Antony Moule, Alex Markham & André Neto-Bradley

Michaelmas term has seen a mix of seniors from last year returning to lay the groundwork for our Bumps 2020 campaign. Working predominantly in IVs for the first half of term before merging the lower boats into an VIII for Fairbairn's, we focused on developing talent from our second and third Mays Boat and have made good progress with some strong performances.

Uni IVs

Three weeks into term the top IV had its first test of the term racing in Uni IVs. Our crew of Alex Massie (Str), Phil Owen (3), Ben Schöyer (2), and Sam Kirkbride (Bow), Leila Fahmy (cox) took on the challenge with great commitment and work ethic, squeezing in a few extra outings in the first two weeks of term to find their groove as a crew. A rather unfortunate draw against a Magdalene crew of former lightweights and trialists saw us face a tough fight, and despite a valiant effort our crew were bested by a small margin. Magdalene went on to lose narrowly to Lady Margaret in the final. It was nonetheless a respectable performance to start the term from the M1 IV.

Isle of Ely Head

After last year's captains successfully tested the waters at Isle of Ely Head, racing in the niche mixed double category, Fitz returned this year with a larger contingent. Entering our top IV who were racing in the John Eisold, as well as a second four racing as a 4x+. The top IV's strokeman put his Russian to good use as the boys navigated the Chernobyl-esque industrial estate to get our boats re-rigged and in the water. Racing in the 3k event our top IV put in an impressive display and was the fastest boat in the division besting their opposition in the 4+ category comfortably. The gentlemen in the second four who all only learned to scull this term, held a steady rate in the high 20s and kept up a decent pace in a calm and classy paddle down the course.

Cambridge Winter Head

With our lower boats merged into an VIII and working hard to get to find their rhythm as a crew – the top IV pressed ahead in early November entering Cambridge Winter Head. This was a good test against several other college IVs, and the boys were in high spirits. With a decidedly keen sprint and despite getting stuck behind a slow King's College London near the end, the boys clocked an impressive time coming second in the 4+ category losing out to Emmanuel by less than a second!

Fairbairn's Senior IVs

For the first time in several years Fitz entered two men's crews for Fairbairn's Cup – an M1 top-IV and an M2 VIII. Racing first thing in the morning the VIII had a last minute cameo in the bow lounge following one of the crew falling victim to the Fitz flu epidemic. The line-up for the VIII was Adam Morland (cox), Ben Schöyer (Str), Andrew Salkeld (7), Thomas Matthews Boehmer (6), Mateja Soretic (5), Kesavan Sivanesan (4), Jamie Sykes Macleod (3), Tom Dutnall (2), and André Neto-Bradley (Bow). The boys had a spirited row and clocked a respectable performance at 16:19, 4th amongst the college second boats racing. Later that day it was the turn of our top-IV to head out and blitz downstream – the boys were keen to improve on the 9th place finish amongst colleges last year and with favourable wind and stream conditions it looked like times would be quick. From stroke the crew was, Freddie Scott (Str), Phil Owen (3), Alex Massie (2), and Sam Kirkbride (Bow), Leila Fahmy (cox) The boys had a smooth start and kept up their speed past the P&E to clock an impressive 12:00 flat and good enough for 6th place, a faster time and higher finish than last year's IV. A just reward for a term's hard work.



André Neto-Bradley & Phil Owen, Men's Captains

Senior Women W1 & W2

Women's Captains: Lizzie Knight, Harriet Bradnock
Coxes: Robert Machado (W1), Phuong Bui (W2)
Coaches: Antony Moule, Alan Marron, Mike Taylor, Joanna Lee, Jessica Halliday

The women's squad started off this Michaelmas in a very strong position. For the first time in a long time we were able to begin the term with not one but two senior boats, thanks to a strong contingent of rowers rejoining us from last Mays, as well as several new faces who joined our ranks.

Our first race of term was Winter Head, for both W1 and W2, along with our novice boats. W1 put in a strong row and finished 8th in the student C1 category, beating the likes of Selwyn and Medwards, though finishing a little way off the pack leaders. We also took the Chris Gill out for a spin, racing in a coxed quad with a scratch crew, which was a surprisingly enjoyable experience, resulting in a 3rd place finish in our category. W2 also put in a great row, finishing 9th in the student C2 category. These results certainly served as an incentive to keep improving and pushing on the top crews for the rest of term.



This year, the senior Fairbairns Cup brought a rather momentous occasion for the women's side of FCBC, with it being the first time ever that Fitz has fielded two senior women's eights in Fairbairns, as well as being the first time we've welcomed back some esteemed former Fitz rowers to form a women's alumni eight. After a last minute back injury and a race which didn't quite go to plan, W1 ended up 14th out of the college W1 crews - not quite the result we were aiming for, though it was a spirited row given the circumstances! W2 had a really fantastic race, putting in a great row to finish 4th in the W2 category.



We end this term in a very promising position, with plenty of experience, enthusiasm and energy going forward into Lent term.

Harriet Bradnock & Lizzie Knight, Women's Captains

Novice Men

NM1 – Coaches: João d’Avila, Freddie Scott **Cox:** Vicky Chown

NM2 – Coach: Andrew Salkeld **Cox:** Debbie Ho

NM3 – Coach: Ben Schöyer **Cox:** André Neto-Bradley

It has been a pleasure to help the novice men’s side pick up rowing this term and to watch them do so well. For the second year in a row we had 3 boats out on the men’s side, which hopefully stands us in good stead for the rest of the year as we hope to see as many of them stay on as possible and become seniors. I must thank all those who subbed into boats this term, those last minute saviours made sure everyone got as much rowing in as they could.



The fabulous duo of João and Freddie always kept NM1 on their toes with their good cop-bad cop routine and with some excellent coaching and team spirit they had a very successful term. Winter Head was a very solid row and got some good race experience under their belts. Emma Sprints looks an unjust result on paper as NM1 were knocked out in the first round by Jesus, but had a seat not come off the rails I’m sure they would’ve added to their demolition of Queens in their second race. Clare Novices was a far better experience with NM1 reaching the final! Although they gave Caius a fantastic race in the final, they could not add to their comfortable victories against Kings, Selwyn and Catz. Fairbairns produced another podium finish, with a fantastic row as a team giving a 3rd placed finish, behind Caius and Maggie (just like last year).



Try as he might, Andrew was unable to coach NM2 to blades this term like he has done previously with M3, but still produced an NM2 with great rowing potential and desire to succeed. After some impressive erging at Queens’ Ergs, 3 of the NM2 guys subbed into NM1 for Clare novices and were integral in their successes on that day. NM2 were rowing smoothly in Fairbairns until an unfortunate crab engaged them in a fight against a concrete wall, which they lost (along with bows rigger). Although not an ideal end to term, they should be proud of the great strides they have made throughout it. NM3 also competed in Fairbairns, under the tutelage of Ben as coach, and handled the longest race piece they had ever done (by some margin) very well.



Vicky and Debbie will be great additions to the coxing cohort next term, and it promises to be an exciting Lent term for FCBC, with hopefully many of the novice men staying on to row in bumps and move Fitz up to where it should be in the tables. Yeah Fitz!

Sam Kirkbride, Men’s Novice Captain

Novice Women

NW1 – Coaches: Bluebell Drummond, Joanna Lee, Robert Machado, **Cox:** Tom Noden

NW2 – Coaches: Jessica Halliday, Hazel Walker **Cox:** Cassandra Kosmidou

This Michaelmas term the women's side were fortunate to have two novice women's crews full of extremely keen and committed women (and one man: NW1 cox Tom). The impressive commitment to training from week 1 meant that Fitz can proudly say we were the only college to enter novice women's crews into Winter Head. To our knowledge this was also the first time Fitz has entered an NW2.

It's safe to say that the foundations laid in those early weeks and the experience gained from Winter Head could only lead to success throughout the rest of the term. Despite the terrible Cam traffic confining NW1 and NW2 to Jesus Lock runs during weekday morning outings their willingness to continuously sub into the two senior women's boats benefited everyone.



Unluckily NW1 drew Emma themselves at Emma Sprints, but only just missed beating them by a boat length. In their second race they comfortably beat Darwin. The following weekend NW1 stunned at Clare Novices' Regatta, speeding through the first three rounds to make it to the final where they faced Caius but were just beaten. Downing NW2 daren't show up to face Fitz NW2 during the first round of Clare novices' so NW2 faced Pembroke in the second – the women put up a good fight but were beaten.

Going into week 8 we were very excited to witness what our novice women crews had to bring to the water at Fairbairns. Low-and-behold both boats gave a performance everyone can be more than proud of. NW1 came 3rd, only 12 seconds off top place. NW2 came 13th overall, and second out of the NW2 boats, earning them the Crock Pot this term! To top off, the following day Ioana Gherghel (NW1) and Alex Jarvis (NW2) stepped up to race with W2 as well. We couldn't be more excited about the strength and commitment the novice women's crews are going to bring to the senior side next term, we expect an unprecedented depth of squad going into Lent bumps – watch this space!



Bluebell Drummond, Women's Novice Captain