

College Activities

First and Third Trinity Boat Club
By Rob Stroud (2011)

The Club has had a challenging and varied year, with some great successes, but also some disappointing results. However, the year ended positively with encouraging signs of hope for future success. The women's side have had a very strong year overall under Daisy Gomersall's leadership, notably taking the Lent Headship. The men's side struggled in the first half of the year with a greatly depleted squad, but managed to build from this and achieve some promising results in the Easter Term.

Michaelmas Term saw an almost entirely new senior men's squad. Our main priority was therefore to rebuild a core of competent rowers that could bring the club future success again. To do this I adopted a 'Back to Basics' approach to the training programme, aiming to develop throughout the first two terms and reach our peak for the May Bumps, aware that this would mean that we would forego short-term success as a result. In tandem with this, we developed a much more structured programme for the new novices to follow, with a view to cementing good technique early in their development so as to make the transition between lower and upper boats easier.

For the University Fours racing, we entered the Light Fours category with our top crew, and had a good race in the semi-final against our rivals at Lady Margaret Boat Club, which eventually ended in victory after a re-row. The race in the final was not quite as exciting as the semi-final, and we were beaten by a stronger Downing crew. In the coxed fours, our crew was given a tough first race in the draw against the eventual winners Clare, who had two more University rowers than we did and justifiably took a decisive victory. The first women's coxed four had a strong first race against Selwyn despite challenging conditions in the wind, and reached the

final, but ended up being beaten by Lady Margaret Boat Club after a determined race down the Long Reach.

Time pressures on some members of the men's squad meant that the Fairbairn VIII only had two members of last year's senior squad rowing in it, and was therefore very inexperienced. This, combined with an underperformance in the race itself, meant that the crew was off the pace compared with the other top college crews, although this was in part to be expected given our plan for the year. The women fared rather better, but were robbed of overall victory by an equipment failure early in the race. In the lower divisions, the first novice men took third place after a strong row down the course, and the second novice men were the second fastest second crew. The first novice women took fourth place. These results reflect a good year for the club's novice program, and the lower boat captains (Matt Crowe, Barney Plummer, Tom Rychlik for the men's side, Sam Bell, Alexa Pohl, Laura Fox for the women's) must be commended for their efforts.

We began the Lent Term with our annual training camp in the first week of January. This year we went to Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and were hosted generously by Tyne Rowing Club. The river provided an excellent space for all crews to train on, as well as being the first opportunity for many on the camp to row on a river other than the Cam. We were kept well fed and watered by our hosts, who provided us with 'rower-sized' portions of food, as well as endless supplies of cake and hot drinks throughout the day: all essential requirements for surviving January conditions in the North! Highlights of the camp included rowing down to the iconic bridges in the centre of Newcastle, and racing against Newcastle University crews. Once Term began the men's squad continued to suffer from its lack of depth, and despite our efforts, was still unable to compete with the other crews at the top of the bumps charts. The women's first VIII was the real star of Lent Term. With the largest women's squad that First and Third has ever had on training camp, Trinity went from strength to strength, picking up victories in Cambridge Head-2-Head and Newnham Short Course, and culminating in a headship in the Lent Bumps, a fantastic and well-deserved achievement. To celebrate their success, a wooden boat was burned on the Backs after the Lent Dinner.

Easter Term had bright prospects, with a bolstered men's squad, including returning Goldie colour Chris Black and a number of May colours. We also managed to enlist the help of some coaches from the CUBC to coach (and inspire) our top crews. The influx of rowers at the top of the squad also had a knock-on effect on the lower crews. Those who had rowed in the squad for the whole year had by now

built a good technical skill base, which further augmented the crews. The Term did not disappoint: no crew earned wooden spoons in the bumps, a result that has been plaguing all but our top crews in recent years. The first men stayed level overall, but had fantastic races on the last two days. A rather spectacular bump on St Catharine's on the Friday resulted in our bows fully mounting their stern and nearly sinking their boat. On the final day, chasing the Pembroke crew that had bumped us on the first day, we rowed the best race of the Term and managed to sit one quarter of a length behind them for a good portion of the race. Despite the fact that we did not achieve the bump, this was still a great achievement given that they were by rights the faster crew.

The second men's VIII had a great term, with a notable performance in beating the first men's VIII in some sparring on the Long Reach! In bumps, we narrowly missed out on bumping Christ's on the first day, getting to around 5 feet off their stern at the Plough Pub before they pulled away out of Ditton, leaving us with a painful and lonely row to the finish line. For the rest of the week, we were chased by three very strong crews (who all earned their blades), and so despite our valiant efforts, the odds were stacked against us.

The first women's VIII had a more challenging Term caused by the loss of some members of the Lent crew for exams and the return of many University rowers into their rival crews at other colleges. Despite this they had a good set of bumps, and finished up one position overall in sixth place, which is the highest the women have ever been in the Mays. They were so well prepared for the first day's bump on Newnham that they had even predicted the stroke it would happen on as they came out of Ditton Corner! The second women's VIII also had a successful week, gaining two bumps and moving up two positions in the charts, including a bump on Newnham that was described as 'textbook' by the race umpire as they came out of Ditton Corner, following the example set by the first boat the previous day. This is a particularly impressive achievement, given that three members of the crew were new to rowing that Term. Hard work and determination gave them a good week's racing and good results!

The future is bright for the Club. The women have a Lent headship to defend, and a new challenge of the May headship edging ever closer. The men, despite their struggles in the first half of the year, now have an established core squad with experience of senior level rowing, and crucially a squad that will not be diminished by mass graduations for another couple of years. The changes to the novice programme will also help to keep our ranks filled with competent oarsmen. After

a few years of spiralling down the bumps charts, we have reached the turning-point: once again, the Club is in a position to establish its dominance on the river.

As ever, the continuing support of Club members, supporters, boatman Iain Law, and alumni is invaluable to the smooth running of the Club. I would like to thank all of our coaches this year, particularly Peter Ford, Thomas O'Neill, Jon Glass, David Jones, Peter Summers, Jacob Fries, Rosemary Ostfeld, and Joshua Hooper. I would also like to make a special mention of Neil Talbott, who has given up a huge amount of his free time to coach and support First and Third crews of all levels this year, particularly the novices.

I have had an enjoyable and immensely rewarding time as captain, and I wish Chris Black and his committee the very best of luck for the season 2014–15.

Field Club

Cricket

By Jack Barlow (2011)

This year the club was a team in transition. We lost a number of old stalwarts last summer which gave lots of opportunities to new players who performed admirably throughout the season. Standouts included Aditya Vaidyanathan and Karan Gupta, who formed a new ball opening partnership which I'm sure will strike fear into the hearts of opposing batsmen in future years.

Our first game of the season was a 40-over match against the Gents of Essex. After a good opening spell we lost our way a little bit in the middle overs and their batsmen looked as if they were heading for a large score. However, Karan Gupta came back into the attack with some great line and length bowling and forced a couple of wickets. Douglas Buisson also picked up a wicket with a lovely flighted delivery. Aditya and Pradipta Biswas continued to keep it very tight in the final overs, and the Gents finished on 264–5. Our reply began brightly with our openers James Mcnamara and Aditya taking the attack to their bowlers. After Aditya fell for 7, mistiming a big shot into the deep, Barlow and McNamara kept the scoreboard ticking over nicely at around 8 an over. Unfortunately, James was then caught for a fine 35. Robin Elliot came to the crease and carried on where James left off, and the game looked as if it was heading for a Trinity victory, when Barlow was caught by a sharp catch at point for 37. Robin continued to score