College Activities

Trinity College First & Third Boat Club

George Mears (2019), Men's & Overall Captain

We start off in Michaelmas, with the excitement of a new novice term. From tubs to coastal IVs to VIIIs, our novice captains (with the help of many volunteer seniors and especially with the help of FaT alumnus and coach Neil Talbott) taught new recruits the basics of how to erg, row, handle equipment, and all other aspects of college rowing. Our novice crews had many successes. Our NM1 won Clare Novices, a regatta event for novice crews. Likewise our



NM1 during novice Fairbairns, rowing past Green Dragon bridge.



W1 moments away from bumping Churchill W1 and achieving technical blades.

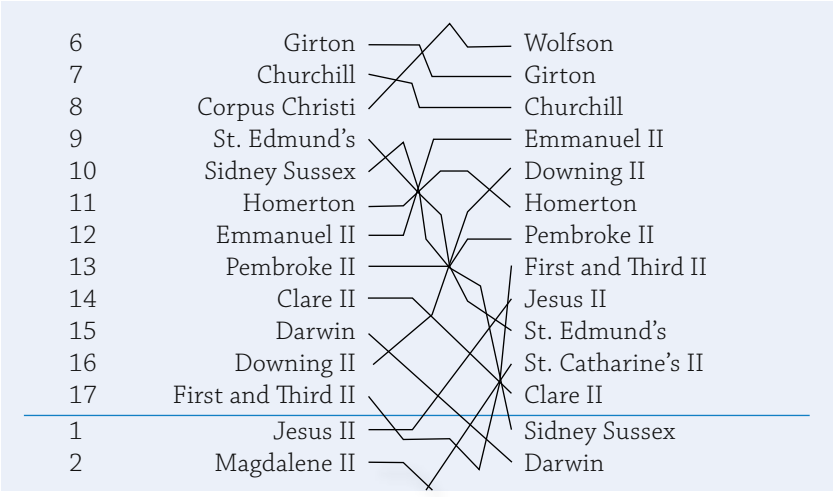
NW1 won their category in Emma Sprints. Most remarkably, our NM2 coached by Jos and Xander won fastest NM2 on the river for Fairbairns, coming 11th out of all novice crews and beating many NM1s in the process.

Successes on the senior side weren't quite as numerous but still notable. After the biennial dinner and preterm training week, there was a struggle with crews due to injuries and numbers. Despite this, there were still some reasonable results, the most notable of which was M1 coming 3rd in Winter Head and only one second off 2nd despite having raced twice that day. There were also razor sharp margins come Fairbairns, where M1 came 6th and an excruciating 1 second off of the top 5.

Up next was the long anticipated Seville camp. 22 rowers, 3 coxes, Bomber and Neil, flew over to Spain for a week of sunshine and hard training. Despite initially having to share some facilities with Maggie, all was going well besides some truly awful blisters. WIth everyone doing at least two outings per day (and in some cases three), there was plenty of opportunity to train hard. In the few afternoons we had off, we explored the historic centre of the city, played a campwide game of Cluedo, and ate plenty of hotel provided food (some of questionable quality). It all culminated in a series of races between three randomly selected crews of rowers, where team Filippi had a conclusive victory. More importantly, it set the foundations for the term to come.



Above: M2 with foliage, after double-overbumping on day four. Left: The bumps charts for divisions two/three showing the double overbump.



Lent term is where the women's side really came together. Despite W1 being half ex-novices, they came together off the back of the Seville camp and started making their boat move quite fast. So fast in fact, that during bumps they managed to ram their bows into the stern of every crew that stood in their path. This feat was awarded technical blades. Bumps was rather unusual this year in that due to high water levels and fast stream, one of the days was completely cancelled and another partially cancelled, so there was initially fierce discussion as to whether blades should be awarded. However, a decision was eventually made in the positive. W2 also performed well, going up two in the two days they had racing. Unfortunately the same cannot be said for the men, with a disappointing set of results. Changes had to be made, and there was a big shift in mentality going into Easter term.

May term is always difficult as rowers must balance their degrees with this crazy sport. Mays was also eventful due a variety of events. We had a very enjoyable brunch (which was really just breakfast) in the Master's Lodge hosted by Dame Sally herself where we gifted her a coveted pair of tessellating lion leggings. We had the AGM, where a new welfare officer role was introduced. We had the most fiercely contested set of elections in recent history, with 7 roles contested including both side captains, with the men's captain having three candidates.

Even more eventful was May bumps. There were tense races on each day. M1 and M3 had close rowovers, digging deep to push away crews inches away from bumping them for the majority of the course. W2 got bumped on day 1 due to a crab, then went on to bump the crew back on day 2. But the crown jewel of the bumps campaign was delivered by M2 on day 4. After first bumping to the top of division 3 (and hence sandwich boat for division 2), they went on to achieve a feat not seen in division 2 since 1986. After two pairs of crews bumped out in front of them, they grinded Sidney Sussex M1 down across the entire course and double-overbumped on the line of bottom finish in an epic tale which will be passed down for generations (and which was thoroughly celebrated at BCD).

With lots of returners, a few more victories under our belt as motivation, and the Master enthusiastically sporting our stash, the club is looking strong going into next year with I'm sure many more victories to come.