



POWER OF THE BOAR

QUEENS' COLLEGE BOAT CLUB NEWSLETTER,

2021-2022

EASTER TERM

OVERVIEW

Hannah Badger (President)

RACING

QCBC hit the ground running in Easter Term, building upon the great progress made by our crews at this year's training camp in Reading. Just a week after crews were decided, both W1 and W2 travelled to Bedford to compete in the Bedford Amateur Regatta. W1 won their first race against University College Oxford but were pipped to the post by Churchill W1 in their second race. W2 had a tough draw and were up against Emma W1 in their first race. Regardless, the race was a valuable experience for W2; many of the crew will be moving up into W1 in the coming year.

One week later, W2 and W3 competed at Champs Head. W2 placed 1st and W3 came 2nd in their respective divisions, both of which were promising results ahead of May Bumps. About halfway into term, QCBC crews on both the men's and women's side raced in the 99s Regatta. Although M1 and W1 won their first race, they didn't qualify for the final. Unfortunately, W4 had a tough draw (they were up against a W2 and a W3 crew) and M2 never fully recovered from a blade clash coming under the railway bridge in their second race.

BUMPS

With most of us buried under a mountain of revision or hurriedly writing our theses, May Bumps seemed to come around incredibly quickly. The club was raring to start racing and our adrenaline-fuelled crews didn't disappoint: both M1 and W3 bladed this year! This was the first time that M1 had bladed in 25 years, whilst W3 continued the blading success of our W3 crew in 2019 (the last time May Bumps took place). Our other crews also put in admirable performances: W1, -2; W2, -1; M2, +1; and MRugby, -4.

Our annual May Bumps Garden Party took place on Saturday 18th June, the final day of competition. There were over 150 QCBC supporters in attendance, including some of the 1962 M1 headship crew and the 1972 M2 blading crew who were celebrating their 50th and 60th anniversaries, respectively. It was a pleasure to welcome so many alumni back to the Cam and we thoroughly hope that those in



The 1972 M2 blading crew at our May Bumps Garden party, pictured here with Abi Smith (QCBC Alumni Officer, 2021-2022).

attendance enjoyed the day, despite the rain! Huge thanks must go to Abi Smith, our Alumni Officer, for organising such a successful event.

Our Boat Club Dinner took place later that evening which was, as always, greatly enjoyed by all – it was the perfect way to relax after a tough exam term and to celebrate another brilliant year for QCBC.

HENLEY

The following week, some of our members rowed at the Henley Royal Regatta Qualifiers. Although none of our crews were successful in qualifying, it was a valuable experience that has made everyone hungry to qualify next time – one of the club’s big goals going forward.

Several QCBC alumni generously gifted us Stewards’ Enclosure and Leander Club tickets for the Henley Royal Regatta. On each day of the competition, current QCBC students made the trip to Henley to experience the world-renowned event and cheer on Fred Markanday, last year’s Men’s Captain, who was competing for Cambridge. On behalf of the club, I’d like to extend my sincerest thanks to all those who sent us tickets. Attending the regatta was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, particularly for our international students and those on one-year master’s courses. It was also a delight to spot some other Queens’ blazers floating around throughout the week.



Current QCBC members at Henley Royal Regatta.

LOOKING AHEAD

The club has recovered well from the impacts of COVID-19, which significantly restricted our ability to row and train, and QCBC has gone from strength to strength this year: the men’s side performed outstandingly in May Bumps and the women’s side boasts strength in depth.

As my time at Queens’ comes to an end, I find myself reflecting on what has been another incredible year as part of QCBC. Rowing along The Backs early one summer morning is a particular highlight: it was a magical experience that I will never forget, in part because Chris Radbone (our women’s side coach) managed to take some stunning shots using his drone! I’ve loved rowing for Queens’ and it has been a privilege to be President of the club. Although the role is challenging, it is also highly rewarding and I am excited to hand over the Presidency to Freddie Floyd who, along with his committee, is sure to do an excellent job steering QCBC towards further success over the coming year.



W1 rowing past King’s College early one summer morning.

I invite you to join [QCBC's Alumni Facebook Group](#) where we'll be posting lots of information about alumni races, events, and dinners. This information will also be accessible on our website. Looking ahead, QCBC is seeking a club sponsor – if you, or anyone you know, would be interested in sponsoring Queens' then do get in contact with us by emailing qcbc-president@srcf.net.

As always, keep up to date with QCBC by following us on Instagram ([@queensboatclub](#)), liking us on Facebook ([@QueensCollegeBoatClub](#)), or visiting our [website](#).

POTB

THE WOMEN'S SIDE

Anna Feest (Women's Captain)

Women's side has gone from strength to strength this term, and we started Easter Term with lots of promise. We had a very successful week in Reading on training camp, where 22 rowers and coxes did three outings a day and made an astounding improvement. It was also wonderful to see the way the side, and the club as a whole, came together to support each other both on and off the water. Building on this strong foundation, and with rowers keen to carry on last term's successes at every level, we have had a very enjoyable term. The squad continues to be a pleasure to be a part of and I am excited to see what the women's side will do in the future. Being captain of such a committed, enthusiastic, and friendly squad has been an amazing, enjoyable, and huge part of my last year in Cambridge – an experience that I will not forget.

W4

W4 all learnt to row this year and the improvement within this crew has been fantastic to see. They have all turned up to outings with smiles on their faces (and matching sunglasses) ready to learn, and I am excited to see what they all do in the future with QCBC. In 99s Regatta, they had two good races but unfortunately lost to Homerton W2. Nonetheless, it was a good experience and a fun day in warm weather for everyone. Unfortunately, the crew were not successful in getting on to Bumps, as there were far too many crews for places available this year. Nonetheless, their row in the Getting On Race looked like a completely different crew compared to last term, and they still finished with smiles on their faces.

W3

+4, earning blades: bumped Christ's II, Clare Hall, Darwin II, Jesus III

It has once again been a pleasure to watch this crew progress and see how they have come together as a crew. Despite most of the boat having only learnt to row in Michaelmas, they have come on in leaps and bounds since then. Coming a close second in their division at Champs Eights Head, they turned their attention to bumps. Faced with a starting position as sandwich boat at the top of the fourth division, the crew trained for a long race which they executed in style. This first race turned out to be longer than all the subsequent races over the next few days put together – all four of their bumps took place before First Post Corner! The crew earned their blades on the fourth day by bumping Jesus W3. They rowed past the QCBC Garden Party carrying the flag, with huge smiles on their faces.

W2

-1: bumped by LMBC II

W2 started the term fresh from training camp and with a solid foundation to work from. With their sights set on bumping into the second division (and so earning next year's W2 the privilege of evening rowing) they put the effort in, working well together, and getting some good outings in. They competed at Bedford Regatta where, although losing by a length and a half to Emma W1, they gave a good and gutsy row. Crucially, they gained experience of off-Cam racing. The crew won their division in Champs Head and earn their pots, rowing "in style" as their coach described it. An injury just before Bumps meant some last-minute substitutions. The crew coped well by quickly adapting to these changes. With the beginning of bumps, a years-old rivalry with LMBC W2 started up again (this crew bumped Queens' W2 twice in Mays 2019 and twice in Lents 2020, but we have both times finished above them) and W2 rowed a fantastic first race as sandwich boat, being chased by LMBC. LMBC got as close as three whistles coming through Grassy and onto Ditton, with some excellent coxing by Queens' to stop them from being contacted. Queens' then pulled away on The Reach. Unfortunately, this meant the girls spent a long day in the sun and had to row a second time. They were just unable to make the bump, which gave LMBC the edge on day 2 when they bumped Queens'. Nonetheless, Queens' gave some fantastic races in response; they gained three whistles on the last day, but didn't quite manage to make the bump. The crew have done amazingly this term, especially with some hard challenges. Many of these rowers will be hoping to row in the first crew next year!

W1

-2: bumped by Trinity Hall, St. Catherine's

This crew has been my favourite crew to row with during my time at Queens' and one I will remember fondly. Coming together on training camp, we started the term with some fantastic rowing, the pleasure of evening rowing, and some high expectations. Our first race of term was Bedford Regatta, in which we beat University College Oxford by a length but then, unfortunately, lost to Churchill by half a length. Rather than be disappointed, the crew used this as an impetus to train even harder. In 99s Regatta, we won by a length against Sidney W1 (who earnt blades last term) before losing to Magdalene W1. Nonetheless, we rowed fantastically and arrived back at our shared boathouse in high spirits. Going into bumps, we knew it would be tough – we were chasing Christ's, a crew we would be faster than, who were chasing Girton, a much slower crew. This meant tactical racing – an explosive start to try to bump as soon as possible! Alas, we were met with a row-over, fantastically executed by the crew by fending off St. Catherine's for over half of the course. We were chased by much faster crews over the next couple of days, which meant we were bumped twice. Nonetheless, we were rowing well and enjoying ourselves. On the last day, all of the crews around us bumped out, leaving us to once again row over: instead of paddling it out, we wanted one last race together as a crew. Rowing down The Reach with this crew is one of my best memories from this term.

THOUGHTS AND OUTLOOK

The women's side is strong, and I am hopeful for the next couple of years – there are many keen, strong, and capable rowers gaining experience and rising up through the crews. Everyone is supportive of each other, friendly, and always keen to improve – the future of QCBC women looks bright.

THE SENIOR CREWS

1st VIII

The Duchess of Cambridge

Bow: Anna Feest
2: Lucy Kirkwood
3: Beanie Spain
4: Tatiana Sedelnikov
5: Abi Smith
6: Alice Handy
7: Lucy Jarrett



W1 competing in 99s Regatta.

Stroke: Hannah Badger
Cox: Amy Hill
Coach: Chris Radbone

2nd VIII

The Margaret of Anjou

Bow: Charlotte Evans
2: Holly Lambe
3: Emilie Pauwels
4: Laura Hurn
5: Susanna Power
6: Anna Jowett
7: Eve Blain

*The W2 crew
after May
Bumps.*



Stroke: Evie Nash

Cox: Joe Penny

Coaches: Chris Radbone, Ulrika Andersson, Charlotte Harrop

3rd VIII

The Patroness

Bow: Tarrion Baird
2: Ines De Gruchy
3: Alice Drury

*W3 with the
QCBC flag
after winning
blades.*



4: Pligne Pratumsuwan

5: Emily James

6: Björg Bjarnadóttir

7: Tabitha Von Kaufmann

Stroke: Grace Carr-Deed

Cox: Joe Walker

Coaches: Charlotte Harrop, George Aylard

4th VIII

The Patroness

Bow: Belle Hall

2: Elle Sheddick

3: Saaya Perera

4: Ruby Woodward

5: Nimrah Ali

6: Beth Candish

7: Eleanor Vincent

Stroke: Erica Morgan

Cox: Ben Harding

Coaches: Pippa Sayers, Iona Pickett



W4 at Boat Club Dinner.

THE MEN'S SIDE

Freddie Floydd (Men's Captain)

OVERVIEW

It was a very successful end of the year for the men's side, both in terms of racing results and the outlook for next year. For the first time in 25 years, M1 won blades in May Bumps, we took three crews to Henley Qualifiers, and we only lose two rowers from the top two Mays crews going into next season.

Before the start of term, we had a four-day training camp at Reading Rowing Club. This was very successful, with great technical improvements being made across the board. We ran a number of seat racing sessions to aid in the selection of M1 – this was the first time any of the side had undergone seat racing! The week was very physically demanding but, despite the exhaustion, it was one of the highlights of the year for all involved.

Once we returned to Cambridge, I finalised the crews after a short second round of seat racing. We were lucky enough to have two returning triallists, which significantly bolstered the power and

experience in M1. After selection, we were left with a strong M1 and M2, with a more casual M3 for those who weren't able to commit to as many outings during exam season.

M1 suffered from significant disruption over the course of the term. In the first few weeks, a number of the crew tested positive for COVID-19 which meant we had to rely on subs. This was a setback in terms of getting the crew together, but it did give a number of rowers in M2 the opportunity to experience a higher level of rowing. Zak Smith was especially instrumental over the course of the term, also regularly subbing in for one of our trialists who was training for Henley with CUBC alongside Queens'. M2, coached by alumnus George Harpur alongside Rob, got off to a tricky start to term but started coming together quickly after a change in their crew order. The crew contained three rowers from the successful M1 Lents crew, as well as others who had improved significantly over training camp, so they were looking strong by the middle of the term.

99s SPRING REGATTA

Due to the disruption to M1 and the time needed for M2 to get together, I decided to only enter the crews into one race before bumps. I decided Nines' Spring Regatta, a side-by-side regatta on the Long Reach, would be the best practice due to the added pressure of it being a side-by-side race. M1 raced Jesus in the first round, who we beat easily, followed by LMBC in the second round. LMBC had won every race on the Cam so far in term but we were able to hold them for a few hundred metres off the start. In the end, we lost by just over a length – a result we were very happy with.

Importantly, Jesus were starting only two places ahead of us in Mays, so beating them easily was a big confidence boost. M2 raced Fitz M2 in the first round, to give them Trinity Hall M2 in the second round. The crews were level for much of the race, before a clash of blades coming out of the railway bridge. Unfortunately, M2 lost out in the clash, losing by just under a length. Despite the disappointing result, the racing experience was valuable and the crew were hungry to put things right at bumps.

M1 AT MAY BUMPS

+4, earning blades: bumped LMBC II, Robinson, First and Third, Jesus

Mays were quickly upon us and the crews were raring to go. The week was unprecedently hot, with temperatures in the thirties on two of the days. M1 started the week chasing LMBC M2, who we thought would be fast based on their performance at various races throughout the term. We got off to a quick, if a little nervous, start and settled into a strong rhythm. We closed to two whistles coming into First Post Corner, and put in a big push to try and finish them off quickly. We closed further coming down the Gut but just ahead of us Jesus caught Robinson.

There was no racing line left for LMBC to take, so the race was stopped. Luckily, we were awarded a technical bump. The next day we were chasing Robinson, who had spooned in Lents. Again, we got off to a good start, transitioned into a strong rhythm, and closed quickly. We made the bump about halfway down First Post Reach. On day three, we chased First & Third, who had been bumped on the



M1 waving the QCBC flag after winning blades.

two previous days. They got off to a good start and closed quickly on Jesus ahead of them. We also started quickly and were closing at a similar rate. Coming into the Gut, the three crews formed a close sandwich, with both us and FaT having three whistles on the crew ahead. Coming round Grassy, we made contact with FaT but their cox did not concede. This forced us to take a wide line around the corner but we were able to quickly catch up again. At this point, FaT were beginning to fade and Jesus had got away from them. We closed to significant overlap down Plough Reach before their cox finally conceded just outside the Plough. The final day we were chasing Jesus who, as mentioned earlier, we knew we were faster than. With blades potentially on the cards, there were a lot of nerves at marshalling. The nerves subsided, however, as we made our best row up to the start of the course. We hit a wall of noise coming past the bumps garden party and were spurred on by the support. We made our fastest start of the year (second of all time on the Station 11 to First Post Corner Strava segment) and closed rapidly on Jesus. We made the bump just outside the garden party, a perfect end to a magical week.

M2 AT MAY BUMPS

+1: bumped Robinson II

M2 also had a very successful bumps week. It was unclear exactly how they would do coming into the races, with some fast crews chasing them and some slow crews ahead. On the first day, M2 were chasing Magdalene M2 and being chased by Catz M2. They started strongly, closing on Magdalene, but Magdalene very quickly bumped Robinson M2. This left our M2 to row the full course ahead of Catz. This race was bumps at its finest, with each crew trading blows to either close or pull away for the entire course. M2 eventually broke Catz coming past bottom finish, and earned a stunning row-over. The crew were spent at the finish, with one member throwing up in the river just past the line. The next day was a much simpler affair, chasing Robinson M2. The crew got off to a fast start and secured the bump before First Post corner, impressive considering they started on Station Four. This was the first bump for any of the crew. Day three was fairly uneventful, with M2 neither making significant gains on the crew ahead nor being threatened from behind. The final day was another thriller. Again, M2 were being chased by Catz M2, and had to fight for the full length of the course to keep them at bay. This time, Catz didn't break at bottom finish, and instead were only a canvas off M2's stern for the final 600m of the race. The way in which M2 were able to hold their nerve under such pressure was incredibly impressive for a crew who mostly started rowing this year.

MRUGBY AT MAY BUMPS

-4, earning spoons: bumped by Selwyn II, Fitz II, Hughes Hall II, Caius III

As has been traditional for the last few May Bumps, we were able to put together a rugby boat for bumps. Unfortunately, they had to enter as M3 instead of M5, like in 2019, so they were up against significantly stiffer opposition than they had hoped. MRugby spooned, but had a great time along the way, and credit must be given to Susie Tucker for acting as their crew captain, cox, and coach all at the same time. M3 remains one of the highest ranked on the river and there will be potential for them to shoot up the rankings next year.

It was a successful week across the side, with each of the crews having lots to look forward to next year – M1 will be looking to continue their rise into the top ten, M2 are within striking distance of a place in the second division, and M3 will be looking to capitalise on the slower crews around them now that they are lower in the table.

At Boat Club Dinner, M1 were treated to some prosecco from the fellows' wine cellar, on behalf of the fellows. I decided to award rower of the term to Mirko de Pagter who has, over the course of one season, gone from a total novice to having a seat in a blading Mays M1 – a stunning achievement. The full club cox of the term was awarded to Rachel Ibbott, who stepped up hugely at the start of term when under heavy selection pressure and was essential to M1's success in bumps week. Finally, I decided to award full colours to Zak Smith who, having just been pipped to a spot in M1, subbed in consistently throughout the term, saving many outings. Without him, M1 wouldn't have had anything like the success that we did, and his commitment deserves recognition.

HENLEY QUALIFIERS

After bumps, I decided to take a squad to Henley Qualifiers, with a view to inspire the side for next year. Unfortunately, we weren't able to get the Mays M1 eight together, so we instead entered three IVs. The qualifiers were a great experience, with the top IV beating a number of decent university programs, despite having only a single practice outing. We agreed that next year we would go more seriously and look to qualify QCBC for the Temple for the first time since 2006.

LOOKING AHEAD

It's been a great year being the Men's Captain and I am pleased to reflect back on the year as a success. The side has grown from having only eight seniors at the start of Michaelmas to having a brilliantly successful May bumps. The large cohort of strong novices fills me with high hopes for next year – it feels like the success of this year is the start of a new era for the men's side, not the end of one. I hand over my captaincy to Tim Robson, the two-seat of this term's M1. I have no doubt that he will take the side to new highs, and I wish him the best of luck in doing so.

THE SENIOR CREWS

1st VIII

The Marcus Hughes-Hallett

Bow: Freddie Markanday

2: Tim Robson

3: Charles Phillips

4: Mirko de Pagter

5: Brett Taylor

6: Freddie Floydd

7: Varun Randery

Stroke: Peter Stevens

Cox: Rachel Ibbott

Coach: Rob Jeffrey



M1 at Boat Club Dinner.

2nd VIII

The Walker

Bow: Josh Moore

2: Zak Smith

3: Chris Denham

4: Luis Saavedra

5: Oscar Selby

6: Flynn Ryan

7: Konstantin Hemker

Stroke: Gus Molyneux

Cox: Leena Mueller-Koegler

Coaches: George Harpur and Rob Jeffrey



M2 at Boat Club Dinner.

MRugby

The Suzi

Bow: Alec Doherty

2: Josh Subel

3: James Arthur

4: Doug van Niekerk

5: Ned Seagrim

6: James Onley-Gregson

7: Ben Allanson

Stroke: Matt Covus

Cox: Susie Tucker

Coach: Susie Tucker



M3 at Boat Club Dinner.