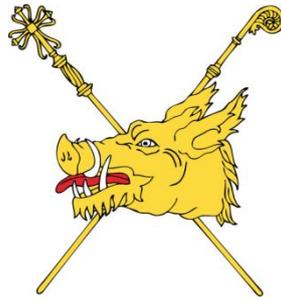


Queens' College Boat Club



Alumni Newsletter Michaelmas 2017

WELCOME FROM THE PRESIDENT

I'm Callum and I'm the new President of QCBC for 2017/2018. I'm a third year studying maths, and took up rowing in my first term as a fresher. I have since rowed every term, and have spent terms in each of M1, M2 and M3. My favourite part of rowing is of course bumps, and I've had some pretty varied bumps charts! From up 3 in my first Lents, to a down-up-down-up fling with Emma, to down 3, and then finally 8 consecutive (and extremely painful) row overs as sandwich boat last Mays.



I've also spent a fair amount of time coxing, with my coxing career kicking off on training camp in my first year where I coxed seat racing. Since then I've coxed various crews, including coxing W1 to the semi-finals of the University IVs this year.

I've got a great committee this year including two Captains with a wealth of experience between them, and I'm really looking forward to a positive year ahead. We've already had some promising results this term (more from the Captains below) and things are looking good for some success in the bumps charts next year.

When not in a boat, I've been undertaking some exciting projects including a renovation at the boathouse and introducing ergs to College (see full reports below). I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and finding out about the latest developments and news from across the Club!

CALLUM CHIVERS – PRESIDENT

I am excited to announce the completion of the refurbishment of the coaching room at the



boathouse. This was a project that I started over the summer, and has been finished off this week by the arrival of the centrepiece – the new honours board!

The board lists previous Captains and Presidents of QCBC, with Men’s Captains backdated to 1924! The boards have room to expand up until 2065, and so this represents a long term investment in celebrating the Club’s history and preserving this information for many years to come. A special thank you must go to the Alumni Office and to alumni themselves for supplying and verifying the names.



Aside from the honours board, the refurbishment has involved the replacement of the sofas (the previous sofas having been in place for perhaps 30 years!), fitting of blinds, installation of proper storage cabinets, and a new high quality television. This TV is already being put to excellent use by coaches, who can now take crews up to the room to debrief after outings and discuss technical points using footage from the outing.

The room has also become a comfortable place for rowers to relax before and after outings, with tea and coffee making facilities and snacks, and is suitable for working as well as chilling out on the sofas with the TV. I hope that the room will continue to be utilised to its full extent, and will serve to enhance the coaching ability of crews and also the use of the boathouse space in general.



After many years and many attempts, I am very pleased to announce that the College has permitted us to store and use two ergs in the College. They are currently stored outside the Bowett room, where they will remain initially for a trial period. The provision of ergs in College is something the Club has long felt passionately about, and now means that QCBC members have easy access to the equipment without having to travel to the boathouse, which we all know can be wholly unpleasant and time consuming in the winter months! Many thanks to the College for allowing us this privilege.

MEN'S SENIORS – PETER STEVENS, MEN'S CAPTAIN

The men's side has a strong base this year with two full eights. However we have learnt that coxes during the colder months are a rare commodity with some rowers having to take to the rudder (with varying degrees of success!). President Chivers proved that he deserves his name on the new honours board, stroking M2 to victory at Winter Head, winning the student M2 category. We have strong hopes for M2 for Fairbairns - good luck boys!

M1 had a rocky start to term, but gained over 20 seconds against other colleges in Winter Head compared to Autumn Head. This is in part due to cox Jayna Patel running ruthless core sessions while barking orders and wielding a large stick. The crew has also benefited from strong technical oversight and encouragement from coaches Rob Jeffrey and Chris Clark.



After Autumn Head, a new squad based training system was used where up and coming rowers got the opportunity to row with more senior members. This had huge advantages to consolidate the squad rowing style, improve cohesion and bonding as well as vastly improve individual technique. This has paid off for both boats in Winter Head and we hope to see the returns for the rest of the year.

Men's 1st Fairbairn VIII

Cox: Jayna Patel
S: Tom Albrow Owen
7: Alistair Pryke
6: Peter Stevens (c)
5: Daniel Lafferty
4: Kit Gallagher
3: Daniel Germon
2: Hidde Boekema
B: Alex Bartram

Coaches: Rob Jeffrey, Chris Clark

Men's 2nd Fairbairn VIII:

Cox: James Zimaras
S: Callum Chivers
7: Noah Milton
6: Alexander Miscampbell
5: Daniel Petersen
4: Manu Signer
3: Jonathon Heywood*
2: Etienne Page
B: Charlie Ridley-Johnson

*David Knott rowing in race due to injury

WOMEN'S SENIORS – GEORGIE HOLMES, WOMEN'S CAPTAIN

As Michaelmas draws to a close, the Queens' women's side are in the final stages of training before Fairbairns on the 1st December. The term got off to a promising start, with a large crop of returning seniors and some new schoolgirl rowers joining the ranks. The women's side this year also has several girls trialing with CUW and CULRC, and looking ahead this will add some serious strength to

the squad come Mays. Our new coach, Lisa Silk, has also been invaluable so far; her unparalleled knowledge of Cambridge rowing and firm but fair attitude have gone a long way in getting the best out of the girls this term.

We began the term in mixed crews to see who worked well in which combination; one such combination was put to the test in Autumn Head in early October, where we won the W2 category. Meanwhile, the W1 IV entered the University IVs as the definitive underdogs and ended up reaching the semi-finals, beating both Newnham W2 and Clare W1 and losing out to Downing in the semis by a measly 5 seconds. This was a considerable achievement given that QCBC women have never made it past the first round before, and it certainly spurred us on to train harder and keep up the good work.



After Uni IVs we settled into a 1st VIII and 2nd IV for the rest of term. W1's first race as a full crew was at Winter Head on 18th November, in which we were the 6th fastest college. Our performances so far and the girls' continued commitment and dedication to training means that I am confident we will do ourselves proud in Fairbairns!

Off the water, the QCBC social campaign is still going strong and is working wonders to bring the club together outside of training. We've had plenty of women's side socials as well as some extremely successful whole club socials including our most recent one, an ice-skating, carol-singing, mulled wine-fueled Christmas extravaganza (which we managed to complete without any injuries before Fairbairns!). We've also been getting to know some of our boathouse neighbours (discovering on a social that certain senior rowers didn't realise that John's and LMBC were in fact the same...) and are planning plenty of events next term to maintain QCBC as the most sociable society in Queens'.



Overall, the QCBC women have had a great term both on and off the water. We've worked hard and put the hours into our training, and I am truly impressed with the seemingly boundless enthusiasm and commitment shown by the squad so far. I'm sure that this will continue and deliver success for the girls both this term and for the rest of the year.

Women's 1st Fairbairn VIII

Cox: India Davies*
S: Billie Meadowcroft
7: Charlotte Harrop
6: Mari Niemi
5: Georgie Holmes (c)
4: Maya Fooks
3: Lea Gansser-Potts
2: Charlotte Hallam
B: Kathryn van der Byl

Women's 2nd IV

Cox: Callum Chivers
S: Katy Relph
3: Nehali Anupriya
2: Nellie Popplewell
B: Georgina Allsop

Coaches: Lisa Silk, George Moore

*Callum Chivers coxing for race due to availability



QERGS SENIORS – LÉA GP, W1

Qergs is always a long and stressful day for the senior members of the boathouse as the Qergs Presidents rally all the troops and make them all help-out with the set-up, marshal, and clear up the whole event. On top of this, a mixed senior crew enters the competition.

This year, it was made up of Women's Captain Georgie, Anna, Billie, Léa, Men's Captain Peter, Bálint, Lex and Alistair. They all warmed up in the empty Fitzpatrick hall between events, slightly dreading the race. The division was announced as the first rower sat on the erg.

The start looked unpromising as Lea went up against some of the other colleges' men, but as the relay progressed, Queens' put on a solid performance. As the last rower got onto the erg, we were in a good position to make the top three. Luckily, Bálint (6 foot 10) was our last rower and he exploded out of the start, pulling an incredible 1:21 split! The rest of the crew along with half of the boat club were screaming and shouting hoping that he would not burn out. By miracle he didn't and he rowed

Queens' to victory!

Cheers resonated in the hall as the home team took the gold medal! A truly deserved triumph for a crew that left everything on the erg.

A special mention must also go out to NM1 (aka Life Boat) who also won the overall novice men's event, capping off a truly fantastic day for QCBC!

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY

The Club is seeking sponsors, and Qergs is a huge opportunity for a potential sponsor to get involved. The competition brings over 1000 participants from the entire university, and gives companies unrivalled contact with new freshers. There would be the chance for a company to have their logo on the t-shirts, social media and promotional material; they could also hold a stall on the night, and give a short talk to the participants.

The Club has various other opportunities as well, such as accommodating a sponsor logo on our kit, equipment, website and social media. Sponsors could also get involved in the garden party, and could come to College and hold talks and networking events.

If you are interested in getting involved or you feel that you could promote QCBC to your company or elsewhere, please do get in touch with the President at qcbc-president@srcf.net to discuss further. Any help would be very greatly appreciated!

NOVICE WOMEN – ULRIKA ANDERSSON, WOMEN'S LBC

After many mornings in the cold and a strong effort indoors at QErgs the women's novices were eager to finally race on the water. The row to the start was a focused one - the excitement to finally show their progress was apparent. The NW1 boat (nicknamed the Gummy Bears) lined up at the start next to Caius NW1.

The start was an even one, with Caius coming out slightly ahead only to move into the bank and be forced to a stop. Queens' pushed away ahead to show their speed even without a competitor near to push them, but then a cross-wind hit and they too were forced to restart as they hit the bank. Caius were now a length ahead with half the race to go, and so Queen's did a massive push on long strokes to regain the lead and came up next to them.



Both crews were getting tired and pushed to their limits by being neck and neck with the competition. In the last 200m, the race was excruciatingly close, neither crew keeping the lead for more than a couple of strokes. In a brilliant call from cox Ellesheva Kissin, Queens' gave their all in the last strokes to push ahead and won by half a foot!

Their second race was against Clare NW1, and here too the start was even. Queens' pushed ahead by a canvas as they lengthened out and settled into a solid rhythm, keeping Clare there for 300m. The crews drifted together closely and as their blades interlocked in the headwind a couple of crabs occurred in both boats, causing the boats to turn towards each other. Clare came out ahead as they faced towards the right side of a bend in the river and could thus restart fairly swiftly. Queens' took up the chase and gained significantly but ultimately had too much to gain and too little river left. They lost by a length and a half in the end, but were happy with their first race day and looking forward to another regatta, Clare Novices, next weekend.

NOVICE MEN – NOAH MILTON, LBC & IAN COOPER, NM1

With their recent Qergs victory keeping the men's novices excited and craving for more, they entered Emma Sprints, hoping to succeed again and make the others proud. Unfortunately, due to last-minute crews and lack of racing practise due to yellow flags, the novice men weren't as successful as hoped. However, those who entered had great fun and did well with their costumes (NM1 dressed as 'Noah's Ark' and NM2 as 'The Flying Dutchman' – apparently named after their coaches...)

The weekend only seemed to encourage the novices to work harder to secure a decent time in The Fairbairn Cup at the end of term. Training plans have been altered and more outings and ergs added – the focus now being on clean rowing and more endurance. With the return of some novices to NM1 and NM2, all the crews are looking stronger and the spirits are certainly high, and a few self-organised additional ergs have even been planned!

A race report from the NM1 "Life Boat" follows:

Buoyed by their recent QErgs victory last weekend Queens' NM1 turned their rudder towards Emma Sprints. Far from it being a case of the usual suspects, NM1's first ever race on the water also represented the first time that the 8 rowers had taken to the river together.

Inspired by the namesake of their glorious leader the team decided on the fancy dress theme of Noah and the Ark, and so, when judgment day arrived, Queens NM1 arrived at the boathouse looking like the castoffs from Disney's latest storyboard. Never before have Rudolph, Vixen, a Gorilla, two ducks, two zebras and one Igor taken to the water. Special mention must be given to Turnbull who made for a very convincing gorilla. On the other hand, Selway and Gandhi somewhat undermined the theological cogency of the outfits, failing to realise that, should we be smitten by the Great Flood then ducks, with their innate ability to swim would not be given a berth aboard HMS Noah's Ark. With a David Attenborough narrative ringing in our heads we set forth for Emma Sprints.

First up, the squatters in Queens' boat house, Magdalene NM1. Magdalene had much the better of the start with Queens 6 catching a crab in the first 10 strokes, an honourable dedication to completing Noah's task and bringing all wildlife onto the Ark. Once Queens' found their rhythm they quickly pulled back Magdalene's lead and, one hundred metres out from the finish, the lead was with Queens'. However, in search of partner for our recent crustacean stowaway, Queens 7 caught a second crab and so, with the finish line in sight, Magdalene pulled ahead to claim victory.

With dreams of silverware out of mind Queens' were paired up against the eight sperm swimmers of Christ's for the return race. Christ's ejected off the start line, too strong for Queens' rather impotent wind-up. Christ's quickly established a lead of one or two boat-lengths. As before, once Queens' were in their groove, they displayed a rhythm that Freddie Mercury himself would have been proud of and slowly started to eat in Christ's lead. It was unfortunately a case of too little too late and Christ's crossed the line deserved-winners.

Post-match video analysis demonstrates that, despite minimal time in the boat together, there were times when NM1 found a tidy and powerful rhythm. With Fairbairns and some material faces to make a return to the boat, there is much to be optimistic about as NM1 look to secure their second piece of silverware for the term.

For more information on the goings on of QCBC, please follow us on social media and check out our new website. You can also contact the President or Alumni Officer at any time for more information, and we're always more than happy to see alumni of the Club on the towpath coaching or at our events.

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Instagram: <http://www.thepictaram.club/instagram/queensboatclub>

Website: <http://qcbc.soc.srcf.net/>

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