



# Queens' College Boat Club

## A new women's 1st VIII

### Executive Summary:

QCBC is in need of a new women's 1st VIII because *The Duchess of Cambridge*, a Hudson purchased more than a decade ago, is nearing the end of its life as a competitive racing shell. In 2021, the men's side replaced their Hudson with a Filippi shell, named *The Marcus Hughes-Hallett*, as this is where the need was greatest...

Now it's the women's turn.

Alex Stout (1995), Women's Captain 1998-99, has very generously pledged to match all donations received until we hit a total of £20,000. This means that **every single donation** we receive until we hit this amount will be **matched pound for pound, doubling your impact!**

Please help us reach this target.

### Club Overview:

QCBC remains the largest society at Queens' and plays an important role in developing and improving community ties across the College by bringing together students from both the JCR and MCR.

QCBC makes rowing accessible: with over 100 novices every year, the Club does a fantastic job of teaching students a new sport which, in many cases, they end up falling in love with!

The rowers, coxes, and committee members are incredibly dedicated to QCBC and, as a result, the Club has gained considerable momentum in recent years.



### Recent News:

W1 bladed in the 2023 May Bumps

M1 bladed in both the 2022 May Bumps and the 2023 Lent Bumps in *The Marcus Hughes-Hallett*

Photo (above): Marcus' father, David Hughes-Hallett, christening the boat at a naming ceremony in 2021

W3 bladed in the 2019, 2022, and 2023 May Bumps

This year, Brett Taylor (2020), a third-year medic, rowed in the Blue Boat. Brett was the first undergraduate oarsman from Queens' to earn a spot in the Blue Boat in 27 years!

Abi Smith (2018), a visually-impaired rower and W1 stroke this season, has just been elected as QCBC President 2023-2024

Olympians, Grace Prendergast (2021) and Ruby Tew (2021), represented Queens' in the 2022 Boat Race

## Important changes:

Dr Chris Clark (2007), who coxed Blondie and QCBC whilst a student, has taken over from Dr Graham McShane (2000) as Senior Treasurer of the Club.

The Boat Club funds (previously divided into three separate pots, each with its own set of conditions) have been merged so that QCBC can more easily meet both its on- and off-Cam funding needs. We are incredibly grateful to all of our donors, who have supported and approved this change.

The Henley Trustees are now Patrons of the Club and advise on the direction of QCBC.

## Our Appeal:

In order for the Club - and the women's side, in particular - to build on this momentum and make the most of these changes, we need your help. QCBC is in need of a new women's 1st VIII. The current shell, a Hudson named *The Duchess of Cambridge*, was purchased in 2011 and has served the side well for more than a decade: W1 has been successful at off-Cam races such as Women's Eights Head of the River Race, Marlow Regatta and Bedford Head over the last few years, and the crew qualified for Henley Women's Regatta in 2021 (the only year HWR hasn't clashed with May Bumps). W1 has also had several successful Bumps campaigns, going +3 in the 2015 Lent Bumps, 2019 May Bumps, 2020 Lent Bumps and, most recently, bladed in the 2023 May Bumps.

However, the current women's 1st VIII is nearing the end of its life as a competitive racing shell. Nowadays, most new shells purchased for College 1st crews (including QCBC's M1) are Filippis. These Italian-made boats are renowned for their excellent handling around corners, which gives crews an edge when competing on rivers such as the Cam. In order to maintain the competitiveness of our women's side, we now look to do the same!

Hence, we are appealing to you, as an alum of QCBC, to invest in the future of the women's side by making a contribution towards the purchase of a new women's VIII that will serve W1 for many years, before it is passed down to W2.

Incredibly, we have received a matched funding pledge from Alex Stout (1995), an ex-Women's Captain and Lightweight rower: she has very generously pledged to match all gifts received up to a total of £20,000. So far, we have received a total of £14,000 from a handful of QCBC alumni (most of whom matriculated in the 1980s).

**Please help us raise the remaining £6,000 needed to unlock the matched funding!**

The Club's alumni could, collectively, make a real difference to QCBC: your donation, no matter its size, would play an important role in enabling our women's 1st VIII to excel for the next decade and beyond.

All donors will be invited to a boat naming ceremony. Donors will appear in the annual Gift List (unless you'd like your gift to remain anonymous) and donors who give £10,000 or more will be invited to the Commemoration & Ceremony of Benefactors and Feast for two years following their gift. Please note that US taxpayers can donate tax-efficiently through Cambridge in America.

**Thank you very much for your consideration.**

**POTB!**



Photo (above): W1 at HWR in 2021

For further information about supporting QCBC,  
please contact us at  
[development@queens.cam.ac.uk](mailto:development@queens.cam.ac.uk).





The blading W3 2022 Mays crew



Ruby and Grace at the Boat Races last year



The 2013 W1 Mays crew



Abi Smith (2018) QCBC President 2023-2024



The blading 1984 W1 Mays crew



The entire club at the Mays Boat Club Dinner last year