



King's College Boat Club, Cambridge
Lent 2016

Henry's VIII

Welcome to the Lent 2016 edition of Henry's VIII newsletter. With last term's novices moving into the crews, this term has been a learning curve. But it has been a brilliant term of rowing for the women's side, and a very good term for the men's side. The boathouse is looking fantastic, and we would like to invite you to our Opening Weekend on the 11th and 12th of June.

We hope you enjoy this issue, and hope to see you on the river soon.

Alongside this newsletter, you can always keep track of KCBC's progress on our website at www.kingsboatclub.com where you can find latest news, full race reports and crew lists.



*Far Left and Left:
The new boathouse
is expected to be
finished by May the
9th.*

Freya Reeve updates us on moving from a Novice Boat to W2

Starting rowing when I joined King's last term was one of the best things I could have done as a fresher. Rowing gives you the chance to make friends quickly, both in your own year and the years above. Aside from the fact that getting up horrendously early tends to give everyone something to bond over, the social side of the club was really well organised and a credit to our wonderful social secretary. In between the novice curry and some swaps located in rather dubious restaurants, the vice-captains were really supportive in helping us to learn to row. No doubt watching us struggle along avoiding various near-crashes must have required a great deal of patience, but they were always really encouraging. It's amazing how many people are prepared to give up their time to give something back to the boat club, and I think this is what makes it feel so much like a family. So when we crossed the finish line for Fairbairns and supposedly became seniors (though we soon found that it was more accurate to say that we had earned the title of 'ex-novice' instead), I was pretty sad to leave behind my NW1 crew.

Moving into W2 couldn't have been easier though- everyone was really friendly, and with a lot of good coaching we made it onto Lent Bumps for the first time in several years. Being the only boat to bump up was both something we were proud of and a bit of a shame, but I think it's testimony to the hard work of the captains and vice-captains that our boat still did well when half of us were ex-novices. Rowing at King's has been so much fun, and I am really looking forward to carrying on next term.

An Update on Last Term's Women's Rowing from the current Women's Captain Ellie Archer

It has been an excellent term of rowing for the women's side – with nearly four full boats this term, participation is the highest it's been in many years and there has been a lot of improvement at all levels this term.

W3 couldn't quite turn out a full boat for the Getting on Race so didn't get the chance to row in Bumps but they put in an excellent performance in Robinson Head towards the end of term, clocking the fastest W3 time. There has been consistent improvement since the start of term and if they can keep the momentum going into next term they are sure to put in a strong performance in Mays!

W2 has been particularly strong this term and waltzed through the Getting-on-Race, qualifying for Bumps with plenty of time in hand. Their Bumps week was the most successful of the boat club, going up two overall and narrowly missing out on an overbump on the first day! This was just reward for all their commitment this term.

Starting second in Division Two, W1 had a slightly tougher Bumps week but we pulled out our best rowing of the term to put in a strong performance. We rowed over on each of the first two days, gaining on the boats in front both times but sadly not quite being able to follow through. We were unfortunately bumped on the remaining two days, but the net result of going down two doesn't reflect the quality of rowing as we rowed very solidly all week. Special credit should go to Rachael and Jess who have embraced W1 this term despite only novicing this Michaelmas. We finished the term with an appearance at WEHoRR, clocking a very respectable time and thoroughly enjoying the Tideway experience!

It has been a brilliant term for the women's side and a pleasure to see so many people enjoying rowing. Despite the lack of a boat house, enthusiasm seems to be at an all-time high so I am very excited to see what next term will bring!



*Far Left: W1 racing in the Lent Bumps, credits to Giorgio Divitini
Left: W2 celebrate success in the Lent Bumps*

An Update on Last Term's Men's Rowing from the current Men's Captain Olivier Sluijters

The King's men's side was represented by three crews during Lent term. Graduation had depleted the number of senior rowers to seven. However, retention of most of our novice rowers meant we had one of the largest squads we have enjoyed for some time. The chance to engineer crews more carefully, and the automatic qualification of the 2nd crew to the Bumps, encouraged a sense of hope for the term's campaign.

The 3rd boat perhaps had the biggest squad of any crew paddling on the Cam. Preferences on commitment to morning outings, and perhaps more truthfully a disinclination to erg meant we had 11 to choose from in composing the crew. Alas, this and heavy winds throughout term resulted in our ineligibility for the Bumps. Although they were well represented at Bumps Dinner. With more senior rowers returning for the more glamorous May Bumps and fewer outings being scratched because of the conditions, the 3rd boat is likely to be much more competitive for their getting on race.

The 2nd King's crew comprised entirely of novices, coached under the watchful eye of Chris Braithwaite enjoyed a term of awful weather which had impeded their outing plans also. Alas, their efforts in training were not rewarded as they had hoped. Their first Bumps and their first set of Spoons. With a selection of senior rowers returning for Mays, the Vicky Wade may well see what lies beyond Ditton corner. Being caught on the final day by Sidney Men's 2nd boat who completed their campaign for Blades, in hindsight this was a clear sign of things to come.

The 1st crew, having risen well into the 1st division over the past few years were in for a tough fight. The crew looked very different from that of last year's Lent term. Three oarsmen and our cox, Will Miller, were all that was left. Our high starting point and general lack of experience (which not even Miller's seventy-eight Bumps races could make up for) proved to be our downfall. A few meters shy of where the 2nd crew fell for Spoons, we were caught by Churchill (who also got Blades) for our own set of Spoons. With a returning set of more experienced oarsmen, including lightweight Jamie Brown who enjoyed success against The Other Place in this year's race at Henley, the Mays look much more hopeful.



*Far Left: M1 racing in the Lent Bumps, credits to Giorgio Divitini
Left: M1 at Bumps Dinner*

The M1 Alumni Boat Report on the Fairbairn Cup 2015

Enthusiasm for the Fairbairn cup amongst KCBC alumni was at an unprecedented level this year and before Chris Braithwaite could even begin his annual grooming of recent graduates the 2012/13 M1 crew decided to reunite.

So it came about that on the evening of Thursday 3rd December, as the current M1 finalised their mental and nutritional preparation for the culmination of a hard term, several early-career professionals and PhD students turned up and interrupted them with outdated banter fuelled by whiskey and observations of unwanted weight gains.

‘MLegend,’ as they arrogantly dubbed themselves, had a combined rowing experience of decades as well as first division blades (and spoons), university medals, HRR qualifications and Paddy’s achievements back in M2. 8 of the 9 had also won the Fairbairn cup in 2012, so felt no apprehension at the prospect of a 14-minute slog through the fens. Reconvening on the Friday morning, nobody felt fresh, loose, fit or keen but there was ample laughter and reminiscence and that made everything seem alright.

The details of the race were unremarkable; marshalling was a shambles, MLegend flew like a cannonball past the boathouses and that cannonball then rolled slowly down the rest of the course. Waiting at Baitsbite lock, there were many happy cross-college reunions, and other alumni crews confirmed suspicions that the river had in fact got longer.

With the sun unable to cut through the cold air and old blisters being painfully rediscovered, the long row home began in low spirits. However, the boat seemed to be moving more smoothly now that the race had shaken off the cobwebs from long-unused muscle groups, and it wasn’t long before jubilant and unimaginative shouts of ‘yeah kings’ were once again irritating every other boat on the river.

Another win always seemed an unlikely prospect, and the race results showed the leaders almost a minute ahead up the river. Surprisingly, though, many college M1 crews trailed in MLegend’s wake. It can thus be stated conclusively that fitness is a poor substitute for friendship.

Cox:	Will Miller	M1 2011-present
Stroke:	Lachlan Jardine	M1 2011-2015
7:	Joel Wilson	M1 2011-2014
6:	Paddy Buchanan	M1 2011-2014
5:	Algernon Wallis	M1 2012-2013
4:	Conor Burgess	M1 2012-2015
3:	Craig Lambert	M1 2012-2014
2:	Neil Paul	M1 2011-present
Bow:	JT Baird	M1 2014

Huge thanks to Captain Olivier Sluijters who allowed us to mess around in his boat.

Special mention to Will and Neil who had already rowed the race with M1.

Best of luck to King’s M1 for the rest of the year, you’re a great group of guys.

Finally a tip of that hat to Paddy for being chauffeur for the weekend in his company BMW.