



King's College Boat Club, Cambridge
Michaelmas 2015

Henry's VIII

Save the date: The 2016 Lent Bumps Dinner will be held on Saturday the 27th of February.

Welcome to the Michaelmas 2015 edition of Henry's VIII newsletter.
It has been a mixed term here at KCBC.

On the river and at the Boathouse, we have had good news. Olivier Sluijters, Ellie Archer and Conor Burgess have updates on this years' rowing, and the progress on the Boathouse-build.

However, we were very sorry to hear of the loss of Sir Adrian Cadbury in September: he was an important member of the KCBC community and he will be greatly missed.

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.



*Left: Progress on the new Boat House
Right: Men's May Bumps
Racing Photo*

An Update on the new Boat House from Conor Burgess

After Lents 2015, we began the process of moving all of our boats out of the boathouse, and carefully removing 45 years of history from the Mays room. Most crews are now boating from temporary racking on the grass beside the boathouse, and KCBC has managed to secure a portakabin at the Bowls club to act as our temporary Mays room (affectionately known as the PortaMays). After minor delays for the removal of asbestos insulation tiles, the builders set up shop and the old boathouse was demolished through June and July 2015. Groundworks soon began on the new boathouse, with piles driven deep into the soft ground so the new boathouse won't suffer from the subsidence of the old one! The steel frame was quickly erected and mostly complete by mid-September. Since then, the second floor has been installed, and the steel-reinforced concrete base of the ground floor is complete. The contractors are now working on building the walls and have installed half of the roof. The whole project is pretty much on schedule, and should be complete just in time for Easter term 2016. More information about the opening ceremony will be distributed once a date can be finalised, but we hope to see you all there to celebrate the start of a new chapter in KCBC's history!



Left: Met Regatta winning crew

Right: First IV training for Henley Qualifiers

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

The King's men's side was represented by three crews in Easter term, leading to the presence of 27 purple-clad proud rowers on the river. Regardless of exams, they had trained on and off the water, preparing them for the May Bumps, hoping to fulfil the ever increasing expectations we all have of our crews. After Bumps, our first IV raced Marlow Regatta and went on to the qualifiers at Henley.

To start with a boat consisting of the most inexperienced but possibly the strongest crew members, the "beerboat". Manned by the larger part of the rugby team, these guys trained during Easter term to hopefully maintain our 3rd King's crew's position at the top part of the fifth division. This started off with a tough row over. Sadly, in the following three days they were bumped each day. However, they can take pride in the fact that every crew that bumped them went up five or six at least. They proved one does not need years of experience to move a boat surprisingly fast and thoroughly enjoyed their week, of which Bumps Dinner was potentially the highlight.

The 2nd King's crew started off as a 'sandwich boat', rowing at the top of the 4th division. Having done a significant amount of training throughout the year, including very long sessions on the erg every week, they produced a solid row over at the top of the division, yet did not manage to bump up into the 3rd division. They were plagued by the same misfortune as our 3rd crew, having 3 crews on for blades behind them for the remainder of the week. I can however proudly say they fought them off strongly and made it as difficult as possible for their opposition; in doing so, they have gotten scarily close to a bump of their own, but alas, they finished down three as well.

M1, having risen well into the 1st division over the past few years, were up for a tough job. Last year, we chased Clare for four consecutive days and we were up against a very experienced crew. We rowed over behind Clare for the first 2 days. On the third day we found a St. Catherine's crew in front of us and sent them further down, after a short but very strong row. The last day, determined to finally bump Clare, we gave it all we could, getting as close as half a length towards the end of the course, but the bump did not happen.

We continued training after term in the coxed IV, to prepare for Henley Qualifiers. In the run up to this, we won the IM3 division at Metropolitan Regatta convincingly. After making it to the A final in Marlow Regatta, competing with crews such as the CUBC development squad, we confidently continued our preparation for Henley Qualifiers. After a very well executed race, we missed qualifying by 2 places and approximately 2 seconds. This was in a very strong field and in many other years we would have qualified. Both Clare and Henley are worthy goals to set for next Easter Term.

Having currently started training in Michaelmas, we have had to rebuild a strong crew due to a large amount of graduating rowers last year, but I can confidently say that the coming year looks as promising as ever.

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

Easter 2015 was a triumphant term for the King's women's side. We had three full boats, with participants ranging from veteran PhD students to those who had noviced with us that year. W3 sadly did not make it onto Bumps but everyone had a very enjoyable term's rowing and most have returned to the senior squad this year. W2 stormed onto Bumps with an excellent performance in the getting on race. Despite last minute injuries resulting in an eleventh hour crew change they did incredibly well to finish up 3 and were unfortunate to miss out on Blades with a rowover on the first day. For several in the boat this was their first experience of Bumps excitement and it certainly did not disappoint.

W1 also had a very successful term, starting with an appearance at Wallingford Regatta in May. We trained hard going into Bumps and went into it feeling quite optimistic, buoyed by the addition of King's Blue Fanny Belais to our crew at stroke. We started near the top of division two behind a strong Jesus crew who we knew would be tough to beat. Unsurprisingly, Jesus bumped out ahead of us on the first day, leaving us to row over. However, we were determined to move up and followed Jesus up the table for the rest of the competition, bumping up into the first division on Friday and again on the Saturday to seal our place and finish up four. We are now 16th in the first division which is the highest we've been since 2011.

We continued the momentum to put in a strong performance at Henley qualifiers in June. We sadly missed out on qualification but we clocked a good time on the course and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. With many of last year's crews now having graduated, we are welcoming the next cohort of King's rowers into the fold and judging by the dedication and commitment seen so far this term, this year looks set to be another strong one for the women's side.



*Above Left: May Bumps Women's Second Crew
(credit to Georgio Divitini)*

*Above Right: May Bumps Women's First Crew
Left: Adrian Cadbury (Middle Row, Second from the
Left) and Crew
(credit to Stearn and Sons, now Lafayette)*

Chris Braithwaite fondly remembers Sir Adrian Cadbury

Since the death of Sir Adrian Cadbury on the 3rd September, much has been written of his contributions to society through writings on corporate governance as well as through his patronage of Aston University. It was also noted that he was a keen rower, competing both for Cambridge and for Great Britain. While these are certainly important legacies, in this brief article it seemed appropriate to focus on the contribution that Sir Adrian made over the years to KCBC.

Having arrived at King's in 1949 via Eton and the Coldstream guards, Sir Adrian started his KCBC career (which may be a surprise to some), in the second VIII, rowing at 6 in Lents in 1950. It would seem that he was excluded from the comment of the captain of the time that the boat "consisted as usual of the thugs of the club", and he was promoted to the 1st VIII by Mays. This promotion was initially to the 2 seat, but later to stroke as the stroke was taken ill a couple of days before bumps began. This non-ideal preparation seems to have hampered the crew somewhat with them going down two places (as opposed to the hoped for up five...) near the top of the second division. Starting in Michaelmas 1950, things improved markedly. With Sir Adrian now firmly established in the stroke seat, the crew was 11th in Fairbairns and did well in Lents before winning blades in Mays to take them to the top of the second division. The following year, King's was deprived of its three premier oarsmen, Sir Adrian, Jeremy Debenham and George Marshall for the first part of the year as they were in training for the university crews. Despite this the 1st VIII won blades in Lents. Come Mays, the crew was strengthened by the returning oarsmen, and remains to this day the only King's boat ever to contain two blues, in Sir Adrian and George Marshall.

Mays 1952 seems to have been something of a special time to have been involved in the club, and it is fitting that this should have coincided with the time of one of the clubs most prominent oarsmen and supporters. In a series of reminiscences by the then cox of the first boat, Bryan Porteous, he recalls:

" Our morale was incredibly high and for the first time for ages some pre-breakfast training was done - though only running, as early morning outings and rowing machines weren't heard of then - and the crew sat together in Hall with extra rations and a tankard of ale.... The 1st Eight started the Mays as sandwich boat and we rowed over almost effortlessly at the top of Division II, conserving energy to row again at the bottom of the First Division and have the satisfaction of bumping Downing I – our neighbours in the next boathouse..... In the next three days the 1st Eight bumped Jesus II, Caius II and LMBC II so getting their oars and I my third rudder and, again, a soaking in the river.

And the other five crews also did splendidly. ... [T]he Club, with its six boats on the river, made a total of 24 bumps... It was agreed that this overall success for the Club certainly warranted burning a boat on Scholar's Piece after Bump Supper so Claude found an old four that we agreed we could do without and this was ceremoniously carried to College and stored under the "Jumbo Arch".

A bonfire was hastily built on Scholars Piece and the Bump Supper was well underway when Mr Powell, the Head Porter in his top hat, came into Hall and announced "Gentlemen, some gentlemen from Clare have stolen your boat !". Knives and forks were dropped and most of the Club streamed out onto the Back Lawn only to see our boat being paddled down the river towards Clare bridge ! David Beynon (bow in the victorious 4th Eight) immediately stripped off his blazer and shoes and dived head first into the Cam. To everyone's consternation he hit an underwater drain structure and, as it later turned out, broke his neck - though not so seriously as to paralyse him, thank God ! Getting him out and to hospital put an end to "highjack" and after finishing our supper the boat was carried down to Scholars Piece and consigned to the flames. After that high spirits continued into the night and it was suggested that the whole University ought to flush purple the next morning, squads armed with Potassium permanganate being despatched to other colleges to doctor their WC cisterns. Unfortunately the same treatment was given to our own College fountain without realising that the chemical would react with the stone and turn it black ! So next morning after breakfast the Bursar assembled a team of us to scrub it out under his eagle eye !"

After leaving King's, Sir Adrian remained a staunch supporter of the club and contributed generously to various appeals for funds to enable the purchase of new equipment and the establishment of the endowment fund. In 2008, during the 150th anniversary celebrations, the club decided to name the new men's 1st VIII in his honour. Sir Adrian agreed to this on the proviso that his title was not used, and the boat was therefore simply named *Adrian Cadbury*.

Sir Adrian will be greatly missed as part of the KCBC community.