



King's College Boat Club, Cambridge
Michaelmas 2017

Henry's VIII

Welcome to the Michaelmas 2017 edition of Henry's VIII newsletter. As we prepare for a new term of rowing, with an exceptional group of novices ready to integrate into the senior boats, Boat Club members reflect on Michaelmas term and their achievements.

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:** NW1
ready for
Fairbairn's*

***Left:** NMI
celebrating their
Fairbairn's success*

A NOVICE PERSPECTIVE: Frederik Laursen

As a second-year student, I was already well familiar with the clichés parroted by every rowing club in Cambridge trying to recruit novices: you get used to the early mornings, they say; you make loads of new friends, they say; it is a good way to get your exercise done, they say. Well, they are not wrong. Not only did I get used to the early mornings, they have made for some of my favourite moments during my time at King's. Biking to the boathouse through the quiet town in the morning gloom is a stark difference to the usual bustle and busyness of everyday Cambridge life, made all the sweeter by the anticipation of the first light of day and what comes with it. Stash your things in the locker, get a quick warmup in, carry the boat out. The first strokes serve to get the blood pumping, but once the boat stops rocking and starts gliding on the Cam, it really is a rush. And it really is a way to get your exercise done. What keeps you going when the exhaustion starts kicking in, aside from the yelling of your coach and cox, is the friends you have made on the river. There is a feeling of togetherness, but also responsibility, helped by the common goal towards which we have strived: the end-of-term races. Once December rolled around, we had managed a victory in the Cambridge Winter Head and a 5th place in the Novice Fairbairn Cup. Great results, all made possible by the senior KCBC members. It has been humbling to witness the time and dedication put into our welcome, training and well-being by everyone around the boat club. The vice-captains have been there for our every concern and the coaches have been there every morning, always pushing us to challenge ourselves. I feel proud to be part of a community where this kind of selflessness is taken for granted. Such culture could only have been fostered by those who came before, however, and so all that is left to say is: thank you!

AN UPDATE ON WOMEN'S ROWING: Women's Captain, Rebekka Thur

Michaelmas was a very successful term for the women's side. This year we had a full W1 and W2 for the whole term, and very briefly even put out a W3 in a IV, before unfortunately the loss of a couple of rowers to their degree meant that we had to go back to "only" two VIIIs.

W1 had to reduce water training to 3 times a week (unlike the usual 4 outings) due to limited availability of several crew members. Yet with barely any cancelled outings, consistent training and a training day in Kingston with Chris Smith, the crew had a very good term, placing in a similar position as in the previous year in Winter Head and Fairbairn's.

Both W1 and W2 took part in Winter Head as well as Fairbairn's, and although we didn't win anything, they were good races and the crews finished the race in high spirits. Fairbairn's in particular was a very festive occasion, with several crews on the river (obviously including King's) blasting Christmas songs from their speakers whenever marshalling in the cold necessitated some distraction. Fairbairn's was a big event for King's this year, with a women's alumni boat competing as well, and a mixed invitational crew from Odense (Denmark) visiting King's and taking part in the race (M1 had met the Odense rowers on their trip to China in the summer), as well as the men's crews of course. We had a total of 9 boats competing!

In addition to the women's senior boats, we also had 2 novice women's crews, who did exceptionally well this year. They came 3rd in the Queen's Ergs finals and also smashed pretty much every race they took part in. NW1 raced in Winter Head, Clare Novice Regatta and Fairbairn's, where they placed 3rd. NW2 competed in Clare Novice Regatta, though unfortunately not the other races, because they were reduced to a mixed crew early on, with 2 men's novices as permanent subs. However, they carried on training for the entire term, which means we have a solid number of (fast!) women keen to join the senior crews in Lent.

With this term's good work both in the senior and novice crews, the women are all set up for a great next term and hopefully including a successful Bumps campaign! I have to thank our coaches for the success this Michaelmas: Roger Thorogood and Chris Smith (W1), Kiera McNeice and Sarah Williams (W2), Hrutvik Kanabar (NW1), Lewis Couch and Adam Townson (NW2), all those who chipped in coaching the occasional outing and of course the VCs, Martha Crass and Mary Coleman.



Far Left: W2 racing in Fairbairn's

Left: W1 taking the obligatory post-race photo outside the boathouse after Fairbairn's

AN UPDATE ON MEN'S ROWING: Men's Captain, Jacob Toop-Rose

Overall Michaelmas has been strong for the men's side. To begin with, we were able to field two full VIIIs but the loss of a few key players meant that M2 had to continue its training in a IV.

M1 got off to a strong start coming 4th out of the Colleges in Autumn Head. With plenty of IVs training both M1A and M1B made waves in the Uni Fours races. M1B narrowly missed out on the victory in the Second Boats finals and M1A narrowly lost out to Caius (Quarter-Final) who then went on to win the competition. In the run up to Winter Head we had an unfortunate string of injuries and sickness which wiped out 3 of the 4 strokeside rowers. Fortunately, we were still able to send out a scratch IV that was still able to place among the majority of coxed fours.

Alongside the senior boats were two exceptionally keen Novice Men boats. Some big KCBC names were brought in as regular coaches and the novices thrived underneath them. After a worrying non-result in Qerqs, the boys were able to bring it back by winning Novice Winter Head (Hip flasks for all!). The novices then went on to excel in Fairbairns as well. NM1 improved on the fifth place from last year, coming a stunning fourth. NM2 also knocked it out of the park, coming 3rd in the Second Men's Novice VIII.

Special thanks goes out to all the Senior Men's coaches (Chris Smith, Chris Braithwaite, Conor Burgess) and those that took up a consistent slot with the Novices (Neil Paul, Hrutvik Kanabar, Ellen Berry, Ed Miller (VC), Mike Tallent (VC)). Thanks to those who subbed in to a coaching slot or outing. Finally, a big congratulations to Dylan Whitaker, Ellen Berry and Hrutvik Kanabar who have trained a phenomenal number of new Kings Coxes over the past term.



*Far Left: M1 on a training day in Kingston
Left: NM2 marshalling before Fairbairn's.*

TIES AND PENDANTS: Martha Crass

Recently a proposal was made by King's alumnus Paddy Robinson to reintroduce ties and pendants for KCBC members, with a separate design available for those in each of the 1st boats for May Bumps. The proposed image for these is a white and gold Yale, on the distinctive King's purple background. The connection between the Yale (a horned mythical creature covered with gold spots, or bezants) and KCBC is somewhat unclear, despite it being chosen for the KCBC 1st May's tie design in 1961 and thereafter purchased by members of the boat club for several years. The design fell out of popularity for a while and was briefly brought back in 2002, and now will see a return to the boat club.

The items available will be a long tie and bowtie, and the committee is also looking into the possibility of a design for a charm which may be fixed to a necklace. Previously KCBC members have been able to purchase long ties and bowties patterned with the King's white rose, but these have been unavailable for some time. These will be reinstated, and will bear the white rose pattern on a royal purple background, with the Yale replacing this emblem for the 1st May's ties. There is rather more popularity on the women's side for the King's white rose design, rather than the Yale, and so this is the image that will hopefully become available on the charms.

While the significance of the Yale to the Boatclub is unclear, it is said that the Yale represents proud defence: this is something King's will certainly uphold during our bumps campaign.