

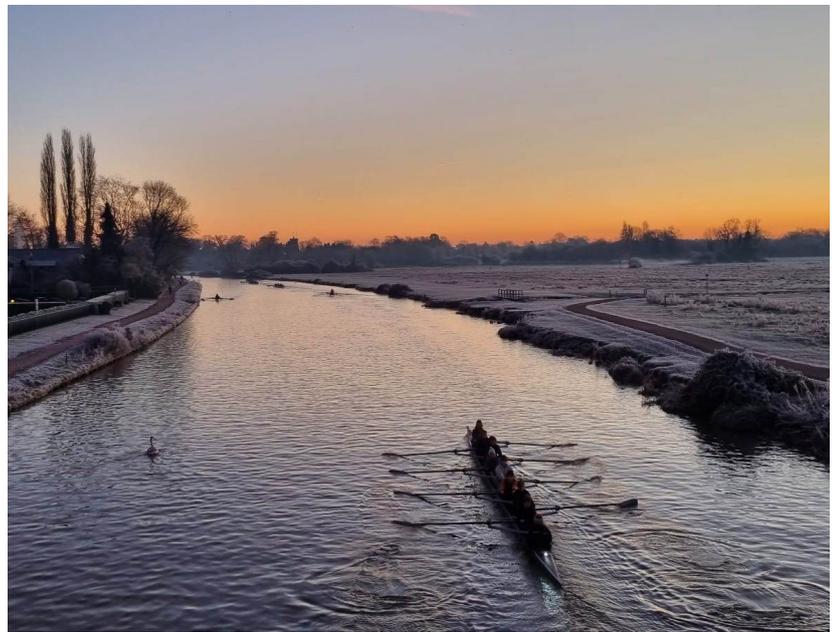
# Fitzwilliam College Boat Club

Lent 2023 Newsletter

# W1

## Captains: Emily Parry, Shannon White

It's been another hugely successful term for W1. We jumped straight into term by racing both Winter League and Winter Head to Head, to get some racing experience in early. Up next was Newnham Head, where we placed 8th! Soon after that, we headed to Bedford for our first off-Cam race of the year. We raced twice, making huge technical improvements between races, and came back to the Cam having learnt a lot and with boosted confidence.



Then it was time for Bumps! On the first two days we had two quick bumps on St Catherine's and Queen's, both on grassy corner. Unfortunately the third day of racing was cancelled due to the weather. We were luckily allowed to race on Saturday though, where we had our quickest bump of the week, catching Christ's on first post corner and earning us our blades!



**Coaches:** Jo Lee, Tony Moule, David Gubb

**Cox:** Emily Parry

Our last race of term before Bumps was the second leg of Winter League, where we came first in the women's first Lents category! This was exactly what we needed to motivate us through our last couple of weeks of training.



This performance returns us to the highest position that the Fitzwilliam women have held in Lent Bumps, so we are currently sitting at the highest we've ever been in both Lents and Mays (12th and 8th respectively)! We're so proud of this and excited about what's to come next term.

# M1

**Captains:** Octave Oliviers,  
Mans Holmberg

**Coaches:** Tony Moule, David Gubb  
**Cox:** Aurora Barrera James

From the onset, this term's focus was on racing, building on the success at Fairbairn's. M1 competed in seven races in just eight weeks of training. Following a productive pre-Lent training camp, M1 kicked things off with Winter League; racing this early was invaluable for building confidence and developing the vital team spirit necessary to be successful. Next, they placed 4th out of 11 at the Winter Head-to-Head and were just 18 seconds behind the winner of Newnham Head. For the first off-Cam race in Bedford, M1 raced twice, cinching 2nd and 3rd place. Unfortunately, the odds were not in their favour during the Pembroke Regatta, and they weren't able to win against a strong Downing team. Combined with intense training, these racing opportunities shaped the team and supported Bumps preparation.

As a sandwich boat between the first and second division, M1 had a daunting undertaking ahead of them. Day one saw M1 hold off Selwyn M1 by rowing over in the second division. This early victory helped buoy the team for the remainder of the campaign, as they earned an opportunity to row in the top division and upheld their annual tradition of holding off Selwyn! Unfortunately, in the first division on day 2, M1 was not able to bump Christ's, resulting in another day as a sandwich boat.

Day 3 presented a dual challenge: the formidable task of holding off Selwyn in division 2 again and bumping Christ's in the subsequent division 1 race, all while battling the elements including snow and torrential rain.



While M1 rowed over with ease, they were not able to bump Christ's and escape the sandwich boat predicament.

The severity of the previous day's weather provided an unexpected day off, due to hazardous river conditions. The final day of Bumps was, admittedly, anti-climactic as M1 was bumped by a strong Caius M2 team. Despite this singular bump, M1 demonstrated their skill and determination in a fantastic performance at the Head of the River Race, finishing in less time than both Selwyn M1 and Churchill M1. Even with less experience, this year's M1 has shown that, with their hard work and perseverance, they could have given last year's M1 a run for their money!

# W2

**Captains:** Alice Hughes,  
Elizabeth Eaton-Banks

**Cox:** Pok-Man Ho



It was a great term for W2 who came in with a strong cohort of both returning seniors with bumps experience and ex-novices keen to prove themselves! It didn't take long to get into the swing of things despite the cold start to term with Newnham Head, our first race, happening when we'd only been together as a crew for just over a week!

After a term of working hard everyone was geared up and ready to go for the getting on race to earn our place in bumps, before being told on the day we'd automatically qualified putting us in the unenviable position of sandwich boat!



**Coaches:** Phoebe Heathcote,  
Lauren McGravey

The first day of bumps left the boat with two strong row overs and had us excited for a week of racing, having obliterated our fears for a second year of spoons! On Wednesday we were bumped by a very strong Lucy Cav taking us out of the sandwich boat spot despite having a start so strong camFM commented on it! Thursday was our most exciting day of racing being chased by Pembroke right the way to the finish with them getting a little too close for comfort but pulling away little by little the whole way down the reach! The cancellation of bumps on Friday and Saturday left us unable to regain our title as sandwich boat but a great boat club dinner let us celebrate our massive improvement from last Lent and our amazing term!

# M2

**Coaches:** Tony Moule,  
David Gubb, Alex Markham

**Cox:** Ishaka de Bessou

M2 has put in a brilliant performance this term, both in terms of their competitive results, but also in the way they developed amazing chemistry and team spirit that resonates throughout the club. Building on last term's success, M2 went from strength to strength, beginning with their 4th place finish at Newnham Head. Despite it being their first race of the term, and being up against 24 other strong crews, M2 finished just 2 seconds shy of the top boat!



You wouldn't know from their impressive performance, but Bedford was the first off-Cam racing experience for most of M2; they managed to finish within 10 seconds of M1. Pembroke Regatta presents an opportunity to scope out the Bumps competition – M2 showed that they were a formidable crew that everyone should watch out for. M2 beat Catz M2 and Downing M2 but were just inched out by Caius M2 in the quarter finals.



After all their hard work, training, and race practice the crew was now ready for a strong showing in Bumps; and they didn't disappoint! M2 bumped Catz on day 1 and followed up by bumping Christ's on day 2. Unluckily, due to the adverse weather their remaining days of bumps were cancelled, robbing them of the opportunity to continue their bump spree.

Nevertheless, M2 finished the term on a high note with an excellent performance at the Head of the River Race, finishing 48 positions higher than they started and within 30 seconds of M1. We feel extraordinarily proud of their achievements throughout the term and look forward to what we know will be a strong showing in May Bumps.



# M3

**Coaches:** Mans Holmberg,  
Harry Rogers

**Cox:** Dina Parkus



The term started with a completely new M3 crew, with most of the crew having only rowed in Michaelmas term. Notwithstanding their inexperience, M3 consistently showed their fortitude and perseverance, from start to finish. Newnham Head provided the first opportunity for them to race as a crew, and they finished 21st out of 25 boats.

During the Pembroke Regatta, M3 was unlucky to come up against Pembroke M3 – a very strong crew whose only loss of the day was to the division winner. This year's Getting on Race was similarly brimming with skilled crews and, following some bad luck around Ditton corner, M3 was one of the 25 boats that did not get on. They subsequently raced in the Talbott Cup, where they sadly lost to Emma M3.



In the coming term, there is no doubt that M3 will continue being persistent and developing as a crew. We are all looking forward to seeing just how good they are in May Bumps!