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WE WILL LOOK BACK AT AN EVENTFUL FIRST HALF OF THE YEAR IN THE WORLD OF THE GRYPHENS



MAY BUMPS 2014
ALL ABOUT THE ACTION ON THE RIVER



BOAT CLUB DINNER
THE GRYPHENS COME OUT TO PLAY



GRYPHENS NEWS
WHAT YOU HAVE BEEN UP TO...REVEALED!

NEWSLETTER



A successful Bumps campaign

by Claudia Catachio

Welcome to the autumn edition of the Gryphens Newsletter, in which we take a look back at the adventures of Lent and Easter term, culminating in May Bumps. I have taken over as the guest editor of this issue, as Gryphens representative Jenifer Hunsley (née Hine) has been busy planning her recent nuptials. More on that later...

The Club has been growing steadily in recent years and has seen a strong novice intake in both Michaelmas and May Term. On the Gryphens side,

In Easter Term, the club was comprised of **48 senior rowers and 34 novices**, which shows the sustained popularity of rowing at Newnham.

we have a surge of activity as well. The newly formed Gryphens committee is delighted to be working with Senior members of College, who have shown great support for the Boat Club this year. Our first alumnae crew in years, which raced in last December's Fairbairns Cup race, was a first step. For Mays BCD, we had an almost unprecedented turnout of Gryphens and senior members of the College.

May Bumps Report

by *Hayley McDermott*

May Bumps this year was a bit of a mixed bag for NCBC, with W1 going down 1, W2 up 2, and W3 down 1. However, that simple plus/minus evaluation does no justice as to what actually went on for each NCBC boat that took part.

W3 had had a slightly disrupted build-up, but got the ball rolling on day 1, and did so with a bang, smashing into Pembroke III just past Newnham Bridge, before Alan had even had time to find his whistle! This was followed by a hard-fought row-over behind Emma III, before a couple of second and first boats started to make their presence felt at the lower end of the third division on the last two days. FaT II bumped up on day 3, but W3 were not dispirited by this and on the Saturday went and very nearly bumped FaT back but sadly succumbed to a blades-chasing Anglia Ruskin I in the end.

Having claimed the title of fastest 2nd boat on the river a few weeks previously in Champs Head, W2 were confident of having a successful bumps campaign. It was unfortunate that on day 1 the other two fast 2nd boats lined up directly ahead, with a series of very slow boats ahead of them. As a result, following a very to and fro battle with Emma II on day 1 that resulted in a row-over, W2 had to bide their time with another row-over on day 2 (despite taking 3.5 lengths out of Sidney I in a chase for the overbump), before getting to add to the misery of Pembroke's women on day 3 by smashing into Pembroke II on First Post Corner. W2's bumps campaign concluded with a very satisfying bumping of Sidney I right in front of all the spectators at the Plough.

In the meantime, W1 reached the start of their bumps and promptly decided that doing things normally would be too easy, collecting some weeds in the rudder of Lady G to add a bit of extra resistance for the run down the course. This also had the added bonus of making the steering much harder, before the rudder wire eventually snapped. Despite some heroic steering, W1 were bumped by FaT at Ditton. The next day W1 showed FaT what they could do without the weeds

A few impressions of May Bumps 2014



From top to bottom: New captain Hayley McDermott making sure the blades are properly painted for Bumps. Coaches and NCBC supporters follow the boats up to the start line. Greenery for victories NCBC rowers is always gratefully received.

slowing them down, closing to within a few feet of the revenge bump before rowing-over. Day 3 took on a similar pattern, but W1 were saving their best 'til last. With a very quick LMBC chasing them, W1 knew that they wouldn't be given an easy row, and so it proved. Maggie had overlap by the Plough, and it seemed to most watching that the bump was inevitable. W1 had other ideas however, and with the gutsiest rowing possible, held Maggie at bay and pulled off the most epic and courageous of row-overs, that was celebrated as hard as any bump!

So in the end NCBC as a whole finished up level, with the bumps gods definitely making their presence felt. Next year FaT I, Fitz I and ARU I aren't going to know what's hit them. Bring it on!

W1	
C	Nicole Fowler
S	Claire Nichols
7	Tamsin Samuels
6	Abbie Lawrence
5	Hannah Punter
4	Charlotte van Coeverden
3	Rebecca Vignols
2	Jenna Dittmar
B	Agnés de Varine

W2	
C	Liz Waters
S	Hele Francis
7	Máire McHugh
6	Hayley McDermott
5	Sophie Clarke
4	Eleanor Ainscoe
3	Julie Jorgensen
2	Emma Karlake
B	Francesca Benzi

W3	
C	Asia Lambert
S	Gabrielle Peterson
7	Rachel Meunier
6	Veronica So
5	Callie Vandewiele
4	Samantha Flint
3	Robyn Lockyer
2	Charlotte Slaven
B	Lucy Pickworth

W4	
C	Hilary Samuels
S	Harriet Williams-Gunn
7	Imogen Wright
6	Nina O'Hare
5	Gabbi Steele
4	Lauren Bould
3	Tessa Standen
2	Elsbeth Thomas
B	Caitlin Drake-Smith

BCD: Gryphens delighted to be back

by *Claudia Catacchio*

This was no ordinary Boat Club Dinner. For the first time in many years, the social secretaries were able to rally the troops and persuade a good number of Gryphens to join the fun. Helpful “multipliers” among the Gryphens were instrumental in this endeavour and we are grateful to everyone who got involved and convinced their fellow team mates to come along. The evening was an unbridled success. In total, we welcomed 24 Gryphens back to dinner in College Hall, along with several senior members of the college as well as the principal.



Professor Dame Carol Black gave a speech in which she praised the boat club’s achievements over the recent years and pledged her support to strengthen the ties between the Club and the official College administration. The Club has been fortunate to count fellows such as Dr. Emma Mawdsley (who has been acting as senior treasurer) among its staunch supporters. At this boat club dinner we were delighted to also welcome Dr. Catherine Seville and Dr. Barbara Blacklaws (who has been active in the world of rowing, coxing for Cantabrigian RC). Jo Burch (NC ’83), who has been a driving force on the Gryphens committee and indeed behind the organisation of this special event, was also present. Following Jo’s initiative, the old girls are gaining presence in the club again, which is fantastic to see.



Among the traditional speeches by the Boat Club captain and committee members, the club also had the special honour to award our head coach, Dr. Alan Hendrick, with an award for his ten years of service and commitment to the club. He was presented with a hand-painted commemorative oar as well as a scrapbook of memories, compiled and edited by former Boat Club captain Gemma-Claire Ali (NC’ 2009). Truly, an evening to remember!



Meet the NCBC Committee 2014/2015



Captain of Boats
Hayley McDermott
3rd year
Mechanical Engineering



Vice Captain
Agnès de Varine
3rd year
Bioengineering



Secretary
Alicia Recuerda
2nd year
Physical Natural Sciences



Lower Boats Captain
Jenna Dittmar
3rd year PhD
Biological Anthropology



Lower Boats Captain
Emma Karlake
3rd year
Politics & Int. Relations



Lower Boats Captain
Charlotte van Coeverden
3rd year PhD
Neuroscience



Treasurer
Gabbi Steele
3rd year
Economics



Social Secretary
Nicole Fowler



Development Officer
Hele Francis
4th year
Biochemistry



IT Officer
Sophie Clarke
2nd year PhD
Children's Literature



Regatta Secretary
Samantha Flint
2nd year
Physical Natural Sciences



Water Safety Officer
Máire McHugh
4th year
Medicine

Spotlight: Alan Hendrick, NCBC Head Coach



Well, this is going to make him squirm...but in the interest of journalistic integrity, we feel that we should inform the Gryphens world who we just awarded an NCBC oar to for outstanding services to the Club over the last ten years.

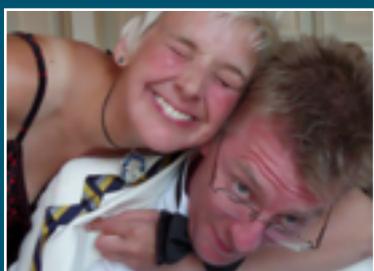
Alan Hendrick started coaching NCBC in 2004 and became head coach after the departure of Tim Granger. Not only has he inflicted pain and suffering on Newnham girls on the river, he has continued his nefarious quest to enrich our lives by supervising unsuspecting NatScis.



Originally hailing from Cork, Ireland, Alan has rowed and coxed himself for many years. He holds a UKCC Level 2 coaching certificate, which has made him an expert risk assessor - a skill frequently utilised at Boat Club Dinner.



Alan has stood by the Club through its peaks and, perhaps more importantly, its troughs. Whether we row our way up the Bumps tables or plummet down the ranks, he remains a steadfast supporter and a positive voice. Unlike many other coaches on the river, Alan does not believe in negative reinforcement or pressure to get his athletes to perform.



He frequently goes the extra mile, whether it is by taking the Club to off-Cam races, fixing our boats, teaching the girls boat care and maintenance skills, or pleading our case to the principal over a cheeky pre-formal tipple.

He is also the only man to wear a NCBC blazer. Deservedly so. Thank you, Alan, and we look forward to the next 10 years!

A call to arms...

Some of you may have seen our message on the Gryphens Facebook group already: After our successful entry in last year's Fairbairns Cup races, there are thoughts of sending another alumnae crew out onto the unforgiving, wintery, seemingly endless head race course. Does this sound appealing to you? Then you should get in touch. Age, fitness level, time spent away from rowing....none of this matters. All we ask is that you can swim. But seriously, it's rowing for fun so join us for a bit of panting and boatie banter, then stay for boat club dinner. Gryphens are always more than welcome!

This year's Fairbairns Cup will likely be held on the 5th of December and entries are closing soon, so please let us know soon if you wish to row in our formidable alumnae VIII.

Gryphens News

What are the Gryphens up to these days? The answer appears to be: getting married. No reports of summer racing or other athletic pursuits have reached us...but we are happy to report that the following Gryphens have tied the knot this summer, to which we would like to extend our heartfelt congratulations.



Emma Tunbridge - Hibbert (NC'XXXX)

Enthusiastic three-seat dweller with an infectious laugh. Historian, gifted raconteur, lover of ergs.



Chloe Reynolds, née Squires (NC'2003)

Former NCBC captain, trialist, coach, and Gryphens rower.



Jenifer Hunsley, née Hine (NC'XXXX)

Another former NCBC captain, who hails from a family of boaties, married a former NCBC coach. Could it be any more perfect?

If you have news to share, whether it's new jobs, new husbands/wives, babies, sporting achievements, etc. - we would love to hear from you and report on it. Share the joy!

We would also like to congratulate our recent graduates - shiny new Gryphens. Don't be strangers! We hope to see you back soon.

Eleanor Ainscoe - W1, Vice Captain 2012-2013

Anne Jahren - W3

Claire Nichols - W1, Captain 2012-2013, Lower Boats Captain 2011-2012

Hannah Punter - W1

Tamsin Samuels - W1, Blondie 2013

Veronica So - W3

Upcoming Events on the Cam

Senior Races:

November 15th, 2014 - Winter Head

December 5th, 2014 - Fairbairns Cup

Novice Races:

November 11th, 2014 - Queens' Ergs

November 27th-29th, 2014 - Clare Novices

December 4th, 2014 - Novice Fairbairns Cup

Your support on the bank would be welcomed - please let the Captain know if you're planning to come and watch so we can look out for you.

Save the date!

It may be early days, but we can already confirm that Mays Boat Club Dinner will be held in College Hall again, on **Saturday, the 13th June, 2015**. We would be absolutely delighted to see as many Gryphens as possible at this event!

Remember that you can always check out our Facebook pages and website for upcoming races and events: www.newnhamcollegeboatclub.co.uk. If you would like to visit Newnham to participate in any of these events and need assistance in making arrangement, please do not hesitate to contact the development officer or any other member of the committee.