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**What's this all about?**

We are aware that lots of our alumni aren't really in touch with the boat club anymore. Somewhere along the line people go from spending most of their free time on NCBC as a student to being graduates who don't know what's happening to the club that they put so much time into.

We thought we'd fix this by sending out a twice termly (ish) newsletter of news, plans and reminiscences.

news, feedback or requests then get in touch by emailing [ea345@cam.ac.uk](mailto:ea345@cam.ac.uk) or via facebook.

If you would like more regular news updates check the website for race reviews and general club info or join our facebook groups; NCBC Gryphens and Newnham College Boat Club.

[www.newnhamcollegeboatclub.co.uk](http://www.newnhamcollegeboatclub.co.uk)

**Please do get involved!** If you would like to write an article about your time at NCBC, or since or if you have any

**This term's races**

Queens' Ergs	12/11
Winter Head	18/11
Emma Sprints	24/11
Clare Novices	28 - 30/11
Novice Fairbairns	5/12
Senior Fairbairns	6/12

**Novices 2013**

Hayley and Jenna's recruitment posters spread around college and Hele's catchy video (have a look for the link on facebook if you haven't seen it yet) clearly did the trick, over 70 novices signed up to learn how to row this term.

Before they'd had chance to think twice they were up at the boathouse doing 500m erg pieces and getting out on the water in Marmelade. In typical NCBC fashion, the first swap followed soon after!

Sufficiently recovered from that experience, the excitement is building as all five of our novice crews get better and better and we head towards their first taste of racing. Starting with Queen's Ergs (but a couple of short weeks away), the future is looking bright for a new generation of NCBC domination!



## Senior rowing this term

The seniors kicked off the term with a boat tlc session at Jesus boathouse. We encountered some truly huge spiders and got through plenty of Cadbury's Crunchy Bites along the way to making the boats shipshape for this year's action. We also discovered the hard way that the riggers aren't transferable between two of our boats. But a bit of extra rigging practice never hurt anyone - right?!

Having cleared the cobwebs from our boats we had no ex-

cuse not to do the same to our rowing skills and training was soon underway. The much-loved Erg Of Death has, you'll be pleased to hear, made a come-back.

Despite some old faces from last year moving on a good crop of novices last Easter plus returning seniors means that we now have two senior Vllls and one IV out training regularly—pretty good going for Michaelmas!



## Onwards and upwards

Three NCBC members went down to Nottingham last month to represent Cambridge University Women's BC in the British Rowing Championships.

Tamsin Samuels, Abbie Lawrence and Claire Nichols were

all rowing in the CUWBC 'B' crew. They just missed out on the A/B Semi-Finals of the Women's Eights category but won their C final by an impressive 17 seconds over a 2km course.



## Life after graduation—memories of a recent leaver

Friends I have met since leaving Cambridge would be forgiven for thinking that all I ever did at university was mess about in boats. When asked about my undergraduate days, I am usually quick to launch into epic (and all-too-often underappreciated) tales of my adventures with NCBC. Nobody knows me very long before I've emptied my purse of coins for the Bumps equivalent of Bend it like Beckham's sea salt and French mustard offside rule.

I'd wanted to cox for over a decade before arriving in Cambridge – ever since I'd first watched the boat race and my Dad had described the cox as 'the small, bossy one'. My three years with NCBC far exceeded anything I could have dreamed of for this new and unusual hobby. From the massive highs of winning Fair-

bairn's and reaching second on the river as captain (if only for 48 hours), to the massive low of mounting the bank in a particularly ill-fated Tuesday of Lent Bumps, my time coxing and captaining NCBC gave me several of my most memorable Cambridge moments.

As I'm sure is the case for many people reading this, NCBC was a huge part of what made my time in Cambridge so special. I met many of my closest university friends on cold, dark mornings at the boathouse, and I am now living with two fabulous housemates who I first knew as 'bow' and 'five'.

I can't stay away from NCBC involvement for very long, so after a year of frequently popping back to cox, coach and occasionally row with current

crews, I have organised an NCBC alumni VIII for this year's Fairbairn's. If you missed out this time round, keep an eye on the Gryphens' Facebook page or email me at [gemmaclaire.ali@gmail.com](mailto:gemmaclaire.ali@gmail.com), so that I can keep you informed about future opportunities to relive your glory days with NCBC.

Much NCBC love,

Gem x

Gemma-Claire Ali  
 NC 2009  
 NCBC Captain 2011-12

Right: Mays 2012 W1: Gemma's final Bumps crew - second on the river for a precious 48 hours



# NCBC NEWS

## Iris Preston Remembered

A dinner will be held for CUWBC alumni this month in honour of Iris Winifred Preston (1921- 2012).

Iris was a Newnhamite who studied Chemistry. She

rowed for, and was secretary of, both Newnham and the University Boat Clubs and she retained a lifelong interest in women's rowing. Together with members of her NCBC crew and others Iris helped persuade oarswomen at Girton to join with those at Newnham and found a joint rowing club so that those who rowed against Oxford University Women's Boat Club, could be awarded a Blue, as the Oxford oarswom-

en were. The committee drafted a constitution for CUWBC, along with revising the constitution of NCBC, in the Lent term of 1942.

Iris Preston went on to do extensive research into the history of Newnham College Boat Club and wrote a book which she published herself entitled 'From Newnham College Boat Club to CUWBC'. The NCBC IV is named Iris in her memory.



The Lent 1942 CUWBC crew, Iris Preston rowed at 5.

LENT	BUMPS	RESULTS
W1	+3	
W2	+3	
MAY	BUMPS	RESULTS
W1	-3	
W2	+3	
W3	0	

### Dates for your diary:

- ⇒ 1st February 2014 Newnham Shortcourse Regatta—extra marshals always welcome!
- ⇒ Febuary 2014 Bedford Head?
- ⇒ 15th March 2014 WeHoRR
- ⇒ 30th March 2014 Henley Boat Races - NCBC will be going down as a club to watch CUWBC thrash Oxford—if you need more persuading, fingers crossed we may have some Newnhamites racing this year!
- ⇒ 6th April 2014 BNY Mellon Boat Race - keep an eye out on Facebook closer to the time for details of a possible trip down to London to watch the men.