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



**MAY BUMPS 2015**  
ALL ABOUT THE ACTION ON THE RIVER



**BOAT NAMING**  
WELCOMING A NEW VIII TO THE FLEET



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

# NEWSLETTER



## Success - it's in our DNA!

*by Izzy Wiggans*

Welcome to the summer edition of the Gryphens Newsletter, in which we will cover the ins and outs of the past term, including the naming of our newest boat and culminating in a very exciting set of May Bumps. I have taken over as the editor of this issue, as the new NCBC Alumnae and Development Officer for 2015-2016.

Continuing in the spirit of the past few years, NCBC once again saw a strong novice intake in both Michaelmas and May Term, with many of our Michaelmas novices contributing greatly to the success of our Lents' and Mays' campaigns. On the Gryphens side, we have had a surge of activity both on the river and off. As noted previously, we have continued to develop our presence on the Cam, sending out an Alumnae IV for Fairbairns as well as a

**In Easter Term, the Club was comprised of 38 senior rowers and 33 novice rowers, showing the sustained strength of NCBC's corps and future.**

more relaxed crew out for a paddle in November; in Mays we had a small (but mighty!) contingent in attendance at BCD. While the formation of a formalised Gryphens committee is still in the works, our first meeting is now on the books and we hope to have things in place soon.

## Boat Naming Ceremony

*By Hayley McDermott*

By Michaelmas 2014, it was rapidly becoming apparent that our 4th (novice) shell, Lady Marmalade, was reaching the end of her floating life, and a new VIII was now a matter of some urgency. With grants from Newnham JCR and MCR, generous donations from alumna Eleanor Holloway, and careful spending and saving over a couple of years, we were able to purchase a new Janousek VIII for delivery in early May.

With the retirement of Lady Marmalade, each remaining boat shifted down a crew, with the new boat taking over from Lady Godiva as the 1st boat. The new boat was a boon to all of the other crews, as well, who each received a slightly newer boat in better condition than before. In August, we then sold off Lady Marmalade, Tallulah and Miss Money Penny, all out of regular use, to a new life in St. Neots.

On the 16th May, a naming ceremony was held at the boat house, where Head Coach Alan Hendrick officially christened the boat "Rosalind Franklin" who was of course one of Newnham's most famous alumnae. The name was chosen after nominations were opened to the whole boat club, who then voted on a short list which had been narrowed down by the committee. While Rosalind Franklin never actually rowed for NCBC, she inspired countless women to pursue the sciences, including many of our own rowers!

## May Bumps Report

*by Agnès de Varine*

**W1:** Armed with their much-loved battenberg onesies, W1 were confident about the week ahead, but knew it would not be a piece of cake... and indeed they had an eventful few days. Day 1 and 2 were pretty similar, getting very close (overlap on day 1!) to First and Third ahead but unfortunately never closed the gap, finishing with 2 very strong row-overs. Day 3 started very strong, and W1 looked poised for the bump with significant overlap on FaT coming up the reach. However, Christ's W1, riding the wave of an exceptional year behind them, seized their final chance, took the wind from our sails with a truly impressive sprint into our stern. Day 4 then saw them fall to a very strong Girton crew in front of the P&E - feeling the heartbreak of the newly lengthened women's

### A few impressions of May Bumps 2015



From top to bottom:  
Sophia Russell, W3 cox, carries a bit of greenery and a bit of Mat on her way to blades; W2 charges through day 3; W1 closing in tight on FaT on Day 1.

course for the first time. A tough week, but admirably fought and a great starting point for next mays!

**W2:** Being in the top half of the second division amongst W1s, W2 are always in a tricky position. After rowing over on day 1, when everyone around them had bumped out, W2 had the misfortune to end up in front of a very strong Homerton W1 crew on day 2, getting caught by a boat well-stocked with blues. On day 3, W2 fought extremely hard and gave Pembroke good battle, keeping it together despite overlap for the whole length of the reach, before falling at the railway bridge. On day 4, Sidney had a good go at them and closed in the first half of the race; but W2 decided that they were not going to give up their hard fought position. Ignoring Sidney's threat, they pulled away in the latter half of the race to finish with a very strong row over. Overall, a week of very good battles for W2!

**W3:** After their impressive win at X-Press Heads, W3 knew that May Bumps 2015 would be a good one... and decided that 2mins of rowing each day was enough for them! Never making it past First Post Corner, they successfully put Anglia Ruskin W1, Girton W2, Catz W2 and Selwyn W2 behind them, one after the other, securing a quick set of blades to get the job done. This was followed by much celebration and the NCBC flag being taken out for the first time since 2011; their hard training paid off and everyone in NCBC was extremely proud of them!

W1	
C	Nicole Fowler
S	Alma Piotrowicz
7	Molly Hindaugh
6	Hayley McDermott
5	Julie Jorgensen
4	Charlotte van Coeverden
3	Rebecca Vignols
2	Agnés de Varine
B	Izzy Wiggans

W2	
C	Hilary Samuels
S	Emma Karlake
7	Máire McHugh
6	Fliss Hall
5	Annie-May Walsh
4	Katharine Scorer
3	Alice Murphy
2	Hele Francis
B	Francesca Benzi

W3	
C	Sophia Russell
S	Jenna Dittmar
7	Katie Phillips
6	Sophie Clarke
5	Lizzie Champion
4	Gabbi Steele
3	Callie Vandewiele
2	Jackie Carozza
B	Chiara Avancini

W4	
C	Asia Lambert
S	Louisa Dales
7	Ellie Dobbs
6	Qiuying Lai
5	Theresa von Saldern
4	Emma Bickerstaffe / Ana Trifonova
3	Julia Münch
2	Catherine Lyon
B	Melissa Chee / Claire Devney

# Going 'in Seine' : an NCBC trip to Paris

*by Hayley McDermott and Izzy Wiggans*

After a successful run at WEHoRR in March, NCBC decided to take "off-Cam" racing to its logical conclusion, sending a crew to Paris to compete in the Régates en Seine, a side-by-side regatta with a 500m course taking us right past the Eiffel Tower!

For obvious logistical reasons, we were unable to bring one of our own boats across and so borrowed one from our host club. Not knowing what to expect, it was very entertaining to arrive and locate our appointed boat, a nice heavy wooden boat that may well have been older than everyone in the crew. As it was coxbox-less and a novelty for most of us rowing, and adventure was guaranteed.



After rigging and receiving strict instructions that we all must match our kit exactly (even the cox... sorry Nicole!), we boated. Or attempted to boat... After a brief hiccup as we put the boat in the water, we corrected a faulty rigger situation and pushed off onto a Seine that was rather more bouncy than it looked!

Once we'd survived a (mildly) terrifying warm up paddle to the start, we joined the three other racing crews and paired off for our first race. We were not expecting to be up off the start, given that (a) we'd done a whole one practice start as a crew together and (b) were in the heaviest boat we'd ever rowed in... However, less than 10 stroke we were pretty surprised to find ourselves a length up and moving away rapidly!

Sadly, it was downhill from there, as bow's seat then decided that remaining on the slides was optional, and wouldn't go back on. Essentially now rowing in sixes, with those in the stern having no idea what on earth was going on behind, our opponents began to move through us and took the win. However, despite being a pair down for the best part of 500m, we lost by a mere canvas as we crossed the line.

Despite our technical difficulties on the water, it was an incredible weekend for those of us lucky enough to join the crew (a mixture of past and current W1 rowers with special guest Sarah Allen). Most of us had the privilege of spending the weekend on a houseboat in Neuilly, enjoying the sights of Paris and getting a much-needed breather from the stress of Easter term.



# Meet the NCBC Committee 2015/2016



***Captain of Boats***

Agnès de Varine  
4th year  
Bioengineering



***Vice Captain***

Rebecca Vignols  
1st year PhD  
Geology



***Secretary***

Sophia Russell  
2nd year  
Theology



***Lower Boats Captain***

Fliss Hall  
2nd year  
Philosophy



***Lower Boats Captain***

Alice Murphy  
2nd year  
History



***Lower Boats Captain***

Katie Phillips  
2nd year  
Classics



***Treasurer***

Elizabeth Champion  
2nd year  
MML



***Social Secretary***

Emma Karlake  
3rd year  
Politics & Int. Relations



***Development Officer***

Izzy Wiggans  
Alumna  
Classics



***IT Officer***

Hayley McDermott  
4th year  
Mechanical Engineering



***Regatta Secretary***

Alma Piotrowicz  
4th year  
Veterinary Medicine



***Water Safety Officer***

Hayley McDermott  
4th year  
Mechanical Engineering

## Spotlight: Matthew Bryan, NCBC Coach



Despite originating from Peterhouse, over the last five years Mat has been an incredibly important member of NCBC. He first became involved with the club in the Easter term of 2010, when, fresh from coxing Blondie in the 2010 Henley Boat Races, he was roped in to help a club that had three boats but only one cox. Since coxing W3 that term, Mat has been an ever present volunteer in our small band of coaches. Even getting married hasn't enabled him to escape the clutches of NCBC's women!



Mat has become known for being very hard to please, with the result that when he does say "that was quite good", it really means quite a lot! This coaching technique is clearly effective, as all his crews strive that bit harder to keep him happy! He will also always fight our corner on the river. Being a member of the CUCBC committee means that he knows the rules of the river inside out, and he will happily inform any crew that obstructs our progress of their transgressions, of course ensuring at the same time that they are aware he has the power to fine them too...



To thank Mat for his five years of coaching us, NCBC decided it was time that Mat received his own Newnham blazer. After a slightly convoluted process that included getting his new wife to rummage through his cupboards to find his size (whilst Mat himself was coaching an NCBC crew...), I was delighted to be able to surprise Mat and present him with his new blazer at the Mays BCD. This of course makes Mat only the second man to wear and own a Newnham blazer!

## A call to arms...

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 4th of December, so please let us know soon if you wish to row in our formidable alumnae VIII. Contact us at [NCBC.captain@gmail.com](mailto:NCBC.captain@gmail.com) to join!

## Sponsor a blade!

Ever dreamt of having your name up in lights? Of seeing your name immortalised on a piece of NCBC equipment? Well now is your chance! We are the very proud owners of a new set of Concept 2 blades and are offering you the opportunity to sponsor one: for £300 we will inscribe your name on one of these shiny new oars and row proudly in your honour! We will also be delighted to invite you to the boathouse for a special 'blade naming' ceremony - a chance to mingle with and get to know the current rowers who will benefit greatly from this new addition. Please get in touch with Agnès at [NCBC.captain@gmail.com](mailto:NCBC.captain@gmail.com) if you would be interested in sponsoring a blade!

## Anna Watkins Fund

Starting in 2015-2016, Newnham will be offering a new studentship, generously funded by an anonymous donation from one of our alumnae, to support a graduate student committed to both academic achievement and excellence in rowing. The £12,000 per year grant is intended to cover maintenance for the recipient and hopes to attract new members of high academic standing and athletic ability to the Newnham and NCBC community. This year's recipient (the first) is Lexy Wood, joining from Durham to read for her MPhil in Education.

## Gryphens News

What are the Gryphens up to these days? This year, we've got some exciting sporting news to report:

**Jo Burch (NC 1983):** June 14, 2015 won gold in the British Masters Championship category B 8+. Jo rowed at Bow for a composite crew from City and Rob Roy. Congrats, Jo!

**Anna Watkins (née Bebington, NC 2001):** She's coming back to rowing! Having taken time out to start a family and return to her studies, Watkins decided this past summer to re-join the GB squad in search of a place at Rio 2016.

**Hayley Simmonds (NC 2006):** this past August, Simmonds clinched her first National 25-mile title and broke the national competition record for 10 miles, clocking a 19.46 time over the V718 course in East Yorkshire in less than perfect weather conditions.

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.

**Francesca Benzi** - W1, Vice-Captain 2013-2014

**Emma Bickerstaffe** - W4

**Jackie Carozza** - W3

**Chrissy Cook** - W3

**Kate Crowhurst** - W4

**Nicole Fowler** - W1, Social Secretary 2014-2015

**Hele Francis** - W1, Captain 2013-2014, LBC 2012-2012, Development Officer 2014-2015

**Julie Jørgensen** - W1

**Abbie Lawrence** - W1, Social Secretary 2013-2014

**Robyn Lockyer** - W3

**Rachel Meunier** - W3

**Ali Moore** - W2

**Nina O'Hare** - W4

**Mona Al Qazzaz** - W3

**Hilary Samuels** - W2, The Last Samuels 2014-2015

**Gabbi Steele** - W2, Treasurer 2014-2015

**Liz Waters** - W2, Secretary 2013-2014

**Izzy Wiggans** - W1, Development Officer 2015-2016

**Harriet Williams-Gunn** - W4

**Imogen Wright** - W3



## Upcoming Events on the Cam

### Senior Races:

**November 14th, 2015** - Winter Head

**December 4th, 2015** - Fairbairns Cup

### Novice Races:

**November 10th, 2015** - Queens' Ergs

**November 26th-28th, 2015** - Clare Novices

**December 3th, 2015** - 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 11th June, 2016**. 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.com](http://www.newnhamcollegeboatclub.com) (New Website!!) 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.

We hope you have enjoyed this edition of the Gryphens newsletter. Perhaps you might even be tempted to return to the river for rowing and/or spectating. I know I will be headed back soon!

Until next time,

Yours,

*Izzy*