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Women's first boat

Back: Peter Ford, Danielle Broadfoot, Sara Lackner, Richard Fletcher, Charlotte Squires-Parkin, Nina Kamcev, Gonzalo Garcia

Front: Daisy Gomersall, Olivia Skilbeck, Julia Attwood, Laura Fox, Yining Nie

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Men's first boat

Back: Lianne Stanford, Timothy Hele, Matthew Griffiths, Sam Bell, Ali Abbasi

Front: Jack Mills, Jacob Fries, Penelope Jenkins, Yimin Ge, Jackson Salovaara



## College Activities

### First and Third Trinity Boat Club

by Julia Attwood (2007)

The Boat Club began the academic year with a youthful and enthusiastic squad, keen to show everyone on the river that we were ready to fight our way back to where we belong. This infectious energy sustained us through the year, and brought both sides of the club many successes.

Michaelmas saw the return of Lianne Stanford as the men's head coach, providing invaluable help advice to captain Jacob Fries throughout the rowing year. One of our most dedicated alumni, Neil Talbott, also returned to coach novices and seniors alike for two weeks. The fruits of his efforts were seen long into the year, as many of his novices progressed to seats in the first boats.

The senior men trained consistently in VIIIs, to prepare for the Fairbairns. The second men enjoyed some racing success, finishing the second fastest 2<sup>nd</sup> VIII behind an extraordinarily fast Caius II. The first men were placed a respectable 10<sup>th</sup> in the college rankings. In contrast, the senior women alternated between VIIIs and IVs, hoping to defend our Fairbairns IVs title. This helped to strengthen the squad as a whole as we sought to incorporate rowers with different levels of experience. The first ladies' VIII finished 7<sup>th</sup> in the college VIIIs and IVs, with the VIIIs race culminating in an epic battle with Christ's, turning the long head race into a side-by-side skirmish.

First and Third had an exceptional turnout from our alumni rowing club, Black Prince, fielding four men's VIIIs, one women's VIII and both a men's and a women's IV in the Fairbairns. Seeing familiar faces back at the boathouse is always a pleasure, and the joint dinner held after racing helped to foster links across the club's generations. Novice crews performed well on both sides, with

the first novice men showing great racing prowess by being placed 4<sup>th</sup>. Such strong performances led to much optimism as we headed into Lent term.

Both sides of the squad travelled to Chester in January for our yearly training camp. We benefited from the coaching talents of Peter Ford, Gonzalo Garcia, Lianne Stanford and alumni Jonathan Davies and Neil Talbott. Our host club, Grosvenor, gave us an excellent base for intensive training in preparation for crew selection and the Lent Bumps. The picturesque city also offered a chance to relax and build that club spirit so difficult to achieve amid the distractions of Cambridge.

The Lent term saw both sides of the club improve by leaps and bounds. The men did well early on, giving confidence for the Bumps. Peter Ford became women's head coach, ably aided by Richard Fletcher. However, the ice that played havoc with last year's Fairbairns returned to test us again. Unrowable conditions meant water time was replaced with gruelling erg and circuits sessions. Nonetheless, morale remained high, with members enjoying the snow with a childlike abandon quite unlike training. Lack of experience on the water made everyone's speeds anyone's guess, so we rowed up to our stations on the first day of the Bumps full of apprehension.

Most of the Cambridge rowing scene expected a very fast Lady Margaret crew to bump our first men easily on the first day. Instead, the two crews did battle all the way down the reach, with First and Third only succumbing to the bump under the railway bridge. There followed two days of hard-fought row-overs in front of Queens'. Both crews reached the limits of their ability and endurance. However, on the final day, adverse weather conditions and three hard races took their toll, with Queens' bumping us at the railings, seeing us finish 5<sup>th</sup> on the river. The result did not do justice to the dedication of the crew, nor did it reflect the enormous determination and pure guts demonstrated by this Lents' M1.

The first day also brought disappointment for the first ladies, hoping for a bump, as we rowed over two thirds of a length off Emmanuel, with no pressure from behind. Next day Emma again escaped, rowing away from overlap to bump Pembroke before we could finish the job. The third day brought our long awaited bump, on Pembroke, just after Ditton, giving us 3<sup>rd</sup> place. For the first time in 30 years the women were higher than the men in the Lents. We held this position by rowing over on the final day. All five top crews lay collapsed on the W1 division's finishing line, testimony to the strength and stubbornness of the week's racing. Our first ladies are now tantalizingly close to the headship, a prize we soon hope to reclaim.

At the end of every Easter term, the Mays present a heady cocktail of exhaustion from academic demands, joy at the end of exams and determination to win the final prize of the rowing calendar. This year was no different. The first men saw the fruit of a year's hard training on the first day, when we bumped St. Catharine's just before the railings. However, day two's calm row-over was followed by a sprint in front of a blading Jesus crew. We were caught just after Ditton but returned on day four with a renewed resolve to deny Lady Margaret another bump on First and Third. With the relentless spirit that the rowing community has come to expect from our first men, we pushed LMBC to the edge, holding off a bump until 200 yards from the finish. Surely not the note we wished to end this Mays campaign on, again finishing 5<sup>th</sup> on the river, but the boys should be as proud of their performance as the club is of their drive and perseverance.

In contrast, the first ladies enjoyed our most successful Mays campaign of recent years. Gonzalo Garcia joined Peter Ford and Richard Fletcher in coaching the women's side, and implemented an ambitious training plan which, thanks to talent and enthusiasm, paid dividends. The first day saw W1 rowing over behind Trinity Hall, having put them under pressure early in the race before falling away. However, the next day, spurred on by the club's successes, we raced with a determination and ferocity that saw us bumping Trinity Hall in the Gut, amid some controversy. The air was thick with tension at the stomp on day three as our first ladies met a spooning Lady Margaret crew. In one of the shortest First and Third bumps of the season, we caught them around 3<sup>rd</sup> station on First Post Reach. The final day brought gale force winds, and a disinclination to race down the Long Reach led to a speedy bump on Queens' in the Gut, in front of crowds of First and Third supporters, finishing 9<sup>th</sup> in the first division.

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Men's 1: Stroke to bow: Jacob Fries, Yimin Ge, Sam Bell, Ali Abbasi, Matthew Griffiths, Jack Mills, Jackson Salovaara, Timothy Hele. Cox: Penelope Jenkins.

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Trinity Women's 1 after bumping: Stroke to bow: Charlotte Squires-Parkin, Sara Lackner, Nina Kamcev, Julia Attwood, Daisy Gomersall, Danielle Broadfoot, Olivia Skilbeck, Laura Fox. Cox: Yining Nie.

Our spirits were buoyed this term by the return of many talented oarsmen and their accomplished cox, to form a Gents' boat to row as M3. The rest of the club eagerly followed their progress and they did not disappoint, winning their blades, retaking the M3 headship and culminating with an overbump on the final day. In addition to their own training, most of the crew invested much time in coaching, for which we are very grateful. After a difficult 2010–2011, the club has risen again to celebrate success and rebuild with a squad full of fresh determination and ambition. We are fortunate to have recruited many new talents who I hope to see carry the club on to even greater heights. I cannot sufficiently express my gratitude to those who encouraged me to pick up an oar so long ago. It has been a privilege to serve the club this year as captain. I wish Peter Ford and his committee the very best for the coming year.

Ra Ra First and Third!

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Trinity M3: Stroke to bow: Peter Ford, Richard Fletcher, Thomas O'Neill, Alex Barrell, Pedro Salgaard Cunha, Miles Galloway, Gonzalo Garcia, Preeyan Parmar. Cox: Emma Salgaard Cunha.