



From the President

Dear Friends,

As the snow has been falling over Oxford last week, all our crews look to the upcoming Spring and Summer races and weather with warm optimism. We have had an excellent turnout of committed returners training and competing throughout these cold and wet months, and our novices have quickly ingrained themselves in the atmosphere of UCBC. The many crewdates we have all enjoyed together, as well as informal evening occasions at the boathouse have inculcated a wonderful sense of club spirit. This was well in evidence when twenty-five of our rowers volunteered to erg at a charity event to raise money for a terminally ill oarsman from Teddy Hall. UCBC was able to contribute greatly to the 1000km target, and I have never been prouder of the club or its members.

As usual, the support, financial and otherwise, from our old members has been invaluable. New coxing equipment and a rapidly increasing Headship Fund have kept our crews afloat in the best equipment and in the best spirits. Thanks to you, and our dedicated friends in the college body, for helping UCBC continue in making rowing as accessible and inclusive as possible.



WNA in the run up to novice races

I would also like to take this opportunity to invite you to come and support us at Torpids. With our Men poised to (finally) break back into Div. 1 and our Women prepared to continue their success in the most competitive end of college rowing, it promises to be an exciting and celebratory year.

Please feel free to contact me at benjamin.norbury@univ.ox.ac.uk if you want to discuss anything about the club, a potential donation or simply good memories of mornings on the Isis.

Best wishes,

Ben Norbury
UCBC President

From the Captains

In Michaelmas the men maintained a consistent squad of eighteen senior rowers, significantly larger than we expect in the winter, and so split the squad into a first and second boat.

The majority of water training this term has been in eights, with the occasional outing in the four. We have also spent many mornings on the erg, which was loved by all, and supplemented by weights sessions.

Due to unforeseen circumstances our M1 coach, who we had planned to retain, had to leave Oxford. The introduction of our new coach, Jess Brown, has, however, been an unmitigated success. We have seen a rapid improvement not only of fitness and technique, but also of attitude.

M1 and M2 both entered Vllls in the Isis Winter League, with M1 giving strong performances and M2 consistently being the fastest 2nd eight. M1 also entered IVs into Autumn Fours and Nephthys Regatta, and again acquitted themselves well, with one IV making the final of Autumn Fours.



M1 between divisions at Wallingford



After a narrow loss in the final of Autumn Fours

For the first time in a number of years, M1 competed in an external regatta in Michaelmas, entering Wallingford Head and finishing a respectable second in the novice category.

With a number of returning first boat rowers, as well as a new batch of promising novices, I am confident of not only M1, but also M2 & M3, giving strong performances in Torpids. In addition to Torpids, M1 will be competing in Henley IVs & Vllls and Head of the River and I am hopeful for good results in both of these.

Joe Page
UCBC Men's Captain

Univ's senior women have started the year as we mean to go on, having gained several keen senior rowers to join the remaining squad. In Michaelmas, the squad trained mostly in fours, and the occasional eight on the Isis, allowing improvements to be made quickly ahead of racing. Autumn Fours saw a strong performance from the crew who, despite an unfortunate crab, lost by just a length to the Hertford A crew that went on to win. The following week we entered another four into IWL A. With an incredible line from cox, Katie Beckingham, as well as a solid and focused row, the crew won their category and beat the next best crew by 14 seconds. Credit is also due to our furry mascot watching on from the bank!



IWL A crew with mascot, Eve

Our final Michaelmas race in Oxford was in IWL B, when we were graced with the return of powerhouse Hannah Baddock, but sadly no mascot this time. The crew put in a

respectable concerted effort to come second in the category, losing by just 2 seconds to the winning crew. With just one week left of term, and after the excitement of the novice racing in Christ Church regatta, attention turned quickly to Wallingford Head. This 4.5km course was much longer than the stretch of the Isis we had trained on all term, but a good opportunity to practise for the even lengthier Women's Eights Head of the River Race in Hilary term. We entered a four into the Women's IM3 category. With frost on the ground, the crew came prepared with pogies, hot water bottles and layers galore. The crew raced hard in the W.IM3 category, surrounded by very strong competition and ended up placing 9th.

Michaelmas term has seen a significant improvement in the crew, which gives a good platform for Hilary. Training for Torpids, as well as external regattas, is well underway. We have high expectations for Torpids and Eights; the excitement is building!

Katie Hammond
UCBC Women's Captain



Our beautiful 4+, Acer, pictured at Wallingford Head

From the Vice-Captains

Plagued by the traditional crisis of finding a cox, MNA's water training got off to a slow start, but was taken to with much enthusiasm from all the rowers. It was particularly nice to see a fairly large contingent of graduates in the boat this year; they matched the youthful energy of their undergraduate counterparts by hosting their own voluntary erg sessions, much to their coaches' delight (and slight confusion at the apparent masochism of this year's intake.)

MNA's first performance at New College Indoor Regatta was extremely strong; they dominated the race for the first three quarters, until an unfortunate accident involving an erg seat snatched the victory from them.

A truly inspiring performance at Nephthys taught MNA that the only opponent worth fearing was the repechage system, and they strode to Christ Church Regatta unbowed.

St. Benet's Hall discovered to their cost that pride cometh before a fall, and were made to eat the incautious words they had blurted out on social media.

Overall, the term was extremely productive, and a vast majority of the boat have returned to join the senior crews, already having taken part in a few IWL races and champing at the bit for Torpids.

James Tilden
UCBC Men's Vice-Captain



WNA

Despite having few women novice rowers sign up to row and only filling one and half boats, these girls were dedicated and keen to learn with 5 sessions a week. They quickly developed into proficient rowers and maintained enthusiasm despite many wet and cold early mornings! Their brilliant technique was shown during Nephthys regatta, where they beat Pembroke WA. After a grueling last race which was head to head until the finish the girls were unfortunately defeated but their future in ChCh was promising. In Christchurch regatta the girls handled well under pressure and only lost by a few lengths to Pembroke B. On the last day, our stroke got a head concussion and therefore could not race, so even with a novice sub from Magdalen who had only rowed twice before, they only lost to Merton WA by a length. Merton WA crew went on to win the whole regatta.



MixNA

Due to limited novices signing up/ lots failing their swim test, we joined forces with the men's side to make a mixed boat.

In Nephthys regatta they lost their first race to St. Antony's but this did not reflect the achievement and personal progress each had made since the start of term. In ChCh, due to having many post-grads in the boat who were unable to attend, they entered as a friendly. Although losing their first race to Keble C, they came back and smashed Hertford A. All but one of these girls has continued to grow into senior term, which can be regarded as a success!

Sophie Wicken **UCBC Women's Vice-Captain**

MixNA from bow to stern: Niloufar Zarghami, Joana Borreda, Beatriz Garcia, Stefan Feltes, Tom Leslie, Leo Bureau-Blouin, Statszek, and Alex Shickell

Coached by Holly Metcalf, Charles Evans, and Amy Hughes

WNA (pictured), from bow to stern: Georgina Koffler, Heather Jeffery, Emelye Moulton, Alisa Musanovic, Francesca Griffin, Isobel Salt, Jill Holley, Rosie Good

Coached by Sophie Wicken, Katie Hammond, and Hannah Farley