

Dear all,

I have only 3 points to cover in what is probably my last alumni report as Pegasus BC (Old-Blades) Secretary. These include:

1. May Bumps 2016
2. Henley Royal Regatta
3. Thank you for your support

I hope you enjoy reading my report and as always, if you wish to get in touch with us then you can email me at hb407@cam.ac.uk.

Regards,

Hugh Burton

1) May Bumps 2016:

Saturday 11th June saw the last day of May Bumps 2016 and the culmination of RCBC's competitive season on the River Cam. For the second consecutive year we had four boats on the river, with M3 joining M1, W1 and M2 through the getting-on race. This demonstrates the ever increasing strength and squad depth of the club over the past few years. Towards the higher levels, W1 were looking to replicate their strong form from the Lents whilst M1 hoped to build on the success of last year and climb higher up the first division. Further down, M2 were aiming to edge closer to the top end of Division 3 whilst M3 would be chasing a number of M4's and M5's with a strong chance of getting a few bumps.

Huge congratulations are due for W1 this year who have managed to overturn recent misfortune and secure double blades. This is a rare feat and is a direct result of the hard work they have put in over the past weeks and months.

The week proceeded as follows...

W1: Despite the fastest crew of the division starting behind W1 on the first day, they showed their strength with a rapid bump up on Sidney Sussex before First Post Corner. An excellent start to continue their success from the Lents. On day 2, Emmanuel II, well aware of Binson's speed, made a fast start, closing on Newnham II in front. However, W1 showed relentless speed, reaching overlap around Grassy. A tight line and determination meant they didn't get away and the bump was made outside the Plough! Another fast start on the third day saw the women continue their upward trajectory with a bump on Pembroke II. An excellent row again set them up nicely for a final assault on the last day. An excellent final row to cap off another excellent week saw the women move rapidly on Darwin in front. Again demonstrating their sheer determination, W1 were clinical in completing the bump on entry into the gut, securing their second set of blades in the year! Very well deserved and a credit to their hard work. *BLADES overall.*



M1: A rudder failure before the start on day 1 stole away the opportunity for M1 to show how good they are. Girton took the “bump” and M1 move down to sandwich boat. On day 2, an easy row over ahead of Fitzwilliam was followed by a poor start behind Girton. M1 then failed to capitalize on their faster speed before Girton caught Christ’s. Despite a strong start for Christ’s on day 3, M1 showed their superior strength by slowly gaining throughout the course. Making good use of the corners, M1 managed to seal the deal by bumping Christ’s around halfway down the Reach to move up from sandwich boat. Showing their strength of mind to return from the misfortunes of the first day, M1 demonstrated their true ability on the final day with an excellent row. A fast start saw them move quickly on Girton, gaining through the gut and making the bump on Grassy Corner. This moves M1 safely up into the first division and provides the perfect platform to keep climbing in the future. *+1 overall.*



M2: Following a slightly shaky start, M2 started to move on Churchill II after a series of excellent corners through the gut. Superb lines around Grassy and Ditton gave the ideal preparation for a significant and decisive push at the top of the Reach, rapidly yielding the first bump of the week. Starting under the motorway bridge on the second day, M2 had a shaky start but soon moved to around 1 length from St. Catharines II. However, they were unable to make the decisive move through the corners. A solid row-over ensued. A valiant fight on day 3 saw them close to within 1/2 a length from St. Catharine’s II before the latter bumped up on LMBC III. M2 then fought off a fast Trinity Hall II crew, holding them at a canvas all the way along the Reach but their efforts were in vain as they were bumped just past the Railway Bridge. Putting on another great show for the final day crowds, M2 made an exceptional start to push away Magdalene II. Unfortunately Magdalene were quick to make their superior strength, experience and lack

of May Ball felt and started to move on M2 through First Post. A brave fight saw Binson keep Magdalene II at bay for a good distance further but unfortunately they succumbed just outside The Plough. *-1 overall.*



M3: In division 5, strange things often happen and in this case it was LMBC V quickly catching LMBC IV just after the motorway bridge, scuppering M3's chance of the bump on day 1. Regardless, M3 managed to weave through the course as one of only 4 boats which rowed over. A very fast start from Binson on day 2 combined with a slow start from LMBC IV yielded a rapid bump for M3 just before the Motorway bridge. Another great start from M3 on the third day saw them move to 1 length on Clare IV. Unfortunately Clare held this distance and M3 were eventually overbumped by a fast Hughes Hall III crew coming around Ditton. Having first bumped LMBC IV on Thursday, M3 were ready to inflict spoons when they found themselves chasing the same boat again on the final day. A fast start saw them move to within a canvas of making the bump but unfortunately there was an even faster Jesus V boat behind. M3 were eventually caught but this should not detract from what was a very fruitful week for the third boat who were racing in only their second consecutive May Bumps of recent years. *-3 overall.*



2) Henley Royal Regatta:

This year our Men's Captain Greg Tainter will be joining forces with LMBC to enter a combined boat in the qualifiers for the Temple Challenge Cup at Henley Royal Regatta. This is the first Robinson combined (or complete) entry into the world famous race since 2012. We all wish Greg and the rest of the crew the best of luck. The qualifying race will be held at 4pm on Friday 24th June so if you are around in Henley on that day then I'm sure any support would be appreciated!

3) Thank you for your support:

This may well be my last update before handing over to the new Pegasus BC secretary (Old-Blades Secretary) Greg Tainter (gt294@cam.ac.uk) so I would just like to thank all our alumni for the support you have given us this year and over previous years. This year, the support of our alumni has enabled us to:

- Race M1 at Head of the River
- Purchase a new set of Blades for M1
- Provided excellent coaching for M1, W1, M2 and M3
- Support the Mens and Womens Captains in constructing training programmes
- Refurbish our coxed IV (the James Ball)

In particular we would like to thank those who have coached boats on the Cam this year, your support is invaluable and has enabled RCBC to continue the upward trend of recent years.