



SCBC Newsletter

Michaelmas 2019

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Christ Church ERGatta 2019

What an absolute shower! Unfortunately this term's rowing was severely marred by the red flag, which, having put in a few brief appearances in the early weeks of term, went up in 4th week and stayed flying here until 8th week. While no one relishes extra erg and weights sessions, it was particularly hard going for our novices, some of whom hadn't even managed an outing before rain stopped play. Nevertheless, they remained committed to the sport they had just taken up, and leapt with gusto at the chance to compete in the inaugural Christ Church ERGatta, replacing the usual Regatta.



Our novices were unphased by Christ Church's dynamic ergos and pumped out the watts like there was no tomorrow.

Men:

Says Mr Nash: The men's novice crew won their Friday race easily, beating a Queen's friendly crew made up of experienced seniors. The following day, they sadly lost the quarter final, but beat their previous time.

Women:

Says Mr Whiteman (on whom more below): The women's novices put it all on the line. Blood, sweat and tears saw them achieve an impressive time on Friday that put them through to the next round on the Saturday. Unfortunately, they did not qualify on the Saturday, but did walk (some crawled) away knowing that they had shown that the SCWBC novices are a squad to watch.

Say I: Three cheers for both crews!



Chris Whiteman, new men's captain



SCBC's very own election-winning blond bombshell

Following the resignation of the incumbent, Pak Hei Hao, whom we thank for his service to the club, especially in sticking up for us against the Wednesbury unreasonableness of Univ as regards erging timeslots, and for setting in motion moves to find space for more ergos in college, a by-election was held and won by Chris Whiteman.

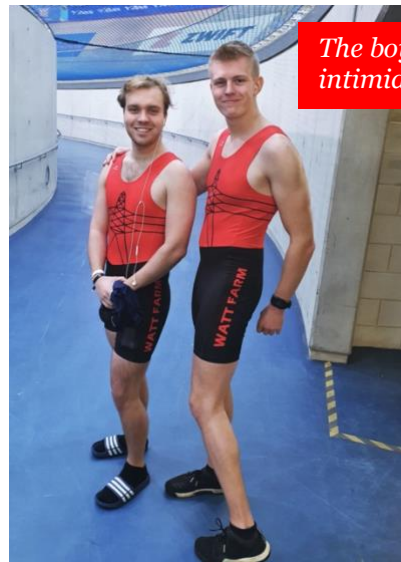
Chris joined us last year while studying a one-year masters at Somerville, and took to the sport like a duck to water, going on to race in the blade-winning M1 in Summer VIIIs. He has now moved to Oriel to continue his studies, but chose to remain with SCBC as a transferred member, where in addition to his M1 rowing has undertaken coaching duties for some of our novices.

We wish him the best of luck in his new role and hope he can lead us to further successes. No pressure, Chris!

BRIC 2019

Twin pillars of the club, Alex Nash and Viktor Birkfeldt, won, by means of an Instagram competition, the chance to compete at the British Rowing Indoor Championship (BRIC) at the very end of term, entering the men's U23 2000m erg race.

Though neither pulled a personal best, Nash's time of 6:30 placed him 12th, only 30s off the winner, while Birkfeldt's 7:09 earned him a respectable 25th. We hope the pair will be only the first of many SCBC rowers to compete at the BRIC.



The boys busy trying to look intimidating ahead of their heat

The Michaelmas Boat Club Dinner

Our termly dinner took place at the now habitual venue of the Royal Oak, much to the delight of a certain president because it serves his beloved Doom Bar, which indeed flowed faster than the Isis in full flood. As usual the other customers struggled to work out whether a platoon of foot guards or the entirety of the Red Army Choir had stumbled into the pub as we entered, beblazered and in good spirits. The customary captain's speeches emphasised the promise of better times to come next term, with the rains seeming finally to have abated.



With the term's rowing having been a washout, even more effort than usual was put into making the termly dinner a joyous affair

The six remaining crew of last year's all-conquering M1, plus cox, were glad to receive their blades just in time for the dinner. Though M2 with their spoons had the last laugh when dessert was served.



The Fairbairn Cup

Despite the lack of opportunity to train on the water, an experienced crew of our senior rowers made their way to Cambridge to compete in the Fairbairn Cup, and shattered their previous record with a time of 18:22, making them the fastest Oxford women's crew. Navigating the notoriously twisty stretch of the River Cam is no easy feat, so a special shoutout goes to the cox, Elinor Lamrick, for her gubernatorial grace.



The cold was keenly felt, but it takes more than that to keep an SCBC crew from taking to the water and racing full steam ahead.



In spite of the unique handling characteristics of the W1 hull, Elinor steered her crew safely along the winding Cam.

A message for our alumni

We, the current members, are glad of the continuing close relationship between college, club and alumni. To help keep everyone in the loop, we have produced a flyer, distributed alongside this newsletter, detailing the directions in which the club would like to develop in the coming years and especially as 2021 and our centenary approach.

If you would like to join the 1921 Association please email alumni.scbc@gmail.com

To find out more about how to get involved, send our Alumni and Development Officer, Matthew Pugh (3rd year Classics) an email at scbcddevelopment@gmail.com

If you have any photographs or memories of your time with SCBC, please also send them in and help us to document the long and distinguished history of this boat club!

To keep up to date with the latest news from SCBC, visit our website:

<https://somervilleboatclub.weebly.com/>

or follow us on social media:

Facebook: Somerville College Boat Club

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