

Clare Hall Boat Club

Lent Bumps 2023 President's Report

Members of Clare Hall Boat Club recently competed in the university-wide rowing competition of Lent Bumps. Taking place at the end of the Lent and Easter terms, Bumps sees boats from each Cambridge college line up along the river and attempt to catch the boat ahead for a 'bump'. With college rivalries, a start order which changes daily, and (implausibly) a canon, Bumps is always a spectacle! This year the Clare Hall crews contended not only with other colleges, but also some of the worst rowing conditions in years. Read on for a day-by-day account of the action, with reports from the crews.

Friday 3 March – Getting on race

The pre-Bumps 'getting on race' is a requirement for boats which haven't raced before, with limited spots up for grabs, boats need to perform their best to qualify. A new addition to the Clare Hall line-up, M2 headed into the getting on race in less-than-ideal circumstances...several of the crew being unavailable or unwell, and with a last-minute substitution (thanks to Gugesan from Magdalene!) Clare Hall M2 finished the course in a time of 7:53 – a terrific effort by the crew and cox. This put us ahead of M2 boats at much larger grad colleges (St Edmund's and Hughes Hall), and on par with Darwin. However, a tighter draw this year meant Clare Hall M2 missed out on a Bumps spot by just 5 seconds!

Tuesday 7 March – Day 1

Onto the main Bumps week and day 1 did not disappoint in terms of rowing action (and chaos!) The Clare Hall men were first to race, chasing Peterhouse M2 and aiming to stay ahead of Churchill M2. The Clare Hall women, meanwhile, would be chasing Sidney Sussex W2 and racing ahead of First and Third (Trinity) W2.

M1 race report: Up to speed quickly off the line (no doubt a consequence of racing in our new boats for 2023!) and Clare Hall was within touching distance of the Peterhouse boat ahead until a blockage of boats around the infamous grassy corner demanded a stop and re-row. Clare Hall would not be discouraged though and chased down the Peterhouse crew with an even quicker split the second time around. A decisive bump before the gut (and somewhat overeager celebration!) means Clare Hall M1 advances to chase Lady Margaret M3 tomorrow.

W1 race report: Passing over at the reach, a huge shout went up as the Clare Hall women spotted the victorious men's crew. Full of excitement, W1 spun at the start line, and got ready for the canon which would signify the start of the race. A strong start, but the First and Third boat were just that bit quicker and after battling it out for a few lengths caught Clare Hall at the bridge. A snowy row home for the crew and time to recover and think about the game plan for tomorrow.

Wednesday 8th March – Day 2

Wednesday was another eventful day for both crews, fighting sleet and snow the Clare Hall men continued their upwards trend, while the Clare Hall women had to concede another unlucky bump.

M1 race report: Today's goal was to chase down Lady Margaret (St John's) M3, while being pursued by Peterhouse M2. When the four-minute cannon went off, the crew de-layered in preparation for the start. In just a few powerful strokes, Clare Hall had already started to close the gap to Maggies,

and a final push brought the two boats together at the Gut for a bump! Peterhouse continued for an overbump, meaning an exciting rematch between the two crews was set for Friday.

W1 race report: W1 were now mentally prepared for the chaos of Bumps and got off to a much better start. The crew held their own against First and Third, not losing any distance off the line, but unfortunately were caught by the powerful Caius W3 before they could make up any ground. Not a crew to be discouraged, the Clare Hall women resolved to head out on a practice outing the following morning to keep improving.

Thursday 9 March to Saturday 11 March – Days 3-5

Thursday was a rest day for both crews but the torrential rain unfortunately brought an untimely end to Lent Bumps; high water levels and a strong stream meant the divisions on Friday and Saturday had to be cancelled for safety.

Overall, a successful Lent Bumps campaign for Clare Hall: the two bumps achieved by M1 and improvement among all crews demonstrates the potential of our crews and we look forward to more successes to come! Many thanks to all our supporters, and especially to those who came out to bank party (enduring plentiful quantities of mud!): Alihan Hüyük, Holly Hedgeland, Mingchun Xu, Shannon Pickrell, Tony Harris, Will McMahon, and Yongjie Lin. Finally, congratulations again to all those who competed (photos and crew lists below).

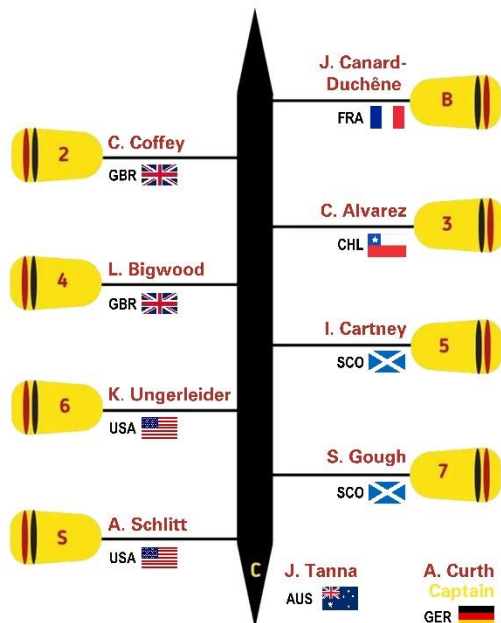
Clare Hall Boat Club features a combination of students and Fellows, both new to the sport and with more experience, who have been training together since the start of the academic year. All college members, from competitive rowers to enthusiastic supporters, are invited to join the club. For further details, please email clarehall.captain@cucbc.org.





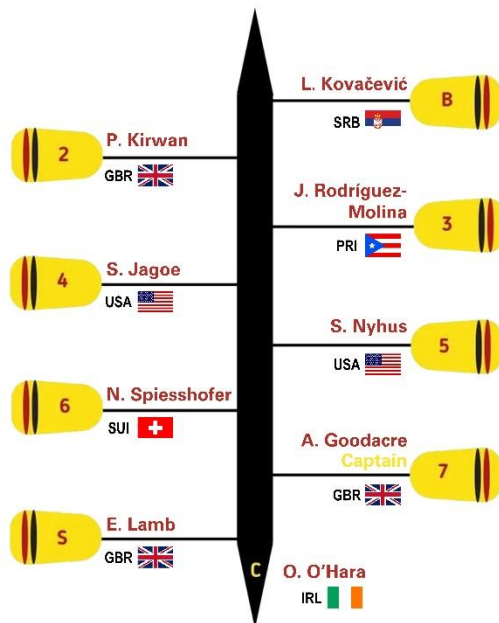
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W1



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M1



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M2

