



*Murray Edward's College Boat Club Alumni Society  
By Florence Butler, Vice Captain*



## Salutations

Good afternoon, Alumnae, on this most glittering of days! Whilst you may be reading this in the morning, afternoon, or as you are brushing your teeth before bed, I write of this afternoon as I type, all morning prior to which I have been immersing myself in glitter pens, pots of sparkles and PVA glue. The reason for such action is simple: the time for recruitment is upon us, and this term we are doing more than ever to gain new members! But more on that shining subject later...

As many of you will be

aware, New Hall has been re-founded 'Murray Edwards College' in light of an extremely generous donation. As such, it is my duty to tell you that New Hall Boat Club has joined its college in this name change. It was not an easy decision. However, it is also my duty and my delight to tell you that since New Hall Neptunes was created in the spirit of NHBC, its name shall not change. You were all members of NHBC, you are all members of the New Hall Neptunes Alumnae Society, and in the spirit of that, I hope that you will continue

to be loyal to Murray Edwards College Boat Club and remain proud members of its Alumnae Society.

Moving on! This coming year is about structural reformation, and this issue is to explain our plan for the year, for both seniors and novices, and the club in general. It includes two exciting pieces of news, and our May Term results.

Do enjoy!

## May Term Results

I think if you can say one thing about this club, it is that we do not do things in half measures. This year, we entered three boats into the Mays - two sets of spoons, one set of blades! New Hall 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> boats went down 4 places each. The 1<sup>st</sup> boat due to unbelievable bad luck prior to the races - including members pulling out due to work pressure, then illness and then bike accidents! - Still, however, we made the crews behind us wait a little longer than they would have liked before grabbing their

greenery. The 2nds deserve a round of applause, spoons or nay, for being wonderfully enthusiastic Easter novices. The crews around them commented on what a good job their coach had done with them, indeed their professionalism was a credit to Ying. They had a ball, I am told, and will all be returning this Michaelmas as seniors, preparing to bash the opposition in the Lents. The loudest cheers must go to the 3<sup>rd</sup> boat, the ex 1<sup>st</sup> boat finalists, who - having had barely 3 outings in a few

years for some! - hopped into a boat and trampled every crew around them with seeming ease (though I am told that there were some aching thighs the following mornings...), to win blades and do us all proud.

The Lents approaching and the Mays already in mind, lets have 3 sets of blades next time!





*"I visited the May Bumps last year, and was proud to see a New Hall boat racing by, and gave them a cheer. It felt very strange to be watching from the bank instead of rowing up the river!"*

*-Anne Langley, 61-67*

""



## Bumps Breakfast

This year's Bumps Breakfast was, as promised, the biggest event New Hall Boat Club has ever held. I think it fitting that the final New Hall event should have been so successful, a tribute to our past and a look forward into MECBC's future. Extending our invitation to whoever would like to come, we were inundated with Fitzwilliam, Peterhouse and Girton rowers, (indeed, our favourite formal swap partners!) as well as CCAT affiliates. The social secretaries, Kelly Roche and

Rachel Kolesnikov-Lindsay outdid themselves, offering a wide variety of drinks and food, which were enjoyed by all. A professional photographer took some lovely crew photographs and speeches were made to honour those who had earned their club colours. Including the usual merriment, an exciting moment (for me at least!) was the official opening of the Neptunes Society, and the Alumnae who spoke to us, Stevie and Steph, said how much they had enjoyed

watching Bumps and coming to the breakfast. As incentive for next year, many left over pastries were pressed upon them for the journey home...

We made a gigantic profit for the club, made many friendships, encouraged many hangovers, and set the bar extremely high for next year's event. I do hope to see even more of you there next year.

## Exciting News!

Alright, alright, I can feel your exciting so I will tell you the good news. It is on two separate fronts: first of all, MECBC has found itself a sponsor! Cambridge Consultants, an extremely well known engineering firm based in Cambridge, have decided to take a chance on us, and have agreed to sponsor us to the sum of £8000 over the course of the next three years! I do hope you will all join me in a celebratory whoop. This is fantastic news for us; it will be used in two departments, for subsidizing kit (which has become extortionately expensive, let me tell you...) and for saving so that one day we can buy another racing shell. We have our captain, Pip Walters, to thank for this wonderful deal - thanks to her slaving away in their company, conspicuously wearing NHBC kit and mentioning how marvelous her club is and of course to a carefully planned pitch to their sponsorship

department, she molded this deal and has therefore marked her place in history as a top Captain already. Thank you, Pip!

The second exciting piece of news is very personal to me. I wrote in the last issue of our desire to increase our fleet of boats, in buying two sculls. We have done just that. Sort of. I decided early on into my rowing career that I wanted to use some of my Grandparents' very generous inheritance fund to purchase a boat or boats of some sort to donate to New Hall\* Boat Club. It became apparent to me at Christmas that if I were to wait until I graduated before buying the boat, I would not have use of it myself, and that to me seemed a little silly. So having discussed the idea with Pip, we agreed that a Double would be the perfect addition to our merry band of boats. This summer the new boat - shiny and beautiful - arrived at the

club, Pip and I were there to greet her, and I have never felt less guilty about spending money in my life! Well. For most of the day. The naming ceremony I mentioned too in the last issue is going ahead, the date is not yet set but you will all receive an invitation when one is fixed.

I couldn't be happier about this new addition; this will revolutionize rowing at MECBC in the future. I was proud to have been able to help the club that has come to mean the world to me. Please do all come to the dinner and hear about the epic boat-buying journey Pip and I embarked on... It is not as easy as it sounds!

## Plan for the Year

At the beginning of this term's issue I rambled on somewhat about glitter. Allow me to explain. This year we have a table set out in the inside walkway for several hours whilst the Freshers are strolling to and fro from a Barbeque in the outer walkway. This year, I am in charge of propaganda, and if you have come to know me from these issues (and I think you have), you will understand the need for glitter pens. Large signs in sparkling capitals encouraging rowing for all the usual reasons: the noble sport, the involvement in something special, the emphasis on a healthy lifestyle and of course the young men in lycra. This year we hope to get more novices than ever, to tell them from the start that rowing at Cambridge is all about the Mays and that the harder they work in Michaelmas, the more they

will reap the rewards in Easter. Below I have included a self explanatory diagram (one which makes me proud that I could come up with a diagram to display anything...) to explain the ethos I will instill in the novices. I am hoping that they will all come to appreciate the beauty in the sport and the pride in representing their college, and if they don't, I can try hypnotism.

Captain Pip will be taking the seniors in hand this term. It is they who are getting the biggest training upheaval this year! Pip and I agreed that sculling - now that we have our own boat - should not go unnoticed. Therefore the seniors will have two rowing and two sculling sessions per week. We firmly believe that this will encourage them to feel the water rather than learn the stroke (literally, perhaps),

leading to more confident rowers in Lent term where we bring it all together in training for the Mays. This is a brand new idea, we hope that it will succeed and we have faith that it will. It is scary, no doubt, but with a wide range of rowing activities at our disposal, it would be irresponsible of us not to offer them all. Plus, of course, we hope that by learning to scull the girls may be interested in representing MECBC on an individual basis, in Scullers' Head or the Small Boats Regatta in the Easter term. Either way, this year focuses on three fronts: the Mays, sculling, and having a fun year!



The wider a platform of training we go through in Michaelmas term, the more thoroughly we can refine our skills in Lent term, the higher a peak of success we will have in Easter term. Have a narrow base in Michaelmas and our Easter term peak will always be smaller and less impressive. As a result of that, we will be following a policy of Michaelmas term training, particularly with the novices, a "get 'em while they're young" policy, if you will.

New Hall Boat  
Club Alumni  
Society

NHBC; THE NEPTUNES  
SOCIETY

New Hall  
Huntingdon Road  
Cambridge  
CB3 0DF

We're on the Web!

See us at:

[www.newhall.cam.ac.uk/students/nhbc](http://www.newhall.cam.ac.uk/students/nhbc)

E-Mail:  
[Newhall.women@cucbc.org](mailto:Newhall.women@cucbc.org)

***The Neptunes:  
For Crew,  
For Club,  
For College.***

I hope you have enjoyed this issue of the Neptunes newsletter, I look forward to writing your invitations to the naming ceremony next month. As always it is a pleasure to give you information about the club

what we are doing, what we have done, and what we hope to do. Please, do send me emails because I so enjoy receiving them and being able to respond personally. Enjoy this next page of photographs, and

take care, 😊.

Florence Butler

Murray Edwards  
College Boat Club  
Vice Captain

New Hall W1  
preparing for  
the Mays!



Can you spot  
the alumnae  
who wanted to  
row back with  
us?!

New Hall W3  
dripping wet  
from their  
exciting leap  
into the Cam  
post winning  
Blades.  
Show offs...



Rachel and  
Kelly,  
fantastic  
social  
secretaries  
, we will  
miss them!