

Michaelmas Term 2018 has been a term of some success for NCBC. A strong drive for recruitment gave us two novice men's boats, and four novice women's boats! Traditionally, our novice boats are named Purple, Gold and Wykeham for 1st, 2nd and 3rd boats. However, this year's unusually large influx of female novices, no thanks to the excellent work of our Women's Lower Boat's Captain Veerle Brans, made it necessary to find a fourth name. To commemorate the first women being admitted to the college in 1979, we named the boat after Anne Barton, the first female fellow of the college, elected in 1974.

NCBC tradition also saw the Purple (1st) and Gold (2nd) boats on each side coached by some of our seniors. But we also thank alumnus, and W2 coach, Joe Hitchen for agreeing to coach the women's Wykeham Boat and Barton Boat.

Women's Gold Boat and both novice men's boats did well to get to the quarter finals in the novice category of the Nephthys regatta. But in one of the most exciting races I've ever seen, women's Purple Boat beat Christ Church A to win the whole thing - an incredible achievement!

Christ Church regatta in 7th week saw a strong performance from our novices. Women's Purple and Gold boats both got through to the 4th round, being knocked out by Wolfson and Regent's respectively. Wykeham and Barton both won a race each, but Wykeham then lost in their match up against Merton A, and Barton was unable to proceed in the competition since it contained a couple of seniors, and was hence a friendly crew.

Men's Gold Boat performed admirably, managing to get to the 3rd round. But men's Purple showed everyone the product of their training to come 3rd overall in the competition! Overall, this meant that a total of 3 crews were still racing on the Saturday, the final day of the competitions, which is already an achievement in itself and speaks for the dedication and quality of work that our seniors put into their respective novice crews.

An issue with racking meant that the club was unable to train up at Godstow, as we have for the past few years. But thanks to the boundless organisational and spreadsheet skills of our captains and lower boats captains, we managed to put out eight crews onto the Isis this term, allowing the seniors to get in some solid winter training. The senior men trained hard under new coach, and GB rower, Sam Nunn, going on to come 2nd overall in the Nephthys regatta. Sam is proving to be a great asset for the club, with his down-to-earth attitude and his insightful observations from the bank. The senior women trained under New College member, and former blue, Joanne Jansen, participating in both Nephthys and Autumn Fours this term. Joanne, a strong technical coach, continues to show her NCBC spirit, even hopping into the boat for the Nephthys regatta!

Looking towards Hilary Term, we are in the process of organising a training camp in -1st week here in Oxford, which should provide a great chance for the novices to get integrated into senior rowing. After all, as one of our rowers keeps pointing out: Blades are won through training during the break!

GDBM!

Nick Sale  
NCBC President