

Cambridge University Cruising Club

Commodore's Report for the Year 2017/18

Introduction

This report highlights yet another successful year for the CUCrC. The Club has achieved excellent competitive results on the water and increased membership numbers in most sections – continuing the revival of the last few years. I have no doubt that this due to the continued contribution and effort from current and past members. The only section of the club with declining membership is the windsurfing section, although with the energy of the incoming windsurfing committee members I am sure this can be reversed in the coming year.

The end of July saw the CUCrC take delivery of a new set of 6 fireflies, having sold an old set to Imperial. The club continues to reap the benefits of our fleet of 12 Fireflies – this is one of the most modern and well-maintained fleets in the country and allows excellent training for members of the club. The Club regularly has four teams (all 12 boats) training across a typical weekend and this not only allows the Team to get the most out of a training session but also permits the Club to run high quality events on a regular basis. These facilities are entirely thanks to continued and extensive work by bosuning teams, plus the contributions of our generous and supportive alumni.

On a more administrative note, the CUCrC has created a section for kitesurfing. This came about after we were approached by a few people trying to start up a Kitesurfing at Cambridge Club, but without the resources or facilities to do so. At present we have just given them a banner to gather under, but with luck, and the continued effort of the first few kitesurfers, this could become a fully-fledged part of the Cruising Club.

It would be hard to write a report like this without extending a special thanks to our senior committee members. In particular our Senior Secretary, Anthony Butler, has spent another year tirelessly keeping the club running behind the scenes. Anthony plays a huge role in liaising with alumni and raising funds, but also maintains our websites and book keeping and is a major driver behind keeping the Club up to date. Other Senior Committee Members also deserve special thanks for their support of the Club - Jeremy Johnson, Michael John Gifford and our new senior treasurer, Frank Tietze. I would like to thank our Trustees, and in particular Patrick Gifford and the Investment Committee in their role of managing the Club's portfolio of investments.

This year also saw the retirement of Tom Ridgman as Senior Treasurer of the CUCrC. Tom has supported the Club in the role since 2003 and has successfully guided the club through a few turbulent years – not least the separation of the Club from the Yachting section in 2013. Tom has been succeeded by Frank Tietze who will no doubt continue the great work of Tom, and I wish him all the best in this regard.

One very pleasing outcome of the financial stability that the Club has achieved in recent years was the decision to pay a proportion of the entry fees that sailors and windsurfers incur in representing the University at events around the country. It proved possible to allocate £5,000 to this purpose – around 50% of the fees that sailors and windsurfers paid this past year. Students continue to pay all the costs of transport to, and subsistence at, events.

I am also very grateful towards the Junior members of the General Committee, who have provided invaluable support in running the Club. In particular, my thanks go to Greg Sale, Junior Secretary, who was a great help to me in running the day-to-day affairs of the Club.

Team Racing

For all my years at Cambridge, we have been the only club to successfully get 3 teams to BUSA finals – this remarkable feat is only achieved because of the continued dedication of all team members in all aspects of their training and I have been proud to be a part of this process and would like to thank everyone in the club this year for the work they have put in. The CUCrC has achieved a reputation for turning out top university teams for the past several years – this year was no exception with fantastic results achieved throughout the year and at BUSA Finals. The Club also continued to host and attend high quality events whenever possible.

The year was kicked off well with Blue achieving a 4th at the Oxford Magnum in a highly competitive field and Purple coming an impressive 2nd at the Brummie Bender. Aside from these few events, as has become the norm at Cambridge, Michaelmas term was predominantly filled with training at Grafham to allow the teams to start working well together and prepare for BUCS/BUSA at the end of Lent.

At the Midlands Qualifiers in Lent, Cambridge succeeded in qualifying two out of three BUSA teams straight through to Finals (with Blue leading the event, Black in 3rd and Purple in 5th). Conventionally Purple would hav

gone to playoffs to sail-off for their spot in BUSA, but after some foul weather, Playoffs was cancelled. Purple had achieved one of the highest results at Qualifiers, just missing out on automatic qualification and so in the system used instead of Playoffs they were also granted a place at the BUSA finals. This event is usually followed by the Cam Cup which was this year organised by David Robertson. After a huge amount of effort by David the event sadly had to be cancelled due to heavy snow fall in the days leading up to and during the event making travel for other teams almost impossible. Not to let all of his hard work be wasted, David then managed to replace all the non-Cambridge sailors unable to make the dinner with members of all different sports clubs across Cambridge. This “sports dinner”, while not the usual celebration of the Cam Cup, was nonetheless enjoyed by all and David deserves recognition for the work he put into organising the event and then its rapid cancellation. Lent term continued with team Beige, the Cambridge 4th team, attending both the Imperial Icicle and the Big Lash. Special thanks must go to both Hugh Tomkins and Cat Wallace for their work in bringing about the most successful 4th team in recent years.

BUSA Finals was hosted this year by Strathclyde University, at Strathclyde Loch. Following several days of training, the BUSA teams headed north, with the aim of reclaiming their title they had lost to Exeter in a close final the year before. The event was marred by very light and shifty conditions, which meant only 9 races per team were completed in the Swiss league stage of the event. Nonetheless at the end of this stage Cambridge Blue were poised in 2nd place and Cambridge Black in 4th. Cambridge Purple found the conditions more difficult and finished in 28th. Cambridge Black were knocked out in a tight quarter final against a very strong Southampton Green team and so finished 6th overall. Cambridge blue beat Manchester purple to progress to the semi-finals against Imperial. Imperial came out of the starting blocks fast and won the first race and were winning the second race with a powerful 1,2 combination as they approached the leeward mark. Some speedy sailing by Robbie King and crew Cat Wallace managed to get the team back in the race and eventually go on to win the race. The deciding race was also won by Cambridge progressing Blue onto the finals. The team that Cambridge met in the final was the same Southampton Green team that had knocked Cambridge Black out in the quarter finals. Some very good sailing by both teams, in extremely testing conditions gave some very close racing. Cambridge won the first race but Southampton bounced back strongly to win the finals 3-1. In summary Cambridge finished 2nd, 6th and 28th at BUSA, a result the team members should be proud of, and once showed the importance of having good depth to a club – Southampton were the only other University at the event to have 3 teams present.

A few weeks later, two teams were invited to the prestigious Wilson Trophy, although unfortunately Black (sailing under the entry of Blue) slightly ‘mistimed the bounce’ of the Swiss League and missed out on the semi-finals (13th overall) and Purple came in at 30th.

This year we have also been successful in running a 4th team alongside the three BUSA teams. This not only helps to increase participation in our sport, but also serves as a useful training platform for the future. The 4th team trained on several weekends across the year, as well as entering a number of events with their results included at the end of this document. Special thanks should be extended to Hugh Tomkins for running one of the most successful and involved 4th teams in recent years.

The final event in the Cambridge calendar was, as usual, Cuppers. It was another record breaking year with 23 college teams entered – lack of boats and transport capacity meant even more teams had to be sadly turned away. The wind started off light but built up during the events giving perfect breeze for the final. An unstoppable Emmanuel team cruised comfortably to victory taking the Yule Oldham Cup in the team racing final with Sidney Sussex winning the silver fleet. My thanks go to Greg Sale for coordinating this large event.

Finally, an excellent team racing season was rounded off with some champagne sailing in the Elliots at Weymouth for the varsity match. The 101st match was held at the 2012 Olympic venue in the Olympic match racing boats. With much sportier, more Firefly-like keelboats than the Swallows used at Itchenor the year before the sailing was bound to be close – Cambridge has held an edge in transitioning to strange keelboats in the past few years. The racing was indeed close and although the Mixed team cleared up their match 4-0 the racing was much closer than that score-line suggests. The ladies also matched their handiwork from the previous year, again beating Oxford 4-1.

All members of the sailing team deserve credit for the success of this year but in particular I would like to thank Cat Wallace for an excellent approach to the captaincy, George Hopes for maintaining our Fireflies to an excellent standard and Paris Thomas for all his work treasuring for the team racing section. Finally I would like to pass on my best wishes for those sailors who graduated this year – every one of them has achieved sailing results that they can be proud of during their time with the CUCrC.

Match Racing

Last year James Pinder and I made a start on introducing the CUCrC to match racing. Following James' graduation the mantle has been taken up by Robbie King and the club represented itself at more match racing this year. A team of Robbie King, David Robertson and Hugh Tomkins participated in BUSA Match Racing coming 17th in a tricky field and with almost no practice – with luck and training I have hope the club will come back to a strong result this year. I have every faith that with some effort by the current members the match racing section of the club can be grown and flourished until we compete at the same high level as we do in team-racing.

Windsurfing and Kitesurfing

The Taster Weekend once again had a strong turnout for windsurfers however the membership of the section disappointingly declined quite significantly from previous years. Most of the 'core' windsurfers were graduating and as such a large membership drive didn't take place. The incoming windsurfing committee will rectify this in the coming year I am sure.

It wasn't all bad news for this part of the club however with David Fischer doing an excellent job to recruit the first kitesurfers into the club. This fledging group needed a banner to rally under and I have no doubt that they will be an asset to the club. This move also reflects a general trend in the sailing world as a whole to move from windsurfing to kitesurfing so representing both is definitely a very positive thing.

I would like to express my thanks to both David Fischer and Helen White. They have both put a huge effort into organising the windsurfing situation, clearing out the Girton kit store and maintaining the kit. Helen also posted an impressive 3rd place in the SWA Season this year.

Dinghy Sailing

Karen Thomas is deserving of a huge amount of praise for fabulously reviving a Dinghy Sailing section much in need of a burst of energy. She has organised countless casuals trips, convinced two instructors to teach for us, purchased radios and run sessions. The section looks to expand into the coming year with regular socials alongside the team-racers and the rest of the club which after far too many years of an almost non-existent section is incredible progress.

Alumni

Alumni activities were at a peak in our 125th Anniversary year, with an excellent Random Pairs team racing event during the day of Saturday 21 April and a superb dinner in Darwin College that evening. Twelve pairs entered the team racing, which took place in perfect conditions. Josh Flack and Milly Stephens came out on top, with James Pinder and Helmi Burton-Papp runners-up. Many thanks to Jo Lucas for coordinating this event so expertly with Keith Sammons.

Some 90 members gathered in Darwin College for a very enjoyable dinner in the evening, with Ian Walker (now RYA Director of Racing) entertaining the gathering with a witty and wide-ranging speech. Club President Mike Hayles outlined the Club's successes in recent years and thanked the many people who had contributed to it. A big thank-you to Michael John Gifford for organising this event.

Other alumni activities followed their established pattern with an excellent O&CSS Generations event and dinner at Oxford in October and regular email newsletters throughout the year. The usual drinks party, with a talk by Ian Walker (yet again!), was held in the O&C Club, Pall Mall in March. A telephone campaign was not run in January but will resume in 2019.

Conclusion

It has been my privilege to lead the Club this year. The Club continues to see successes, both in competition and off the water, and remains amongst the top University sailing and windsurfing facilities in the UK. I am pleased to pass on leadership of the Club to my successors, leaving the Club in a strong position for the future. I am confident that my successors will continue to build on what has already been achieved to maintain the Club at the forefront of university sailing and windsurfing in the UK. I would like to wish all the best to the incoming Commodore, his Committee and to the many new (and current) sailors who will be joining the Club in the coming year.

Jamie Webb

Commodore 2017/18

An appendix to this report lists officers, major competition results, and teams for 2017-18.

Officers, Results, and Teams in 2017/18

Officers

President:	Mike Hayles (Churchill)
Commodore:	Jamie Webb (Caius)
Senior Treasurer:	Frank Tietze (Wolfson)
Senior Secretary:	Anthony Butler (Clare)
Senior Committee:	Michael John Gifford (Caius)
Senior Committee:	Jeremy Johnson (Christ's)
Junior Treasurer:	John Clay (Clare)
Junior Secretary:	Greg Sale (Jesus)
Social Secretary	Michael Smith (St Johns)
Trustees:	Patrick Gifford (Magdalene)
	Julia Gore-Randall (Pembroke)
	Eddie Lister (Caius)
	Jo Lucas (Caius)
VC Team Racing:	Cat Wallace (Emmanuel)
VC Windsurfing:	David Fischer (Girton)
RC Dinghy Sailing:	Paris Thomas (Caius)
Ladies Captain:	Anna Prescott (Magdalene)

General Results and Teams

Team Racing

Event	Date	Blue	Black	Purple	Beige	
O&CSS Generations Event	30 Sep	8 th – Dave Robertson, Jamie Webb, Greg Sale, Hugh Tomkins, Michael Smith, Henry Morley				
Oxford Magnum	11/12 Nov	4 th	6 th (S)			
Brummie Bender	18/19 Nov			2 nd	Not known	
Oxford Top Gun	10/11 Feb	1 st				
Imperial Icicle	17/18 Feb				Not known	
Big Lash	10/11 Mar				2 nd (S)	
UKTRA (One day only)	17/18 Mar	13 th =	4 th	17 th =		
Wilson Trophy	4-6 May		13 th	30 th		

Blue: Robbie King (Emmanuel) and Cat Wallace (Capt-Emmanuel)
Jemima Lawson (St Catharines) and George Hopes (Corpus Christi)
Henry Morley (Christ's) and Jules Welham (Trinity)

Black: Anna Prescott (Capt-Magdalene) and Ollie Jagger (Clare) / Dave Robertson (Jesus)
Jamie Webb (Caius) and Michael Smith (St Johns)
Paris Thomas (Magdalene) and Karen Thomas (Lucy Cavendish)

Purple: Greg Sale (Capt-Jesus) and Bethan Matthew (St Catharines)
Alex Smallwood (Sidney Sussex) and John Clay (Clare) / Ollie Jagger (Clare)
Holly MacAskill (Queens) and Freddie Scott (Fitzwilliam)

Beige: Hugh Tomkins (Capt-Queens) and Tom Kosteletos (Pembroke)
Hamish Lamotte (Queens) and - / John Clay (Clare)
Callum Farnden (Trinity) and Francis Treherne Pollock (St Johns)

Wilson Teams:

Blue: As Black above

Purple: Greg Sale (Capt-Jesus) and Jules Welham (Trinity)
Alex Smallwood (Sidney Sussex) and Hugh Tomkins (Queens)
Holly MacAskill (Queens) and Freddie Scott (Fitzwilliam)**Match Racing**

Event	Dates	Result
BUSA Match Racing Championships, Weymouth	25-29 Mar	17 th

Robbie King (Emmanuel-Helm)
David Robertson (Jesus)
Hugh Tomkins (Queens)**Fleet Racing**

Event	Dates	Result
BUSA Fleet Racing Championships, Draycote	4/5 Nov	12th– Henderson / Tilley (Firefly)

Arthur Henderson (Robinson) and Rachel Tilley (Christ's)

Windsurfing

Event	Dates	Result
SWA Season Overall (Ladies)	2017/18	4 th – Helen White

Helen White (Emmanuel)

College Competitions**Team Racing Cuppers (19 June):** Emmanuel 1st (2) Christ's 1st (0)
Josh Flack and Bella Padt
Robbie King and Cat Wallace**Team Racing Silver Fleet (19 June):** Sidney Sussex 2nd
Alex Smallwood and Mark Thornton
Chris Morash and Phyllis Chan**Windsurfing Cuppers (19 June):** Emmanuel
Helen White**Windsurfing Silver Fleet (19 June):** Murray Edwards
Maddy Green

BUCS/BUSA Championship Results and Teams

Ladies BUSA & Nationals (Lochore Meadows, Kirkcaldy 24/25th February):

Ladies Blue: **3rd BUSA, 5th Nationals**

Anna Prescott (Capt-Magdalene) and Jules Welham (Trinity)
Holly MacAskill (Queens) and Karen Thomas (Lucy Cavendish),
Penny Wieser (Jesus) and Bethan Matthew (St Catharines)

BUSA Team Racing (Strathclyde Loch, Glasgow 2-4 April):

Blue: **2nd**

Robbie King (Emmanuel) and Cat Wallace (Capt-Emmanuel)
Jemima Lawson (St Catharines) and George Hopes (Corpus Christi)
Henry Morley (Christ's) and Jules Welham (Trinity)

Black: **6th**

Anna Prescott (Capt-Magdalene) and Ollie Jagger (Clare)
Jamie Webb (Caius) and Michael Smith (St Johns)
Paris Thomas (Magdalene) and Karen Thomas (Lucy Cavendish)

Purple: **28th**

Greg Sale (Jesus) and Bethan Matthew (St Catharines)
Alex Smallwood (Sidney Sussex) and John Clay (Clare)
Holly MacAskill (Queens) and Freddie Scott (Fitzwilliam)

SWA Championships (Colwyn Bay 28/29 April):

No team – only one entrant

Advanced (Ladies): **3rd Helen White** (Emmanuel)

BUCS/BUSA Yachting Championships (Port Solent 27-30 March):

Blue: **23rd**

Igor Yakunin (Queens)	Helm
Rob Glew (Queens)	Tactics & Pit
Peter Budden (Caius)	Main Trimmer
Péter Juhász (Capt-Trinity)	Upwind Trimmer
Quentin Peter (Queens)	Downwind Trimmer
Francesca O'Hanlon (Darwin)	Pit
Tom Weatherby (Churchill)	Mast
Nina Luckmann (Jesus)	Bow

Varsity Match Results and Teams

Yachting (Port Solent, Portsmouth 24/25 March):

Blue: Match to Oxford

Igor Yakunin (Queens)	Helm
Rob Glew (Queens)	Tactics & Pit
Peter Budden (Caius)	Main Trimmer
Péter Juhász (Capt-Trinity)	Upwind Trimmer
Quentin Peter (Queens)	Downwind Trimmer
Francesca O'Hanlon (Darwin)	Pit
Tom Weatherby (Churchill)	Mast
Nina Luckmann (Jesus)	Bow

Windsurfing (Farmoor 5 May):

First (Blues) Team: 0-2 to Oxford

David Fischer (Capt-Girton)
Helen White (Emmanuel)

Second Team: ½-2½ to Oxford

Maddy Green (Capt-Murray Edwards)
Sipke Shaughnessy (St Johns)

Team Racing (Weymouth SC 6-8 July):

Mixed: Cambridge 4-0 (Team listed as 1st helm, 2nd helm, crew)

Henry Morley (Christ's), Alex Smallwood (Sidney Sussex), George Hopes (Corpus Christ)
Robbie King (Emmanuel), Paris Thomas (Acting Capt-Magdalene), Ollie Jagger (Clare)
Greg Sale (Jesus), Jamie Webb (Caius), Michael Smith (St Johns)

Ladies: Cambridge 4-1 (Team listed as helm, crew, crew)

Anna Prescott (Capt-Magdalene), Karen Thomas (Lucy Cavendish), Bethan Matthew (St Catharines)
Jemima Lawson (St Catharines), Chloe Macaulay (Clare), Fiona Tait (St Catharines)
Penny Wieser (Jesus), Holly MacAskill (Queens), Jules Welham (Trinity)

Match Racing

Not sailed this year.

Awards

(WS = Windsurfing, otherwise Team Racing)

Full Blues

George Hopes (Corpus Christi)
Ollie Jagger (Clare)
Robbie King (Emmanuel)
Henry Morley (Christ's)
Michael Smith (St John's)
Paris Thomas (Magdalene)
Jamie Webb (Caius)

Half Blues

Greg Sale (Jesus)
Alex Smallwood (Sidney Sussex)

University Colours

Jemima Lawson (St Catharines)
Anna Prescott (Magdalene)
Karen Thomas (Lucy Cavendish)
Jules Welham (Trinity)

Holly MacAskill (Queens)
Bethan Matthew (St Catharines)

Chloe Macaulay (Clare)
Fiona Tait (St Catharines)
Penny Wieser (Jesus)

Helen White (Emmanuel)-WS

All Cambridge BUCS/BUSA/SWA sailing results are listed in this appendix for historical convenience.