

Cambridge University Cruising Club

Commodore's Report for the Year 2016/17

Introduction

This report highlights yet another successful year for the CUCrC. The renewal seen in previous years has continued – with the Club achieving excellent competitive results on the water, as well as an increase in membership across all sections of the Club. I have no doubt that this due to the continued contribution and effort from current and past members.

The CUCrC 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. 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.

Behind the scenes, the CUCrC has now formally approved a new (much needed) constitution, largely thanks to Will Henderson and members of the Senior Committee. This helps the General Committee make decisions faster and is better suited to the organisational structure of the Club.

I would like to extend special thanks to our Senior Secretary Anthony Butler for his tireless efforts in helping to run the Club behind the scenes. Not only does Anthony help to secure the funds which keep the Club running, but he assists at events, maintains our websites and book keeping and is a major driver behind keeping the Club up to date. Our Senior Committee Members also support the Club - Jeremy Johnson and (recently joined this year) Michael John Gifford. I would like to thank our Trustees, and welcome Eddie Glennie to their ranks this year. In particular, thanks go to Patrick Gifford and the Investment Committee in their role of managing the Club's portfolio of investments.

This year also saw the retirement of Ian Liddell as President of the CUCrC. Ian supported the Club in the role for more than eight years and was instrumental in shaping the Club into what we see today. Ian has been succeeded by Mike Hayles (formerly a Senior Committee Member), and I wish him all the best in this regard.

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 Jamie Webb, Junior Secretary, who was a great help to me in running the day-to-day affairs of the Club.

Team Racing

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 team racing year began with yet another highly competitive trials period. Cambridge is consistently attracting high calibre sailors to trial for the Team which no doubt has a large impact on the results achieved at the end of the year. Michaelmas term predominantly centred around training, however promising results at the Oxford Magnum (Blue) and the Brummie Bender (Black, Purple) were a sign of things to come.

At the Midlands Qualifiers in Lent, Cambridge succeeded in qualifying all three BUSA teams straight through to Finals (with Blue leading the event). This was a testament to the effort expended in training the full squad to a high standard. This was followed by the Cam Cup, organised by Rachel Tilley and Paris Thomas – another hugely successful event. After some close racing, Blue were beaten in the final by Royal Thames YC Blue (a CUCrC Alumni team). A number of races were also streamed online (with commentary) – a first for the Cam Cup, and my thanks to Duncan Hampshire for arranging this. Lent term continued with a win at the Nottingham Snakebite for a team of Cambridge Men, a 2nd at BUSA Ladies Nationals for the Ladies Team over the same weekend and a win at the (very windy) Oxford Top Gun for Blue.

BUSA Finals was hosted this year by Manchester University, at West Kirby SC. Following several days of training, the BUSA teams headed north, with the aim of defending their title for a 4th year in a row. The Swiss League format provided the usual set of close racing, with Blue heading to the top of the pile early on and remaining there, and Black and Purple also ranked highly. The teams all managed to reach the quarter finals, and then semis with reasonable efficiency. Blue then knocked out Purple, and Black were knocked out by Exeter. The petit finals had a twist however – Purple sailed fantastically and beat Black to place 3rd overall. As with the

petit finals, the finals between Cam Blue and Exeter Black produced an unexpected result – uncharacteristic mistakes by Blue, and a dominant performance by Exeter resulted in Exeter taking the title of BUSA Champions, with Blue having to settle for the silver medal. However, with teams taking 2nd, 3rd and 4th places at BUSA, the result is still a phenomenal one and all members of the BUSA teams for this year should be applauded for the huge amount of effort that goes into their sailing.

A few weeks later, three teams were invited to the prestigious Wilson Trophy, although unfortunately Blue slightly ‘mistimed the bounce’ of the Swiss League and missed out on the semi-finals (10th overall). A mention here should go to Royal Thames YC Blue – this team of CUCrC Alumni proved that an extra few years’ experience makes all the difference – leading the Swiss League and progressing through to the finals before just losing out to Birdham Bandits in the 5th race.

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 including the Wilson where they managed to beat the only Oxford team present.

The last event in Cambridge this year was Cuppers – a record 21 college teams entered. In perfect conditions Robinson took the Yule Oldham Cup from St Catharine’s in the team racing final – with St Catharine’s 2 winning the separate Silver Fleet trophy competition. My thanks go to Jamie Webb for coordinating this large event.

The season ended with the 100th Varsity Match sailed in Swallows at Itchenor SC. Itchenor and the Swallows Class proved to be fantastic and welcoming hosts for the match, which was also sailed in perfect conditions. The Mixed team continued with business as usual by winning 4-0 without much difficulty. The Ladies team (sailing as 3 boats for the first time) saw some closer racing, but also managed to win 4-1. A great presence by Alumni (past and recent) was also seen at the convivial dinner held at Itchenor SC.

I would like to thank all of the team racing Committee and of course the sailors themselves for their hard work and dedication throughout the year – both on the water, and off the water in keeping the Team Racing Section running smoothly. In particular my thanks go to James Pinder for captaining the teams for this year – I am fully aware of the huge amount of effort that James has put into running the squad - and I would like to congratulate him for the year’s fantastic results. Also thoroughly deserving of a mention are Tim Gratton who has kept our fleet of Fireflies in fantastic condition, and Paris Thomas who has the unenviable job of arranging the team racer’s finances. 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

This year the Club has extended its competitive repertoire to include match racing, on top of the normal sailing program. James Pinder and Jamie Webb have taken a lead on entering events – achieving respectable results in the process for a newly formed team. The first event (RYA WM3) was won successfully with a team of Pinder/Hopes/Wallace/Webb. This was followed by BUSA Match Racing, sailed by Pinder/Burton-Papp/Webb in extremely light airs. Some dramatic repechage action resulted in 5th overall result.

The culmination of the match racing scene for the year however was an international trip to California to take part in the 51st Governor’s Cup held at Balboa Yacht Club. This highly prestigious event sailed in custom designed GC22 keelboats provided incredible racing and hospitality at all times for the team of Pinder/Hopes/Lawson/Webb – with the eventual result of 9th to be highly commended as CUCrC was the lowest (12th) seeded team on entry. I hope that next year will continue to include match racing as part of the regular Club activities, with similar successes.

Windsurfing

Following the Taster Weekend the Windsurfing Section saw a slightly increased boost in membership, particularly in beginner and intermediate ability ranges. It is hoped that this trend will continue, allowing for more frequent windsurfing trips to be run with more participants. The Windsurfing Section attended a number of SWA events this year, catering for all abilities and scoring some good results in the process. In the Varsity Match Cambridge won the 1st Team (Blues) match, although conceded the 2nd Team match.

A major achievement of this year was the clear out of the windsurfing Kit Store in Girton. A working party of sailors and windsurfers spent a day removing unused or damaged kit (including a wooden Firefly hull) – the kit that remains is much more appropriate for the day-to-day activities of the Windsurfing Section, and is now much easier to get to. My thanks to all who were involved in this effort.

I would like to express my thanks to Helen White. Helen has taken charge of the Windsurfing Section for this year, and put in a huge amount of effort to keep the section running, as well as attend trips and training events. Also worthy of mention is Chris Watts, who has assisted at several events this year, including the Freshers Fair, Taster Weekend and kit store clear-out and has no doubt contributed to our buoyed membership figures.

Dinghy Sailing

Dinghy sailing saw a strong start to the year with renewed attendance at the Taster Weekend. Several casual sailing trips were run when conditions were favourable and Club members managed to make it onto the water on several occasions. Unfortunately due to loss of our Sportivate grant we had a relatively small number of sailors sign up for the beginner's course which ran in Michaelmas. The cold weather during Lent made it difficult to persuade beginners/intermediate sailors to get out sailing, although we had many of these members return to take part in sailing Cuppers at the end of the year. Despite the frequent challenges, Phillip Binns did an excellent job in organising and running a number of casual sailing trips throughout the year.

Alumni

Alumni relations 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 January student telephoning campaign once again concentrated on making thank-you calls to those alumni who have been so generously supporting the Club in recent years. The usual drinks party, with a talk by Brendan Hall, who led the 'Spirit of Australia' crew to overall victory in the Clipper 2009/10 Race, was held in the O&C Club, Pall Mall in March.

Plans are under way to celebrate in style '125 Years of Sailing, 60 Years of Ladies Sailing and 40 Years of Windsurfing at Cambridge'. A day of random pairs team racing is scheduled for Saturday 21st April 2018 at Grafham Water, followed by a dinner in Darwin College. The Club was founded on 20th May 1893, so the celebration is well timed.

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.

George Hopes

Commodore 2016/17

An appendix to this report lists officers, major competition results, and teams for 2016-17.

Officers, Results, and Teams in 2016/17

Officers

President:	Mike Hayles (Churchill)
Commodore:	George Hopes (Corpus Christi)
Senior Treasurer:	Tom Ridgman (Wolfson)
Senior Secretary:	Anthony Butler (Clare)
Senior Committee:	Michael John Gifford (Caius)
Senior Committee:	Jeremy Johnson (Christ's)
Junior Treasurer:	Duncan Hampshire (St Catharines)
Junior Secretary:	Jamie Webb (Caius)
Social Secretary	Paris Thomas (Magdalene)
Trustees:	Patrick Gifford (Magdalene)
	Julia Gore-Randall (Pembroke)
	Eddie Lister (Caius)
	Jo Lucas (Caius)
VC Team Racing:	James Pinder (Robinson)
VC Windsurfing:	Helen White (Emmanuel)
RC Dinghy Sailing:	Philip Binns (Caius)
Ladies Captain:	Rachel Tilley (Christ's)

General Results and Teams

Team Racing

Event	Date	Blue	Black	Purple	Beige	
O&CSS Generations Event	1 Oct	3 rd – James Pinder, Tim Gratton, Josh Adams, Helmi Burton-Papp, Paris Thomas, Jamie Webb				
Oxford Magnum	12/13 Nov	5 th				
Brummie Bender	26/27 Nov		1 st	2 nd	Not known	
Cam Cup	18/19 Feb	2 nd		6 th		
Nottingham Snakebite	25/26 Feb	1 st - Henry Morley, Karen Thomas, Michael Smith, Josh Adams, Thomas Maher, Duncan Hampshire				
Oxford Top Gun	4/5 Mar	1 st				
Imperial Icicle	11/12 Mar				1 st (Silver)	
Wilson Trophy	5-7 May	10 th	28 th	19 th		

Blue: James Pinder (Capt-Robinson) and Jamie Webb (Caius)
Tim Gratton (St Catharines) and George Hopes (Corpus Christi)
Hugo Sloper (Selwyn) and Cat Wallace (Emmanuel)

Black: Josh Adams (Capt-Christ's) and Chloe Macaulay (Clare)
Thomas Maher (St Catharines) and Helmi Burton-Papp (Emmanuel)
Jemima Lawson (St Catharines) and Paris Thomas (Magdalene)

Purple: Anna Prescott (Capt-Magdalene) and Michael Smith (St Johns)
Henry Morley (Christ's) and Fiona Tait (St Catharines)
Duncan Hampshire (St Catharines) and Dave Robertson (Jesus)

Beige: Greg Sale (Capt-Jesus) and Paul Glade (St Johns)
Hugh Tomkins (Queens) and Olly Jagger (Clare)
Philip Binns (Caius) and John Clay (Clare)

Wilson Teams:

- Blue: No change
- Black: Greg Sale (Jesus), Hugh Tomkins (Queens), Olly Jagger (Clare), Philip Binns (Caius), John Clay (Clare), +1 non-CUCrC
- Purple: Duncan Hampshire (St Catharines), Michael Smith (St Johns), Henry Morley (Christ's), Paris Thomas (Magdalene), Dave Robertson (Jesus), +1 non-CUCrC

Match Racing

Event	Dates	Result
RYA Winter Match Racing Round 3, Weymouth	25/26 Mar	1 st
BUSA Match Racing Championships, Weymouth	21-23 Apr	5 th
Governor's Cup, Balboa YC, California	17-22 Jul	9 th

RYA: James Pinder (Robinson-Helm)
George Hopes (Corpus Christi)
Cat Wallace (Emmanuel)
Jamie Webb (Caius)

BUSA: James Pinder (Robinson-Helm)
Helmi Burton-Papp (Emmanuel)
Jamie Webb (Caius)

Gov. Cup: James Pinder (Robinson-Helm)
George Hopes (Corpus Christi)
Jemima Lawson (St Catharines)
Jamie Webb (Caius)

Fleet Racing

Event	Dates	Result
BUSA Fleet Racing Championships, Draycote	5/6 Nov	3 rd – Henderson / Maxwell (Firefly)
(Size of Firefly fleet: 65 boats)		22 nd – Flack / Tebboth (Firefly)

Arthur Henderson (Robinson) and Tom Maxwell (Downing)
Josh Flack (Emmanuel) and Alice Tebboth (Magdalene)

Windsurfing

Event	Dates	Blue
Aussie Kiss, Roadford Lake, Launceston	14-16 Nov	11 th
Imperial College Soggy Cock-ney, Queen Mary	18/19 Feb	No team event

Blue: Helen White (Capt-Emmanuel)
Horatio Cox (Sidney Sussex)
Chris Watts (St Catharines)

Individual Participants (All Events): Helen White (Capt-Emmanuel), Horatio Cox (Sidney Sussex), David Fischer (Girton), Hollie French (Emmanuel), Maddy Green (Murray Edwards), Adam Heath (Trinity), Finlay Prescott (Wolfson), Juliet Skidmore (Murray Edwards), Chris Watts (St Catharines), Tianheng Zaho (Kings)

College Competitions

Team Racing Cuppers (20 Jun):	Robinson 1st (2) St Catharines 1 st (0) James Pinder and Alex Berry Arthur Henderson and Matt Kite
Team Racing Silver Fleet (20 Jun):	St Catharines 2nd Jemima Lawson and Kieran Gilmore Duncan Hampshire and Rory McMillan
Windsurfing Cuppers (20 Jun):	Emmanuel (1) St Catharines (0) Helen White
Windsurfing Silver Fleet (20 Jun):	Robinson Arthur Henderson

BUCS/BUSA Championship Results and Teams

Ladies BUSA & Nationals (Spinnaker SC 25/26 Feb):

Ladies Blue: 2nd BUSA, 3rd Nationals

Rachel Tilly (Capt-Christis) and Cat Wallace (Emmanuel)
Anna Prescott (Magdalene) and Helmi Burton-Papp (Emmanuel),
Jemima Lawson (St Catharines) and Chloe Macaulay (Clare)

BUSA Team Racing (Manchester/Liverpool, West Kirby SC 4-6 Apr):

Blue: 2nd

James Pinder (Capt-Robinson) and Jamie Webb (Caius)
Tim Gratton (St Catharines) and George Hopes (Corpus Christi)
Hugo Sloper (Selwyn) and Cat Wallace (Emmanuel)

Purple: 3rd

Anna Prescott (Capt-Magdalene) and Michael Smith (St Johns)
Henry Morley (St Johns) and Fiona Tait (St Catharines)
Duncan Hampshire (St Catharines) and Dave Robertson (Jesus)

Black: 4th

Josh Adams (Capt-Christis) and Chloe Macaulay (Clare)
Thomas Maher (St Catharines) and Helmi Burton-Papp (Emmanuel)
Jemima Lawson (St Catharines) and Paris Thomas (Magdalene)

SWA Championships (Colwyn Bay 28-30 April):

Blue: No team/relay event

Advanced: 22nd Chris Watts (St Catharines)
26th Helen White (Emmanuel)

Intermediate: 7th David Fisher (Girton)
8th Maddy Green (Murray Edwards)
13th Adam Heath (Trinity)

BUCS/BUSA Yachting Championships (Port Solent 10-13 Apr):

Did not compete.

Varsity Match Results and Teams

Windsurfing (Grafham 25 Feb):

First (Blues) Team: 2-1 to Cambridge

Helen White (Capt-Emmanuel)

Chris Watts (St Catharines)

Horatio Cox (Sidney Sussex)

Second Team: 1-2 to Oxford

Maddy Green (Capt-Murray Edwards)

David Fischer (Girton)

Adam Heath (Trinity)

Yachting (Port Solent, Portsmouth 8/9 Apr):

Blue: Match to Cambridge

Laurence Orchard (Magdalene)	Helm/Skipper
Alex Randall (Hughes Hall)	Tactics/Navigation
Svyatoslav Kechyn (Hughes Hall)	Main
Tom Weatherby (Churchill)	Trim 1
Charlotte Petter (New Hall)r	Trim 2
Nina Luckmann (Jesus)	Pit
Paul Eldwin Glade (St Johns)	Mast
Tim Beach (Peterhouse)	Bow

Team Racing (Itchenor SC 5-7 Jul):

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

James Pinder (Capt-Robinson), Thomas Mather (St Catharines), Dave Robertson (Jesus)

Tim Gratton (St Catharines), Duncan Hampshire (St Catharines), George Hopes (Corpus Christi)

Henry Morley (St Johns), Josh Adams (Christ's), Jamie Webb (Caius)

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

Rachel Tilley (Capt-Christ's), Cat Wallace (Emmanuel), Karen Thomas (Lucy Cavendish)

Anna Prescott (Magdalene), Chloe Macaulay (Clare), Fiona Tait (St Catharines)

Jemima Lawson (St Catharines), Helmi Burton-Papp (Emmanuel), Florence Gilks (St Johns)

Match Racing

Not sailed this year.

Awards

(WS = Windsurfing, otherwise Team Racing)

Full Blues

Josh Adams (Christ's)
Tim Gratton (St Catharines)
Duncan Hampshire (St Catharines)
George Hopes (Corpus Christi)
Thomas Mather (St Catharines)
Henry Morley (St Johns)
James Pinder (Robinson)
Dave Robertson (Jesus)
Jamie Webb (Caius)

Half Blues

Florence Gilks (St Johns)
Karen Thomas (Lucy Cavendish)
Rachel Tilley (Christ's)

Helmi Burton-Papp (Emmanuel)
Jemima Lawson (St Catharines)
Chloe Macaulay (Clare)
Anna Prescott (Magdalene)
Fiona Tait (St Catharines)
Cat Wallace (Emmanuel)

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