



LANCASTER UNIVERSITY BOAT CLUB'S LENT TERM 2017 ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

"My time as Club Captain of, in my rather bias opinion, the best club in Lancaster has sadly come to an end. What a year it has been...

The start of my captaincy saw the Boat House get back into full swing following Storm Desmond, with the novices having their first taste of rowing in over 4 months. Most took like a duck to water and we saw the Novice Men's four triumph at Roses over a team that had much more experience. Along with a win from the Senior Men's Eight, this success only continued, with a successful regatta season, topped off with the Senior Men's four winning at Durham with the club lining the banks to watch their glory.

The new academic year saw the recruitment of our new Senior coach Adrian Lees and we watched him turn the Senior squad around by increasing the mileage on the ergs and the water. Ken Baird took on a bigger role as the Novice coach which helped to massively retain squad size and has seen the development of the strongest novice squads in recent history. First term, saw some brilliant results from the Novices at White Rose Head, while the Seniors showed they aren't to be messed with at a competitive Rutherford Head. But, this year hasn't all been plain sailing. During second term, with some squads plagued by injury and BUCS, Runcorn and HoRR cancelled, the squad morale really took a hit. However, with the help of some enthusiastic members and a can-do attitude we have seen our Senior women thrive this term, with a win at North of England Head and placing 93rd out of 321 at WEHoRR. A fantastic achievement!

With Roses looming and long anticipated 'away win' in our grasp, my captaincy comes to an end. It has been a privilege and an absolute pleasure to take on this role and I will miss it greatly.

I wish my successor, Alex Brogan, and the rest of his Executive Committee, the very best of luck!



Leah Carman
Club Captain 2016-17



RESULTS

North of England Head

We had a fantastic day in Chester despite the rainy conditions. LUBC saw some great placings with our Senior Women winning their category and our Senior Men coming 6th in the IM38+. We also sent a men's composite 8+ with the Lancaster John O'gaunt boat club who placed 10th in the same category as our senior men. Our Novice crews did equally well, with our Novice Women placing 4th and 7th, and our Novice Men coming 3rd.

WEHoRR

The Senior women went to WEHoRR hoping for a top 150 placing. After a brilliant race we placed 93rd out of 321 crews; a fantastic achievement! The club are very proud of the girls and we hope to have more great results at WEHoRR in the future.

HoRR

Due to unsafe conditions on the thames HoRR was sadly cancelled. Although spirits in the Mens crew are low, they are going into regatta season hopeful and ready to fight for more wins!





“To finish 93rd was more than we could have ever dreamed of!”

WEHARR 11th March 2017

A word from the Cox

“We arrived at Cygnet boat club in the lovely morning sunshine and it was a great relief to see Vixen had arrived safe and sound! The first job was to get the boat rigged. We realised during transit one of the shoe bolts had come off and we couldn't find it in the trailer. After trying every spare we had with us we realised the Vespoli required American sizes and we only had British size replacements. It really wouldn't be an LUBC race experience without having to beg and borrow from our host club! Leah and Izzy our injured rowers came to support the crew as our 'welfare officers' supporting us in any way possible to make the day run as smoothly as possible - we couldn't have done it without the two of them!

Although nerves and butterflies were flying round the crew, the general consensus was excitement. The excitement overcame the nerves as many alumni some we knew and some we'd never met before sent us messages of good luck and even came to help us boat, once an LUBC member, always an LUBC member.

Race number on and picnic in the sun eaten we had a photo shoot in our swanky square blades jumpers then it was time to head to the water, so many weeks of long intensive training sessions all leading to this one moment. Boating was a rush with only a 2 minute window to get onto the river and begin rowing up past Barnes bridge, in this time we'd seen another boat get pulled onto the bridge buttress by the tide so again butterflies took over.

By far the marshalling area was the most difficult part of the race, constantly fighting the pull of the tide and avoiding collisions with other boats. I don't think I've ever said "bow side watch your blades" so many times in my life! After about a 30 minute wait the race for our division started. The girls had the perfect start with all 8 blades off the water and really using the stream to our advantage to get the speed on the boat. Before we knew it, we were rowing through Barnes Bridge to the shouts of "go on Lancaster" from the pub on the bank where many LUBC alumni and our trusty welfare officers were stationed. From then on in screams for Lancaster from every bridge really pushed the girls on through those power tens. Just after Hammersmith Bridge Lancaster had reduced the distance between us and crew 116 and I knew this was it, time for the over take. Holding our line in the stream we rowed side by side with 116 and a final push for ten strong finishes got us clear of their bow. That was it there was no stopping the Lancaster girls now they were pushing off the overtake and powering to the finish. As we crossed the finish line we could hear more shouts for Lancaster, the support was amazing!

While rowing back up to Chiswick we knew we were holding a position in the top 100 crews, it was a nerve racking experience waiting to find out how many crews behind us were faster. To finish 93rd out of 321 crews was more than we could have ever dreamed of and it really finished off a great weekend with a bang!”



Amelia Robinson
WEHoRR Cox 2017 &
Novice Women's Captain



Roses

Due to BUCS regatta falling on the official weekend of roses, we are competing the weekend before: Saturday 22nd April.

We are hoping to put together two Alumni 8+ boats to race against York this year. If you are interested in competing, or just supporting the club on the day please do get in touch: lubc.alumni@gmail.com

Regatta Dates

Here are the dates for the regattas we are hoping to attend next term. If you would like to race on behalf of LUBC at any of these please let us know as soon as possible.

- BUCS Regatta = 28th April - 1st May
- Nottingham City Regatta = 13th - 14th May
- Tees Regatta = 20th May
- Hexham Regatta = 3rd June
- Durham Regatta = 10th - 11th June

ALUMNI



Eryn Wilkinson

“When I was asked to write this piece about being an alumni, I realised that I haven't once sat in a boat since leaving uni, which left me feeling pretty nostalgic! This beautiful weather we've been having recently has caused some serious daydreams about being back on a river, as I'm sure every rower will agree there's not much better than grinning your head off whilst experiencing a beautifully clean and powerful bit of rowing with clear blue skies above and the sun beating down on your back (although as a cox, the lack of sweat and pain may have made it extra-enjoyable for me!).

Heading to London to watch the Lancaster women perform fantastically at WEHoRR also added to my nostalgia, and it was great to reconnect with some members that I hadn't seen in a good while. It was fantastic to see the Lancaster crew do so well, especially as half of the crew were women I had the pleasure to cox regularly throughout my 2nd and 3rd years. LUBC still has a large effect on my life, as although I no longer row, I'm lucky to say that many of the inspiring people I find myself surrounded by in life beyond university are those I met in the club. Call me keen but I'm already looking forwards to seeing everyone again at the Summer Ball, and cheering Lancaster on at Roses in York!”



Alumni Coaching

Back in February, LUBC had the pleasure of hosting two alumni, Theo Millward and Andy Kidd, for a weekend where they kindly offered their experience to coach both the Senior Women's and Mens 1st VIII's in anticipation for WeHoRR and HoRR. This proved a nice break from the training plan both crews had been following for the term, as well as incredibly beneficial with Theo and Andy talking crews through a variety of drills from the launch, providing technical advice and offering encouragement on race pieces. Theo even going so far as to cox the 1st mens VIII from JoG back to the landing stage on their final length of the weekend. Both Squads would like to extend their deepest thanks to Theo and Andy for taking the time to visit the club and offer their services. If you are interested in helping the club in a similar way feel free to contact us.

Alumni regatta and Ball

Save the date:
Saturday 24th June 2017

This year, the ball will be held at the Marriott Hotel, Preston. Transport will be provided between Lancaster and the venue. More details to come.

CASTRUM

If you are interested in signing up to become an official member of our alumni boat club please contact us!

CRC
CASTRUM · ROWING · CLUB

Membership:
£8 per Month

Contact us on:
lubc.alumni@gmail.com
if you would like to know more

Free ticket to the annual Alumni Regatta and Ball

Access to LUBC equipment and facilities

www.boatclub.lusu.co.uk



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