



Corpus Christi College Boat Club Torpids Race Reports 2019

Crew	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Total
MI	R/O	Bumped Lincoln, chain bumped Mansfield	R/O	Bumped Pembroke II	+3
WI	Bumped Wadham II	Bumped Oriel II	Bumped Merton	Bumped St Antony's	+4
MII	R/O	Bumped by Benet's, Hilda's II and Hugh's II	Bumped by Teddy Hall III	Bumped by Wolfson IV, Pembroke III, chain bumped by Lincoln III	-7
WII	Bumped Hugh's II	Bumped by Hugh's II	Bumped by University II	Bumped Hertford II, bumped by New III	-1
MIII	Bumped Brasenose III	Bumped Anne's II, chain bumped Wolfson V	Bumped Linacre II	Bumped Queen's II	+5

WI - Megan Healy, 2nd Year Biochemistry and Women's Captain

You could have easily mistaken the Wednesday of torpids for that of Summer VIII's, a stark comparison to the blizzard of 2018 which resulted in racing being cancelled. So, with the sun shining down, the women of W1 pushed off (no thermal base layers in sight) ready for the first race chasing St Antony's. We were faster than Antony's but before we could get over lap, they bumped Oriel II, meaning that we were now going for an overbump. Oriel conceded to us just after Donny bridge with St John's II, who were chasing, left in the distance. After the race we found out that due to a nasty bump at the top of our division, Wadham had hit the bank just after Donny Bridge and were unable to finish the course meaning that we gained a bump by rowing past them in our pursuit of Oriel.



WI get the concession!

First bump down, we had our sights set on Oriel II again going into the rainy second day. We were confident in our ability to catch them quickly and indeed we did, gaining a concession before Donny. And just like that, we were half way there...

As St Antony's had rowed over on Thursday, we were back chasing them. Our race plan was to go long and dig deep as we expected St Antony's to bump Merton I

swiftly meaning that, once again, we were going for an overbump. The race panned out as expected with St Antony's bumping out in the Gut. As we exited the Gut and came down green banks it was clear we were the faster crew, gaining on Merton quickly. In the words of our cox, Hannah Taylor: "We're going to get them on green banks, I can feel it!". Merton moved to cross early but Hannah kept her nerve, taking the better, offensive line; securing Corpus the bump just before Univ boat house.



A happy W1 celebrate winning blades!

The nerves set in as our division approached on Saturday, the final day. Once again, we were chasing St Antony's. The big question going in was: will we have to go for an overbump for a third time? With Merton chasing us we began our start. As it turns out, third time's the charm and we gained on St Antony's quickly, willed on by the screams of "MAKE THEM BLEED" from Hannah. We had over lap going under Donny bridge and this was followed quickly by a concession, securing W1 their first blades in Torpids since 2013!



Lucie Drayton, Katharina Kirchhoff, Sasha Webb, Megan Healy, Bethanne Jones, Florence Goodrich, Emily Williams, Katy Snow with coxswain Hannah Taylor and coach Kate Bickerton

MI – Rupert Casson, 3rd Year Classics and Men's Captain

M1 had another great campaign at Torpids this year. We gained three bumps (Lincoln, Mansfield, Pembroke II). After narrowly missing out on catching Lincoln with an over-bump on Day 1, we caught them quickly with ease on the Day 2. Fortunately, Lincoln managed to bump Mansfield so we also achieved a bump over Mansfield. On day 3 Lincoln (now behind us) flew off the start, closing to a canvas and then gaining overlap as we approached donnington bridge. Unphased, M1 rose to the challenge, brought up the rate and held them for a nerve racking ten strokes - before Lincoln collapsed and we pushed away from them at great pace. At the closest our stroke's blade was 3 inches from their bow!



MI Fend off a strong challenge from Lincoln

On Day 4, we fought hard and our persistence was rewarded when we sailed past a Pembroke II that had entangled itself in the bank by the Gut. Now securely in Division Two, we have reached the highest position Corpus Men have attained since 1982/3! We look forward to the Summer, as we have high expectations and a crew capable of great things



Arthur Morris, Arthur Berkley, Michael Zaayman, Victor Lisinski, James Neale (coxswain), Thomas Fairclough, Sacha Tchen, Rupert Casson, Alex Bruce. Nikolaus Kandolf rowed instead of Thomas Wednesday-Friday.

WII – Martha Wallace, Corpus 2015-2018

The term got off to a good start, as many of the novices of Michaelmas stayed on to form this term's W2 and from the start got stuck in. For many, there was a bit of a jump from novice training to more senior demands but all of W2 met the challenge head on and the boat quickly shaped up to a pretty competitive second boat.

Off the back of our IWL performance, we were ready to give a good go at rowing-on for Torpids and it was good to see that the hard work and commitment of the crew paid off, with W2 coming 8th of 13 qualifying crews. Torpids itself started strong, with a bump on St Hughs II within 40 strokes of the first race. The second day was less fortunate, as St Hughs II took back the bump on us and a Klaxon then cut short the race when we were within strokes of catching Worcester II. Bumps is a cruel sport. On the Friday, again, a bump was sadly conceded to Univ II and Worcester evaded us again. However, the crew showed real focus and determination as we ran away from a strong New III crew (denying them the blades they'd been pretty confident in) and though we didn't quite get the bump, the crew really gave everything they had and put in a good showing for the club.



WII attached to their bungline shortly before a race

Finally, on Saturday, though New III got their revenge bump, Corpus also finally got a well-deserved bump, a double-overbump no less, on Hertford II.

Overall, we may not have had the most blinding Torpids in terms of absolute results but it was definitely a pretty gutsy performance from a very respectable W2, with some strong rowing and some well-deserved bumps. Plus, there's been a fantastic attitude from everyone in the crew, making rowing this term an absolute blast and

personally I hope the crew takes the same energy and positivity to another great term of rowing in Trinity.



Beth Grace, Emma Donohue, Martha Wallace, Hannah Germain, Helen Leung, Emilie Farr, Louisa Jagmetti, Eugenie Nevin with coxswain Clare Wolffe

MII – William Song, 2nd Year Physics

Following some unfortunate injuries (and failed swimtests) during the term, the Men's side of the Boat Club initially struggled to form a full training M2. Nevertheless, with spirits high, the (very lightweight) crew of the Corpus M2 pushed - for several this was their first ever bumps race. Wednesday had us chasing Exeter's II but despite closing in off the start they were able to bump out on Lady Margaret Hall's II. Unfortunately, a seat came off and rattled the crew and we rowed over, holding off St. Antony's II behind us.

A scrappy start on the Thursday forced concessions to the very quick crews of St. Benet's and St. Hilda's II. Unfortunately, in the chaos we clipped the bank and couldn't hold off the St. Hugh's seconds either.

Now racing at the top of Division VI, Friday's race was a far better, even with a substitution. Off of a great start, we pulled away from the huge Teddy Hall beer boat chasing us. But their greater experience (and size) quickly kicked in and we were forced to concede in the Gut.

We knew Saturday's race would be difficult: we were chasing an even stronger Teddy III, now with an ex-Olympian lightweight and behind us was Wolfson IV's huge beer boat of ex first boat rowers. We tore through

the water off the start but were little match for the unstoppable Wolfson crew. Still, with a fantastic fly and die, we pulled Teddy III to within half a length before they pulled away. Exhausted, we fell apart a bit along Greenbanks but when Pembroke III began closing in for an overbump, we pulled it back together. Giving it our all, we put on a fantastic show along Boathouse Island but were sadly caught near the end of the course. Still, despite our unfortunate results, the Corpus M2 still put on a race we could be proud of - and luckily avoided getting spoons!



Corpus MIII hold it up after a swift bump on Anne's



Bertie Veres, Fryderyk Wiastrski, John Myers, Sebastian d'Huc, Haiqi Wu, Alvaro Silva-Santisteban, Walker Mimms, William Song with coxswain Megan Healy

MIII – James Neale, 3rd Year Maths and President

With a strong crew comprised of former M1 rowers, recent ex-corpuscles and a good mix of coxswains in the bows there was a lot of optimism for our third torpid this season (affectionately referred to as the "Kittens"). Having one of the fastest rowing on times of all the division 6 crews and starting from footship, surely the only way was up!

With fantastic weather on the first day we lined up on bungline thirteen, eager to start the campaign off on the right foot for CCCBC. 27 strokes later (by bungline 9) Brasenose III had conceded and our race had finished barely after it begun.

Not content with taking 27 strokes to catch our quarry, on day two we kicked it even harder off of the start, catching St Anne's II in roughly 23 strokes! St Anne's went on to bump Wolfson V in the same race, so we chain bumped up past both crews!

On the Friday substitutions left us with a weaker crew and starting behind a rather fast Queens II, so we had to settle in for a longer row. Queens swiftly bumped out on Linacre II, leaving us chasing for the overbump. Nevertheless, we settled into a nice strong rhythm and on greenbanks steadily closed the gap, forcing them to concede.

On Saturday we again had substitutions but this time resulting in a very strong crew. We had a tough position however - we were at the back of a four boat sandwich and there was a real risk that we would have to catch the crew starting three bunglines above us! As we reached the gut all four crews were incredibly close to each other but luckily for us GTC II bumped out before Queen's could catch them! With some fantastic coxing from former club president Sacha Tchen, we successfully navigated the chaos that had formed in the gut and were able to close the fourth and final bump on Queens!



Benedict Winchester, James Neale, Scott Houghton, Adam Wigley, Max Phillips, Thomas Fairclough, Martin Madej, Oliver Hedges, Asger Jakobsen with coxswain Sacha Tchen