


# MCBC NEWSLETTER HILARY 2026



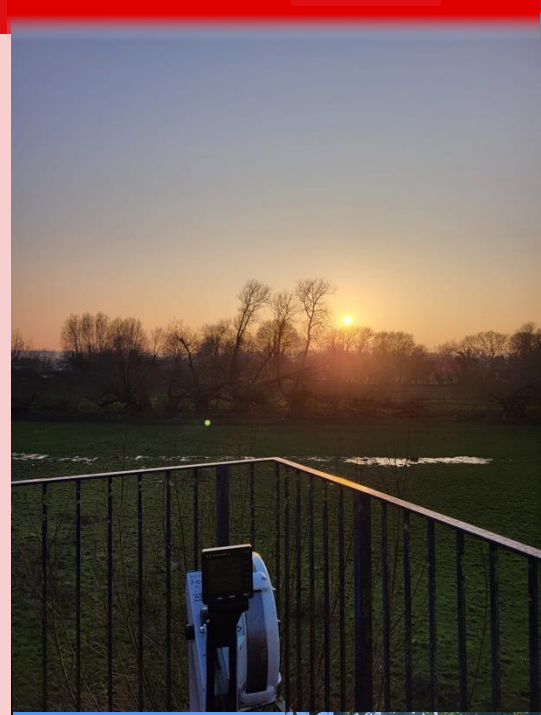
Welcome to the Hilary edition of the MCBC newsletter for the 2025/26 year. To stay up to date with the club throughout the term follow our **Instagram @biglegsmansfield** 

Unfortunately, this term has been a frustrating one for all MCBC members. We came into the term on a real high after a great Michaelmas term and a brilliant group of novices eager to start their second term of rowing. However, just before our mini training camp at the start of term, the river became unsafe to row on and ultimately, the weather meant it wouldn't become safe again until the end of the last week of term.

We did manage to get out onto the water a few times this term though. Towards the start of term, we had a productive but wet trip to Swindon and the term finished with chance to race on the Saturday of a rain-affected torpids.

Looking to the vac, the weather seems to have turned such that those still in Oxford will hopefully be able to have some post term fun before our training camp towards the end of the vac.

Pictured right top: View at an evening Longbridges erg  
Pictured right middle: The Isis after a post term outing  
Pictured bottom: The O1 competing in Torpheads



# TRIP TO SWINDON



The challenges this term thrown at us by the weather meant that water time was very hard to come by. This is why MCBC went on a trip off the Isis organised by our wonderful captains, presidents, and coaches!

The chosen destination was Coate Water in Swindon. It felt amazing to push off onto the lake after being restricted to ergs and tanks only for the first few weeks of term. Despite the weather predictably being drizzle all trip and everyone being damp and cold, the trip was great fun. Also, special thanks to alumnus Tom who came along to cox one of the boats all day!

Overall, the trip was very beneficial as that water time became very valuable when we had to race at the end of term without any preparation outings...

**Pictured right:** The common scene at Longbridges this term

**Pictured below right:** The Swindon lake with a feature from the O2 shell

**Pictured below left:** MCBC arriving at the lake



# TORPHEADS 2026 AND TORPIDS DINNER



As has become all too normal in recent years, Torpids was once again disrupted by the weather. In the weeks leading up to the event, the feeling was that the event was very unlikely to go ahead. However, the situation did improve enough that we could have a time trial race (IWL style) on the Saturday that most fixed division crews could race in.

Unfortunately, our women's crew were denied the chance to race due to illness so the O1 was the only MCBC representation out on the water. Given the challenging term, they put in a solid performance placing 24 out of 35 open crews racing.

It is a result that the O1 hopes to build on as the attention turns towards Trinity Term and Summer Vllls.

**Pictured left: The women's side, open side, and whole club at Torpids dinner**

**Pictured below: The O1 with coach Sydney after racing in Torpheads**



# TO ELY AND BEYOND...



After a successful trip last year, MCBC is heading back to the Cambridge University Boathouse in Ely for an Easter vacation training camp. This promises to be a great opportunity for extended water time for all our rowers.

Also, now is the time for alumni to sign up to come back to the club for Summer Vllls (details to the right). For more information and to sign up, you can either head to our Instagram, or you can email alumni officer Tom. Details for both options are at the bottom of this page!

**Pictured below: Ely boathouse entrance**

## SUMMER Vllls:

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May @ 12pm  
Last day of racing

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May @ 6.45pm  
Summer Vllls dinner

Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May @ 1pm  
Alumni day



As always, MCBC greatly appreciates any and all support from our Alumni and beyond. Being a smaller boat club with rowers from primarily state schools, we face more challenges than most others at Oxford. We aim to make rowing a more accessible sport for those from all backgrounds - subsidising rowing battels and providing equipment at more affordable prices. We are very proud of our friendly and welcoming environment, and this wouldn't be possible without your generous support. Thank you so much for this support.

If you would like to help what we do and enable more people to get into this amazing sport, donations can be made by donating to Mansfield and including MCBC in the reference field. The donation will then entirely go to the boat club. To donate, click the link below and scroll down to Bank Transfer.

<https://www.mansfield.ox.ac.uk/make-a-gift/make-a-gift-from-the-uk/>  
For any enquiries about alumni visits to the Boat Club, outings, or to join the alumni WhatsApp group, please email our alumni officer [thomas.silvester-ratcliffe@mansfield.ox.ac.uk](mailto:thomas.silvester-ratcliffe@mansfield.ox.ac.uk)  
Instagram @biglegsmansfield

**Pictured left: MCBC boats trailered and ready to travel to Ely for our Easter vac training camp**

