



## Christchurch Regatta 2013

For Christchurch this year we entered five crews. The two women's crews were organised into undergrads (WA) and postgrads (WB), and the three men's crews were sorted by ability. On day one WA had the lead against Oriel, but then lost a seat and the race. MB beat Lincoln by half a length in an uneventful race. MC had sustained an injury the week before and had to be entered as a friendly crew, they lost to a strong Univ side. WB showed great resilience to come from behind to beat Corpus, and finally the hotly-tipped MA (who won Nephthys last week) beat St. Hilda's by half a length in what was a scrappy race for them. Spectators were treated to the traditional clashes and crashing, and weirdly crews who continued to race after crashing and claxons. Thankfully Jesus were not involved in any such nonsense.

Day two began with WA in the recharge against Trinity. They pushed very hard off the start and gained the lead, but died in the last hundred meters and were unable to reach the second round. MC beat Exeter in a really solid race, but as a friendly boat wouldn't be proceeding any further.

In the second round MA had a thrilling close race with an excellent Wadham crew, and won by half a length. MB were left on the start line for half an hour before Oriel arrived, and were neck-and-neck with them until an unfortunate crab on the line, but coach Nick Fulton spotted an odd substitution in the Oriel crew, which had them disqualified in the first of many appeals from the coach.

So we had three crews through to Friday, a nice result. Pembroke Boat Club put their speakers to good use, playing Pirates of the Caribbean to keep their crews motivated. MA had a convincing win against Keble, then MB beat Balliol B in a race between the two colleges under Nick Fulton. The day ended with WB being beaten by Queens despite rowing well.

For the first time in recent years, we had two crews in Saturday of Christchurch; the plucky MB boat (one of only three "B" crews remaining) and the MA crew who looked like they may once again go all the way. MA raced first against Trinity, whom they last met in the Nephthys final. Trinity had a slight lead at the corner, where cox Jon Hubbert struggled to stay within the bouys (they were later moved to widen the lane). The Jesus crew strayed in Trinity and clashed blades. As the crews separated again Jesus were evidently flustered and found themselves unable to regain the lost ground. A crushing result for them.

Oblivious to the drama on the course, MB were lining up for their race with Univ's third crew.



They raced well and won convincingly, which meant that the Men's B team became the most successful Jesus novice crew not only of the year, but of all recent years!

Sadly they didn't last long, as they were beaten by Keble in the quarter finals. Thus Christchurch regatta ended for JCBC.