

HUGHES HALL
BOAT CLUB
ALUMNI

Volume 3 No.1 Lent 2022

Breaking News: Hughes Hall Rowing has located a piece of land with structure on the River Cam suitable for a Hughes Boathouse!

It presents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and Hughes Rowing arguably has first crack at acquiring the location. **As always, it's not the money, it's the money.** All possible means by which to finance such an acquisition are being pursued including: partnering with another college boat club; partnering with a Town Club; and targeting the entire worldwide rowing community for support. **Asking price? £1.2M.**

We must now appeal to all Hughes Hall Rowing Alumni for help. **We need a lot of money plain and simple, either as a donation or a loan or as some other creative means by which to finance.** In addition, though, **we also need expertise to help us through this process.** Please if there is anyone out there willing to contribute funds or his/her negotiation, architectural and/or due diligence skills, **please contact us at:**

hhbca@hughes.cam.ac.uk

Donations to:

<https://www.hughes.cam.ac.uk/alumni/hoot-for-hughes/>

Thank you.

Details of the property can be found below:

3.1.2022

Re. CAMBRIDGE BOATHOUSE FOR SALE – SPRING 2022

Dear Bursar and Rowing Coaches,

I am writing to inform you that we are planning to sell our privately owned Cambridge boathouse on the River Cam in April 2022. This may be of interest to your college.

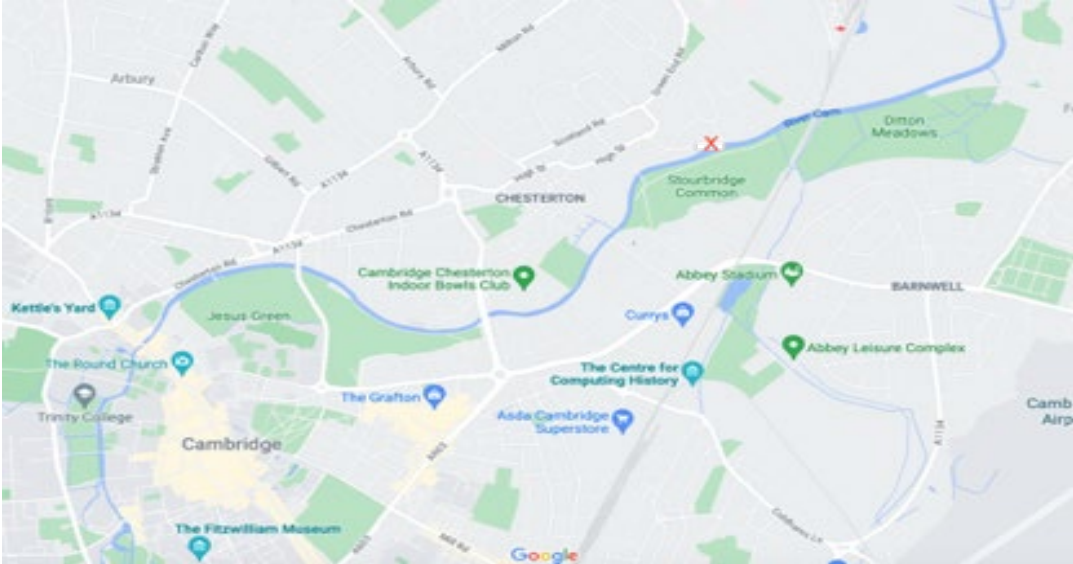
Our boathouse stands on the Chesterton side of the river, next to The Green Man footbridge over to Stourbridge Common. It is downstream from the last of the college boathouses and just at the finish of the bumps course, so is well situated for a college boathouse. It is the only house with river frontage in that part of Cambridge and has a garden with additional river frontage. It has vehicular access and sits alongside the public slipway. This represents a rare opportunity to purchase a property with direct access to a key stretch of The Cam.

Please see below for photograph and a map. The address is:

The Boathouse,
Water Street,
Cambridge,
CB4 1PA

Please let us know if this is of interest to your college.

Location on the river:



Editor's note: *Beginning this Term we will feature an alumnus of Hughes Hall Rowing and for future invite all of you to submit for publication a biographical sketch of your time rowing for Hughes Hall - together with an accompanying digital photo.*

Alister Taylor '16
Executive Secretary

Cambridge University Boat Club
(The Blue Boats)



Well, I was born in Melbourne, Australia where I eventually attended the University of Melbourne. Triathlon was my first sport and I really didn't start rowing until my 4th year at Uni but with Clubs (Mercantile Rowing Club & Yarra Yarra Rowing Club) where I learned to row. At the time (late 1990s) there were big time Australian Olympic rowers around and their presence gave me both the inspiration and the incentive to pursue the sport after I had become frustrated with competing in Triathlon.

In 2004 I represented Australia in the World University Championships in France in a single and decided to give serious rowing a real go. I spent 2005 at the Australian Institute of Sport, managing third in the single, but managed to seat race my way out of consideration for a Senior Team spot. In 2006 I blew my knee out and spent two years trying to come back to an international level of rowing. In 2008 I finished 4th in the interstate regatta at the Australian Nationals and decided then to forgo my quest for a spot on the Olympic Squad, instead moving to London (because of a woman who was a Cambridge alumna and a world class rower.)

I kept rowing once in England and in 2010 won the Britannia Cup at Henley rowing in a 4+ with Tideway Scullers.

In 2013 I returned to Australia to teach high school where I also was Head of Rowing. But a guy I rowed with at Mercantile was a Cambridge grad and a rower for Cambridge

and had encouraged me to apply to and row for Cambridge University. So in 2015 I applied and was accepted for the MPhil in Education, my college: Hughes Hall. (To be honest - it was the opportunity to row for Cambridge and then in the Bumps which prompted my application.)

After training incessantly during Michaelmas 2015 and Lents 2016, I made the Goldie Boat and raced in the Goldie/Isis race in 2016 on the Thames. Thereafter, in the Mays, I rowed for HHBC in the Bumps and - to be honest - rowing in the Bumps is the best memory I have of my time at Hughes Hall!

After graduating, I worked in London for a year as a medical staff person when the position of Executive Secretary of CUBC became available. I applied and was hired where I have remained since 2017.

What do I do? Well, suffice it to say 'I do all "stuff" for CUBC - (now a combined Club of One; i.e., the club of Heavyweight & Lightweight Men and Women rowing for Cambridge University: the Blue Boats, Goldie & Blondie.)

Duties include:

- Taking loads off the coaches so they are free to coach
- Dealing with the press
- Staying on top of compliance/rules issues
- Welcoming and communicating with prospective Cambridge students/rowers
- Attending all races
- Trailering the boats
- Problem solver
- Maintaining a communication pipeline with CUBC alumni
- On call 24/7 for anything re The Boat Race

It's intensive but truly a labour of love.

For a rower who's well past it, it's one of the best jobs on earth.

An update from the Hughes Hall Boat Club Captains:

The captains are pleased to report a very successful start to the 2021/22 academic year. We started off in Fresher's week with a record number of students taking part in a rowing taster session. Almost 100 students took part, and over half of them continued with us throughout Michaelmas term.

Our novices first raced in Emma Sprints, with NW1 achieving a fantastic joint 3rd place in their division. Unfortunately the second novice regatta, Clare Novices, was canceled. We had two novice men's boats and one novice women's boat take part in novice Fairbairns. All crews put in a fantastic effort with NM1 and NW1 both finishing in the top halves of their divisions.

Moving onto the senior squads, these crews have also had an excellent term. In particular, for the first time since the split from Lucy Cavendish, the senior women have been able to field a Michaela's 8+ (with a few subs to spare!) They raced in Winter Head, Christmas Head and Fairbairns, and in each achieved times that beat many of the crews in their bumps division. We are excited at the prospect of 3 women's crews for Lent Bumps, another first! The senior men have also achieved some new milestones this term, in particular sending a boat to Fours Head in London, for what we think is the first time in HHBC history (please correct us if we are wrong!). They also had two crews race in both Winter Head and Fairbairns, with M1 coming 16th in Fairbairns (out of a field of 73), and M2 were the 7th placed second boat, a fantastic achievement for a crew of whom the majority only learnt to row last summer.

A very exciting addition has been made to the club's fleet this term with the purchase of a fully refurbished mid-weight 4+. This boat will be of great benefit particularly to the women's squad, enabling smaller crews to continue training out of term time; provide greater technical training for our rowers, and increase the breadth of racing that the club is able to compete in. Our beautiful new boat is yet to be christened with a name. If any alumni are interested in naming rights for the boat with a GBP1,000 donation to the club, please contact our President, Imogen Binnian at ib411@cam.ac.uk

We are hopeful for a very successful Lent Bumps campaign, with a record number of Hughes boats training and racing both on and off the Cam.

Editor's Note: *With this issue's publication delayed by Covid, I am pleased to report that in the Newnham Head Race, Hughes boated two men's crews and two women's crew (one had to scratch at the start due to equipment issues) - the most crews from Hughes ever having entered this race.*

The Newnham Head Races were held 5 February 2022 in terribly cold and windy conditions with "white horses" water. The Hughes Hall 1st boats put in an impressive performance with W1 finishing 5th and M1 finishing 4th in their respective divisions. This race is historically considered the first real Lent Term race in the run-up to the Lent Bumps and gives both coaches and crews a chance to size-up the competition.

