

Attendance (voting members): College Clubs: 61 Blues or Half-Blues: 4 OURCs Committee: 7 Absences: none

Captains' Meeting Agenda

Thursday 1st Week Trinity Term 2024 7.00pm, 25th April Doctorow Hall, St Edmund Hall

Chair: Louis Corrigan (OUBC)

1. Welcome

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting Available at https://ourcs.co.uk/organisation/meetings/

No objections: Minutes ratified.

3. Matters Arising

No matters arising

4. Squad Reports [Appendix A]

No questions

5. Transfers under A1.2. – Samuel McLoughlin to speak

Under A.1.2.a.:

Objections may only be based on the following:

- Athlete is not a member of the college they are transferring from
- Athlete has never been a member of the college they are transferring to
- Oscar Lyons, New College to Balliol
- Lara Bonney, Lincoln to Oriel
- Max Cowan, Green Templeton to St Catherine's

No objections:

Transfers stand as announced.

6. Retention of Student Status (A1.1.a.i.1.a.) – Samuel McLoughlin to speak

Simple majority to pass

a. Motion withdrawn

b. Sibby O'Grady (Pembroke):

We are applying to extend Sibby's student status because her case is one of extraordinary circumstances - a term we do not invoke lightly. Last term, her health severely declined, necessitating a prolonged hospital stay, an ordeal for any student both physically and emotionally. The repercussions of her illness, compounded by the separation from her support network of friends and the cessation of all her usual activities, have exacted a significant toll on her well-being.

Both the college academic director and the welfare lead, recognizing the severity of her situation, have strongly recommended that Sibby's student status be extended. Rowing is a cornerstone of Sibby's recovery and reintegration into academic and social life at Oxford, before she resumes her studies next academic year. The boat club has been a central part of Sibby's support network - she was a dedicated novice in her first year, women's captain in her second, and treasurer this year. Until recently, she had been unable to train since last November, so there is no question of gaining an unfair competitive advantage.

Maintaining her connection with the boat club is paramount to Sibby's mental and physical health. As she resides in Oxford, full participation in the club's activities is critical as she navigates through this challenging recovery period. While we are mindful that the policy of allowing suspended students to maintain their student status is reserved for use in exceptional cases, it is precisely for such instances as Sibby's that this provision exists.

Proposed: Jane Kuper (Pembroke) Seconded: Emily Hall (Pembroke)

It was stressed that the rule allowing suspended students to retain their student status, A1.1.a.i.1.a., was only for use in 'extraordinary circumstances' and requires the written approval of the college's Senior Tutor.

No questions, Votes for: 67, Votes against: 0, Abstentions: 5, **Motion passed.**

7. **River Closures** – Sophia Ungermann to speak *Simple majority to pass*

a. Isis Spring League

Sunday 28th April (2nd Week) – 12:00 until End of Racing or Closing Time, whichever is sooner

Proposed: Sophia Ungermann (OURCs) Seconded: Samuel McLoughlin (OURCs) The captains were reminded that river closures were required to allow racing to take place.

No objections,

ISL river closure passed.

b. Summer Eights

Rowing On:

Saturday 18th May (4th Week) – 08:30 until End of Racing or Closing Time, whichever is sooner

Eights proper:

Wednesday 22nd May (5th Week) – 11:00 until End of Racing or Closing Time, whichever is sooner Thursday 23rd May (5th Week) – 11:00 until End of Racing or Closing Time, whichever is sooner Friday 24th May (5th Week) – 11:00 until End of Racing or Closing Time, whichever is sooner Saturday 25th May (5th Week) – Opening Time until Closing Time

Proposed: Sophia Ungermann (OURCs) Seconded: Samuel McLoughlin (OURCs)

No objections, Summer Eights river closures passed.

c. Oriel Regatta

Saturday 8th June (7th Week) – 8:00 until 18:30 or End of Racing

Proposed: Beatrice Frediani (Oriel) Seconded: Theodore Briscoe (Oriel)

No objections, Oriel Regatta river closure passed.

8. Change to Code of Conduct: Godstow Flag – Samuel McLoughlin to speak

Simple majority to pass

Change:

2.7. Definition of a Senior crew

- a. Within these rules, a Senior crew is defined as an eight or a coxed four with a cox classified as 'Senior' under <u>2.5.b</u> and at least four rowers with three full Terms' rowing experience, and not containing any rower with less than one full Term of rowing experience.
- b. With the written permission of the OURCs Secretary and the OURCs Captain of Coxes, other competent crews may be also be designated 'Senior'.

and 2.9. Rules specific to Godstow [...]

c. Fast stream conditions

During varying conditions, additional restrictions may be in force on the Godstow stretch, as indicated by the online flag:

- i. Red Flag (4 bucks at Osney Lock, 2 bucks at Godstow Lock or at the discretion of the St Edward's School Boatman): The Godstow stretch is closed to all crews. Navigation of Osney Lock is prohibited.
- ii. Amber Flag (3 bucks at Osney Lock, 1½ bucks at Godstow Lock or at the discretion of the St Edward's School Boatman): The Godstow stretch is closed to all College crews except Senior crews as defined in 2.7. with the exception that experienced status coxes may be used. All crews must be accompanied by a launch. The river is closed below Rainbow Bridge, crews should spin no lower than the sailing club unless landing at the Keble yard. Navigation of Osney Lock is prohibited.

To (changes in red):

2.7. Definition of a Senior and Novice crews

- a. Within these rules, a Senior crew is defined as an eight or a coxed four with a cox classified as 'Senior' under <u>2.5.b</u>. and at least four rowers with three full Terms' of water rowing experience, and not containing any rower with less than one full Term of water rowing experience.
- b. With the written permission of the OURCs Secretary and the OURCs Captain of Coxes, other competent crews may be also be designated 'Senior'.
- c. Within these rules, a Novice crew is defined as one falling into either, or both, of the following categories:
 - i. crews coxed by a cox classified as 'Novice' under <u>2.5.b.;</u>
 - ii. crews containing any rower with less than one full Term of water rowing experience.

and

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Bridge, crews should spin no lower than the sailing club unless landing at the Keble yard. Navigation of Osney Lock is prohibited.

- i. Red Flag (at the discretion of the St Edward's School Boatmen when the EA display Red Boards for the Godstow to Osney reach): the Godstow stretch is closed to all crews. Navigation of Godstow and Osney Locks is prohibited.
- ii. Amber Flag (at the discretion of the St Edward's School Boatmen when the EA display Red Boards for the Godstow to Osney reach): the Godstow stretch is closed to all crews except eights classed as Senior crews, as defined in 2.7. All crews must be accompanied by a launch. The river is closed below Rainbow Bridge; crews should spin no lower than the sailing club unless landing at the Keble yard. Navigation of Godstow and Osney Locks is prohibited.
- iii. Dark Blue Flag (EA displaying Yellow Boards for the Godstow to Osney reach): the Godstow stretch is closed to Novice crews as defined in 2.7.c. and all boat types except eights. All crews must be accompanied by a launch. The river is closed below Rainbow Bridge; crews should spin no lower than the sailing club unless landing at the Keble yard. Navigation of Godstow and Osney Locks is prohibited.
- iv. Green Flag: no additional restrictions in force.
- v. Grey Flag: the system is not currently being maintained and all crews are responsible for referring to the EA or lock keepers for stream advice.

Proposed: Samuel McLoughlin (OURCs) Seconded: Sophia Ungermann (OURCs)

It was briefly explained that the difficulties with the Godstow river status flag had resulted from a change in staff at St Edwards School (SES), whose boathouse hosts many of the OURCs clubs on that stretch, prior to the start of the current academic year. While the previous, long-standing SES boatman had been happy to provide OURCs with information with which they could then set the flag, their departure had meant that the Godstow flag had defaulted to being set according to the Environmental Agency stream warning boards for the reach. Unfortunately, due to the lower section of the reach, closed to clubs in higher stream conditions, being much narrower than the top part, the EA boards for the reach are some of the most conservative along the length of the Thames. Hence, following the EA advice not to navigate the reach on Red Boards prevented crews from rowing sooner than on almost all other reaches.

The motion was presented as the result of lengthy discussions with the SES boatmen, who were willing to provide OURCs with information on when they allowed their own crews to row on EA Red Boards. The proposal broadly followed SES's own policies, with steadily more experienced crews required as the stream increased. It was explained that, although the SES requirement for coxed eights to be used on EA Yellow Boards, as well as the requirement for those boats to be accompanied by a launch, only applied to crews boating from SES facilities, the University authorities thought it best if the rule also applied to the small number of clubs boating from elsewhere. The simpler rules and closer resemblance to the flag rules for the Isis stretch were seen as particular advantages. Both the OURCS Secretary and Sabbatical Officer broadly agreed with this view, though explained this could potentially be up for negotiation and that they would

happily pass on any petitions from the captains to the University authorities if captains thought it worth trying to convince them otherwise.

The proposer also distributed an amendment to the motion [Appendix B], which they explained contained some small tweaks, felt to be fairly minor, and only finalised on the day of the meeting.

The captains voiced some frustration at the process that had led to this motion, feeling that there had been very little communication from the University authorities throughout. It was pointed out that the position of OURCs Captains' Representative to COUR (the Council for Oxford University Rowing) remained vacant, and it was resolved to hold elections for the role at the end of the meeting.

A number of Godstow clubs suggested alternative methods that might be used to set the flag, such as the reading of the weirs at either end of the reach, or models based on data from the stretch. Some of the models were recognised to closely follow reality, if susceptible to issues in the data used and not completely without error. As far as reading the weirs was concerned, OURCs stressed that Osney was no longer readable due to a hydroelectric scheme having been installed some years ago, and that they understood one of the Godstow weirs to not be readily readable and feared neither of the Godstow weirs were readily accessible from central Oxford. Rather, the SES boatmen were much better placed to advise on conditions on the reach.

The possibility of using measurements from flow stations, even if they were not on the same reach, was discussed, believed to be common practice amongst many non-Oxford clubs. However, while it was said to appear broadly accurate, concerns were raised at the distance to the nearest EA flow stations and the amount of water that might join the river in between them. The installation of an EA flow meter on the reach itself was felt to be prohibitively expensive, with a quote of circa £40,000 having been provided some years ago.

OURCs stressed that the motion under discussion was the only option presently on the table, the alternative being the continuation of the more restrictive system for setting the flag that had so far been in force that year. Many captains, however, questioned the usefulness of being allowed out on EA Red Boards if a 'Senior' status cox was required, since there were few such coxes. Clubs also believed a further loosening of restrictions might be possible if they were allowed to discuss the matter with SES directly, stressing that they understood the terms of their racking contracts to be an agreement between themselves and SES, without need for outside involvement. It was questioned whether an OURCs river status flag was even necessary given that OURCs member clubs rowed on several other stretches of the Thames, besides Godstow or the Isis, which were not covered by such a flag.

Ultimately the captains concluded it would be better to delay moving away from the current system in the hope that an alternative solution might be found.

The meeting voted on whether or not to accept the proposed amendment [Appendix B]: Votes for: 0, Votes against: 70, Abstentions: 2, **Amendment rejected.** The meeting therefore voted on the motion as it appeared in the agenda: Votes for: 2, Votes against: 61, Abstentions: 9, **Motion failed.**

9. Addition to the Rules of Racing: Definitions (in red) – Finlay Jordan to speak

Two-thirds majority to pass

A1.1.

[...]

d. To apply for Summer Eights 2024 only. Anyone who was classified as either a Student Member or Fellowship Member, as defined in A1.1.a.i. and A1.1.a.ii. respectively, on the 28/02/2024 (first planned day of Torpids 2024), shall have their status extended up till and including the 25/05/2024 (last planned day of Summer Eights 2024), making them eligible to race as full members of their college boat club. This clause (A1.1.d.) will expire automatically on 26/5/2024, after which this clause will be removed from the Rules of Racing.

Proposed: Finlay Jordan (Hertford) Seconded: Matthew Campbell (Brasenose)

With limited water time so far in the academic year and both the novice regatta and Torpids cancelled, the proposers explained that they wanted to give those who had completed their degrees in the intervening period the chance to race bumps one last time. They also suggested that it would likely be safer for more experienced athletes to compete in the crews they had been training with rather than in the lower boats to which they would be relegated as associates, since it would keep athletes in approximate speed order, as it were.

It was countered that Summer Eights had always been oversubscribed and this measure would mean displacing current students who now might not get the chance to race. While some athletes would always miss out, the student/non-student division was suggested to be the clearest dividing line when deciding who to prioritise. Furthermore, it was pointed out that the division of athletes into 'full members' and 'associates' was an old one, resulting from clubs largely being funded by their colleges, who wanted reassurance that current members were being prioritised. Associates could still compete in bumps, if only in lower boats.

Some concerns were also raised at the precedent that might be set, particularly since the cancellation of Torpids due to unfavourable stream conditions was a fairly regular occurrence, though this was recognised to be of little comfort to those on short degrees who had the misfortune to be students this year.

Ultimately, while a sizable section of the captains felt, given the apparently limited number of athletes affected, that it would be an act of kindness to those former students to pass the motion, another section remained that did not see the circumstances as sufficiently extra-ordinary to warrant a change to the rules.

Votes for: 23, Votes against: 18, Abstentions: 18, **Motion failed** (on both counts: neither a two-thirds majority of those in favour to those against, nor an overall majority of those present and eligible to vote).

10. Isis Winter League Victor Ludorum Presentation – Sophia Ungermann to speak

Wolfson CBC were announced as the overall winners of the Isis Winter League races 2023-24 and presented with the IWL Victor Ludorum Shield.

Mansfield CBC received an honourable mention for topping the Women's Leaderboard and coming a close second to Wolfson in the overall rankings.

11. Isis Winter League Fines Award Presentation – James Hopkinson to speak

St Peter's CBC were announced as the proud winners of the 'Largest Contributor to IWL Fines' title for 2023-24, while also taking home the much-coveted 'Biggest Fine from 1 IWL' award.

12. **AOB**

• Treasurer's Report [Appendix C] – James Hopkinson to speak

The Treasurer highlighted some details of the report. It was noted that a loss had been made on Torpids, despite its cancellation, since OURCs had to pay a cancellation fee for the medical cover.

The return of the Summer Eights programme was discussed in some depth, with bulk pre-orders via individual clubs being highlighted as an excellent way for people to guarantee a programme. It was stressed that the programme would have to go to print at, or likely even a little before, Close of Entries. Captains were therefore strongly encouraged to get their crew orders in well in advance, though an email would follow with specific details and deadlines.

While OURCs had purchased a card reader in order to help sell the programme, the purchase had only been made earlier that day so was not included in the report.

• Invitation for MNR Bids – Qianyi Sun to speak

Captains were encouraged to read the bid guide circulated earlier that day. While the deadline was still well over a month away, committees were encouraged to start discussing any potential bids as soon as possible.

• Election of OURCs Captains' Representative to COUR

Only one candidate was nominated for the role, Robert Doane-Solomon of Pembroke.

Votes for: 56, Votes against: 0, Abstentions: 3, **Robert Doane-Solomon elected.**

• Bank Riding Safety Reminder

The captains were asked to remind their bank riders of the need to cycle safely on the towpath, giving sufficient attention to the path ahead and other members of the public. Cyclists must give way to pedestrians (and persons on horseback). They should not be using any hands to film crews whilst cycling, or do anything else that may prevent them from paying due care and attention to their cycling. If they are involved in a collision, cyclists must stop to provide assistance and/or information as necessary.

During racing, clubs whose bank riders do not follow this will be fined.

Appendix A

OUBC Women's President Report: April 2024

Introduction

Since our last meeting in January, the Women's Squad of Oxford University Boat Club has experienced a productive and eventful three months. Our efforts in recruitment, training, and competition have yielded significant successes, demonstrating the commitment and talent within our club.

Recruitment and Training

- **Recruitment Efforts**: We undertook extensive recruitment efforts before the January Masters deadlines, resulting in a high number of applications, particularly from National Training Centre Athletes.
- **Performance Milestones**: Our club celebrated numerous Personal Bests (PBs) and set a new club record in the January 5k.
- **Caversham Lakes Seat Racing**: We had the opportunity to use Caversham Lakes for seat racing in early February, a valuable process for our team.

Competitions and Fixtures

- **Brookes Fixture**: Our A line-up won the last piece of the day against Brookes, and the club showcased depth across the group with four women's boats racing.
- University of London Fixture: All our crews beat University of London in two pieces from start to St. Pauls, marking a successful weekend to start March.
- Leander and London Rowing Club Fixtures: Our Blue Boat and Osiris had useful and productive pieces against Leander, and the Lightweights achieved an easy win against London Rowing Club.

Development and Alumni Engagement

- **Development Squad**: We initiated the Development Squad with two land sessions in March to nurture emerging talent within the Oxford Rowing Community.
- Alumni Talks: We organized talks from Maddy Badcott, Anastasia Posner, Christine Cavallo, and Matthew Pinsent to prepare our crews for Tideway week.

Challenges and Resilience

• **Tideway Week**: Despite facing challenges such as increased media presence due to the E.coli issue and a bus crash for Osiris four days before racing, our crews demonstrated resilience and determination.

Boat Race Highlights

- **Spare 4+**: Won on Wednesday with a margin of 2.5 lengths.
- Lightweights: Fought valiantly against the tabs on Friday, closing clear water down to a 0.6-second margin.
- **Osiris**: Won against Blondie with a strong margin of 5 lengths.
- **Blue Boat**: Despite a controversial moment, the Blue Boat put up a strong performance against Cambridge and are reflecting on a season of positive results, despite a loss on the day.

Future Plans and Outlook

- **Summer Rowing**: All crews have had some time off and are now reassembling for summer rowing.
- **Upcoming Events**: We are preparing senior squad entries for BUCS and Henley Royal Regatta, using Met and HWR as training for HRR crews. The Development squad will also participate in these events.
- Looking Ahead to 2025: We are already planning for the 2025 season and are confident that the tide has turned in Oxford's favour. Winning two out of four women's races marks our best results since 2016. We are excited about the foundation we have built and look forward to further successes next year and beyond.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the Women's Squad of Oxford University Boat Club has had a successful and challenging quarter. Our dedication to training, development, and competition has paid off with notable achievements. As we look forward to the 2025 season, we are optimistic and excited about the future of our club.

We extend our gratitude to the committee for their continued support and look forward to sharing more successes in the coming months.

Thank you.

Ella Stadler Women's President, Oxford University Boat Club

OUBC Men's Report

This season has been a truly pivotal one in OUBC's history, and we stand now as a broader, integrated driving force at the forefront of university-level rowing. I have had the great fortune of being surrounded by a tight-knit team of inspiring and dedicated athletes, who have faced all manner of adversity this year by providing the best of themselves every single day, both as athletes themselves, and as teammates building a culture hungry for success. Our increased depth from the integration of the lightweight programme, and the merging of men's and women's squads into a singular OUBC, has laid the foundations and set the standard for our club in which each member and every component is directly pushing us on to achieve excellence.

We have faced our fair share of challenges over the year, with weather presenting itself as an ever-present obstacle, and misfortunes with illness and injury presenting themselves more than anyone would hope. Nonetheless, the team faced up to every roadblock and challenge with unwavering commitment & ever-growing hunger for success. These athletes have been prime examples of everything it means to be Dark Blue: Dedicated, Resilient and Fierce in their pursuit of excellence. It is that legacy which our club embodies, and they have set the standard high for our future. The results on the day do not reflect the commitment of the team this year, and this squad will be remembered by all of its members for their dedication.

An enormous thanks is owed to Sean Bowden, who is stepping down after 27 years of service to the OUBC. His influence in the sport and the club has touched the lives of many, and he leaves a legacy of being the most decorated Boat Race coach in history. On behalf of all the club's athletes I wish him all the very best for what lies ahead.

The goal of the OUBC remains unchanged, and we will continue to build our strength into the future in the pursuit of that goal.

Louis Corrigan OUBC Men's President

Appendix B

Amendments to Item 8 of the TT24 Wk1 OURCs Captain's Meeting Agenda

(changes from motion as appeared in the agenda in blue)

8. Change to Code of Conduct: Godstow (and Isis) Flags – Samuel McLoughlin to speak

Simple majority to pass

Change:

2.7. Definition of a Senior crew

- a. Within these rules, a Senior crew is defined as an eight or a coxed four with a cox classified as 'Senior' under <u>2.5.b</u> and at least four rowers with three full Terms' rowing experience, and not containing any rower with less than one full Term of rowing experience.
- b. With the written permission of the OURCs Secretary and the OURCs Captain of Coxes, other competent crews may be also be designated 'Senior'.
- ;
- 2.8. Rules specific to the Isis
- [...] g.
 - The Isis flag
 - [...]
 - vii. The flag may be changed when considered necessary by the OURCs committee for reasons other than the stream at Iffley Weirs. Such a change may be made in practice by any committee member, as long as the decision itself has been taken with at least one of the Secretary, Captain of Coxes, or Rowing Sabbatical, and if possible by all three in conjunction.

; and

2.9. Rules specific to Godstow

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- c. Fast stream conditions

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To (changes in red):

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- 2.8. Rules specific to the Isis
- [...] g.
 - The Isis flag
 - [...]
 - vii. The flag may be changed upwards when considered necessary by the OURCs committee for reasons other than the stream at Iffley Weirs. Such a change may be made in practice by any committee member, as long as the decision itself has been taken with at least one of the Secretary, Captain of Coxes, or Rowing Sabbatical, and if possible by all three in conjunction.

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2.9. Rules specific to Godstow

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- c. Fast stream conditions The Godstow flag

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- iv. Green Flag: no additional restrictions in force.
- v. Grey Flag: the system is not currently being maintained and all crews are responsible for referring to the EA or lock keepers for stream advice.
- vi. In circumstances where information from the St Edwards' School boatmen is out of date and the stream is flowing faster than it indicates, the flag may be changed upwards by any member of the OURCs committee, as long as the decision itself has been taken by at least one of the Secretary, Captain of Coxes, or Rowing Sabbatical Officer, and if possible by all three in conjunction.

Proposed: Samuel McLoughlin (OURCs) Seconded: Sophia Ungermann (OURCs)

Appendix C Treasurer's Report - HT24

OURCs For the 4 months ended 30 April 2024

1. Racing

We expect to make a profit on race entries. This funds other OURCs activities through the year.

Expenses include launch fuel, medics and food for race desk helpers.

	JAN-APR 2024
Racing	
Isis Winter League Entry Fees	(1,322.00)
Isis Winter League Expenses	399.82
Total Racing	(922.18)

2. Swim Tests

We expect to break even on swim tests. The cost of pool hire is divided between the tests and distributed to the clubs.

As pool hire has not yet been paid, this appears as a profit.

The treasurer may include SuperSAAS subscription costs in swim test fees.

	JAN-APR 2024
Swim tests	
Swim test fees	(3,194.30)
Swim Test Expenses	2,291.00
Total Swim tests	(903.30)

3. Lifejackets

This term, OURCs organised the servicing of life jackets for the college clubs, City of Oxford Rowing Club and OURCs. OURCs covered the cost of collection and return with the servicing costs being past on directly to the clubs.

The cost of maintenance of OURCs life jackets is taken from our budget.

OURCs also acquired new life jackets to replace ones which failed. This was necessary to run events. These costs are in the "Lifejackets" account.

Both accounts should show a loss.

JAN-APR 2024

Lifejackets

4. Fines

Race day and training fines are issued and collected by OURCs in accordance with the constitution.

No one really rowed but thank you to those who did row and didn't get fined :)

JAN-APR 2024

Fines	
Racing Fines	(600.00)
Training Fines	(60.00)
Total Fines	(660.00)

5. Launches

We need RYA2 qualified launch drivers to run events. This term we trained 6 new launch drivers. Trainees were selected based on the potential longevity of their commitment to OURCs events.

	JAN-APR 2024
Launches	
RYA and Training	1,987.34
Launch Expenses	945.00
Total Launches	2,932.34

6. Subscriptions, consumables and one-offs

Spectrum licensing for radio repeaters, accounting software subscription, AWS website hosting,

	JAN-APR 2024
Assorted tech costs	
IT Subscriptions and Consumables	771.74
Total Assorted tech costs	771.74

7. Assets

OURCs assets

Assets	
Computer Equipment	3,578.07
Launches	5,171.00
Cannons	2,975.36
Cannon Shot	4,400.00
Total Assets	16,124.43

8. Other

Torpids and eights expenses are payments and repayments for use of the Isis Boathouse.

Repairs & maintenance is a payment made in error which is being passed back the the Sports Federation.

JAN-APR 2024

JAN-APR 2024

9. Other

	JAN-APR 2024
Interest Income	(55.97)
Torpids Expenses	1,034.64
General Expenses	124.98
Total Other	1,103.65