



O U R C s

Captain's Meeting Minutes

7pm, Thursday 1st week Michaelmas Term 2020

15th October 2020

Chair: Alexander Bebb (OURCs President)

1. Register and Welcome

Attendance:

College Clubs: 63

Squads: 1

OURCs Committee: 8

Total Voting Body: 72

Secretary (Jack Woodward): The function of OURCs is to support rowing within the university, to organise competition and to assist clubs to maintain a safe approach to rowing. We want college captains to hold us to that, and to have an open line of communication with OURCs in which they feel like they can bring up and address any of their concerns. The secretary should be the main point of contact for captains for general enquiries or race-related questions. They can be contacted on secretary@ourcs.co.uk.

Treasurer (Vivian Leong): Captains can contact the Treasurer with questions regarding fines, affiliation fees, etc. The Treasurer can be contacted at treasurer@ourcs.co.uk.

Captain of Coxes (Thomas Surridge): Captains can contact the CoC for coxing status upgrades, information about briefings or general coxing enquiries at coxing@ourcs.co.uk.

Webmaster (Ty Rallens): Captains can contact the webmaster at webmaster@ourcs.co.uk for mail list, website or general online systems enquiries.

Sabbatical Officer (Beth Carter): Captains can contact the sab at sabbatical@ourcs.co.uk with any safety or general enquiries.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting

- Available at: <https://ourcs.co.uk/organisation/meetings/>

3. Matters Arising

- **Affiliation Fees** – Vivian Leong (OURCs/St Hughs) to speak

Clubs are charged affiliation fees once per year to cover the cost of the Rowing Sabbatical Officer, and these invoices will be sent following this meeting. Due to COVID the previous Sabbatical Officer (Jo Egan) was furloughed, and so the cost of affiliation fees has decreased to £33.50 per boat that competed in Summer Eights 2019. Clubs should pay these in a timely fashion to ensure that no one is disaffiliated.

4. Squad Reports

OUBC

The 2021 squad is off to an encouraging start despite a few setbacks due to COVID – late arrivals and continued adaptation to new rules and regulations. The squad's mentality is optimistic and upbeat despite the uncertainty and looming issues with the pandemic.

We've had a couple weekends at the national team facilities at Caversham, getting in some early seat racing and selection. We currently have enough athletes for 3 eights, with both spare rowers and coxswains. Our goal is to run a 3rd eight throughout the entire season, something we introduced last season. This both pushes the Isis crew and offers a better development pathway for athletes.

Normally, our squad would be in preparation for Fuller Fours Head of the River. Due to the Sports Federation's Silver Committee decision to ban external competition, we are having to adapt. We will probably hold an internal race at Wallingford as a first test of speed over race distances. Trial Eights will be the next big test after our Wallingford race. There is a lot of uncertainty with the course due to the Hammersmith Bridge closure. Ideally, we will find another stretch of Tideway to race over, however, no suitable location has been yet found.

OUWBC

The squad started training on Monday the 7th of September. We started with 30 rowers and 3 coxes. Among the new squad there is a large group of returning Blues from last year. Seven of the nine athletes, including cox Costi Levy, have returned to take their shot at Cambridge. Additionally, we have two Osiris 2020 returners. Near the end of pre-season the squad completed their 5k tests and overall had a strong showing.

Due to Covid-19 precautions, we have split the squad into A and B training groups. Sunday pieces in the 8+'s have been going well for both boats and we are in a good position for the upcoming racing season. The squad morale is positive and the level of rowing abilities is one of our best yet. Athlete safety during the pandemic is OUWBC's top priority and adaptations by coaches and support staff have been made to ensure we can safely train.

OULRC

The squad has had a positive start to training despite the various necessary limitations imposed by Covid-19. Through Trinity term and the Summer a virtual group was organised to keep track of training and get potential athletes motivated for the season ahead. Part of this training included participation in the Oxford to Fulham fundraiser alongside the other 3 university squads, which ended up raising over £6000 for BAME junior rowers. We are excited about continuing working on outreach in the coming year with the whole rowing community at Oxford.

Pre-season began on September 14th; since then there has been a particular focus on small boats, firstly to mitigate risk of virus transmission, but also as a way to develop technical skills. Many athletes have also cycled to training to keep minibus use to a minimum. We currently have a total of 20 rowers and 3 coxes in the process, including 5 returning Blue Boat athletes and 5 from Nephthys. This represents a strong turnover from the previous year and gives the squad plenty of experience. We are also continuing to work with the Blues Performance Scheme so athletes can attend strength and conditioning sessions safely. The recent ban on competitive fixtures outside Oxford makes it hard to predict when the squad will be able to put out boats to race, and it will be disappointing if we are unable to race at Fours' Head. Despite this, we are making encouraging progress with regular competitive pieces and time trials and will continue to run these in the run up to Trial VIIIs

OUWLRC

This term, OUWLRC have welcomed a new coaching team along with many new athletes. Using our summer development programme as a springboard for the year, we have started the season strongly, despite COVID-19 restrictions. The focus on water sessions has built a strong technical foundation, with crews already showing significant progress, and erg testing has established a good baseline for the season. The start of term brings with it the start of a more regular training plan that will put us in the best possible position to race Cambridge next term.

- 5. Rowsab Ratification** – Jack Woodward to speak
- Beth Carter (New College)

No objections. Rowsab ratified.

- 6. Ratification of Ordinary Committee Members** – Jack Woodward to speak

- Tom Stewardson (Brasenose) (reappointment)
- Hannah Germain (Corpus Christi) (reappointment)
- Matilde Soares da Silva (Merton) (reappointment)
- Luke Svasti (Linacre)
- Daina Šadurska (St Cross/Wolfson)
- Natasha Smith (Worcester)
- James Marsden (Wolfson/Corpus Christi)

No objections. All ratified.

- 7. Ratification of Webmaster** – Jack Woodward to speak
- Ty Rallens (Merton) (reappointment)

No objections. Webmaster ratified.

- 8. SU Appointments** – Beth Carter to speak

- Dr Rachel Quarrel
- Dr David Locke
- Ian Maconnachie
- Caroline Barnes (completed her training Summer 2019)
- Dr Alex Woods (will be training as an SU this Winter)
- Dr Joe Hitchen (will be training as an SU this Winter)

Proposer: Dr Rachel Quarrel

Secunder: Beth Carter (OURCs)

No objections. All Ratified.

- 9. Transfers under A1.2** – Beth Carter to speak

Objections may only be made on the grounds that:

- *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*

- Thomas Holvey: St Johns to St Peters (papers in order)
- Aksel Saukko-Paavola: Linacre to St Edmund Hall (papers in order)
- Sophie Gray: Linacre to St Edmund Hall (papers in order)
- Anna Gleizer: Mansfield to St Edmund Hall (papers in order)
- Megan Chester: Brasenose to Christ Church (papers in order)
- Raphael Heim: Brasenose to Keble (papers in order)
- Alexandra Hertlein: St Catherine's to St Peter's (papers in order)
- Katherine Kowal: Hertford to Green Templeton (papers tbc)

No objections, all transfers with papers in order are effective immediately. Any with papers tbc will go through the next Captain's meeting.

10. River Closures

- **Autumn Fours**
 Sunday 8th November (5th Week) – 12:00 until Closing Time or End of Racing
Proposed: Jack Woodward (OURCs/Worcester/Osler)
Secoded: Beth Carter (OURCs)

- **Isis Winter League**
 IWL A: Sunday 1st November (4th Week) – 12:00 until Closing Time or End of Racing
 IWL B: Sunday 29th November (8th Week) – 12:00 until Closing Time or End of Racing
Proposed: Jack Woodward (OURCs/Worcester/Osler)
Secoded: Beth Carter (OURCs)

- **Nephtys Regatta**
 Friday 13th November (5th Week) – 11:00 until Closing Time or End of Racing
 Saturday 14th November (5th Week) – Opening Time until Closing Time
Proposed: Chloe Tubman (OULRC)
Secoded: Ed Lamb (OULRC)

- **Michaelmas Novice Regatta**
 Wednesday 25th November (7th Week) – 11:00 until Closing Time or End of Racing.
 Thursday 26th November (7th Week) – 11:00 until Closing Time or End of Racing.
 Friday 27th November (7th Week) – 11:00 until Closing Time or End of Racing.
 Saturday 28th November (7th Week) – Opening Time until Closing Time
Proposed: James Marsden (Wolfson/OURCs)
Secoded: Lauren Wilburn (Linacre)

The river closures were voted on as a whole. There were 54 responses in total; 49 votes in favour, 5 abstentions. Motions pass.

11. Michaelmas Novice Regatta – James Marsden to speak

Linacre and Wolfson College Boat Clubs have volunteered to host a Michaelmas novice regatta in light of Christ Church's announcement that they do not have the capacity to run an event alongside

their pandemic response. Given this partnership having not historically run these events, and therefore the lack of a pre-existing budget for costs, they would like to bring the following motion:

- ***Linacre and Wolfson College Boat Clubs would like to request that OURCs underwrites the 2020 Michaelmas Novice Regatta for a maximum of £500. This would be matched by the combined contributions of Linacre and Wolfson College Boat Clubs. In return for this, 50% of the profits of the event would go to OURCs.***

Out of courtesy to the captains, they would also like to request the following permissions. These, under OURCs rules do not need a formal vote, but they would like an indication of support from the captains on:

- ***Use of the OURCs equipment for the running of the regatta, as usually granted to Christ Church for their regattas.***
- ***Use of the OURCs Captains' Mailing list (via the OURCs secretary), to send information and a survey to the captains on what the clubs want from this event.***

This motion has been given the necessary permissions from the OURCs Secretary, Sabbatical officer and Treasurer. The Captain of Coxes has also been consulted and has given his support.

Proposed: James Marsden (Wolfson/OURCs)

Seconded: Lauren Wilburn (Linacre)

One of the captains raised the question of who (within or outside the university) has the capacity to refuse permission for this event to take place, and where do they stand currently. It was explained that a number of people can veto the event if they wish. The Environment Agency are exclusively concerned with safety on the water, they have received the event plan and seem happy with the safety measures in place. With respect to internal university authorities (such as the Proctors and Sports Safety) more detailed conversations will be taking place in the coming week, so organisers should be in a position to provide more firm answers after this. The event can also be stopped by OURCs and the Sabbatical Officer, however these people are on board with the event as long as they are confident it can be run safely. Finally, the event can be stopped by the captains if they vote against it. Captain/Senior Members of clubs can also refuse to enter if they so wish.

A further question was raised about what makes the organisers confident that they can run this event when Christ Church felt like they couldn't. David Locke replied that a lot of this comes down to the consortium of experience when it comes to organisation, and the organisers having more general experience of dealing with bodies such as Sports Safety and the Proctors. Further, having more clubs/colleges involved in organisation helps to spread the risk this year. David also gave full credit to James Marsden, who has come up with a very inventive draw structure which minimises the risk on boathouse island and overcomes a lot of the perceived hurdles with respect to safety. All financial risk has been minimised as far as possible (there would be no actual financial loss/risk of loss until 6th week). The organisers argue that this is a worthwhile attempt that gives novices something to aim for.

The treasurer of OURCs also reassured captains that OURCs is not about to start bankrolling every regatta, but this is an exception because novice regattas are a key part of recruitment and maintaining engagement through competition is really important. This is especially true after the previous year of very little rowing. This will not be a regular occurrence.

Furthermore, if the event does fail and £500 does need to be paid out OURCs has sufficient reserves to cover this. OURCs is prepared and willing to do so on this occasion.

There were 53 responses for this motion, 47 votes in favour, 6 abstentions. Motion passes.

12. Adaptive Rowing – Hannah Germain to speak

Hannah runs the adaptive squad at City of Oxford Rowing Club (CORC). This is a group for rowers with disabilities and they train on a Sunday morning. If anyone in a college is interested in joining, whether this be as a rower or volunteer coach, please contact Hannah at hannah.germain610@gmail.com. Please also contact Hannah if you have any further questions about this.

OURCs is also hoping to launch an adaptive squad which is directly affiliated with the University to allow rowers to feel more included in college and university rowing. OURCs are currently looking into options with regards to renting adaptive boats and insurance in order to launch this initiative and will report on this once a firmer plan is in place.

13. Swim-tests – Beth Carter to speak

Swimtests have been difficult to say the least. Slots are coming up every Sunday from 10am-2pm with 12 people being tested every 15 minutes. The sabbatical officer has been negotiating with the sports centre about getting more slots, which has been challenging due to COVID and pool demand from other sports. Initially OURCs wanted to increase the number of slots that we have on Sundays, however the department have said that this will not be possible because of challenges presented by social distancing and cleaning, etc.

The sabbatical officer has been told that we will be able to have more slots on Fridays starting from next week (the 23rd October). These will run from 2:30pm-6pm but will be slightly different to normal. The sports centre is open during this time so there will only be 6 tests every 10 minutes. Athletes will need to go through the centre and out to the track, then through the bungalow where they will sign in (everything will be signposted, and maps will be sent out). The first week will act as a trial and we may be able to negotiate more slots from there onwards. All of this information will be sent out in confirmation emails.

Key points from previous Swimtests: please turn up on time. Slots are running on the dot in order to keep groups moving and maintain distancing – so even when people turn up a couple of minutes late, they can't be squeezed in. Because of this, captains are asked to ensure that people turn up between 15 and 2 minutes early, so that the previous group will have already been taken for their test and there will not be an unnecessary build-up of people.

It was also noticed that some clubs had a lot of no-shows (i.e. more than one or two which could simply be explained by a novice missing their test). The sabbatical officer has already stressed that there are far fewer slots than normal, and multiple clubs have gotten in contact to say that they need more slots, so going forward the sabbatical officer will be asking all clubs to send a list of names of athletes who will be attending each slot. We need to ensure that as many people get tests as need them, and taking names is the fairest way to ensure that.

14. Safety/Reminders – Beth Carter to speak - COVID

OURCs guidance has gone out and we want to stress that it is guidance, we will not be rigidly enforcing these things. We know that circumstances differ hugely across clubs and we trust you to work with colleges, senior members and any other relevant parties to come up with a solution that

suits you and your athletes best. In the same breath, if any clubs are having issues with college or bursars then please get in touch, if myself or OURCs can help in any way (whether it be risk assessments or just clarifying points on our guidance) we would be more than happy to do so. Our main priority is ensuring that college rowing can actually happen in a safe way.

The OURCs guidance will change as the advice coming from BR, the university and the government changes – I will keep updating the document and will highlight any changes to you guys. Please keep sending me the names/email addresses of your appointed COVID advisors. If anyone has any questions about the guidance at all, please contact me on the sab email address and I will be more than happy to help in any way I can.

- **BR Safety Audits**

Captains are reminded to chase up whoever is responsible for completing their audit and the sabbatical officer will send regular reminders. Do try to get them done by the end of October to give the regional representative time to look over the document, recommend any changes and approve them. Again, if there are any questions do just contact the sabbatical officer.

- **Launch permissions**

COUR rule change means that captains have to send a risk assessment to the sabbatical officer and respective bursars to be approved before they can navigate a lock on yellow boards. Please note that captains do not need permission from the sabbatical officer to transit on green boards.

- **Lights/life-jackets**

Captains are reminded to ensure all coxes are wearing life jackets and boats are using suitable lights when necessary.

- **Complement**

Captains are reminded that they must always boat with a full crew unless explicit permission has been granted by the secretary.

- **Conduct**

Captains are reminded to encourage all crews and bank riders to be respectful of other river and towpath users at all times.

- **COUR rep**

The COUR rep attends COUR meetings to be an independent voice for the captains, in a usual term this would include a free sandwich lunch, hopefully that will be possible at some point. Please contact the sab or secretary if you are interested in this role.

15. AOB

- Discussion point: A4s 8+ - Jack Woodward to speak

OURCs can offer an eights category, in addition to the other categories that have historically been offered, if there is sufficient demand. OURCs want to see if this is something the captains want. They believe it is a good idea this year as so few people have had much time on the water, let alone racing experience. Captains indicated that they would be interested in a category for eights.

- E-learning – Jack Woodward to speak

There are many briefings in week leading up to bumps which is a lot to ask of people, especially given how long they last and the fact that everyone must attend at the specified time. Briefings are

being moved onto the e-learning site. This is very much a trial, if captains hate it, briefings will move back to being in person (COVID allowing). The major advantage of online briefings is that you can go through them at your own pace. The e-learning website includes information pages which covers a basic rundown of what bumps is, basic training rules, etc. If anyone has any suggestions or would like to get involved, please get in touch with Jack at secretary@ourcs.co.uk.

- Committee positions – Jack Woodward to speak

Get in touch if you would be interested in becoming an Ordinary Committee Member, or if you would like more information.

- 6th Week Torpids – Jack Woodward to speak

The secretary reminded clubs that Torpids will be happening in 6th week of Hilary Term this year, given the timing of WEHORR.

16. Extra Slots

This term we had 12 applications for extra slots, priority was given to clubs who had the greatest number of boats training on the Isis, and to those without grad college status.

Monday: Opening - 8am	St Annes
Tuesday: Opening - 8am	New
Wednesday: Opening – 8am	Univ
Thursday: Opening – 8am	Magdalen
Friday: Opening – 8am	LMH
Sunday: 1pm-3pm	Osler House
Sunday: 3pm – 5pm	St Hildas

Clubs who have received slots may swap days if they want to, but please let OURCs know so that the list can be updated.