



O U R C s

Captains' Meeting Agenda

7pm, Monday 5th week Michaelmas Term

11th November 2019

Old Hall, Mansfield

Chair: Elsebine Bolier, OUWBC Vice-President

1. Welcome

Attendance:

College boat clubs: 44
Squads: 1
OURCs Committee: 9
Absences: St Hilda's, St John's, Osler House
Total voting body: 54

2. Minutes of the last meeting

- Available at <http://ourcs.co.uk/>

3. Matters Arising

No matters arising

4. Transfers under A1.2

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*
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- a. Penny Hyde: LMH to Hertford – *papers in order*
 - b. Simen Sopp: Wadham to Wolfson – *papers in order*
 - c. Marcus Spiegel: Christ Church to St Peter's – *papers in order*
 - d. Oscar Lyons: New College to Balliol – *papers in order*

No objections

5. Amendment to Code of Conduct

Change **2.7.m** (Outing Requirements - Locks):

From:

Navigation of all locks is forbidden under red and yellow boards.

To:

Rowing crews are forbidden from navigating any locks under red or yellow boards.

And

Change **2.9.h** (Rules specific to the Isis - Coaching Launches):

From:

Coaching launches must not be used on the Isis, except with the prior permission of the OURCs Secretary.

To:

- a. Between Folly Bridge and Iffley Lock, launches may not follow or coach crews; disrupt crews or other river users; or create significant wash.
- b. The OURCs Secretary may grant an exception to the above restrictions, upon written request.

These changes aim to codify established practice from previous years that solo launches (i.e. not accompanying a crew) generally fall outside of the auspices of OURCs, with the only substantial requirement previously being that permission from the Secretary was needed for moving launches on the Isis. In two parts, the first removes a perceived ambiguity under the current rules for transiting locks, while the second provides colleges with greater flexibility in how they move their launches; provided they are not coaching and obey common courtesy.

Proposed: Joe Hitchen (OURCs)

Seconded: Paris Jagers (Merton)

Discussed that the EA boards are advisory and are set for the least powerful craft of a certain type, e.g. yellow boards corresponds to high blue flag. The river conditions judged to be safe for racing rowing boats as they are fast and powerful and the spinning areas keep them away from the most dangerous parts of the river – just upstream of weirs. However, it would not be safe for tourist boats such as the little wooden rowing boats, so the warnings are set to their level.

It was argued that launches are much faster and more manoeuvrable than other powered boats such as houseboats and so would be safe on red boards.

Reminder to captains that if the amendment passes and launches are deemed not to be covered by the rules, they will still be covered by the EA's boards, and it is likely that any accidents that occur while launches are out on red boards (e.g. an engine stalls or is damaged just upstream of a lock and the launch is swept onto a weir) will not be covered by insurance as the launch is out against EA advice.

Votes in favour: 36

Opposed: 5

Abstentions: 13

Motion passes

6. Discussion point: River closure on Saturday 16th November (5th Week) – Ty Rallens to speak

Motion:

Captains to discuss the running of Novice Nephthys given the lack of water time this term, and vote on whether to proceed as planned or open the river for regular training on Saturday, 16th November (5th week).

Background:

The river closure approved at the previous Captains Meeting extends from Opening Time until Closing Time, which means that no colleges would be able to train on the Isis that day even after Nephthys is finished. Since the weather has made training this term so difficult, it may be better for the college rowing community to leave the river open for normal training that Saturday.

The Nephthys Regatta is a fundraiser for OULRC. The proposers have no desire to reduce funding for OULRC and hope that discussion will reveal a way to still run Novice Nephthys if the community desires it.

Proposed: Ty Rallens (OURCs)

Seconded: Alex Koffman (St Hilda's)

Original discussion was being brought as most clubs have only manages to have one or two outings this term. However, as OULRC took the decision to cancel Nephthys Regatta over the weekend, this is a moot point.

OULRC explained that their decision to cancel the regatta was based on safety concerns, and that they were looking into the possibility of running the regatta in Hilary term instead if the captains would be interested. They would be aiming to run one day of racing, potentially on Saturday 1st February, with both novice and senior events running on the same day.

A question was raised as to how to define eligibility of novices – usually the definition is that they have not raced before, but if the regatta runs in Hilary, most “novices” will have raced Christ Church regatta. OULRC suggested the definition of a novice rower as someone who is in their first year of rowing and has no prior race experience before coming to Oxford (e.g. Eton bumps).

General interest from the captains, OULRC will look at the feasibility of running Nephthys next term instead.

7. AOB

a. Six year swimtest expiry – Jo Egan to speak

The rules have required a swimtest to be retaken 6 years after an athlete first passes it for a while, but with no real way to easily enforce or monitor this. Rowsab and OURCs secretary have agreed a way to enforce it with COUR:

For an athlete whose swimtest is 6 years old to continue training, their club must get confirmation from them that they can swim, as for novices doing their up to 5

outings before taking a swimtest. Training outings do not require athletes to retake their swimtest.

Athletes will need to retake their swimtest to race. This includes alumni. However, as some alumni will not be able to get back to Oxford to retake their swimtests, external swimtests by a reputable swimming centre or instructor will be accepted if the athlete has previously passed an OURCs swimtest.

Proof of external swimtests will be done in exactly the same way as external capsize drills: the instructor must email the sabbatical officer with the date that the athlete passed the test and confirmation that the athlete has demonstrated that they can swim 50m, swim 5m completely submerged, and tread water for 2 minutes, all while wearing a t-shirt with sleeves and shorts or leggings.

OURCs are looking into ways of making the Entries system show that an athlete's swimtest has expired. This requirement will come into effect at the beginning of next term.

b. Safety Audits – Jo Egan to speak

British Rowing club safety audits need to be done or British Rowing will disaffiliate the clubs, meaning their insurance through British Rowing will not continue and they will not be allowed to enter regattas, including OURCs regattas such as IWLS, Torpids, etc. Clubs who still need to do their Safety Audits are (as of 10am 14th November):

Audit submitted but not accepted (clarifications or additions required):
Regent's Park
Somerville
Mansfield

Haven't submitted audit:
Brasenose College
Christ Church
Magdalen
Merton College
New College
Osler House
St Antony's College
St Benet's Hall
St Hilda's College
Oxford University Women's Lightweight Rowing Club

c. Headship books – Jo Egan

OURCs is putting together crew lists of Headship-winning crews to go with Headship trophies. As women's trophies have not always existed, the books will go back to the beginning of Women's divisions, while the men's will start when the crews stop being engraved on the trophies.

We are missing crew lists and coaches from the following clubs:

Eights:

Wadham: 76, 78

LMH: 77

St Hugh's: Coach in 79

New College: Coach in 05

Torpids:

Hertford: 78

Wadham: 79

Jesus: 83

Osler House: 86, 88, 89, 95?, coach of 84

St Hugh's: 85

Somerville: 87, 91, 92, 93

Osler-Green: 95?, 96, 97, 98, 99

Merton: coaches of 03 and 04

New College: 05

Catz: coach of 08

If a club has had a Headship but isn't listed, OURCs already has a full crew list for it. These are taken from a combination of historic newspaper reports and Eights programmes (Anu's website), assorted blades, some publically available college magazines, alumni societies and the Entries system. Captains are welcome to send crew lists or request to see crew lists to check for accuracy – email the rowsab.

d. Christ Church regatta – Joe Lord/ChCh captains

In case captains did not see the email that was sent around, a reminder that N-status coxes will not be allowed to race at Christ Church regatta other than by individual application to the regatta captains. Any requests, queries etc. regarding Christ Church regatta 2019, please email chchregatta2019@gmail.com.