



O U R C S

# Captains' Meeting Agenda

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> week Trinity Term 2023

7.00pm, 18<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Doctorow Hall, St Edmund Hall

Chair: Ella Stadler (OUWBC)

1. **Welcome**
2. **Minutes of the Last Meeting**  
Available at [www.ourcs.co.uk](http://www.ourcs.co.uk)
3. **Matters Arising**  
No matters arising
4. **COUR Report** – Natasha Smith to speak
5. **Transfers under A1.2** – Natasha Smith to speak

*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

*Under A1.2.a:*

- Nina Djukanovicova – Jesus to Linacre (papers in order)

6. **Extension of Student Status** – Natasha Smith to speak  
*Two-thirds majority to pass*

**Charles Buchanan (Pembroke):** Charlie has recently submitted his corrections and is expecting to receive his leave to supplicate shortly after summer 8s. We would like to apply for an extension in case he receives leave to supplicate early, up until the 28th of May.

*Proposed: Thomas Johnston (Pembroke)*

*Seconded: Nik Baya (Pembroke)*

7. **Associate to row in Senior Divisions under A3.5.1.d** – Hazel Bott to speak  
*Simple majority to pass*

William Lanthier-Rogers (Merton) and Santiago Castiello (St Anne's) to row in St Anne's first (and only) boat. William would row on Wednesday and Thursday, Santiago for Friday and Saturday of Summer Eights.

"Due to a few of our Anne's M1 having exams in 5<sup>th</sup> week, we are short of rowers for a couple days of racing. Therefore, we would really appreciate having these two people row with us as associates. Given that our M1 is in a senior division (div 3) we need permission for this, but we don't have an

M2 so this is our lowest men's boat. Without these guys we won't be able to get an M1 out so please help us out"

*Proposed: Hazel Bott (St Anne's)*

*Seconded: Jemima Bird (St Anne's)*

## 8. **Amendment to the rules of racing** – Holly Haines to speak

*Two-thirds majority to pass*

This amendment is intended for those who have actively participated in college rowing in the past e.g. as undergraduate or DPhil students, and have become post docs hired by a University Department. These 'Postdoctoral Research Associate' contracts usually do not provide a postdoc with a new college from which they could transfer back to their original college boat club under the current rules.

Under the current transfer rules, a post doc with a college affiliation ('Junior Research Fellow' / 'JRF') is permitted to transfer back to a previous college, so the intent of this amendment is simply making that rule uniform to all post docs regardless of contract type.

This amendment does not allow post docs with no previous college rowing association to transfer to a club. The amendment is further targeted to a small number of dedicated individuals by the stipulation that the post doc must have been an active / senior member of their previous club, as defined by at least three terms of membership, attested by the captains of that club in the transfer request.

Rule addition to A1.2. regarding transfers (in red):

### A1.2. Transfers

[...]

- d. Where a Postdoctoral Research Associate associated with a University department, without a respective college boat club, has been a student member of College Boat Club A (as defined in A1.1.a.i.1) for at least three full terms and wishes to have membership of College Boat Club A, they may be transferred by the following procedure:
  - i. The Research Associate must provide to the OURCs Sabbatical Officer:
    1. Their name;
    2. Details of the type of University card they hold, and the number;
    3. Written permission of the captains of College Boat Club A, including confirmation of their previous status as a student member for at least three terms.
    4. Proof of academic status, including the finishing date for their departmental contract.
  - ii. At the next Captain's Meeting, the OURCs Sabbatical Officer will include a list of transfers requested under this section on the agenda that have been received before the publishing of that agenda.
  - iii. At the next Captain's Meeting, the captains will be given the opportunity to register their objection to the transfer. Objections may only be based upon one of the following:
    1. The individual is not a Postdoctoral Research Associate employed by a University department; or

2. The Research Associate has not been a student member of College Boat Club A (as defined in [A1.1.a.i.1](#)).
- iv. In the event of an objection, the OURCs Sabbatical Officer will resolve whether or not the transfer can be brought under this section. This must be resolved before the end of the meeting in which the motion was raised.
- v. Transfers have effect from the end of the Captain's Meeting at which they are announced by the OURCs Sabbatical Officer.

*Proposed: Eimear Conroy (Christ Church)*

*Seconded: Holly Haines (Christ Church)*

**9. Amendment to the Rules of Racing – Hamish Tynan to speak**

*Two-thirds majority to pass*

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: Why are you putting forward this motion?

A: As a principle, we believe that students or fellows who have experienced serious and unresolvable welfare issues should be able to fully participate in college rowing. We also know several people who have unfortunately been the victims of such welfare issues, both within and outside our club, and we believe that it is worth providing them with the right to fully participate in college rowing.

Q: Could boat clubs abuse this article to stack college crews?

A: No. Due to the extremely high standards for evidence, only a small number of students or fellows will be eligible for transfer under this article. Students or fellows must provide, in writing, from their Dean or similar, evidence of "The existence of a documented conflict which resulted in a Decanal investigation that concluded the student was the victim of this conflict", and the Dean's opinion that "the investigated conflict is sufficiently serious and unresolvable such that the student is unable to row with College Boat Club A for concerns of their welfare." Given the small number of students or fellows who will be able to reach this evidential threshold, it is highly unlikely that this motion could be abused. To ensure abuse does not occur, aside from a high evidential threshold, a further safeguard has also been included. For a period of 5 years after its introduction, Captains will have the opportunity to repeal this article with a majority vote (instead of the normally required two-thirds majority) if they suspect it is being abused.

Q: Could Deans or similar use this article to stack their college crews?

A: No. The Dean or similar of College A can only provide written evidence to release students from College A, and a crew of College A cannot be stacked by releasing students or fellows from College A. Furthermore, written proof is required from two senior College officials tasked with sensitive disciplinary and welfare roles whereby "rubber-stamping" documents or even making false claims may be considered a serious professional breach.

Q: Have you consulted any Deans about this?

A: Yes. We reached out to multiple Deans and they said the change is a good idea, which is pragmatic and achievable from a decanal perspective. In their opinion, the likelihood of someone organising a meeting with their college Dean, falsely claiming harassment, just to row with another boat club is extremely remote. They also said that they cannot imagine there would be a pushback from Deans.

Q: Will this article breach the privacy of students who have been the victim of welfare issues? A: No. The article explicitly states that “At no point should the College officials or the student be expected to provide any confidential information relating to the underlying issue”. Furthermore, the names of students released under this article are not listed in the minutes for Captain’s Meetings.

Q: Why not make the victims of welfare issues race as associates?

A: If we only allow the victims of welfare issues to race as associates, we victimise them twice over. Not only have they experienced a serious and unresolvable welfare issue, but we also force them to race in the lowest boat of a college. People should not suffer from the serious

issues this motion addresses in the first place; if they do, there is no reason why this fact should restrict them to rowing in a college's lowest boat. Survivors of welfare issues should have the right to **fully** participate in college rowing, which includes fighting for selection to higher boats, a key part of the experience for anyone with a competitive streak.

Q: What welfare issues would count as sufficiently serious?

A: A serious issue one that required official College intervention.

Q: Could a student falsely claim harassment and incite a Decanal investigation in order to row elsewhere?

A: No. The Decanal investigation needs to conclude that the student was in fact the victim, and this is highly unlikely if the claim is false. Furthermore, the university harassment policy describes victimisation as a form of harassment itself, which carries serious repercussions, up to and including criminal charges.

Q: Why should students have the right to join a club of their choosing? A: This option already exists for students who are at a college without an affiliated College Boat Club, the existing rule under which students affected by our motion would be able to transfer. Because of the significant barriers required for release, we do not expect there to be many more transfers under this section in the long term.

Q: Why have you removed the article which gives captains a vote on a case-by-case basis? A: We were originally torn on whether to include such an option. Whilst it creates additional fail-safes to prevent abuse, it also creates a climate where a student might feel obligated to share more than what they are required to or comfortable with in order to win such a vote. The addition of the five-year option for repeal adequately replaces this case-by-case failsafe.

Rule addition to A1.2. regarding transfers (in red), changes from TT23 wk2 in blue:

#### A1.2. Transfers

[...]

- d. Where a bona fide student, visiting student, or fellow eligible under A1.1.a.ii.1 of college A is unable to row in OURCs competitions with College Boat Club because of an unresolvable conflict that causes a serious welfare reason documented by the Dean and Senior Tutor, or equivalent, of College A and wishes to be released from their ties to College Boat Club A, they may do so by the following procedure:
  - i. The student or fellow must provide to the OURCs Sabbatical Officer:
    1. Their name;
    2. Their written, and undersigned, request to be released under this rule;
    3. Details of the type of University card they hold, and the number;
    4. Written permission of the captains of College Boat Club A-

5. Proof of academic status, including the finishing date for their course of study or fellowship. An enrolment certificate signed by the Senior Tutor, or equivalent, will be acceptable.
- ii. The respective College officials ultimately responsible for disciplinary matters (e.g. Dean) and welfare issues (e.g. Supervising Welfare Lead) at College A must provide to the OURCs Sabbatical Officer and a Senior Umpire:
  1. The existence of a documented conflict which resulted in a Decanal investigation that concluded the student was not at fault for this conflict.
  2. Their opinion that the investigated conflict is sufficiently serious and unresolvable such that the student is unable to row with College Boat Club A for concerns of their welfare.
  3. In the event of refusal to give permission by the captains of College Boat Club A, the respective officials may provide this in their stead.
  4. If both the disciplinary and welfare roles at College A are held by the same individual, the College's Senior Tutor must additionally sign off the documentation. This means that, at a minimum, two Senior College officials must undersign the above.
- iii. At no point should the College officials or the student be expected to provide any confidential information relating to the underlying issue.
- iv. The release will have effect immediately when they are announced by the OURCs Sabbatical Officer. The student or fellow will no longer be eligible to row with college A in OURCs events except as an associate member, and will be considered a student of a College without a respective Boat Club, making them eligible for transfer under A1.2.b.
- v. The requirement under A1.2b. for a student to not have previously competed in an OURCs event is voided in the event of a release by this article A1.2.d.
- vi. From the date of introduction of this article A1.2.d there will be a 5 year period during which a Captains Meeting may repeal this article with a majority vote. This supersedes article A1.2.e and may be done in the event of suspected abuse but requires no evidence thereof.
- e. Any motion to amend the above rules must be brought in accordance with the procedural rules associated with a constitutional alteration under 1.11.5.

*Proposed: Hamish Tynan (St Hugh's)*

*Seconded: Erika Dutton (St Edmund Hall), Georgia Macfarlane (St Hugh's)*

#### 10. **Amendment to the Rules of Racing** - Q Sun to speak:

*Two-thirds majority to pass*

A1.1: Definitions and A1.2: Transfers within the Rules of Racing are the basis upon which the majority of racing and, crucially, Bumps racing can occur. Amendments to these sections of the Rules of Racing should be brought to the attention of the Captains with plenty of time before a vote is to be held in order to consider implications, wording, and improvements.

Placing amendments to these crucial rules within A1.1 and A1.2 will allow at least 48 hours' notice to all Captains on the exact wording of amendments, while keeping the two-thirds majority required to pass the vote.

Captains are reminded that the clauses of 1.11 of concern are as follows:

1.11: Alteration to the Constitution and Code of Conduct

[...]

- c. Changes to the Constitution, Code of Conduct and the Rules of Racing, other than those listed in 1.11.1 and 1.11.2, may only be made at a Captains' Meeting.
- d. Proposed alterations to the Constitution must appear as an item on the agenda circulated at least 48 hours before the Meeting.
- e. Motions to alter the Constitution require a 2:1 majority of those in favour to those against, and an overall majority of those present and eligible to vote.
- f. Alterations to the Code of Conduct and Rules of Racing require a simple majority.

*Change:*

A1.1: Definitions

[...]

- d. Any motion to amend the above rules must be brought in accordance with the procedural rules associated with a constitutional alteration under 1.11.5.

*, and:*

A1.2: Transfers

[...]

- d. Any motion to amend the above rules must be brought in accordance with the procedural rules associated with a constitutional alteration under 1.11.5.

*to (changes in red):*

A1.1: Definitions

[...]

- d. Any motion to amend the above rules must be brought in accordance with the procedural rules associated with a constitutional alteration under 1.11.~~5~~.

*, and:*

A1.2: Transfers

[...]

- d. Any motion to amend the above rules must be brought in accordance with the procedural rules associated with a constitutional alteration under 1.11.~~5~~.

*Proposed: Q Sun (OURCs)*

*Seconded: Natasha Smith (OURCs)*

11. **Amendment to the Rules of Racing** - Q Sun to speak:

*Two-thirds majority to pass*

Currently, A1.1.i.1.c allows students who have received leave to supplicate (*i.e.* formal completion of a degree) to continue to be Full Members of a college boat club provided the Captains vote to their 'extension of student status'.

The spirit in which this rule was written was that students that may receive their leave to supplicate at some point between a held Captains' Meeting and Bumps, or, perhaps, shortly before a held Captains' Meeting, may continue to compete with their clubs unaffected by this uncertainty. However, as detailed above, the current rules do not reflect this.

This amendment would place the rule back in line with the original spirit of the rule.

*Change:*

A1.1: Definitions

- a. Members of College Boat Clubs are classified either as:
  - i. Student members
    1. Bona fide students (in accordance with University Statute II) of their respective college(s), until such time as:
      - a. they leave or suspend their course of study – in extraordinary circumstances and with the written approval of the college's Senior Tutor, this period may be extended to a given date by a majority vote at a Captain's Meeting; or
      - b. a pass list or class list marking the end of the course is published; or
      - c. leave to supplicate for the degree is granted. In extraordinary circumstances, this period may be extended to a given date by a majority vote at a Captain's Meeting.

to (*changes in red*):

A1.1: Definitions

- b. Members of College Boat Clubs are classified either as:
  - i. Student members
    1. Bona fide students (in accordance with University Statute II) of their respective college(s), until such time as:
      - a. they leave or suspend their course of study – in extraordinary circumstances and with the written approval of the college's Senior Tutor, this period may be extended to a given date by a majority vote at a Captain's Meeting; or
      - b. a pass list or class list marking the end of the course is published; or
      - c. leave to supplicate for the degree is granted. In extraordinary circumstances **where leave to supplicate may be granted unusually quickly after the viva**, this period may be extended to **a given date the last day of the Bumps regatta in the current term** by a majority vote at a

Captain's Meeting, provided that leave to supplicate was not granted earlier than the last day of the Full Term before that in which the Captains' Meeting is held.

*Proposed: Q Sun (OURCs)*

*Seconded: Natasha Smith (OURCs)*

## 12. Ratification of Club Safety Reviews - Natasha Smith to speak

- Wolfson - £60
- St Edmund Hall- £50

## 13. AOB

- Captains' training day - Rachel Quarrell to speak
- Eligibility and Associate/ Full Member checks – Q Sun to speak
- Conduct around racedesk – Senior Umpire to speak
- **Transfers under A1.2** – Natasha Smith to speak

*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*

*Under A1.2.a:*

*- Divya Agarwal –Brasenose to Pembroke (papers in order)*

- Lightening the mood before Bumps – Q Sun to speak