



**O U R C s**

# Captains' Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 8th Week, Trinity Term

17:30, 18<sup>th</sup> June 2025

Doctorow Hall, St Edmund Hall

Chair: Oscar Hayden (Balliol/OURCs)

Additions in blue

Removals in ~~red~~

Friendly amendments in purple – ~~struck through~~ if removed.

Minutes in bold and blue

## 1. **Welcome**

College Club Attendees: 41

Voting OURCs Members: 4

Absences from Corpus Christi, Exeter, Osler House and Reuben

It was resolved that in the absence of the Chair, Oscar Hayden would chair the meeting.

## 2. **Minutes of the Last Meeting**

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

## 3. **Matters Arising**

No matters arising.

## 4. **Update on Oxford Governance Review** – Charles Orton to speak

Mark Blandford-Baker, the Chair of the Governance Review, introduced himself. He introduced the terms of reference of the review, namely that it would look at the relation between COUR and OURCs – and separating OUBC's safety from OURCs.

It would also look at the coherence of rowing governance, and the macro view of structures within Oxford rowing. While it wasn't to focus on the minute details such as flag status, Mark acknowledges that not all minute factors were separable and the review was open to making recommendations if it came to light during the review that certain things would be productive.

Charlie would be holding a session at New College at 12:30 on the 19<sup>th</sup> June and encouraged everyone to email him if they wished to attend. Any other questions can be directed to him, and he'll pass them on to Mark.

## 5. Ratification of Ordinary Committee Members – Jack Davies to speak

- Jack Davies (St Hilda's)
- Oscar Hayden (Balliol)
- Thomas Surridge (Mansfield)
- Suzanne Lim (University)
- Elise Bastid (Merton)
- Georgia Douglas (Pembroke)

Proposed: Jack Davies (St Hilda's/OURCs)

Seconded: Samuel Schipper (New/OURCs)

**For: 45**

**Abstentions: 0**

**Against: 0**

**It was resolved that Oscar's term will commence at the end of his contract as Rowing Sabbatical Officer. Jack's term will commence upon his resignation as Secretary.**

## 6. Election for OURCs Treasurer

Julia Bellardo (Balliol)

Proposer: Sam Schipper (New/OURCs)

Seconded: James Hopkinson (Queen's/OUBC/OURCs)

**Julia Bellardo: 45 votes**

**RON: 0 votes**

**Julia Bellardo was elected OURCs Treasurer for 2025/2026**

## 7. Changes to the Code of Conduct – Alex Rigamonti to speak

### 2.1 Definitions

[...]

i. A crew is a rowing craft comprising of one or more athletes with or without a cox.

j. City side is regarded as the left bank of the Isis, when facing downstream.

k. County side is regarded as the right bank of the Isis, when facing downstream.

### 2.6 Outing Requirements

[...]

d. Unless local circulation dictates otherwise, crews must keep as far to the starboard side of the river as is safe and practicable. Overtaking crews should:

### 2.8 Rules Specific to the Isis

[...]

m. Other Closures

i. Member Clubs are required to abide by any river closures agreed at a Captains' Meeting. ~~Crews may be exempted from such closures, for the purpose of transiting, with the written permission of the OURCs Secretary.~~

ii. In a case of emergency, or where action is required to assist the work of the emergency services or local authorities, the Sabbatical Officer may close a section of the river to OURCs members. Closures are to be imposed only to the extent that safety demands.

## 2.9 Rules Specific to Godstow

[...]

### d. Coxes

Coxes of crews on the Godstow stretch between the first Coxing Registration Meeting of Term and the end of Term must be registered members of OUCS, and must carry their OUCS coxing permit, or other suitable identification, at all times whilst coxing.

### e. Other Closures

i. Member Clubs are required to abide by any river closures agreed at a Captains' Meeting. ~~Crews may be exempted from such closures, for the purpose of transiting, with the written permission of the OURCs Secretary.~~

ii. In a case of emergency, or where action is required to assist the work of the emergency services or local authorities, the Sabbatical Officer may close a section of the river to OURCs members. Closures are to be imposed only to the extent that safety demands.

## 2.8 Rules specific to the Isis

[...]

### a. Scheduled Closures

i. In addition to the rules above, no member of a Member Club may row (out of courtesy to other river users), ~~except for the purpose of transiting, with the written consent of the Captains of Oxford Amateur RC, City of Oxford RC and Falcon RC which must be sent to the Secretary at least 24 hours prior to the transit,~~ between the following times:

1. between 08:00 and 13:00 on Sundays, and;
2. after 19:00 on Wednesdays.

ii. Crews may be exempted from the closures under 2.8.a.i for the purpose of transiting, with the written consent of the Captains of Oxford Amateur RC, City of Oxford RC, and Falcon RC, which must be sent to the Secretary at least 24 hours prior to the transit.

## 2.7 Definition of Senior Crews

[...]

b. With the written permission of the OURCs Secretary and the OURCs Captain of Coxes, other competent crews may ~~be~~ also be designated as 'Senior'. The OURCs Secretary must keep a record of crews who have been granted this status, and the status may only be revoked after a Club Safety Review following a serious incident.

## 2.8 Rules Specific to the Isis

[...]

j. Iffley lock

i. ~~Crews may go through Iffley lock only under a green flag, and during the hours between Sunrise and Sunset.~~

~~ii.~~ Crews who intend to transit Iffley lock should wait for the lock to fill below the white Isis Boathouse post.

*Proposer: Alex Rigamonti (Univ)*

*Seconder: Rob Doane-Solomon (Pembroke)*

**Friendly amendments were proposed to remove the OURCs Secretary's power to exempt from Captains' Meeting closures until discussed with the City Clubs.**

### **Friendly Amendments:**

**For: 45**

**Abstentions: 0**

**Against: 0**

### **Motion:**

**For: 44**

**Abstentions: 1**

**Against: 0**

**Motion passed with amendments.**

## ~~1.10 OURCs Committee Meetings~~

~~a. Only a formally convened Meeting of the OURCs Committee has the interim power to interpret the Constitution, Code of Conduct, and Rules of Racing. The Committee must publish the minutes of the meeting where they made their interim interpretation and then attempt to codify their interpretation at the next Captains' Meeting.~~

~~*Proposer: Alex Rigamonti (Univ)*~~

~~*Seconder: Rob Doane-Solomon (Pembroke)*~~

**This motion was withdrawn.**

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## 2.5. Additional requirements for coxswains:

[...]

d. Coxes may be granted 'experienced' status after 3 full terms coxing, ~~upon confirmation~~ through an application made to the OURCs Captain of Coxes from their Club confirming that they have met this requirement and can cox to a sufficient standard. Outcomes of applications received prior to Sunday of 0th Week must be communicated no later than Friday of 1st Week. If an application is denied, an assessment should be organised at the earliest possible opportunity. Early promotion to 'experienced' status, via an assessment, may be considered upon written application.

e. Coxes wishing to be accorded 'senior' status must apply in writing to the Captain of Coxes, detailing their experience. ~~Applications will normally only be considered from coxes with at least 6 full terms coxing, unless otherwise referred by another cox who has been granted 'senior' status.~~

Proposer: Alex Rigamonti (Univ)

Seconder: Bradley Croucher (St John's)

It was asked why this time limit was being brought. Alex said that the time frames for auto-upgrades had varied this year, with some in Hilary being answered within a week and some in Trinity taking up to four. The aim was to add a time cap to give a specific period for auto-upgrades.

It was asked how this would be enforced, and it was accepted that it would operate the same way that other requirements for OURCs would.

Jack pointed out that if you submit auto-upgrades on time under this system, there will be a fast response, but you could be waiting until the next term if they were submitted after the deadline.

A friendly amendment was accepted to remove the final sentence.

For: 45

Abstentions: 0

Against: 0

Motion:

For: 40

Abstentions: 3

## Against: 2

### The motion passes with amendments.

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#### 2.11 Breaches of the Code of Conduct

[...]

ii. Serious incidents...

[...]

3. The Club Safety Review may impose fines and or further sanctions on the club(s) involved. Examples include, but are not limited to: recommending suspension or endorsement of the status of cox(es) to the Captain of Coxes, banning crews from the river and/or from OURCs races and/or giving time or position penalties in any OURCs event to the crew(s) involved. The default ~~maximum~~ fine for a serious incident is £50, but the Committee may depart from this within reason to account for the specific circumstances of each serious incident. Position penalties may only be incurred under the same rules that govern Technical Bumps and Penalty Bumps (A3.16 and A3.17 respectfully in the Rules of Racing). The decision of the Committee comes into effect immediately but is subject to ratification at the next Captains Meeting. ~~No training ban or penalty which affects athletes' circumstances of participation in upcoming OURCs events may come into effect before ratification unless decided otherwise by unanimous decision of the Senior Umpires.~~

4. The minutes of Club Safety Reviews will be circulated to and approved by all those present before being reported to a Captains' Meeting for ratification. In the event that the decision is not presented or fails ratification at the next Captains Meeting (assuming that that meeting is at least 24 hours after the minutes are approved by all those present), the penalties are considered to be overturned. The Committee may then reconvene and amend the penalties imposed and resubmit them for ratification at the following Captains Meeting.

e. Violations of any river closures, or restrictions described above, shall at the discretion of the OURCs Committee, either:

i. incur a £10 fine for the first offence of this nature in the academic year, but double for each additional offence of any scheduled restrictions within the same academic year, or;

ii. ~~depending on the duration of the violation, intent, and response to possible notification of the violation by bystanders,~~ be regarded as a serious incident.

[...]

g. ~~Coxes~~ The cox of the crew involved in the incident may (in addition to the fine) face endorsement, or in particularly serious cases withdrawal, of the permit of the cox concerned.

~~i. Ordinarily, a cox who achieved a given status through an assessed upgrade will face endorsement to the status immediately below for a period of 4 weeks. In these cases, it is expected that endorsements that can be reversed only by assessment are to be used exclusively in very extreme circumstances with major safety implications or if the cox in question has faced a 4-week endorsement in the prior 3 consecutive terms. In~~

~~the event that the cox in question achieved their current status through methods other than an assessment, endorsements that can be reversed only by assessment may apply in the first instance.~~

If a coxing endorsement is deemed necessary, the standard for coxes who have previously achieved 'Experienced' or 'Senior' status by assessment is a temporary downgrade of four weeks, unless the incident had very severe safety implications. If a cox was auto-upgraded or awarded their status upon registration, a permanent endorsement subject to an assessment may be given in the first instance.

~~ii. Any cox whose has faced endorsement that can be reversed only by assessment must be placed at the top of any wait list for an assessment in the next term~~ given an assessment opportunity by the end of the next full coxing term.

~~iii.~~ iii. Coxes whose permit is endorsed more than 3 times in any 3 consecutive terms shall have their permits withdrawn for the rest of the term in which the fourth endorsable offence occurred and for the entirety of the subsequent term.

~~iv.~~ iv. Following a period of disqualification, coxes whose permit has been withdrawn shall have to satisfy the OURCs Captain of Coxes that they are competent to cox before they may reapply for their permit.

h. Appeals against fines or other penalties...

i. Appeals against ~~fines~~ penalties must be registered with the OURCs Treasurer within one week of their issue.

ii. The OURCs Treasurer shall take evidence from the college concerned and the OURCs Committee Member(s) who were involved in the original ~~fine~~ penalty.

[...]

iv. If a club wishes to appeal to the OURCs Senior Member, they must state this in writing to the Senior Member, with supporting evidence, within 48 hours of the original appeal result. Such appeals will only be considered on the grounds **that the penalties imposed are excessive or disproportionate**, or that OURCs rules have been mis-applied. **Appeals of the** latter type must state the rule mis-applied.

*Proposer: Alex Rigamonti (Univ)*

*Seconder: Sascha Frey (St Hugh's)*

**This motion was intended to codify parts of the CSR process, which have not been clear outside of the rules.**

**It was asked if colleges' would be expected to attend the reconvened CSR. It was suggested that if ratification had failed there would have been significant discussion at the Captains' Meeting and it would not be necessary, but the option should be open if they wish to attend.**

**Friendly amendments were suggested to remove the priority for downgraded coxes to be offered one in the next term, and to have all consequences apply immediately.**

**Friendly Amendments:**

For: 45

Abstentions: 0

Against: 0

Motion:

For: 40

Abstentions: 3

Against: 2

The motion passes with amendments.

## 8. **Changes to the Constitution** – Multiple parties to speak

*Two thirds majority to pass any motion, otherwise the status quo will persist.*

### 1.6.OURCs Committee

iii.the Treasurer, whose duties are to:

[...]

6.~~assess and distribute fine income to the University Boat Clubs, and;~~ “convene a meeting of a panel, by process agreed at a Captains’ Meeting, to distribute fine income with fines for the preceding academic year agreed and distributed by Friday of 6th Week in the following Michaelmas Term”

This motion also comes with Appendix A.

Proposer: David Seale (Linacre/OURCs)

Seconder: Connor Philp (St Hugh’s/OURCs)

### 1.6 OURCs Committee

[...]

6. assess and distribute fine income ~~to the University Boat Clubs, and;~~ to reduce per crew affiliation fees charged to member clubs (unless decided otherwise by a two-thirds majority in a Captains’ Meeting), and;

Proposer: Sascha Frey (St Hugh’s)

Seconder: Charlie Orton (New College)

As these motions conflicted, they were considered together.

Connor spoke for the first motion, stating that the plan was to arrange a panel, proposing the exact method in the next CM to replace the clause “process agreed at a Captains’ Meeting”, although Appendix A emailed out indicated an idea of what might be brought.



Sascha then spoke for the second motion, although indicated he liked the other proposal as well. The benefits of the second motion as opposed to the first were to have a solid guaranteed option.

It was asked whether affiliation fee discounts would create an incentive to dob every other club in, to reduce your own – as you would “win” if you had relatively less fines. This was acknowledged as a potential problem.

It was asked if this heavily benefitted large clubs with more affiliation fees, as they would have their fees reduced by a higher amount. It was also asked if this benefitted clubs that trained off-Isis as they would likely receive less fines due to less rules relating to Godstow, Abingdon and Wallingford. It was argued in return that smaller clubs would benefit as they’d likely get fined less and also pointed out that training fines were less numerous than racing fines.

It was asked if the panel could consider reducing affiliation fees, and it was confirmed that they could. The benefit was to avoid a committee, which is not a rare beast in Oxford.

It was argued that this would reduce the burden of a year which has had a large number of fines, but in return it was argued that large financial swings can be a problem and for some smaller clubs this could create problems in a year with less fines. It was also pointed out that clubs with financial problems should contact David Seale as Senior Treasurer to discuss with OURCs – the purpose of OURCs was not to bankrupt clubs.

It was also argued that this would reduce the “power” of fines to discourage unsafe behaviour, although it was argued in return that this was not an efficient method and people avoided unsafe behaviour because it was unsafe, not because they’d be fined.

It was again argued that some rules – like queueing to spin – could be seen as more acceptable to break without the fines.

It was said that it would be about 30p per £10 fine that you would get back, so any reduction in “power” would be small.

An indicative vote was held as to which motion the Captains’ would prefer to vote on.

**Motion 1: 29**

**Motion 2: 16**

**Vote for Motion 1 (Panel):**

**For: 45**

**Abstentions: 0**

**Against: 0**

**Motion 1 passes.**

**Motion 2 was withdrawn.**

## **9. Changes to the Constitution – Sascha Frey to speak**

### ~~1.6 OURCs Committee~~

~~[...]~~

~~b. The OURCs Committee shall consist of~~

~~[...]~~

~~iii. the Treasurer...~~

~~[...]~~

~~3. issue, collect, and keep a record of fines, including specific details on; which rule was broken, how it was broken, and evidence on which the claim is based;~~

~~4. notify clubs of any fines or other penalties incurred by breach of OURCs rules, including who submitted them to the OURCs Treasurer (OURCs Committee member, Event Committee or Race Committee members);~~

~~[...]~~

~~Proposer: Sascha Frey (St Hugh's)~~

~~Seconder: Charlie Orton (New College)~~

**This motion was withdrawn. It was asked why, and it was stated that he believed that it was drafted the wrong way around – names should be under “keep a record” not “notify clubs” and “specific details” should be notified to clubs. As a constitutional motion it could not be changed at this meeting.**

## **10. Changes to the Code of Conduct – Rob Doane-Solomon to speak**

### **2.10 Personal Conduct**

**[...]**

**a. Member Clubs, their members, their employees, and their contractors, as well as OURCs Committee and Racedesk members and Senior Umpires who are not affiliated to Member Clubs, are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that shows respect for other Member Clubs, OURCs Committee Members, Senior Umpires, and the wider public. Member Clubs whose affiliates cause damage, injury, or offence to other parties shall face severe penalty. Complaints about OURCs Committee and Racedesk members and Senior Umpires should be directed to the OURCs Senior Member.**

*Proposer: Rob Doane-Solomon (Pembroke)*

*Seconder: Zoe Reed (St John's)*

**It was asked whether the rules contained anything about procedure for complaints made to the Senior Member. It was stated that the difficulty with doing so is that there's not much you can do**

apart from asking someone to leave their post. It was pointed out that the University and Sports Department has procedures and guidance for complaints.

For: 45

Abstentions: 0

Against: 0

Motion passes.

## 11. **Changes to the Code of Conduct** – Sascha Frey to speak

### A1.10. General Disputes Procedure

[...]

#### a. Definitions and principles

[...]

v. In all OURCs races, fines may be levied by the Event Committee for non-compliance with the Event Plan and/or breaches of the Code of Conduct and/or Rules of Racing.

1. The OURCs Treasurer at the first Captains Meeting of the academic year will present a fine regimen to the Captains for ratification. This will specify the fine rates for minor, medium, and major transgressions of the Event Plan or Rules of Racing, alongside examples of what infringements fall into each category.
2. Once ratified, this regimen will be displayed on the OURCs website alongside rates for fines that can be incurred for breaches of the Constitution and Code of Conduct. If the captains refuse ratification, an updated regimen may be brought at subsequent Captains Meetings until a majority vote is obtained.
3. When a fine is issued it must include a clear and specific explanation as to the infraction for which it has been issued to assist member clubs in preventing their recurrence.
4. Unless explicitly overridden in the Rules of Racing, the administrative procedures for racing fines will apply as outlined in 2.11 of the code of conduct.

### A1.4 Event Committee

- a. The Event Committee shall be responsible for the running of each OURCs event. In addition, this committee shall have the authority to:

[...]

vii. impose fines on Boat Clubs following A1.10.a.v. ~~for not complying with the above rules or the event plan,~~ Such fines ~~to~~ shall be confirmed by the Race Secretary, ~~who~~ (or another member of Committee, typically the OURCs Treasurer), ~~who~~ shall, in the case of any multi-day regatta, notify the Colleges involved by midnight of that day's racing. Where fines are incurred on the Saturday of a bumps regatta, the clubs must be notified by midnight of the following Saturday. For any single day race, Colleges must be notified of any fines within 48 hours of the end of racing.

### 2.11 Breaches of the Code of Conduct

[...]

b. Any member of the OURCs Committee, in conjunction with a photograph or second witness which need not be a member of the OURCs Committee, may impose fines.

f. Committee Members must notify the OURCs Treasurer of cautions or fines they wish to impose. The OURCs Treasurer will then send the College Boat Club concerned details of the fine. These shall include specific details on; which rule was broken, how it was broken, evidence on which the claim is based and who submitted them to the OURCs Treasurer.

~~j. Clauses under this sub-section do not apply to racing or administrative fines.~~

Proposer: Sascha Frey (St Hugh's)

Seconder: Charlie Orton (New College)

It was asked whether the first section conflicted with the Code of Conduct specifying 'Minor Transgressions'. It was agreed that as this was specifically about racing, it would not, despite relating to breaches of the Code of Conduct during racing.

It was asked what Captains' had thought about the fines list this year, and generally it had not been communicated from treasurers. It was agreed that the treasurer would contact Captains' as well in the future.

It was asked whether the motion had been discussed with the OURCs Treasurer and Senior Treasurer. It had been discussed somewhat, but not extensively.

It was asked whether this could be informal, and whether guidance should just be sent out. It was generally agreed that captains' did not mind either way.

It was asked what would happen if the Captains' denied the fines regimen. It was suggested that there was no expiry clause in the rules and therefore the previous regimen would remain in force. It was also suggested that if the Captains' insist on having no fines, that would be a possibility under this rule.

Friendly amendments were suggested to remove the sharing of names, and to add the possibility of a photograph to the second witness section.

**Friendly Amendments:**

**For: 45**

**Abstentions: 0**

**Against: 0**

**Motion:**

**Against: 3**

**Abstentions: 8**

**For: 34**

**Motion passes.**

## 12. AOB

### Technical Bumps

- a. The Event Committee may award technical bumps to crews which:
  - i. do not start in accordance with OURCs regulations;
  - ii. are excluded by the Senior Umpire ~~under A1.5.h.iii, and/or;~~

*Proposer: Tomas Gray (Wolfson)*

*Seconder: Mads Hoefer (Wolfson)*

They were bringing this motion to avoid the situation that arose in bumps where Churchill [sic] did not receive a technical bump despite being excluded. They decided to bring the above after discussing more wording with the Sabbatical Officer.

For: 43

Abstentions: 2

Against: 0

Motion passes.

### Goodbyes

Jack stated that once a couple more discussions had taken place, he would be ending his term as OURCs Secretary and Sam Schipper would be taking over.

Oscar also stated that the 19<sup>th</sup> June was his final day to write up the meeting minutes and he would be leaving post but would still be around to be an OCM next year. The sab inbox would be mostly unmonitored until Sophie took up post on the 1<sup>st</sup> September. Thank you to all this year's Captains and good luck to next year's Captains!

### Coaching

Regent's Park and St Anne's are looking for coaches.