



O U R C s

Captain's Meeting Minutes

7pm, Tuesday 6th week Trinity Term 2021

1st June 2021

Chair: Alexander Bebb (OUBC President)

- Register and Welcome

Attendance:

College Clubs: 71 (57 voting)

Squads: 1

OURCs Committee: 8

Total Voting Body: 66

- Minutes of the Last Meeting

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

- Matters Arising

- Discussion of senior crew hours

As was agreed at the last meeting captains were asked whether they would like to re-vote on the change to senior crew hours. No captains stated that they would like to re-vote so the rule change from the previous meeting stands.

- River closures

- Oriel Regatta

Saturday 19th June (8th week) – Opening Time until Closing Time or End of Racing

Proposed: Henry Hawkins (Oriel)

Seconded: Sarah Wisialowski (Oriel)

Voting:

Votes For: **34**

Votes Against: **0**

Abstentions: **2**

Motion passes.

- Constitutional Change – David Seale and Dr Caroline Mawson to speak

Two thirds majority to pass.

'We would be most grateful if you would consider the following motion at the next meeting of the College Boat Club Captains.

Reuben College will admit its first students in September 2021 and is aiming to have an intake of approximately 100 students, all of whom will be postgraduates. In the future, Reuben plans to expand to be a busy post graduate college, with a target size of approximately 600 enrolled students from 2026. However, in the first two years of its existence in particular Reuben will be too small and lack the institutional knowledge to set up a safe and effective boat club which can properly train and develop rowers and to give them a proper College experience in rowing.

In a number of areas Reuben has entered into a formal partnership at College level with Linacre College. As the physical main building for Reuben will not be ready for September 2021, Reuben students will be dining in Linacre for both formal and informal meals, as well as sharing other college facilities. Joint common room/MCR societies, as well as joint coppers teams etc. in other sports are also planned.

We are therefore writing to this Captains' Meeting, as Heads of House of both Reuben and Linacre College to ask for your permission to create a merger between Reuben and Linacre for a strictly time limited period of 2 years, by passing the motion to change the OURCS rules to read:

A1.b.i.4

"Linacre College also represents Nuffield College. From 1/9/21 Linacre College also represents Reuben College, to expire automatically on 31/7/23 after which this sentence will be removed from the Rules of Racing."

We confirm that neither College will seek any extension to this time but we are asking for this time-limited merger in order that Linacre can support Reuben in establishing a boat club. Agreement to the application above would allow students who happen to be at Reuben in 2021/22 and 2022/23 to not miss out on the experience of rowing while they are in Oxford simply because they are at a new college and that setting up all of this infrastructure takes time.

Linacre Boat Club Committee and its Senior Member have very kindly agreed to put time into supporting Reuben establishing its future independence, with Reuben students taking 'shadow' roles on the boat club exec, especially in 2022/23.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Nick Brown
Principal of Linacre College

Professor Lionel Tarassenko President of Reuben College'

Proposed: Lauren Wilburn (Linacre)
Seconded: Emil Dyrvik (Linacre)

David Seale clarified that he was speaking in his capacity as Senior Member of Linacre College Boat Club and is doing so on behalf of the Principle of Linacre College. David wanted to emphasise the depth of cooperation that will be happening between Linacre and Reuben College over the next few academic years. The students will be sharing a range of buildings, facilities and porters given that those being built for Reuben students will not be ready. Reuben will be administratively based out of Linacre, and most of the college societies will also be shared. As a result of this David would like to ask the captains to grant permission for a merger for just two years, David acknowledges that two years is too brief a period to set up a fully functional club, especially with such a reduced intake initially and the main aim of this motion is to give students the chance to row whilst at Oxford. David and Linacre College Boat Club are committed to helping Reuben launch their own club by aiding with all of the necessary paperwork and by allowing Reuben students to shadow the Linacre committee. It was also stated that no extension of this partnership will be requested.

Dr Caroline Mawson also introduced herself as a representative of Reuben College as their Senior Tutor. She stated that Reuben currently has no students (the first will arrive in October) and does not currently have the resources to set up their own club. They are very grateful to Linacre College for supporting them.

Voting:

Votes For: **28**

Votes Against: **1**

Abstentions: **7**

Motion passes.

- **Change to Rules of Racing** – Jack Woodward to speak
Simple majority to pass

Remove: A1.4b: The Event Committee shall exist from 90 minutes before the scheduled start of the first race on a given day until all decisions and appeals relating to that day's racing are concluded.

This was a rule created in 2019 in response to one particular very early acceptance of an extraordinary substitution request. However this rule is conflicting with other rules, which ask the event committee to plan the event. We therefore would like to remove this from the rules.

Proposer: Jack Woodward (Worcester/OURCs)

Seconder: Thomas Surridge (Mansfield/OURCs)

Voting:

Votes For: **31**

Votes Against: **0**

Abstentions: **3**

Motion Passes.

- **Change to Rules of Racing** – Jack Woodward to speak
Simple majority to pass

*Change TEMP 2: For the bumps races in Trinity Term 2021, the sizes of the divisions and which crews are required to row on will be determined by the OURCs secretary after the close of entries, in conjunction with the SUs. **There will be 13 divisions.***

To:

TEMP 2: For the bumps races in Trinity Term 2021, the sizes of the divisions and which crews are required to row on will be determined by the OURCs secretary after the close of entries, in conjunction with the SUs.

Proposed: Jack Woodward

Seconded: Beth Carter

Voting:

Votes For: 30

Votes Against: 1

Abstentions: 3

- **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*
 - Kirsty Peacock: Wolfson to Trinity (papers in order)
 - Katherine Ferris: St Hilda's to Trinity (papers in order)
 - Ben Williams: Oriel to University (papers in order)
 - Carla Fuenteslopez: St Hugh's to Magdalen (papers in order)
 - Samuel Woor: Wolfson/St Cross to Regent's Park (papers in order)
 - Nayani Jensen: Balliol to University (papers in order)
 - Sebastian Orbell: Trinity to St John's (papers in order)
 - Nyasha Mbewe: Jesus to St John's (papers in order)

No objections. Ratified.

- **Extension of Student Status** – Beth Carter to speak

Simple majority to pass

- **Oscar Lyons (Balliol):** Oscar may get his leave to supplicate in a couple of weeks.
Proposed: Amos Daw (Balliol)
Seconded: Juliet Armstrong (Balliol)
May or may not get leave to supplicate don't know. Would like him to compete in bumps.
Voting: 37 Votes For, 2 Votes Against, 1 Abstention. Motion Passes.
- **Tom Kirk (Magdalen)** will be handing in his thesis on Friday 4th June 2021.
Proposed: Steven Ettema (Magdalen)
Seconded: Andrew Taylor (Magdalen)
Voting: 36 Votes For, 3 Votes Against, 1 Abstention. Motion Passes.

- **Permission for Associate Member to Row in a Senior Crew** – Beth Carter to speak
Simple majority to pass

- **Fergus Cooper or Stefano Pachi (Somerville):** Somerville would like to request permission for Fergus or Stefano to row with their M1 at Summer Torpids. Their M1 are currently in Division 3 and they do not expect to be entering an M2 crew. Their M1 are short a person on the Tuesday and currently their only option is to look for a sub from W2.

Proposed: Samuel McLoughlin (Somerville)

Seconded: Christopher White (Somerville)

The Somerville captain stated that they have managed to fill the boat with novices every day other than Tuesday. Fergus has hurt his back so not sure if he will be fit to race which is why they are asking for permission for either Fergus or Stefano to race.

Voting: 28 Votes For, 6 Votes Against, 6 Abstentions. Motion Passes.

- **Naomi Housego-Day (St Hugh's):** would like to cox SHBC M2 in Vllls, having coxed the composite Hugh's-Hertford M2 in Vllls 2019. As an experienced race-cox, she would allow M2 to be safer and more responsive on the water, and would prevent Hugh's having to rely on a novice cox in racing.

Proposed: Justin Vyvan -Jones (St Hugh's)

Seconded: Oliver Redfern (St Hugh's)

A captain asked who is coxing the M3. The St Hugh's captain answered that they don't want to use the M3 cox as they are worried that they will end up in the same division.

Voting: 30 Votes For, 6 Votes Against, 4 Abstentions. Motion Passes.

- **David Angiolini (St Hugh's):** is a regular resident at St Hugh's College but not a college member, stroked Hugh's M2 in Torpids 2019, as well as the Hugh's-Hertford composite boat in Vllls 2019. Due to an upsurge in novice interest, Hugh's is able to field an M3 for the first time in a while; we would appreciate David maintaining his spot in M2, rather than being moved by default by the innovation of the novice boat.

Proposed: Justin Vyvan-Jones (St Hugh's)

Seconded: Oliver Redfern (St Hugh's)

Voting: 22 Votes For, 11 Votes Against, 7 Abstentions. Motion Passes.

- **Thibault Teissier (Oriel):** Oriel would like to request permission for Thibault to row with their M2 at Summer Torpids. Their M2 are currently in Division 3 and they do not expect to be entering an M3 crew.

Proposed: Henry Hawkins (Oriel)

Seconded: Sarah Wisialowski (Oriel)

The Oriel captain stated that they don't have enough novices and are struggling to fill their M2 due to exams and availability, they want to give other novices in M2 a chance to race.

Voting: 23 Votes For, 10 Votes Against, 7 Abstentions. Motion Passes.

- **Orly Welch (St Anne's):** St Anne's would like to request permission for Orly to row with their W1 at Summer Torpids. She expected to be a full member at St Anne's for

racing, but recently started the process of suspending and it is unclear at what point she will lose student status. Their W1 are currently in Division 2 and they are not entering a W2 crew.

Proposed: Orly Welch (St Anne's)

Seconded: Leo White (St Anne's)

Orly has suspended and doesn't know when she will lose student status so would like to be certain that she can race with her crew next week.

Voting: 37 Votes For, 1 Vote Against, 2 Abstentions. Motion Passes.

- **OxBumps proposal** - Mary Sanford and Sarah Martin to speak

'As many of you already know, the members of Wolfson College Boat Club have been doing our best over the past years to provide live bumps updates during Torpids and Summer Eights through use of OxBump, a free app created and previously maintained by two of our former members, Susan Graham and John McManigle. Although various appeals have been made over the years to receive sponsorship for this app, or to sell it to OURCs so that they might run it centrally, it has always fallen back to us as a club to run it without external support. We have done so happily, as we are aware that many Oxford colleges and their boat clubs now use and promote this app to check historic bumps charts, flag statuses, river conditions, and of course live bumps feeds; and we feel it is a worthy service to provide.

With the app creators no longer in Oxford and fewer non-racing supporters available to take charge of the live updates, we have taken it upon ourselves to create 'OxBump Marshal' slots within our club, and have begun to train all of our members in how to use and update the app so that we might continue to provide this service to our fellow clubs. However, this puts a strain on our rowers and coxes because we would have to fill these additional marshal slots on top of our regularly assigned marshal and umpire slots. Four years ago, this meant we had a total of 47 marshalling slots to fill for only 54 people. Understandably this was quite difficult to arrange, and many members were asked to take double shifts on top of their rowing, coxing, and academic commitments.

To alleviate this pressure while still providing live info on bumps races, we asked to reduce our allocation of marshalling and umpiring slots with the equivalent of 1 race desk helper per day, and have been granted this ever since. We would like to request to extend this arrangement for the upcoming edition of 'Torpids', where we will need around 16 OxBump marshals to keep the coverage live.

We are aware that OURCs plan to procure a live-streaming service for the races this year to discourage spectators, thus we recognise that the need for OxBumps this year might be slightly redundant. However, having OxBumps running as a backup would be extremely useful if at any point the live-streaming service runs into issues, e.g. bandwidth, overload demand, etc. In any case, we will still need to maintain it this year in order to ensure functionality for future years when the live-streaming service may no longer be in place.

Finally, while we are fully aware that it is our own choice to continue to ensure OxBump is run and kept as close to 'live' as possible, we are also aware that many if not most of your clubs and corresponding colleges have come to enjoy and rely on this app as well; it would therefore be a shame if we were unable to run OxBump to its full potential this 'Torpids' due to a simple lack of manpower. It is for this reason that I beg your consideration and support today.'

Proposed: Mary Sandford (Wolfson)
Seconded: Sarah Martin (Wolfson)

Voting:

Votes For: **18**

Votes Against: **9**

Abstentions: **5**

Motion passes.

- **AOB**

- **Changes to coxing status system discussion-** Mary Sanford and Jake Liebers to speak

As we have returned to the river this spring, there has been lots of discord surrounding the current coxing restrictions. Many clubs find them too inflexible, as they significantly hinder our ability to safely train up enough coxes in the ever worsening weather conditions. If these conditions are to continue becoming the new normal, e.g. the increasing rainfall over the year, the system needs to change such that clubs can actually train their novice coxes to a safe standard, and avoid being so reliant on the dwindling numbers of X and S status coxes. Thus, we propose the following change to the current coxing system:

Introduce a new 'Intermediate' (I) coxing level between Novice (N) and Experienced (X)
Intermediate coxes would include those who satisfy either of the following criteria:

- Have previous rowing experience, i.e. at least 2 terms rowing, and 10 outings coxing
- Have no previous rowing experience and at least 25 outings or 1 term of coxing

Intermediate coxes would be allowed to cox in blue flag conditions if accompanied by a bankrider and with a crew with at least 4 members having 3 terms of experience.

N to I would not require formal assessment but would be automatically granted barring no significant incidents (timeline would depend on previous rowing experience as indicated above).

I to X status would be automatic after 3 full terms (from N status) barring no significant incidents, or upon formal assessment.

The Captain of Coxes acknowledged that lots of training time has been lost this year. This item is in AOB because having this motion is something that COUR will want to rule on, so it is better to discuss what we want as thoroughly as possible in conjunction with the Senior Umpires, to ensure that the proposal is not simply shot down. Having said that, the Captains of Coxes did express a couple of concerns – adding an extra status would mean more regulation of this by the COC and OURCs committee. A consideration for captains would also be the quality of bankriders supplied to these coxes. In general, the conditions under blue flag can be quite variable, as such the bankriders assigned to coxes who are out on blue flag at this intermediate status would have to be experienced and well placed to provide good advice.

No other captains had anything to add, Mary stated that anyone who has any thoughts on this can contact her at wbcmen@gmail.com.

- **Coxing Meeting Flexibility:** A captain asked whether OURCs would consider exceptional exemptions for cox attendance of the Torpids Coxing Briefing providing stringent alternative methods are followed. Exceptional exemptions may cover pre-existing immovable commitments (e.g., a religious practice or family commitment). Alternative measures may include multiple senior boat members to attend in the cox's place in the event that the cox has previously participated in Oxford Bumps racing.
The Captain of Coxes responded that as of this year we have not had a bumps race for two calendar years and some people who have been requesting exemptions have not coxed since 2018 when we brought in new rules due to unsafe behaviour. Because of this OURCs will probably will not be granting many exemptions at all.
- David Seale wanted to bring the Captains' attention to the livestream for bumps, OURCs are expecting to send out link to livestream in next day or two, OURCs would also like to thank City for all of their help. OURCs would like to ask that Captains circulate the livestream link with members and encourage them to watch online rather than at the river so that racing can continue. The link will also be circulated to alumni.