



O U R C s

Captains' Meeting Minutes

7pm Monday 3rd week Trinity Term

11th May 2020

Meeting held via Microsoft Teams

Chair: Tina Christmann, OUWBC President

1. Welcome

Attendance:

College boat clubs: 59
Squads: 2
Senior Umpires: 1
OURCs Committee: 7
Absences: Osler House
Total voting body: 69

2. Minutes of the last meeting

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

3. Matters Arising

4. Squad reports

OUBC – Augustin Wambersie

The squad had a successful series of fixtures throughout the spring season. The Blue boat lineup remained relatively stable during the entire season barring a couple of swaps within the boat. The highlight of the fixtures was the Blue boat performance against Brookes with each boat winning a piece, both of which were hard fought. Isis also stepped on significantly despite a challenging beginning of the spring. All three eights were fully prepared to race against Cambridge and I am confident that we would have performed very well on boat race day. Following the cancellation of the Boat race the club is shut down indefinitely and awaits next season eagerly.

OUWBC – Tina Christmann

After three very successful fixtures, in which the Blue Boat managed to beat Nereus Amsterdam and University of London, the cancellation of the Boat Race was a big disappointment for all the crews. The build-up to the last weeks before the BR was very successful, with the Blue Boat race times and speeds that the club hasn't seen in many years. The position OUWBC was in this year

gives hope for future years, as despite the many challenges (esp. the floods) we managed to create two very competitive boats on a much higher level than in previously.

Ever since the cancellation of the race we started running a virtual dev squad with more than 60 people signed up to it. The tone of this squad is reasonably relaxed at the moment, with people choosing how much they want to commit and contribute. There is a sophisticated schedule with optionally multiple virtual sessions per week, strength and conditioning, endurance circuits, stretching and lots of to-do at home training, as well as some scheduled virtual races. The community within this virtual dev squad seems to be coming together very well, there are some social events as well and our assistant coach provides valuable personalized advice. Many athletes from this year's squad have gone home and train on their own terms or join the dev squad. The new presidential elections won't happen until June, as in these uncertain times we want our athletes to have time to reflect on whether they want to trial and take on the challenge.

OULRC – Arthur Arnould

Despite being cut short, the 2019/20 season proved to be very successful for OULRC. We continued to build on our strong opening half of the year with promising results in racing throughout Hilary. We finished 8th in Championship 8s at Quintin Head, behind four Brookes crews. The squad continued to show physiological improvement and the competition for seats was fierce.

Our focus transitioned to match fixtures for the later stages of the term with three side by side racing opportunities. These provided invaluable experience and put the newly formed Blue Boat under pressure, which it responded well to. Squad morale was high heading into the end of term, as the Lightweight Boat Races approached. Due to the race being a day after the end of Hilary, we took measures to mitigate this affect on the athletes. We moved to a London base for the final three days of preparation.

Having won the toss, Cambridge chose the Surrey station, leaving us on Middlesex. We formulated our plan to attack the race hard around the inside of the first bend in our favour. We executed this perfectly to gain clear water by Hammersmith and continued to move away winning by over 3 lengths.

We had intended to demonstrate our strength in depth this year by fielding our second 8+ at HRR. The boat had been moving well and finding lots of speed, but the event was cancelled a few days beforehand. The athletes are also disappointed not to be able to race at BUCS or HRR amongst other summer events.

We held our presidential elections at the beginning of May with two very strong candidates. This stands the club in good stead for the upcoming season, with many of the organisational tasks already under way.

OUWLRC – Leah Mitchell

Hilary term was challenging due to the cancellation of races and potential training sessions due to bad weather and river conditions. Our squad rose to the challenge, becoming more adaptable and spending a lot more time in London to prepare us for our first race on the Tideway. We entered 2 crews at Quintin Head, with our second 8+ winning their category despite having to creatively steer around multiple crews! Our Blue Boat had fixtures against Oxford Brookes' third eight, Tideway Scullers and Osiris during the term. We ended the term with the first Lightweight Women's Boat Race on the Tideway. Our reserve 4+ started the weekend off triumphantly, winning their race by 12 seconds. Our Blue Boat had a strong start to their race, but sadly

Cambridge's stamina won them the race by 6 lengths. Despite this not being the end to the season that we wanted, we are incredibly grateful to have had a race at all given the current state of the world. Moving to the Tideway under a new Head Coach has been a massive change for our club. We will return next season chasing a Dark Blue victory, under newly elected President Katherine Ferris (OUWLRC Blue Boat 2019).

5. Amendment to Constitution

In 1.4. f:

f. College Boat Clubs automatically cease to be affiliated on the 1st October if, in the previous year:

i. they have not entered any OURCs events

Amend to state:

Clause 1.4.f i is disapplied for 1 October 2020 but not for 2021 onwards.

And amend 1.5g:

All College Boat Clubs are required to pay an affiliation fee to OURCs, which will be used solely to fund the OURCs Sabbatical Officer. College Boat Club affiliations will be based on the number of boats competing in the Eights competition preceding the year of affiliation (excluding boats that fail to row on). The fee per crew must be confirmed in the first Captains' Meeting in Michaelmas Term.

To (additions shown in bold):

*All College Boat Clubs are required to pay an affiliation fee to OURCs, which will be used solely to fund the OURCs Sabbatical Officer. College Boat Club affiliations will be based on the number of boats competing in the **most recent** Eights competition **where at least one full day of racing was completed** (excluding boats that fail to row on). The fee per crew must be confirmed in the first Captains' Meeting in Michaelmas Term.*

Proposed: Vivian Leong (OURCs/St Hugh's)

Seconded: David Locke (OURCs/SU)

Regarding 1.4.f: Currently, many clubs stand to be disaffiliated at the beginning of October due to the lack of racing. As this is completely due to the weather and not the fault of the clubs, they shouldn't be punished for it.

Regarding 1.5.g: OURCs pays the Sports Department for the RowSab. Even though there has been next to no racing, the sab has still been working behind the scenes and still gets paid. The University is very generous with the comparatively small amount OURCs pays.

As there will be no Summer Eights this year, there is no fair way to base the contribution per club on this year's numbers, therefore basing it on last year's seems the most sensible.

The affiliation fee was £39.50 per boat last year, which is not anticipated to change unless the Sports Department charges OURCs more than they have in the past.

Constitutional amendment requires a 2:1 majority of those expressing an opinion and an overall majority of those present and eligible to vote.

Votes in favour: 59

Opposed: 5

Abstentions: 5

Amendment passes

6. Election of Rowing Sabbatical Officer – Jo Egan to speak

- a. Samuel Rush (Pembroke)

Proposed: Edward Smith (Pembroke)

Seconded: Alex Jobson (Pembroke)

Votes in favour: 48

RON: 11

Abstentions: 10

Samuel Rush elected as 2020/21 Rowing Sabbatical Officer

7. AOB

- a. British Rowing Affiliation Fees – Jo Egan

These were due at the beginning of April, please do them if you haven't already. Most clubs also pay for their EA boat registration through BR, so it's very important that it is done as soon as possible. It asks for membership numbers for your club: it used to be based the number of boats in Senior Divs at Eights, that was changed a couple of years ago and now you should declare how many people you consider to hold any form of membership of your club, whether they have BR membership or not.

- b. OURCs committee – Joe Lord

There is a very high turnover in committee as many committee members are finishing their degrees this year. The terms for the Secretary, Captain of Coxes, and Treasurer finish this term and there is plenty of space for Ordinary Committee

members. Elections for Sec, CoC and Treasurer will hopefully take place by the end of term once there are candidates for the roles.

c. Lockdown advice – Jo Egan

There is currently no change to the Sports Department's advice against rowing and sculling. They are expecting clarification on the new Government advice by Wednesday, and BR will hopefully have advice out soon. Until then, nothing has changed.

d. Boat Club Committee Handovers – Jo Egan

Please do your handovers as you would in any normal year. Elect your new committee like normal, update the committee on the Entry system, and let the webmaster know who your new captains and president are so he can change them on RCML. Please let the OURCs treasurer know who your new treasurer is.

e. Training day – Rachel Quarrell

The Captains' Training day usually takes place in June. It will still take place this term to give incoming Captains and Committees time to plan over the summer. While it will be a slightly different format, it will be run on Zoom to allow for breakout rooms where small groups of captains from different colleges can have smaller, more detailed discussions, much like how it would normally be done in person. The two likely dates are Sunday 14th June and Sunday 21st June, the sab will send a poll out to allow captains to indicate a preference.

An in-person training session and lunch for incoming captains will still go ahead in Michaelmas, as early in term as the government and University allow. In the meantime, encourage incoming captains to contact the sab with any questions they have.

Andy Nelder usually runs a Q&A during the training session, this will hopefully be able to be combined with either the Zoom session or the MT lunch.