



Captains' Meeting Agenda

Thursday 5th week Hilary Term 2022
7pm, 17th February 2022
Bernard Sunley Lecture Theatre, St Catz

Chair: Amelia Standing (OUWBC)

1. **Welcome**
2. **Minutes of the Last Meeting**
Available at www.ourcs.org.uk
3. **Matters Arising**
No matters arising
4. **Conduct around race desk** – David Seale to speak
5. **COUR Report**
6. **Change to the Code of Conduct** – James Lucas to speak
Simple majority to pass

Changing the requirements of capsized drills. This is a change requested by COUR, who would like to ensure that there is a consistent standard of capsized drill training across all OURCs members.

Change:

2.4.a. *All Member Clubs must ensure that their athletes are safe to go on the water. This involves:*

...

ii. *ensuring that only those rowers who have taken an OURCs capsized drill, or can prove that they have taken a similar one elsewhere, may use singles, pairs or doubles.*

To (changes in red):

2.4.a. All Member Clubs must ensure that their athletes are safe to go on the water. This involves:

...

ii. ensuring that only those rowers who have taken an OURCs capsized drill may use singles, pairs or doubles.

Proposed: James Lucas (OURCs)

Seconded: Ty Rallens (OURCs)

7. **Change to the position of Osler House W1 in the Starting Order for Torpids 2022** – Beinn Khulusi to speak.

Two thirds majority to pass.

Osler House Boat Club is the club for clinical medical students, and was restarted last season (2020/21) after a long period of dormancy. Osler House W1 enquired to the RowSab last year regarding starting in fixed divisions with other W1s. This was declined, but in a subsequent Captains' Meeting, it was confirmed that "*the federated clubs, in the Captains' Meeting, should hold final authority over future Starting Orders*", and the following added to the constitution as clarification:

- *A3.9.f The Starting Order may be amended through a motion passed in a Captains' Meeting.*
- *A3.9.g Any motion to amend the Starting Order or to alter the rules governing the Starting Order in A3.8 and A3.9 must be brought in accordance with the procedural rules associated with a constitutional alteration under 1.11."*

There is precedent for this decision, as stated in the minutes of the Captains' Meeting:

"It was pointed out that last year a motion to insert Osler House into the Starting Order was prevented. It was hoped by the proposers that this rule amendment would allow such decisions to be passed back to the captains. An explanation was given of how motions to amend Starting Orders have been applied in the past: **it has been quite common to have had motions that apply to new or returning clubs**".

This refers to the occasions where A3.9.f was utilised allowing Somerville M1 to be inserted in Torpids Division 4 (of 7) in 1996 and St Hilda's M1 to be inserted at the bottom of Division 6 in Eights in 2009.

As a newly revived club, it is extremely important to us to maintain our ability to cater to all clinical medical students who wish to keep rowing despite the constraints of their medical education, as well as students wishing to learn to row for the first time. This was made difficult last year due the randomisation ensuring Osler W1 and W2 were chasing one another as we only possess one functional shell thereby creating an equipment clash, which was only temporarily resolved due to the generosity of Balliol college boat club who donated equipment. As the start order stands, and if the proposed rule amendment's to be discussed later in this meeting are passed, Osler House will be locked into an equipment clash for many years to come. While this could be resolved, W2 would have to reapply as a new entrant and be placed at the bottom of Division 7, negating their hard work and achievements overbumping each day last year.

An additional benefit of this motion would be to prevent the mismatch in experience and speed in these low divisions, as Osler Boats, are due to the nature of the club, composed of 4th to 6th years – primarily senior rowers – which is not an advantage most other crews in division 7 share. Last year this led to Osler W1 winning blades after rowing no more than 18 strokes on any given day, each crew they bumped were then subsequently over-bumped by W2 before boathouse island. This mismatch does not serve any of the crews in that division, particularly the novice crews who have trained hard and are looking for a competitive race against crews of a similar standard.

Therefore, before the later revision of the rules, we would like to propose the following: **Osler House W1 to be placed into the Torpids 2022 Starting Order on the 12th bungline of Women's Division 4 (or equivalent position, if divisions are shortened)**. We believe this is reasonable on the following grounds.

- Osler's motion last year to be placed higher in the order was not brought before the captains, despite existing precedent as discussed earlier, leading to the current placement of the two boats which is unsustainable for the club and a hinderance to its members.
- Division 4 is the division of the lowest-ranked W1 in fixed divisions (Regents Park), meaning that Osler House W1 will not be as mismatched as last year; however, bung-line 12 would mean that we will still have to earn the opportunity to race other W1s by racing well for consecutive years (Regent's Park are placed 4th , at least two +4 seasons away).
- Placing W1 in Division 4 would mean our W2, who, while placed 2nd in Division 6 are likely to move up to Division 5 over the course of Torpids 2022 due to their seniority of the crew can also use our only shell to race, and will continue to be able to in future years.
- If the order is not altered, the progress of the club will be halted by W2 having to chase W1 for multiple seasons to come.

Proposed: Beinn Khulusi (Osler House)

Seconded: Lucie Ayliffe-Daly (Osler House)

8. Amendment to the Rules of Racing - Ty Rallens to speak

Two-thirds majority to pass

Preserving Bumps racing requires the support of a large coalition of other entities, including the University Sports Safety Office, the Senior Umpires, the Proctors, and British Rowing. Since I instituted the previous version of the rules for Starting Order motions in MT21w1, many of these partners have raised grave concerns about the previous language. Some have pointed out ways the rules distort the incentives of competitors, others negative safety effects of the rules, and still others have threatened very credibly to withdraw their support for Bumps happening at all unless the rules are fixed. In light of this feedback, I too see the need for change.

The problems with the previous rules include:

- It is possible within the rules to overturn the safety decisions of event officials.
- They create an incentive to strategically not appeal to the SUs, whereby a popular college could seek to improve its result at the expense of a less-popular college.
- As discussed by the captains previously, "vexatious" is poorly defined. The OURCs Senior Member sees no practical way to implement the intentions of A3.9.f.ii.
- The previous language asserts far more authority for OURCs and the Captains' Meeting over the Starting Order than prior precedents can support.

My proposed solution backs away from asserting broad authority over the Starting Order but preserves the powers of the Captains' Meeting which have established precedents. While the previous language claimed the power to amend the Starting Order generally with enumerated exceptions, the new language positively

defines specific circumstances under which a Captains' Meeting may consider amendments. The enumerated reasons cover prior precedents and foreseen needs, with some clarifications:

- The new A3.9.f.i covers the precedents of Somerville M1, which was inserted in Torpids Div 4 (of 7) in 1996, and St. Hilda's M1, which was inserted at the bottom of Div 6 in Eights in 2009. The Hilda's starting location is made standard.
- The new A3.9.f.ii covers the specific situation which led to drafting the one-time A3.21 rules section for handling complaints after racing.
- The new A3.9.f.iii is intended for clubs in a situation like Osler House, where having multiple crews close within a division might lead to kit clashes for years to come.
- The new A3.9.f.iv is intended to allow a careful amount of flexibility, should unforeseen needs arise.

Should new circumstances arise in which the Starting Order requires amendment, new reasons may be added to the list under A3.9.f through motions which follow the procedure for constitutional amendments.

Change:

A3.9. Starting Order

[a-e unchanged]

- f. The Starting Order may be amended through a motion passed in a Captains' Meeting.*
 - i. Motions to alter previous race results are subject to the following conditions:*
 - 1. No decision of the Senior Umpires may be overturned.*
 - 2. The motion must be brought at the next available Captains' Meeting after racing.*
 - ii. The Senior Member may veto vexatious Starting Order motions, but must provide a statement for the minutes of the reasons for doing so.*
- g. Any motion to amend the Starting Order or to alter the rules governing the Starting Order in A3.8 and A3.9 must be brought in accordance with the procedural rules associated with a constitutional alteration under 1.11.*

To (changes/amendments/additions in red):

- f. The Starting Order may be amended through a motion passed in a Captains' Meeting for the following reasons:*
 - i. When a newly-founded boat club or side plans to enter multiple boats in the competition, to insert its first boat at the bottom of the second to last division (or at the top of the new entrants, whichever is higher), subject to successfully qualifying in Rowing On.*
 - ii. When incontrovertible evidence, which must be provided to the Captains' Meeting, demonstrates that a crew raced with an ineligible athlete, to move that crew downward by a maximum of 12 places.*
 - iii. When a Rowing On crew which competed in the previous year requests to be treated as a new entrant under A3.9.b.ii.*
 - iv. When the OURCs Senior Member brings a motion to amend the Starting Order.*
- g. Any motion to amend the Starting Order or to alter the rules governing the Starting Order in A3.8 and A3.9 must be brought in accordance with the procedural rules associated with a constitutional alteration under 1.11.*

Proposed: Ty Rallens (OURCs)

Seconded: James Lucas (OURCs)

9. Changes to Rules of Racing – Ty Rallens to speak

Simple majority to pass.

Equalising the number of men's and women's divisions in Bumps, starting Trinity Term 2022. In Summer Torpids 2021 division parity was offered, with equal numbers of entries for M and W. We therefore propose to make division parity permanent for Torpids and Eights, beginning with Summer Eights in 2022.

Key details of this proposal are given in the attached Paper 1.

All proposed changes below are subject to the approval of the Proctors of an earlier start time for Bumps, and, if approval is granted, are to apply from Trinity Term 2022.

1. Change:

A3.2 Divisions

- a. *Unless resolved otherwise by a Captains' Meeting or the Event Committee:*
 - i. *Torpids shall consist of 6 Men's divisions and 5 Women's divisions. The top 5 Men's divisions and the top 4 Women's divisions shall be designated "Fixed Divisions" and the remainder "Rowing On Divisions";.*
 - ii. *Eights shall consist of 7 Men's divisions and 6 Women's divisions, with the top 5 Men's divisions and the top 4 Women's divisions designated "Fixed Divisions", and the remainder "Rowing On Divisions".*
 - iii. *In Torpids divisions shall consist of 12 boats, plus the "Sandwich Boat", except for the bottom divisions, which shall consist of 13 boats.*

To (changes in red):

A3.2 Divisions

- a. Unless resolved otherwise by a Captains' Meeting or the Event Committee:
 - i. Torpids shall consist of 6 Men's divisions and 6 Women's divisions. The top 4 Men's divisions and the top 4 Women's divisions shall be designated "Fixed Divisions" and the remainder "Rowing On Divisions";.
 - ii. Eights shall consist of 7 Men's divisions and 7 Women's divisions, with the top 4 Men's divisions and the top 4 Women's divisions designated "Fixed Divisions", and the remainder "Rowing On Divisions".
 - iii. Fixed Divisions shall consist of 12 boats, plus the "Sandwich Boat". Rowing-On Divisions shall be of variable size not exceeding 12 boats plus the sandwich boat (or in the bottom division, 13 boats), depending on entry numbers, to be determined and announced by the Event Secretary and Senior Umpires following the close of entries. Men's and Women's Rowing-On Divisions for a given event need not be of the same size.

2. Remove:

A3.2 Divisions

a. Unless resolved otherwise by a Captains' Meeting or the Event Committee:

...

~~iv. In Eights divisions shall consist of 13 boats, plus the "Sandwich Boat", except for the bottom divisions, which shall consist of 14 boats.~~

And renumber A3.2.a.v-ix to A3.2.a.iv-viii

3. Insert (additions in red):

A3.7 Rowing On

...

j. Results

i. Rowing On results shall become finalised on midnight of the following day, after which no further appeals will be considered and the Event Committee shall resolve any remaining ties by ballot.

ii. The only exception to this is in the event of a technical bump being awarded to a Rowing On crew, in which case the bump (and any attendant appeals and refusals, as defined in A1.4a.ix and A3.14) shall be applied on the first day of Bumps Proper.

iii. The slowest Men's crew, and the slowest Women's crew, shall automatically be deemed not to have qualified, even if the event is otherwise undersubscribed, and may not be subsequently invited to race under A3.8.d or A3.8.f

k. The Senior Umpires shall exclude, regardless of qualifying time, any crew which does not demonstrate the minimum standard of safety; such crews will be deemed to have failed to row on.

In making this evaluation, the SUs will consider:

i. Rowing all 8 for the whole course

ii. Steering competently and obeying marshalling rules

iii. Not catching multiple crabs

iv. Evidently attempting to race (i.e. rowing the whole course at rate)

v. The Senior Umpires shall also consider excluding any crew finishing more than 30 seconds behind the next-slowest crew, and any crews finishing behind that crew.

4. Insert (additions in red):

A1.5.h. The Senior Umpire has the authority to:

[i-iv unchanged]

v. To exclude from racing any crew deemed unsafe or unfit to race.

5. Change:

A3.10 Starting Procedure

...

h. For a race to be deemed to have taken place, at least 10 boats (for full divisions) must be attached to their bunlines when the starting gun is fired. In half-division racing, only one of those taking part in the division that day need not be attached when the starting gun is fired.

To (changes in red):

h. For a race to be deemed to have taken place, at least 10 boats (for full divisions) must be attached to their bunglines when the starting gun is fired. For divisions of fewer than 11 boats, a race may be deemed to have taken place if all bar one boat were attached to their bunglines.

Proposed: Ty Rallens (OURCs)

Seconded: James Marsden (OURCs)

10. Change to the Rules of Racing – Ty Rallens to speak

Simple majority to pass

No filming whilst cycling alongside a race. The rule prohibiting filming whilst cycling alongside a race is moved from the Bumps-specific section of the rules (A3) to the General rules of racing (A1), making it apply to all races. Filming whilst cycling is already prohibited in the Competitors' Instructions for non-Bumps races.

1. Insert:

A1.11.b. Cyclists shall not use any item or device (such as a mobile telephone or hand-held video camera) that prevents them from paying due care and attention to their cycling. Cyclists shall have both hands available to control their bicycle at all times while cycling during a race.

2. Remove:

~~A3.19.c. Cyclists shall not use any item or device (such as a mobile telephone or hand-held video camera) that prevents them from paying due care and attention to their cycling. Cyclists shall have both hands available to control their bicycle at all times while cycling during a race.~~ Cyclists shall look where they are going and at the path ahead at all times. (It is strongly suggested to ride slightly behind your crew, so you can see them and what's on the towpath at the same time. Umpires shall use their best endeavors to accurately observe the race while riding safely).

Proposed: Ty Rallens (OURCs)

Seconded: James Lucas (OURCs)

11. Change to the Rules of Racing – Ty Rallens to speak

Two-thirds majority to pass

Changing Exclusivity stipulations to only apply to Bumps. The Exclusivity clause was written before the introduction of Isis Winter League, so the original wording was intended to apply only to Bumps races and Autumn Fours. This proposed change brings the wording of the rule more back in line with the spirit, preventing athletes from switching colleges between Bumps racing, whilst not penalising them for competing in IWLs or A4s for their 'new' college prior to organising a transfer. IWLs, it should be noted, have

far fewer restrictions on associate members than Bumps and are competed in much more 'casually' by many boat clubs.

Change:

ii. Exclusivity

1. An athlete may only compete as a non-associate member of one College Boat club in any academic year.

To (additions in red):

ii. Exclusivity

1. An athlete may only compete in Bumps as a non-associate member of one College Boat club in any academic year.

Proposed: Ty Rallens (OURCs)

Seconded: Evan Roberts (OURCs)

12. **OxBumps Proposal** – Dominik Kloepfer to speak

Simple majority to pass

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.

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: Aimee Ruffle (Wolfson)

Seconded: Dominik Kloepfer (Wolfson)

13. **Transfers under A1.2** – James Lucas 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*
 - Sarah Clifford: St Hugh's to Linacre (papers in order)
 - Adomas Klimantas: Wolfson to St Hugh's (papers in order)
 - Annika Moslein: Balliol to University (papers in order)
 - Denise Swanborn: Queen's to Pembroke (papers in order)
 - Aurelia Sauerbrei: Wolfson (St Cross) to Lincoln (papers in order)

14. **Extension of Student Status under A1.1.a.i.1.a** – James Lucas to speak

Simple majority to pass

- a. **Jonathan Israel (St Antony's)** is suspending his studies for the next twelve months, but still wishes to continue rowing with the SABC this year, competing in Torpids and Eights. He is unable to suspend from his course for a shorter period of time due to his course's cycle of assessments. Jonathan has suspended for a series of physical and mental wellbeing reasons, and has also been unable to effectively undertake fieldwork or research in Sub-Saharan Africa (Kenya, Ethiopia and Nigeria) primarily due to COVID. He is also uniquely unable to return home to Western Australia due to border closures, and this is unlikely to change, so he will be remaining in Oxford. Jonathan only rowed for three months prior to starting Oxford, and is part of a St Antony's O1/M1 crew in Div III/IV composed of seven rowers who have only commenced rowing in the past twelve months. He is not a blues/international/professional rower. Written approval from his Senior Tutor has not yet been received by the Rowing Sabbatical Officer.

Proposed: Philipp Dietrich (St Antony's)

Seconded: Fuchsia Hart (St Antony's)

- b. **Barley Rose (Keble)** is a third-year DPhil student rowing with us at Keble. All the main experimental work of her Ph.D. involves working with large numbers of young Sitka Spruce trees (a common conifer). These are the trees she used for the first two years of her PhD. For the 3rd and 4th-year experiments, she needed specific families of trees, so they had to be grown for her. However, due to the very cold weather last spring, making it on average the coldest in a decade, in late February, the trees that should have come out of dormancy didn't begin to grow until the

end of May. This meant that the trees were too small to experiment on as planned in July and meant delaying research by a year. As a result, she has suspended her PhD by two terms, Michaelmas and Hillary. She still rows with the college and actively engages in the MCR. Based on this, we would ask for an extension of her student status so she can compete in the Keble W1. She has never trialled with any Blues squads or competed internationally. This extension of student status would expire on the first day of Trinity Term 2022, when Barley will resume her DPhil.

Written approval from her Senior Tutor has been received by the Rowing Sabbatical Officer.

Proposed: Maryam Sajjad (Keble)

Seconded: Emily Morbey (Keble)

15. Ratification of Club Safety Reviews – James Lucas to speak

- Exeter - £50

16. AOB

a. **Applications for Rowing Sabbatical Officer** – James Lucas to speak

b. **Statement for Captains regarding Marshalling & Umpiring Rotas** – Ty Rallens to speak

Statement from Bernard Tao - who will be preparing the Marshalling and Umpiring Rotas

This year entries close on Tuesday 6th Week at 12 noon. Once incomplete crews have been scratched we'll be preparing the first draft of the Rowing On start order, and the Rowing On Marshalling Rota.

This will be published on Tuesday Evening / Wednesday Morning

Please note: Any crews who scratch from Rowing On will not change the requirement to send marshals for Rowing On, but will be taken into account when preparing the rota for Wednesday to Saturday.

As the Scratch Deadline is 23:59 on Friday 6th Week, with Rowing On held on Saturday, we have 1 day less than in previous years between Rowing On and Bumps. This year Bernard will be creating the rotas on Saturday morning - which will be before we have run Rowing On.

All scratches that have been received by the deadline will be accounted for. Crews who fail to Row On, or are scratched after the deadline for any reason, will not change the number of Marshals and Umpires that the club will need to provide.

When creating the rota, the starting positions of each of your crews is taken into consideration, and shifts are distributed to minimise clashes as far as practicable, and to spread the shifts between your crews.

This includes considering that crews near the top of a division may bump up, or crews near the bottom of a division may be bumped down. It's not possible to account for all possibilities (e.g. a crew dropping from Bungline 1 down a whole division on day 1), and it's your responsibility to supply Marshals and Umpires for your allocated slots.

You can choose to swap with another club if necessary - but we will not be able to facilitate that for you. If you have made any swaps, please have captains from both clubs involved send us confirmation via email, and we'll make the appropriate update to the rota.

Finally, as we have for the past year, we'll be creating pre-registration forms. We'll be publishing the link to the forms at the same time as publishing the rotas. There will be one form for Rowing On, and a separate form for the main Bumps event.