



Captains' Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 1st week Hilary Term 2022

7pm, 19th January 2022

Online (Teams)

Chair: Amelia Standing (OUWBC)

Attendance:

College clubs (voting members): 39

OURCs Committee (voting members): 5

Senior Umpires ratified in the last academic year (voting members): 1

Absences – Hertford, St Anne's, St Catherine's

1. **Welcome**
2. **Minutes of the Last Meeting**
Available at www.ourcs.org.uk
3. **Matters Arising**
No matters arising

4. **Squad Reports**

OUWBC

OUW has had a successful winter training period. We competed in 3 races last term, with our first boats winning 2 and placing 2nd behind the GB team in the 3rd. Over the Christmas vac we went on training camp to Wimbleball. We made a lot of progress despite the very cold weather and it was an invaluable experience. Unfortunately, due to covid we had to postpone our annual trial 8s race. However, this has given us the opportunity to progress more as a team before the race and we are looking forward to a well fought race!

OUBC

The last two months have been very productive for OUBC. At the Wallingford Head in early December the first eight of Olly Perry, Liam Corrigan, Charlie Elwes, Roman Rössli, David Ambler, Barnabe Delarze, Tobias Schroeder, Josh Bowesman-Jones, and Jack Robertson claimed Head of the River and won the event, beating Oxford Brookes and Leander's top eights. The second eight finished in fifth, five seconds behind the second eight from Oxford Brookes, and the coxed four won their event in the afternoon.

The team then trained hard for two weeks in mixed eights in preparation for Trial 8's on December 19. After a week of testing at Caversham, the two eights - Gondor and Rohan - were set. Gondor included Olly Perry,

Tassilo Von Mueller, Liam Corrigan, David Ambler, Barnabe Delarze, Martin Barakso, Henry Pearson, James Forward, and Chris Hull. Rohan's line up was Jack Tottem, Charlie Elwes, Josh Bowesman-Jones, Tobias Schroeder, Augustin Wambersie, Jack Robertson, Roman Rössli, Jan Strattmann, and Chris Rimmer. Rohan had the better start and led by half a length around the Fulham bend. Gondor clawed the deficit back and the two crews were nearly level as they passed under Hammersmith Bridge. Rohan pushed hard after the bridge and after some clashing managed to push out to clear water by Chiswick Steps and maintained this advantage to win by just over a length. It was a close contest, good racing from both boats, and showcased the calibre and depth of our team.

We returned for training camp on January 3 and spent four days on the Tideway getting in some beneficial side-by-side training. The camp in London was a success, and the team was able to spend a lot of time bonding over lunches and dinners. We are currently training at Caversham for a few days, getting in some side-by-side racing before Hilary term starts and we return to our normal training routine at Wallingford. With less than three months to go to the Boat Race, the team is in a good place and we will continue working hard every day to beat Cambridge.

OUWLRC

In welcome contrast to Michaelmas term last year, the squad enjoyed a full term of training together on the water and in the gym, including some valuable Tideway weekends and racing experience. Upper Thames Head at the end of October was the first time many of the squad had raced for the club, and despite the rain and strong headwind, all six crews performed well. A month later, despite a long marshalling period in the freezing cold, both crews entered in Wallingford Head also put in good performances to finish 4th and 5th in a category of 19 boats, and within 4 seconds of each other. The race was 5 km but upstream so it provided a piece of similar duration to the Boat Race that was useful Trial VIIs preparation for both coxes and rowers. Earlier in November, we had started this preparation with a weekend on the Tideway, hosted by the very welcoming Quintin Boat Club, to familiarise ourselves with the course and potential conditions. Only around a fifth of the squad have significant Tideway experience, so our first weekend training there proved to be an eye-opener for many. We were fortunate with the conditions for the outward journey on the first day, but on the way home, the wind picked up and treated us to more typical Tideway water! When we returned to London the day before Trial VIIs, slightly better prepared, we were able to tackle the conditions much more proficiently, highlighting how useful the previous sessions had been! After Wallingford Head, Trial VIIs promised to be a close race, and after a difficult start, Over held Under at a length for most of the course, putting in several strong pushes to challenge Under's lead. Towards the end of the race, Under pulled away to finish around two lengths clear, but pushed to the line by Over's persistent efforts. The day provided good practice of dealing with race-day nerves as well as giving us a benchmark for the challenges and demands of a 6.8 km race. The resilience shown by Over in their repeated challenges for the lead, and the determination from Under to hold off Over's pushes suggest that the squad is in a strong position to tackle the build-up to the Boat Race this term, and to challenge Cambridge on the day.

OULRC

Training recommenced on Tuesday 4th January, and has continued on our regular schedule up to this point. There has been a minor impact of covid on the squad following the return from Christmas, but thankfully this seems to have passed, and everyone has returned to Oxford for training. As of the new OURA rules concerning squad size, we have reduced our numbers to a final 12, which we will now maintain until the Lightweight Boat Race. The cuts were made following seat-racing in late December, post Trial VIIIs. This seat racing has also informed a basic ranking within the squad, which has allowed us to start trying to find a Blue Boat. We expect to follow these preliminary results up with more seat-racing in the coming weeks, with a near final selection made by the start of February. Once seat racing for the Blue Boat has been completed, we are then planning to start seat racing for Nephthys (as those being seat raced depends on the results from the Blue Boat races).

Longer weekend water sessions will see us venture to the Tideway this term, competing in regular fixtures against London based clubs, as well as gaining experience on the racecourse. The first external race we will attend this term is Quintin Head on the 28th January. We will later race Imperial and University of London on the Tideway. In February we will also do our final 5K trial of the term, which will allow us to compare between seasons and years. Based off recent pieces done in the 8+, times are comparable if not slightly better than previous years, which has filled the squad with hope and a determination to push on through to the Boat Race.

5. Ratification of reappointed Ordinary Committee Members – Ty Rallens to speak

- Hannah Germain (Corpus)
- Matilde Soares da Silva (Merton)
- Luke Svasti (Linacre)
- Daina Šadurska (Wolfson)
- James Marsden (Wolfson/Corpus)
- Natasha Smith (Worcester)

No objections. Ratified.

6. Ratification of new Ordinary Committee Members – Ty Rallens to speak

- Qianyi Sun (St Edmund's Hall)
- Sophia Ungermann (Linacre)

No objections. Ratified.

7. 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
 - Anna Garcia: Christ Church (Kellogg) to Magdalen (papers in order)
 - Tobias Schroder: Exeter to Magdalen (papers in order)

- Mark Verhagen: Trinity to Linacre (papers in order)
- Joseph Daniel Field: Lincoln to Mansfield (papers in order)

No objections. Ratified.

8. **Change to the Rules of Racing** – Jacob Applebaum (GTC) to speak
2/3 majority to pass

Change:

1.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; 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 (additions in red):

1.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.

Proposed: Jacob Appelbaum (GTC)

Seconded: Ana Alanis Amaya (GTC)

The proposers stated that the desired rule change was, in spirit, the same as rule 1.a.i.1.c, as captains would still have the power to decide whether extension of student status was granted. The requirements of approval by the captains and college Senior Tutor were intended to prevent potential abuse of this rule by deliberate suspensions solely for rowing reasons. The proposed change was intended to allow students to continue rowing if they had suspended under extraordinary circumstances, or if rowing would be beneficial to their life in Oxford whilst suspended. It was also intended to resolve the fact that DPhil students on certain courses who are able to take retroactive suspensions are able to keep competing, whereas undergraduates and other DPhil students who

suspend at the beginning of a term are not. It was noted, however, that a difference in college policy in what students are allowed to do whilst suspended might lead to unfairness of a different kind.

It was questioned whether this rule change would encourage clubs to make requests that would seriously annoy college authorities, and noted that the requirement of written approval from a college's Senior Tutor was suggested by the OURCs Secretary to make it clear that colleges' restrictions on the activities of suspended students would not be flouted.

It was confirmed that GTC would intend to make use of this rule change this year.

Voting:

For: 30

Against: 2

Abstaining: 13

Motion passes.

9. **Extension of Student Status** – James Lucas to speak

Two-thirds majority to pass

- a. **Rosalin Cooper (Wolfson)** is currently doing her corrections and may receive leave to supplicate later this term. We request that her student status be maintained (if she does receive leave to supplicate), such that she can compete as a full student member in Torpids 2022. This extension of student status would expire on the final day of Torpids 2022 (5th March 2022).

Proposed: Aimee Ruffle (Wolfson)

Seconded: Dominik Kloepfer (Wolfson)

No questions or comments.

Voting:

In favour: 38

Against: 0

Abstaining: 7

Extension of student status granted.

- b. **Rob Ferritto (GTC)** is an ex-captain (2 year pandemic captain), who has been dedicated to the club despite only having 2 weeks of water time before TT 2021, and has only competed in bumps once (Toreights 21). Due to an extremely unfortunate series of events and no fault of his own (pandemic, and now civil unrest in Ethiopia), he has been forced to delay his field work for his DPhil several times and now suspend his studies until the travel advisory to Ethiopia lifts, or he is able to rethink/restart his entire research. We would like to request an extension of his student status from the captains to allow him to race with M1 in Torpids 2022. Our M1 boat is currently in Div 4, and composed of majority of rowers who started in MT. Rob is not a blues or international level rower.

Proposed: Jacob Appelbaum (GTC)

Seconded: Ana Alanis Amaya (GTC)

No questions or comments.

Voting:

In favour: 38

Against: 0

Abstaining: 7

Extension of student status granted.

10. River Closures – Ty Rallens to speak

a. Isis Winter League

IWL C: Sunday 23rd January (2nd Week) – 12:00 until Closing Time or End of Racing

IWL D: Sunday 6th February (4th Week) – 12:00 until Closing Time or End of Racing

IWL E: Sunday 20th February (6th Week) – 12:00 until Closing Time or End of Racing

Proposed: Ty Rallens (OURCs)

Seconded: James Lucas (OURCs)

Passed unanimously.

b. Torpids

Rowing On:

Saturday 26th February (6th Week) – 08:30 until Closing Time or End of Racing

Rowing On Contingency: *(to be used if Rowing On can't run on date above)*

Sunday 27th February (6th Week) – 08:30 until Closing Time or End of Racing

Torpids:

Wednesday 2nd March (7th Week) – 11:00 until Closing Time or End of Racing

Thursday 3rd March (7th Week) – 11:00 until Closing Time or End of Racing

Friday 4th March (7th Week) – 11:00 until Closing Time or End of Racing

Saturday 5th March (7th Week) – Opening Time until Closing Time

Proposed: Ty Rallens (OURCs)

Seconded: James Lucas (OURCs)

It was noted that Rowing On will be held on a Saturday this year; this is a day with fewer academic commitments than Friday, allowing more rowers to be free so that the composition of Rowing On crews can more closely match the composition of the crews planning to race Torpids. The 8.30am closure time on Saturday had been raised with the city clubs at a local River Users Group to no objection, before being proposed here. The river closure until 'End of Racing' was also highlighted, and it was pointed out that outings are often possible following the end of racing, as Rowing On typically doesn't run until Closing Time.

Passed unanimously.

11. Safety Notices – James Lucas to speak

a. Lifejackets

Clubs were reminded of the top suggestions gathered from last term's Club Safety Reviews for changes that could be made to avoid forgetting lifejackets, and encouraged to try at least one of them. These suggestions were: including "cox with lifejacket" said by the cox as part of the numbering-off process, storing lifejackets with (or even attached to) cox boxes/mics in a place they cannot be missed, and instituting an 'outing lead' system for both senior and novice squads where one of the rowers in the boat is delegated the responsibility of looking out for and helping the cox.

b. Boat lights

Clubs were asked to ensure that all boats go out with good boat lights – bright, white, and with the front and back light together visible from 360°. No 'one best brand' of boat light exists; the main problems seen on the Isis with lights are seldom to do with the type of light, rather boats going out with just one light instead of two, or very dim lights due to being out of battery.

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

- Linacre - £20
- Somerville - £0
- Oriel - £100

A captain queried the outcomes of the Linacre Club Safety Review, asking whether, as Linacre had been stopped from spinning at Longbridges rather than actually spinning there, a £20 fine and temporary downgrade of the cox from X to N-status was reasonable. It was explained that Club Safety Reviews are held when an incident with potential serious safety implications has occurred; in this case the major issue had been the safety assessment at the beginning of the outing, and the decision to row on past Boat House Island, which had led to a crew that could not row safely in more than fours being on the river on Light Blue Flag, rather than solely the planned spin at Longbridges. It was explained that the £20 fine was for the club not ensuring that the crew was safe to be out on the river on that day.

It was also noted that the crew had decided to spin, and intent was that this was going to happen before they were stopped, as well as that knowledge of the rules of the Isis is part of what is expected of an X-status cox. It was explained that a temporary downgrade allows coxes to get support following safety incidents, as a temporary period of N-status ensures a period of time with a second person on the bank supervising.

When considering hypothetical medical emergencies, it was also noted that the priority would be to land as soon as possible in a place that is useful in that emergency; often, this means landing at the nearest raft, but decisions in emergencies should be informed by circumstance.

Following these discussions, the outcomes of these CSRs were ratified.

13. Extra Slots

Applications from: Linacre, Green Templeton, New College, Hertford, Lincoln, LMH, University College, St Hilda's, St Edmund Hall, Wolfson, St Catz, Jesus, Magdalen, Mansfield, Christ Church

Monday: Opening – 8am	LMH
Tuesday: Opening – 8am	St Catz
Wednesday: Opening – 8am	Lincoln
Thursday: Opening – 8am	University
Friday: Opening – 8am	Jesus
Sunday: 1pm – 3pm	Mansfield
Sunday: 3pm – 5pm	St Hilda's

Clubs who have received slots may swap days if they want to, but please let OURCs know so that the list can be updated.

14. AOB

- a. Personal conduct – James Lucas to speak

A general conduct reminder was made to all boat club members, including coaches as well as athletes that OURCs member clubs, their members, employees and contractors are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that shows respect for other clubs and the wider public. This applies equally in a coach's conduct towards other crews and river users as to their own. In addition, the welfare reminder was made that college welfare and support structures apply to students on the river as much as in the library.

- b. **Change to the Rules of Racing** – Joe Hitchen to speak

Simple majority to pass

Designate WDiv3 in Torpids as Senior. This will make Women's Division 3 in Torpids a Senior Division, making the designation the same for the two sides in that event, and the same as the designation for Eights. As far as we are aware, the only effect of this change will be to require crews in WDiv3 wanting to use an associate rower to seek the Captains' permission. This would only be permissible within the other rules for associate rower if the club had no crews lower than the WDiv3 crew being entered, so this is a situation unlikely to occur in practice. We are open to this being applied to Torpids 2022, or being delayed a year to take effect from Torpids 2023 onwards.

Replace A3.2.a.viii & ix:

viii. *In Torpids, Men's divisions 1, 2 and 3, and Women's divisions 1 and 2 shall be designated "Senior Divisions".*

xi. *In Eights, Men's divisions 1, 2 and 3, and Women's Divisions 1, 2 and 3 shall be designated "Senior Divisions".*

With (replacement in red):

viii. **Divisions 1, 2, and 3 shall be designated "Senior Divisions"**

Proposed: Joe Hitchen (Senior Umpire)

Seconded: Ty Rallens (OURCs)

No objections were made to this rule change applying from Torpids 2022.

Voting:

For: 42

Against: 0

Abstaining: 3

Motion passes.

c. Date of next Captains' Meeting: Wednesday 16th February

Treasurer's Report - MT21 - End

Oxford University Rowing Clubs

For the 4 months ended 31 January 2022

1. Racing

In an average year, we expect to make a small profit on Autumn Fours and IWL entries. This is countered by a loss on bumps events depending on the level of sponsorship we acquire. Expenses include launch fuel, medics and food for race desk helpers. In the event that an IWL is cancelled, expenses already incurred will lead to a loss. Undersubscribed events may also run at a loss.

OCT 2021 - JAN 2022

Racing

Autumn Fours Entry Fees	(610)
Isis Winter League Entry Fees	(2,338)
A4s expenses	562
Isis Winter League Expenses	780
Total Racing	(1,606)

2. Swim Tests

We expect to break even on swim tests. The cost of pool hire is divided between the tests and distributed to the clubs.

This year, as we're issuing invoices for last year's swim tests, we may appear to make a profit but this is misleading. The expense recorded here is actually the TT21 pool hire. MT20 pool hire was paid last year and so doesn't appear on this statement.

The treasurer may include SuperSAAS subscription costs in swim test fees.

OCT 2021 - JAN 2022

Swim tests

Swim test fees	(8,937)
Swim Test Expenses	80
Total Swim tests	(8,857)

3. Lifejackets

This term, OURCs organised the servicing of life jackets for the college clubs, City of Oxford Rowing Club and OURCs. OURCs covered the cost of collection and return with the servicing costs being passed on directly to the clubs. The cost of maintenance of OURCs life jackets is taken from our budget - around £500 in this period.

OURCs also acquired new life jackets to replace ones which failed. This was necessary to run events. These costs are in the "Lifejackets" account.

Both accounts should show a loss.

OCT 2021 - JAN 2022

Lifejackets

Lifejacket servicing	620
Lifejackets	720
Total Lifejackets	1,340

4. Affiliation fees

Affiliation fees cover a proportion of the Rowing Sabbatical's salary. The rest is covered by the university. These payments have not yet been taken, hence the apparent profit.

OCT 2021 - JAN 2022

Affiliation Fees

Affiliation fees	(6,636)
Total Affiliation Fees	(6,636)

5. Fines

Race day and training fines are issued and collected by OURCs in accordance with the constitution. These fines are distributed evenly between OUL and OUWL.

Acknowledging that last years fine income was vastly reduced by the lack of training and racing, OURCs made a donation to each squad to give offer some financial assistance. As such, the fines account shows a loss.

OCT 2021 - JAN 2022

Fines

Racing Fines	(365)
Training Fines	(30)
Fine payment to lightweights	395
Donations	305
Total Fines	305

6. Launches

We need RYA2 qualified launch drivers to run events. This term we trained 6 new launch drivers. Trainees were selected based on the potential longevity of their commitment to OURCs events.

We also took out insurance to allow us to use the St Anne's launch during events.

OCT 2021 - JAN 2022

Launches

RYA and Training	1,350
Launch Expenses	165
Total Launches	1,515

7. Subscriptions, consumables and one-offs

Spectrum licensing for radio repeaters, accounting software subscription, AWS website hosting,

OCT 2021 - JAN 2022

Assorted tech costs

IT Subscriptions and Consumables	169
Total Assorted tech costs	169

8. Assets

OURCs has three laptops, none of which are in good shape. Next term we will be looking into replacement. One is for the RowSab, the others are for running race desk. Current estimated value - fully depreciated.

Both launches are also nearing the end of their life. We are currently weighing up purchase vs overhaul. Current estimated value - fully depreciated.

A large quantity of cannon shot was purchased in 2019.

OCT 2021 - JAN 2022

Assets

Cannons	2,680
Cannon Shot	4,400
Total Assets	7,080

9. Other

Torpids and eights expenses are payments and repayments for use of the Isis Boathouse.

OCT 2021 - JAN 2022

Other

Interest Income	-
Torpids Expenses	181
Summer Eights Expenses	(163)
Total Other	18

Account Balances

Current account: £9,818.98

Savings account: £6,244.47

32-day notice account: £30,254.34