



**O U R C s**

# Captains' Meeting Agenda

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> Week Michaelmas Term 2024

19:30, 14<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Doctorow Hall, St. Edmund Hall

Chair: Tom Mackintosh (OUBC)

## 1. Welcome

### Attendance:

College Clubs: 52 (52 voting) - absences from Osler House, Trinity, and Wolfson.

OURCs: 6 (5 voting)

Total: 57

The Chair, Tom, introduced himself and his background and the meeting.

## 2. Minutes of the Last Meeting

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

## 3. Matters Arising

No Matters Arising

## 4. Squad Reports

### OUBC Women's Report

The women's team returned to Oxford for the commencement of the 2024/25 Boat Race season in early September. Off the back of a reserve race win for Osiris, a competitive summer racing campaign and a reinvigorated team culture under new head coach, Allan French, the women are feeling motivated and excited about the year ahead.

The squad includes four Blue Boat returners, four Osiris returners, four lightweight Blue Boat returners, a promising development squad contingent, two GB national team recruits (including an Olympic bronze medallist from the W8+) and a US college recruit (Princeton). There have also been a number of new coaching hires, including Zoe Taylor, Harry Brightmore, Mark Chatwin and Bodo Schulenberg, who have all seamlessly integrated with the team and are committed to generating a strong "one club" feel across the OUBC.

This season, the coaching staff are prioritising opportunities for racing. So far, we have sent a 4+ to the European University Rowing Championships in Zagreb, Croatia and an 8+ to the High Point Autumn Rowing Festival in North Carolina. Along with the men, we are sending an 8+ to the Head of the Charles, Boston next weekend. The whole squad will then have opportunities to compete in local races, including Fours Head and Wallingford Head, in the lead up to Trial Vllls in December.

*Annie Anezakis, OUBC Women's President*

### OUBC Men's Report

The OUBC pre-season had an exciting start in California. Our senior members of the team linked up with the college rowers of Cal Berkely and we had some unique exposure to US College rowing. It was a great opportunity for us to meet our new head coach, Mark Fangen-Hall and start to brainstorm how to get the

most out of our season. Mark brings a wealth of experience from his time at Rowing Australia and also Eton College and it's already clear our athletes are excited to work with him. California provided some awesome experiences, including racing 6 eight's, side by side, inclusive of 7 Olympians across the boats!

The recent flooding posed some early season challenges, and I'm proud of how well our athletes handled these events. There is a sense of 'can do' within the squad and I can already feel how much passion for the sport our team has.

We've had plenty of testing throughout the pre-season, which each athlete has embraced and also provides a great sense of competition within the squad.

With the combination of the squads from last year, it's been really pleasing to see each athlete learn from each other and encourage a shared sense of learning. I'm personally very excited to see how much we can leverage each other's talents to make the most of our short season.

In the short term, we look forward to some athletes racing at Head of The Charles in Boston followed by Fours Head and finally Trial Eights in December!

*Tom Mackintosh, OUBC Men's President*

## 5. **Changes to the Code of Conduct** - Sascha Frey to speak

Note that due to rule 1.11.a.i of the OURCs Constitution, these changes will not take effect until consented to by COUR. A full proposal document can be found [here](#).

### *Flag Rule Removals*

## **2. Code of Conduct:**

[...]

### **2.9 Rules Specific to Godstow**

[...]

#### c. The Godstow flag

During varying conditions, additional restrictions may be in force on the Godstow stretch, as indicated by the online flag.

- ~~i. Red Flag (set by a member of the OURCs committee using information provided by the St Edward's School boatmen when the EA display Red Boards for the Godstow to Osney reach): the Godstow stretch is closed to all crews. Navigation of Godstow and Osney Locks is prohibited.~~
- ~~ii. Amber Flag (set by a member of the OURCs committee using information provided by the St Edward's School boatmen when the EA display Red Boards for the Godstow to Osney reach): the Godstow stretch is closed to all crews except eights classed as Senior crews, as defined in 2.7. All crews must be accompanied by a launch. The river is closed below Rainbow Bridge; crews should spin no lower than the sailing club unless landing at the Keble yard. Navigation of Godstow and Osney Locks is prohibited.~~
- ~~iii. Dark Blue Flag (EA displaying Yellow Boards for the Godstow to Osney reach): the Godstow stretch is closed to Novice crews as defined in 2.7.c and all boat types except eights. All crews must be accompanied by a launch. The river is closed below Rainbow Bridge; crews should spin no lower than~~

~~the sailing club unless landing at the Keble yard. Navigation of Godstow and Osney Locks is prohibited.~~

- iv. Green Flag: no additional restrictions in force.
- ~~v. Grey Flag: the system is not currently being maintained and all crews are responsible for referring to the EA or lock keepers for stream advice.~~
- ~~vi. In circumstances where information from the St Edward's School boatmen is out of date and the stream is flowing faster than it indicates, the flag may be changed upwards by any member of the OURCs committee, as long as the decision itself has been taken by at least one of the Secretary, Captain of Coxes, or Rowing Sabbatical Officer, and if possible by all three in conjunction.~~

### *Flag Rule Additions*

## **2. Code of Conduct:**

[...]

### **2.9 Rules Specific to Godstow**

[...]

#### c. The Godstow flag

During varying conditions, additional restrictions may be in force on the Godstow stretch, as indicated by the online flag. The online flag is guided by the local river level differential (defined below) which, for the Godstow reach, is an indicator of the flow.

- i. Red Flag (a differential of 0.75m or higher): the Godstow stretch is closed to all crews. Navigation of Godstow and Osney Lock is prohibited.
- ii. Amber Flag (a differential of 0.45m or higher): the Godstow stretch is closed to all crews except senior crews defined in 2.7, with the further exception that experienced status coxes may be used. All crews must be accompanied by a launch. The river is closed below Medley Footbridge, and navigation of Godstow and Osney Lock is prohibited.
- iii. Green Flag: no additional restrictions in force.
- iv. Grey Flag: the system is not currently being maintained and all crews are responsible for making their own boating decisions, having sought information from public sources, local clubs, the EA, and lock keepers on river conditions.
- v. The flag may be changed when considered necessary by the OURCs Committee for reasons other than the differential. Such a change may be made in practice by any committee member, as long as the decision itself has been taken with at least one of the Secretary, Captain of Coxes, or Rowing Sabbatical, and if possible, by all three in conjunction.
- vi. The differential is calculated using the EA river level sensors downstream of Godstow Lock and upstream of Osney Lock. The differential is measured in metres and calculated as  $(\text{Godstow Downstream}) - (\text{Osney Upstream}) - 1.63\text{m}$ .

### *Changes to Spinning Rules*

## **2. Code of Conduct:**

[...]

### **2.9 Rules Specific to Godstow**

[...]

b. Spinning

- i. Crews spinning from downstream to upstream above ~~Rainbow Bridge~~ Medley Footbridge must do so before or opposite the Medley Sailing Club. The stretch opposite Bossoms Boat Yard is not to be used for spinning or coaching.
- ~~ii. Under the Godstow Amber Flag, all crews must spin upstream of Rainbow Bridge.~~
- iii. Crews spinning from downstream to upstream below Medley Footbridge must do so by the Sheepwash Cut.

*Removal of Novice Crew Definition*

## 2. Code of Conduct:

[...]

### 2.7 Definition of Senior ~~and Novice~~ crews

[...]

~~e. Within these rules, a Novice crew is defined as one falling into either, or both, of the following categories:~~

- ~~i. crews coxed by a cox classified as 'Novice' under 2.5.b;~~
- ~~ii. Crews containing any rower with less than one full Term of water rowing experience.~~

*Proposer: Joe Hitchen (OURCs)*

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

Sascha introduced the motion and explained what the motion did. The Godstow flag would be defined by the differential, rather than the EA boards. It would be controlled manually by the OURCs committee based on the information defined in the rules. Joe had phoned in and offered to answer any questions. There were no questions from captains.

OURCs thanks Joe for his work on this. He has done a lot of work over the summer with the university, and it is greatly appreciated by the committee and especially the new Sab.

It was reiterated that COURs consent is required for these changes to take effect. It was noted that the next meeting was Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October.

**Vote:**

**In Favour: 56**

**Against: 0**

**Abstentions: 1**

## 6. Election of Captain of Coxes – Sophia Ungermann to speak

- Q Sun (OURCs/ St. Edmund Hall)

*Proposed: William Randell (St. Edmund Hall)*

Seconded: Charlotte Rumney (OURCs)

There was a motion put forward to elect via a show of hands. No objections were made.

**Vote:**

**In Favour: 57**

**Against: 0**

**Abstentions: 0**

**7. Ratification of Ordinary Committee Members – Sophia Ungermann to speak**

- Charlotte Rumney (OURCs)
- James Hopkinson (Queen's/OURCs)

**Vote:**

**In Favour: 57**

**Against: 0**

**Abstentions: 0**

**8. Athlete Transfers under A1.2.a - Oscar Hayden to speak**

*Objections may only be made if:*

*The athlete is not a bona fide student, fellow or visiting student at the college they are transferring from.*

*The athlete has never been a **student** member of the college they are transferring to.*

- Columbus Layton, Magdalen to Jesus
- Toby Whitehead, St Edmund Hall to Keble
- George Rabin, Pembroke to St Peter's

**No objections. Ratified.**

**9. Ratification of Senior Umpires – Sophia Ungermann to speak**

- Rachel Quarrell
- David Seale
- Ian Maconnachie
- Patrick Lockley
- Joe Hitchen
- Caroline Barnes
- Alex Woods
- Zoe de Toledo
- Jo Egan

**No objections. Ratified as a slate.**

10. **Change to the Rules of Racing** – Fergus Carrington to speak

**A3 – Rules of Bumps Racing:**

[...]

**15. Technical Row-Overs**

a. The Event Committee, in conjunction with the Race Secretary, may award a Technical Row-Over, and disallow the bump(s) against a crew in the following circumstances:

[...]

v. A crew which in following the ideal racing line (A3.12.c.i) has been bumped solely due to becoming unavoidably entangled in the bungline of another crew or unavoidable contact with another boatman's pole.

*Proposer: Fergus Carrington (LMH)*

*Secunder: Abi Cooper (LMH)*

**This motion was changed to a discussion point. It was explained that the rule was a work in progress and more complicated than expected and would be discussed between LMH and OURCs. Captains were encouraged to contact either party to make suggestions.**

11. **River Closures** – Sophia Ungermann to speak

a. **Isis Winter League**

**IWL A:** Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November (4<sup>th</sup> Week) – 12:00 until Closing Time or End of Racing

**IWL B:** Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December (8<sup>th</sup> Week) – 12:00 until Closing Time or End of Racing

*Proposed: Sophia Ungermann (OURCs)*

*Secounded: Oscar Hayden (OURCs)*

b. **Autumn Fours**

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November (5<sup>th</sup> Week) – 12:00 until Closing Time or End of Racing

*Proposed: Sophia Ungermann (OURCs)*

*Secounded: Oscar Hayden (OURCs)*

c. **Tamesis Regatta**

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November (7<sup>th</sup> Week) – 11:00 until Closing Time or End of Racing

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November (7<sup>th</sup> Week) – 11:00 until Closing Time or End of Racing

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November (7<sup>th</sup> Week) – 11:00 until Closing Time or End of Racing

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November (7<sup>th</sup> Week) – Opening Time until Closing Time

*Proposed: Sophia Ungermann (OURCs)*

*Secounded: Oscar Hayden (OURCs)*

**Vote:**

**In Favour: 57**

**Against: 0**

**Abstentions: 0**

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

Charles explained the existence of the review, and his position. He gave an update on the meetings he had over the summer, which have been productive.

They are deciding the terms of the review, and he has a meeting with the Chair of the Review and Director of Sport, on the 5<sup>th</sup> November. He might be able to talk to the Vice-Chancellor on the 18th October.

He also asked for more volunteers for the working group that was formed last meeting. It currently only covers 4 or 5 college clubs.

As his position was only elected to the end of the next captains' meeting, which was this meeting, a motion was put forward to re-elect him until the end of TT25.

Vote:

In Favour: 57

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

## 13. **OURCs Swim Tests and Capsize Drills** – Oscar Hayden to speak

Spoke to Captains about the first test on the 15th, and clubs with few slots in currently open tests were notified to check whether their committee member responsible for booking was aware of the system. Captains were given a chance to voice concerns about the process, but none raised any.

## 14. **Extra Slots** – Oscar Hayden to speak

Applications Received: 14

*Brasenose, Exeter, Green Templeton, Hertford, Jesus, Keble, Lady Margaret Hall, Lincoln, New, St Anne's, St Catherine's, St Peter's, Somerville, University*

Slots to be announced at the meeting.

Slots were given to the following colleges, who agreed to the below days at the end of the meeting:

Monday: Exeter

Tuesday: Hertford

Wednesday: New

Thursday: Somerville

Friday: Lincoln

## 15. **AOB**

**Treasurers Report [Appendix A] - losses due to paying off expenses due to Eights. Reminded captains to update their contacts on the OURCs entries system for the treasurer.**

**A motion was brought forward by the previous Treasurer to use the fines money from last year to pay off the cannon which has been purchased.**

**Vote:**

**In Favour: 57**

**Against: 0**

**Abstentions: 0**