



O U R C s

Captains' Meeting Minutes

Thursday 1st week Michaelmas Term 2022

7.00pm, 13th October 2022

Doctorow Hall, St Edmund Hall

Chair: Tassilo Von Mueller (OUBC)

Attendance:

College Clubs: 66 (58 voting)

OURCs Committee: 4 (3 voting)

Absences – Regent's Park, Wadham

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

No objections. Minutes ratified.

4. Squad Reports

OUBC

The summer training programme, including the annual fundraiser, prepared our athletes to start University training. Our preseason began on the 6th of September, with a large turnout. We completed our first 5k tests within the first week, with lactate testing, power testing, trips to Dorney lake and Putney in the following weeks. The squad is very new with only 5 returners (this is not uncommon at this point in the Olympic cycle) which has offered a fresh start, creating a positive and competitive atmosphere. Now we look forward to Fours Head of the River!

OUBC

Our squad has been training together since the beginning of September and we just finished our 5th week of training. The start of the season has been very encouraging, and the atmosphere is very strong. The first few weeks included a lot of testing over 2k and 5k distances on the erg as well as a physiology test to determine individual training zones. Based on these results as well as testing on the water, the team was narrowed down to 24 athletes and 4 coxswains. The first month of training also included a weekend on the Tideway to get experience on the race course, as well as a trip to Caversham to do some speed work and switches on a straight and fair course.

I'm excited to say that people have already been making big steps on the water and on the ergs. Everyone is training very hard for our mission this year to sweep Cambridge once again and shatter their hopes of another win streak such as the one up to 2022.

OUWLRC

The lightweight women returned for preseason on 12 th September, welcoming many dev squad rowers from last term into the trialling programme, alongside 3 returning Blue Boat and 2 Tethys athletes. Training guidance was sent out over the summer to get a head start on baseline fitness, and we are now building on this by transitioning onto the water. Emphasis for the first couple of weeks has been on small boats, both sweep and scull, to develop skill level before we move into fours and eights as the term progresses. Huge progress has already been made by all, and we are excited to see how that manifests both in the gym and across the upcoming races, starting with Wallingford LDS just before the start of term and building towards Trial VIIIs in early December. In the next couple of weeks we look also forward to restarting nutrition and S&C sessions supported by the Blues Performance Scheme.

OULRC

OUL returned to pre-season training on the 13th September, with a smaller group returning earlier to train for EUSA in Turkey. We completed 2k, 5k and 30minutes erg tests. We have 4 blue boat returners and 2 Nephthys returners. We have also retained 4 athletes from our Summer Dev Squad. We spent the first few weeks of the season in small boats, with a focus towards Pairs Head in London on the 2nd October to get experience on the tideway in small boats. We entered 5 boats, with 4 boats placing in the top 30, and category results of 1st Intermediate pairs, 2nd and 3rd Lwt double, 3rd championship pair and 4th club pair. We look forward to a busy Michaelmas, with all 6 returners racing at Head of The Charles over the 22/23 October. We follow this with racing at Upper Thames Autumn Head, Fours Head and Trial VIIIs. We currently have 18 athletes and 4 coxes in the squad, having started with 20 athletes and 6 coxes. We will continually evaluate our athletes through on- and off-water testing as we work towards our ideal productive squad size.

5. Senior Umpire appointments – Natasha Smith to speak

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

Proposer: Ty Rallens (OURCs)

Seconder: Natasha Smith (OURCs)

Ratification of all appointments as a slate.

No objections. Ratified.

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

- Ruby Sioux Harrison (Green Templeton)

- Evan Roberts (Christ Church/Kellogg)
- Jessica Steadman (University)
- Ava Harrison (Lady Margaret Hall)
- Ella Khulusi (St Hugh's)

Ratification of all appointments as a slate.

No objections. Ratified.

7. COUR Representative Election – Natasha Smith to speak

- James Perkins (Jesus)

No objections.

James Perkins is the new COUR Representative.

8. Transfers under A1.2 – Natasha Smith 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
 - Toby Whitehead: Keble to St Edmund Hall (papers in order)
 - Charlie Kniebe-Evans: Worcester to University (papers in order)
 - Ellie Greaves: no college to Oriel (papers in order)
 - Nijia Zhou: Brasenose to Linacre (papers in order)
 - Nikolai Juraschko: New to Pembroke (papers in order)

Ratification of all appointments as a slate.

No objections. Ratified.

9. Staff Honorary Member under A1.1.a.iii – Natasha Smith to speak

Two-thirds majority to pass

Wolfson would like Jessica Dunham to be granted Staff Honorary Member status at Wolfson College for the 2022-2023 year (Michaelmas, Hilary and Trinity). They are not seeking permission for her to row in W1.

Jessica Dunham holds a College Staff University Card, number 764571. She is a full-time employee of Wolfson College with a permanent contract with no fixed end date. Proof of this status in the form of a copy of a contract counter-signed by the relevant college authority has been received and verified by the OURCs Sabbatical Officer.

Proposed: Kirsty Peacock (Wolfson)

Seconded: David Geldbach (Wolfson)

Voting:

Votes in favour: 59

Votes against: 0

Abstentions: 2

Request for Staff Honorary Membership granted.

10. River Closures – Ty Rallens to speak

a. Isis Winter League

IWL A: Sunday 30th October (4th Week) – 12:00 until Closing Time or End of Racing

IWL B: Sunday 27th November (8th Week) – 12:00 until Closing Time or End of Racing

Proposed: Ty Rallens (OURCs)

Seconded: Natasha Smith (OURCs)

b. Autumn Fours

Sunday 6th November (5th Week) – 12:00 until Closing Time or End of Racing

Proposed: Ty Rallens (OURCs)

Seconded: Natasha Smith (OURCs)

c. Nephys Regatta

Friday 11th November (5th Week) – 11:00 until Closing Time or End of Racing

Saturday 12th November (5th Week) – Opening Time to Closing Time

Proposed: Ty Rallens (OURCs)

Seconded: Natasha Smith (OURCs)

d. Michaelmas Novice Regatta

Wednesday 23rd November (7th Week) – 11:00 until Closing Time or End of Racing

Thursday 24th November (7th Week) – 11:00 until Closing Time or End of Racing

Friday 25th November (7th Week) – 11:00 until Closing Time or End of Racing

Saturday 26th November (7th Week) – Opening Time until Closing Time

Proposed: Ambre Bertrand (Linacre/Reuben)

Seconded: Maksymilian Brzezicki (Linacre/Reuben)

Voted on as a slate.

Passed unanimously.

11. Amendment to the Rules of Racing – Natasha Smith to speak

Two-thirds majority to pass

The following amendment is a result of the closure of St Benet's Hall, which is an unprecedented situation where a college or hall with an active boat club closed down unexpectedly. This amendment is a temporary measure which will only be applied until the 31/07/23 and allows those who learned to row with the club to continue competing whilst longer-term arrangements are discussed. Within this proposal, the club will have the Regent of Blackfriars appointed as senior member.

This has been proposed by other clubs, but will be spoken about by Sandy Robson, formerly of St Benet's Hall Boat Club, and may be joined by other members formerly of St Benet's Hall Boat Club.

Change:

A1.1.b. Respective college

i. For the above points A1.1.a.i.1.(a-c), respective colleges shall be defined as the College or Private Permanent Hall that Boat Club represents, with the exception of Osler House, which represents Clinical Medical Students. The following boat clubs represent more than one college:

1. Wolfson College Boat Club also represents St. Cross College.
2. St Benet's Hall Boat Club also represents Blackfriars and St. Stephen's House.
3. Regent's Park College Boat Club also represents female members of Blackfriars.
4. Linacre College Boat Club 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.
5. Queen's College Boat Club also represents Wycliffe Hall.
6. Wadham College Boat Club also represents Harris Manchester College.
7. Christ Church Boat Club also represents Kellogg College.
8. Magdalen College Boat Club also represents All Souls College.

ii. Exclusivity

1. An athlete may only compete in Bumps as a non-associate member of one College Boat club in any academic year.
2. In the ambiguous cases above, Clinical Medical students may choose to compete either for their College Boat Club, or for Osler House.
3. Female members of Blackfriars may choose to compete for either St Benet's or Regent's Park.
4. Participation in an event shall be regarded as having decided which College Boat Club to row under as a non-associate.

To (changes in red):

A1.1.b. Respective college

i. For the above points A1.1.a.i.1.(a-c), respective colleges shall be defined as the College or Private Permanent Hall that Boat Club represents, with the exception of Osler House, which represents Clinical Medical Students. The following boat clubs represent more than one college:

1. Wolfson College Boat Club also represents St. Cross College.
2. Blackfriars also represents St Stephen's House and the former St Benet's Hall, competing as "St Benet's Hall Boat Club", until 31/7/23.
3. Regent's Park College Boat Club also represents female members of Blackfriars.
4. Linacre College Boat Club 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.
5. Queen's College Boat Club also represents Wycliffe Hall.
6. Wadham College Boat Club also represents Harris Manchester College.
7. Christ Church Boat Club also represents Kellogg College.
8. Magdalen College Boat Club also represents All Souls College.

ii. Exclusivity

1. An athlete may only compete in Bumps as a non-associate member of one College Boat club in any academic year.
2. In the ambiguous cases above, Clinical Medical students may choose to compete either for their College Boat Club, or for Osler House.
3. Female members of Blackfriars may choose to compete for either St Benet's or Regent's Park.
4. Participation in an event shall be regarded as having decided which College Boat Club to row under as a non-associate.

Proposed: Arthur Bown-Mazzoni (Worcester)

Seconded: Emily Ryan (Hertford)

A member of SBHBC spoke on behalf of the motion. The Secretary stated that with the current wording of the motion, members are given a choice to transfer back to St Benet's Hall Boat Club or remain with their new college. A written ballot was conducted.

Voting:

Votes in favour: 59

Votes against: 0

Abstentions: 2

Motion passes.

12. **Amendment to Code of Conduct** – Becky Hore to speak

Simple majority to pass

Blue flag and Novice status coxes. Last year, an amendment was passed allowing a trial of the concept of the Light Blue Flag which allowed novice coxes to train on blue flag under very limited conditions chosen to ensure such outings remain safe.

OURCs and COUR have monitored the implementation of this policy to ensure that it had the intended effect, to create more-prepared coxes during racing in Torpids and Eights, and that safe crews are going out.

The proposal is that this rule should not only be renewed, but become permanent with a set review point a year from now. The motion is initially the same as the one we trial ran last year.

Changes to the Code of Conduct

1) Change:

- 2.8.g.iv Light Blue Flag (2 bucks): Experienced and Senior status coxes only. Crews must spin between the red and white posts 100m downstream of Donnington Bridge and on Haystacks Corner and may not spin at Longbridges, except to land at Longbridges. The river is closed between Folly Bridge and Oxford Canal. Navigation of Osney and Iffley Locks is prohibited.

2.8.g.iv.1 Novice status coxes on Light Blue Flag:

In addition, on Light Blue Flag (but not Dark Blue Flag) Novice status coxes with at least one full term of coxing experience may train under the following four conditions:

- a. The outing must occur between Sunrise and Sunset (2.1.a);
- b. Other than the cox, the crew must be a Senior crew as defined in 2.7;
- c. The cox must be accompanied by a bank rider with, in case of emergency, a throw-line and a mobile phone, programmed with the phone number for Iffley Lock, which is 01865 777277; and
- d. The names of the full crew, cox, and bankrider and the outing time must be registered with the OURCs executive committee at least 2 hours in advance using the web form at the following URL: <https://forms.gle/4XxUp1GrdtZZhPMi8>.

This rule applies only for a trial period ending on Saturday of Week 8 in HT21 unless otherwise renewed in a Captains' Meeting.

To (changes in red):

2.8.g.iv Light Blue Flag (2 bucks): Experienced and Senior status coxes only. Crews must spin between the red and white posts 100m downstream of Donnington Bridge and on Haystacks Corner and may not spin at Longbridges, except to land at Longbridges. The river is closed between Folly Bridge and Oxford Canal. Navigation of Osney and Iffley Locks is prohibited.

2.8.g.iv.1 Novice status coxes on Light Blue Flag:

In addition, on Light Blue Flag (but not Dark Blue Flag) Novice status coxes with at least one full term of coxing experience may train under the following four conditions:

- a. The outing must occur between Sunrise and Sunset (2.1.a);
- b. Other than the cox, the crew must be a Senior crew as defined in 2.7;
- c. The cox must be accompanied by a bank rider with, in case of emergency, a throw-line and a mobile phone, programmed with the phone number for Iffley Lock, which is 01865 777277; and
- d. The names of the full crew, cox, and bankrider and the outing time must be registered with the OURCs executive committee at least 2 hours in advance using the web form at the following URL: <https://forms.gle/4XxUp1GrdtZZhPMi8>.

~~This rule applies only for a trial period ending on Saturday of Week 8 in HT21 unless otherwise renewed in a Captains' Meeting.~~

Proposed: Becky Hore (OURCs)

Seconded: Ruby Sioux Harrison (OURCs)

Voting:

Votes in favour: 60

Votes against: 0

Abstentions: 1
Motion passes.

13. Extra Slots

Applications from: Worcester, Magdalen, Lady Margaret Hall, Linacre, St Edmund Hall, St Hilda's, St Catherine's, Jesus, Wadham, Lincoln, Somerville, University, and St Peter's.

University	Monday: Opening - 8am
St Peter's	Tuesday: Opening - 8am
Worcester	Wednesday: Opening - 8am
St Catherine's	Thursday: Opening - 8am
Lincoln	Friday: Opening - 8am
Jesus	Sunday: 1pm - 3pm
Linacre	Sunday 3pm - 5pm

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

- **Discussion about a proposed rule change** – Markus Baumgartner

Old Proposal:

A3.5.f. Where a competitor for any day (excluding Rowing On) has a race time which clashes with a university examination or viva, an 'exam substitution' will automatically be permitted under the extraordinary substitution rules, under the following conditions:

- A clashing exam is defined as an exam or viva which finishes within an hour of the expected start time or starts within an hour and a half of the expected start time of the affected competitor's division.
- A copy of the affected competitor's timetable must be submitted to the race committee by 12:00 on the day before the exam clash, along with a cover note explaining the timings of the clash.
- This may be performed at most twice for any individual competitor, and no more than four times in total for any crew during the event.
- Unless there is a very good reason to refuse, the Event Committee will be expected to exercise their discretion under (A3.5.e.ix) to return the substituting rower to their original crew on later race days.

New Proposal:

A3.3.a.ii No person may row in two crews or cox two crews, although it is permitted to row in one crew and cox another. This does not include crews which have failed to row on under rule A3.7. or a rower or cox in a second crew due to an extraordinary examination substitution under rule A3.5.f.

A3.5.f. Where a competitor for any day (excluding Rowing On) has a race time which clashes with a university examination or viva, an 'examination substitution' will automatically be permitted under the extraordinary substitution rules, under the following conditions:

- i. A clashing examination or viva is defined as an exam or viva which finishes within 90 minutes of the expected division start time or starts within two hours of the expected start time of the affected competitor's division.
- ii. A copy of the affected competitor's timetable must be submitted to the race committee by 12:00 on the Sunday prior to the first BUMPs race affected, along with a cover note explaining the timings of the clash and the intended substitution.
- iii. This may be performed at most twice for any individual competitor, and no more than four times in total for any crew during the event.
- iv. The competitor substituting for the examination clashed competitor this rule adheres to must be a regular member of the boat club under A1.1.a.i and A1.1.a.iii and is not allowed to be an associate member.
- v. The substituting competitor must be competing with a lower crew than the crew they are substituting into, and therefore examination substitutions will only allow substitutions from lower boats to higher boats.
- vi. The substituting competitor may only compete in one division on any given racing day and the resulting vacant seats may only be filled through regular substitutions and not by extended use of A3.5.f.
- vii. Unless there is a very good reason to refuse, the Event Committee will be expected to exercise their discretion under (A3.5.e.ix) to return the substituting competitor to their original crew on later race days. Where very good reason to refuse is outlined by the following:
 1. The requested substitution provides a crew significant advantage not had before.
 2. The requested substitution is not submitted with sufficient or satisfactory evidence of an examination clash.
 3. The proposed substitution can occur through regular substitutions.
 4. There is evidence that the requested substitution was submitted in bad-faith or the exploitation of this rule was intended.

Markus summarised the situation from the previous captains meeting, and pointed out that the current wording excludes fellows but he will rectify this. No discussion was had, however captains are encouraged to get in touch with Markus to share their thoughts on the motion.

- **Recruiting new Secretary** – Ty Rallens to speak

The term for our current secretary, Ty Rallens, expires at the end of Michaelmas 2022. This position is a vital role within the committee and helps ensure the races we all enjoy participating in run smoothly. We currently have no one to fill the role once this term expires, if you are interested in the position, please get in touch with Ty at secretary@ourcs.co.uk.

- **Long Vac Treasurer's Report** – Q Sun to speak

As noted in the first TT22 Captain's Meeting, OURCs are looking to increase the entry fees for all OURCs-run regattas to bring the entry fees in-line with inflation.

The entry fees for A4s, IWLS, and Bumps have not changed for a decade and, were we to continue at the current entry fees, OURCs would begin to lose more and more money, leaving us financially stranded. Hence, these entry fee increases will keep college rowing afloat.

These price increases will be:

IWLS, A4s - 25%.

Torpids, VIIIs - 50%, keeping entry fees for boats that fail to row on at £25

The affiliation fee per crew, as per 1.5.g, will be £42.22

- **BR Audits** – Natasha Smith to speak
British Rowing Audits must be received *and approved* by the British Rowing Regional Representative before the 16th November. They opened on Tuesday, 11th October. I am setting an internal deadline of 31st October. Anyone who has not submitted by the end of the month will receive emails from me chasing up on it.
- **Swim test expirations** – Natasha Smith to speak
As required in the Code of Conduct 2.4.a.i, all athletes competing in OURCs events must have passed a swim test within the past six years. Any athletes entered in regattas this term with expired (or missing) swim tests will not be allowed to compete. Natasha will be sending a list to each club of athletes in the entries system who have near-expiring or expired swim tests. As a reminder, clubs can remove athletes from their rosters in the entries system by clicking on the “deactivate” button shown on the athlete’s individual profile. Contact the Webmaster for any assistance needed.
- **Life jacket servicing** – Natasha Smith to speak
There will hopefully be a visit from the RNLI to teach clubs how to inspect and maintain their own lifejackets. Details to be confirmed
- **Vortex blades**
A question was raised about the outcome of the COUR meeting regarding Vortex Edge blades. The Sabbatical Officer explained what Vortex Edge blades are, and the concerns within COUR, and explained that discussion was ongoing and will be continuing during the next COUR meeting this term. Vortex Edge blades are currently not allowed in bumps racing, under A3.20.a.
- **Coxing upgrades**
The Captain of Coxes was asked for an updated on coxing upgrades. They confirmed auto-upgrades were in the process of being released soon, and for assessments crews should continue to email in any requests, as well as availability.



Treasurer's Report: TT22 – End (of Long Vacation)

Oxford University Rowing Clubs

Regarding the five (5) months ended 30/09/2022

1. Racing

As is standard with running bumps races, we expect to make a loss on VIIIs entries. These expenses include launch fuel, medics, food for Racedesk helpers, and so on. As mentioned in the first TT22 Captain's Meeting, we expect entry fees for both Bumps and other OURCs-run regattas to increase in-line with inflation this coming year.

The Torpids Expenses present are residual payments.

Racing:

Summer VIIIs Entry Fees: (8725)

Summer VIIIs Expenses: 9,196.71

Torpids Expenses: 250

Total racing: 721.71

~~~~~

## 2: Swim Tests

We expect to break perfectly even on swim tests, with the cost of pool hire divided between each test slot and distributed directly to the clubs.

The Sports Department had not yet invoiced us for any of the 2021-2022 academic year's swim tests, so, it appears as though a profit has been made; this is misleading. This will be apparent when compared to the Treasurer's Report: MT22 - End, which shall show a substantial loss.

The Swim test expenses are SuperSAAS subscription fees.

Swim Tests:

Swim Test fees: (4831.81)

Swim Test expenses: 90

Total swim tests: (4741.81)

~~~~~

3. Lifejackets

Over the Long Vacation, OURCs lent out a number of lifejackets to the City of Oxford Rowing Club (CORC) for use in the CORC regatta, hence the profit made. No servicing, nor replacing, of lifejackets took place over this period, hence, no expenses.

Lifejackets:

Lifejacket income: (101.83)

Lifejacket expenses: 0.00

Total lifejackets: (101.83)

~~~~~

#### **4. Affiliation fees**

Affiliation fees are paid from college boatclubs to OURCs to cover half of the Rowing Sabbatical Officer's salary, with the other half covered by the University. The payments were not taken in this period, hence the lack of any fees nor payments made to the University.

With regards to the affiliation fee per crew (as defined by the OURCs Constitution 1.5.g):

Total contribution to the RowSab's salary: 7260

Total number of boats as per 1.5.g: 168

Affiliation fee per crew as per 1.5.g: 42.22

*N.B.* Invoices for affiliation fees shall be sent out in the coming term.

~~~~~

5. Fines

Racing and training fines are issued and collected by OURCs as per the Constitution. These fines are evenly distributed between OUWL and OUL.

The money collected from fines was not yet paid to OUWL nor OUL, hence the profit. We expect these accounts, throughout the year, to break-even.

Fines:

Racing fines: (2375)

Training fines: 0.00

Total fines: (2375)

~~~~~

#### **6. Equipment and radios**

Over the Long Vacation, OURCs began repairs on crucial pieces of race equipment that allow the smooth running of OURCs-run regattas, such as the repeater.

A number of radios and various bits of equipment were also purchased to aid the running of regattas, such as a Racedesk phone.

Equipment and radios:

Race equipment expenses: 363.60

Computer equipment expenses: 390.91

Radios: 1618.79

Total equipment and radios: 2373.30

~~~~~

7. Subscriptions, consumables, and one-offs

Many subscriptions were continuously paid over Long Vacation to ensure smooth running of OURCs, such as: subscriptions for website hosting, accounting software, licensing for radios and repeaters.

We expect all subscriptions to, naturally, show a loss.

Miscellaneous technology costs:

Subscriptions, consumables, and one-offs: 516.94

Total miscellaneous technology costs: 516.94