



Captains' Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 1st WEEK Michaelmas 2025

19:30-21:30, 15.10.2025

Doctorow Hall, St Edmund Hall, OX1 4AR

Chair: Julia Bellardo (OUBC/OURCs)

1. Welcome – Multiple to Speak [5 minutes]

Welcomes from executive committee members including Sabbatical Officer and Secretary.

Overview of full committee for 25-26.

Meeting begun 19.32

Attendance:

College Clubs: 50

OURCs: 6

Blues: 1

In absence of the Chair, it was resolved that Julia Bellardo would chair the meeting.

Committee introduced themselves and their roles

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting [5 minutes]

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

3. Matters Arising [5 minutes]

Pursuant to TT25 Week 8 Appendix A on a panel to determine the beneficiaries of OURCs fines revenue for future years, the Secretary, Sam Schipper, updated the captains on the progress in formation of this committee, which should be convened by Week 6, and asked that captains begin brainstorming proposals to be heard by the committee (and officially called for) at a later date.

4. OUBC Squad Reports – Julia Bellardo to Speak [5 minutes]

OUBC WOMEN – Heidi Long

The start of season has been going well so far, with some great progress already being made on and off the water. All the athletes have got stuck into the testing and training with enthusiasm and determination to make boats as fast as possible. The water sessions have generally included a mixture of smaller and larger boats, with everyone going into 8s on Sundays to bring the whole squad



OUBC

together. The Sunday sessions have been particularly great, with 5 women's eights on the water, lots of side-by-side battle-paddling and pieces.

This year we had record numbers who chose to Trial at the start of the season for the women's squad with 71 rowers and 13 coxes starting the process. Our core coaching staff has remained the same but we have built the team to include a coxswain consultant, physiologist and psychologist.

Training started on Tuesday 2nd September and physiological testing took place in the form of a 2Kr26, 30'r20 and 5Kr26 over the first 3-weeks with testing on the water set to take place over the weekend of 27-28th September at Caversham. This testing will be in small boats (1x and 2-) and 4+'s.

Athletes competing internationally: Myself and Esther Briz Zamorano raced at World Rowing Championships. I doubled up in the GB Coxless Four and Eight, coming 5th and 3rd respectively. Esther raced in the Single Scull for Spain, coming 6th overall! Sarah Marshall won gold in both the women's eight and women's four at FISU (World University Championships).

The atmosphere in the squad is supportive and hardworking. Response to the welfare drop in sessions with Sarah Marshall have been positive and key welfare contacts have been circulated to ensure athletes are aware of who they can reach out to. Dr Alison Maitland gave the first in a series of talks on sports psychology which was well received and had high levels of engagement.

The social media has massively improved over the last few months. Annie Anezakis has taken a lead role in sharing competitions, racing schedules, results and life at OUBC. There has already been an increase in engagement with followers. We hope to maintain a strong social media presence to keep everyone engaged and excited about OUBC!

We are excited to build off the momentum created over the last two years and ready to take on the challenge ahead!

OUBC MEN -- Tobias Bernard

Preseason opened with a week of ergo and S&C testing. Returners demonstrated strong summer training, and some of the new athletes posted impressive scores, setting a good Benchmark.

On the water, a high number of sessions combined with early morning departures have boosted attendance and accelerated technical progress. Training has emphasised small boats, with frequent lineup changes to build competition and unity of technical focus. Eights have also been used for competitive battle paddling to reinforce this work and mix athletes. On land, additional new RP3s have enabled large-group ergs with strong technical focus and a positive atmosphere which we plan to use to integrate aspirational athletes arriving in Freshers' week and rowers making the step up from colleges.



This year will see a renewed focus on making the most of the college development system which has long been neglected. We will offer supplemental training opportunities for rowers outside of the main training squad. For the first weeks of Michaelmas Term, this will consist of additional land sessions which will grow to more frequent water sessions with the hope of running a year-round development program. If college boat clubs are unable to train on the water due to high stream or flooding, we are looking into ways of helping driven college athletes to continue their on-the-water development by inviting athletes to train with us at Wallingford.

All reports accepted as read.

5. Ratification of OURCs Ordinary Committee Members – Sam Schipper to Speak [5 minutes]

- a. Katarzyna (Kate) Healy (Magdalen)
- b. Harriet Anderson (OURCs)

52 votes in favour, 5 abstentions.

OCMs ratified.

6. Ratification of College Safety Reviews [10 minutes]

A. University College [Paper 1]

56 votes in favour, 1 abstention.

CSR ratified.

7. Ratification of Senior Umpires – Sam Schipper to Speak [5 minutes]

The Secretary (Sam Schipper) explained that in the first Captains' Meeting of the year we ratify a pool of senior umpires, trained by the existing pool, for all OURCs racing. The proposed pool was ratified unanimously as a slate:

- Rachel Quarrell (Coordinating Senior Umpire)
- David Seale
- Joe Hitchen
- Patrick Lockley
- Caroline Barnes
- Zoe de Toledo
- Alex Woods
- Jo Egan



OURCs

8. Transfers – Sophie Kubik to Speak [5 minutes]

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.*

Transfers under A1.2.a

- a. Gustavo Cabrera Pinzon (Keble to St. Anthony's)
- b. James Bennett (Lincoln to Mansfield)
- c. Rebecca Tanner (St. Hugh's to University)
- d. Gregory Cuff (Magdalen to University)
- e. Amy Jenkins (Christ Church to St. Anne's)

The Sabbatical Officer (Sophie Kubik) noted that she now has access to the university enrolment system, thus enrolment certificates will no longer be needed as full membership can be verified internally.

Transfers ratified with no objections.

9. River Closures – Multiple to Speak [10 minutes]

a. OURCs Races – Sam Schipper to Speak

- a. **IWL A:** Sunday 2nd November (4th week) - 12:00 until Closing Time or End of Racing
- b. **Autumn Fours:** Sunday 9th November (5th Week) - 12:00 until Closing Time or End of Racing
- c. **IWL B:** Sunday 30th November (8th week) - 12:00 until Closing Time or End of Racing

Proposed: Sam Schipper (OURCs)

Seconded: Sophie Kubik (OURCs/OUSport)

Closures ratified with no objections.

b. The Lion and The Chough Regatta 2025 – Julia Bellardo to Speak

- a. **Information:** *The Lion & The Chough Regatta is a mostly inter-collegiate competition primarily for eights, instituted as a replacement for the now-defunct Nephthys Regatta, last organised by the OULRC in 2022. The deleterious conditions during the early training season, causing the cancellation of several OURCs events since 2022, necessitates the provision of more opportunities for College Boat Clubs to train their rowers and coxswains in time for Bumps, Tamesis, and beyond, which is the impetus behind this competition.*

The competition will be run as a side-by-side knockout tournament, in which two crews will race alongside each other from a standing start, upstream from



Longbridges Boat House to Cox's Stone (course length approximately 800m). Buoys will separate the navigation channel and each racing lane. In the event of a low number of entries, events may be run as a "round robin" competition where the winner will be the one with the most wins. In the event of a tie in the number of wins, the winner will be the victor of a race between the tied boats. There will be separate Men's and Women's events for both Novice and Open experience levels. The competition shall contain events for small boats, fours, and stern-coxed eights, with the Friday consisting of mostly Novice events and the Saturday consisting of mostly Senior events. There will be medals for the winners!

- b. **Closures:** Friday 21st November (6th Week) – 11:00 until Closing Time or End of Racing. Saturday ~~28th~~ 22nd November (6th Week) – Opening Time until Closing Time

Proposed: ~~Julia Bellardo (Balliol/OURCs)~~

Seconded: Q Sun (SEH/OURCs)

Motion proposed by Samuel Schipper as Julia Bellardo was chair.

A typo in the date of Saturday racing (22nd November) was friendly amended. It was explained that this regatta is intended to replace the Nephthys Regatta, last run in 2022, with a day of senior racing and a day of novice racing following a similar side-by-side format to Autumn 4s. Various boat classes will be eligible to race.

Closures ratified with no objections.

c. **Tamesis Novice Regatta 2025 – Sydney Rose to Speak**

- a. ~~Closures: 11:30-16:00 Wednesday November 26, 2025 until Friday November 28, 2025, 10:30 Opening Time 16:30 Saturday November 29, 2025~~
- b. Wed-Fri Week 7 (26-28 November) 11:00 – End of Racing
- c. Saturday Week 7 (29th November) Opening Time – End of Racing

Proposed: Sydney Rose (Linacre)

Seconded: Sophie Kubik (OURCs/OUSport)

Sydney Rose explained the format of Tamesis Novice Regatta, a knockout event with side-by-side racing to take place over four days in Week 7. It was noted due to stream conditions that this event has not run since 2022.

A friendly amendment was reached in line with A6.2b: (Permission for river closure) the OURCs River Closure on Saturday is from Opening Time out of courtesy to other river users (i.e. town clubs) before Saturday's racing.

Closures ratified with no objections.



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10.Changes to Entry Fees – Julia Bellardo to Speak [5 minutes]

Competition	Boat Class	Old entry fees	Proposed entry fees	Increase
IWL/ISL	8+	£20	£22	10%
	4+, 4-, 4x, 4x+	£16	£17	6.25%
	2+, 2-, 2x	£14	£14	0%
	1x	£12	£12	0%
Autumn IVs	4+	£20	£22	10%
Bumps Racing	8+ rows on	£90	£98	8.8%
	8+ fails to row on	£25	£25	0%

Julia Bellardo (Treasurer) explained the need for a slight augmentation in entry fees due to the purchase of a new safety launch engine this year. She explained that this year the cost would be distributed amongst all racing, rather than last year's 20% rise in bumps fees and no other changes. It was explained this might help captains budget throughout the year.

Changes ratified with no objections.

11.List of Fines – Julia Bellardo to Speak [5 minutes]

A current list of fines can be found [here](#).

Julia Bellardo (Treasurer) presented a list of fines as per Appendix A to the minutes of TT25 Week 8 Captains' Meeting. She explained this can never be an exhaustive list as we cannot predict exact events, and that the CSR process stands independently from this list. The list was made available to captains via QR code and will be published on the OURCs website when finalised.

12.Affiliation Fees – Julia Bellardo to Speak [5 minutes]

Julia Bellardo (Treasurer) explained that there is not yet an exact number for affiliation fees, but it is estimated that fees would be £55 per eight that rowed on in Summer Eights 2025. It was promised that a final number and official call for payment would come soon.

13.Changes to the Code of Conduct [15 minutes]

Code of Conduct 2.8.b.ii reads:

ii. Clubs with a high number of crews may apply for an extra slot through an application to the Sabbatical Officer prior to Sunday of 1st Week. Ten extra slots (two per weekday) are awarded each Michaelmas and Hilary Terms, with no club having more than one extra slot in a term.

1. Extra Slots will be allocated based on a Club's expected number of racing crews, minus the number of racking spots in use elsewhere, starting with the largest Club. In the event that multiple clubs have an



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equal number of crews, priority should be given first to clubs unable to train during the Proctors' closure (as defined in 2.6.o), and then to clubs that did not have an extra slot in the previous term.

a. The OURCs committee can depart from this process within reason when awarding slots but must explain all changes at the first Captain's meeting. Changes may be challenged and overturned by majority vote.

2. The Sabbatical Officer will announce the recipients of an extra slot on Sunday of 1st Week with immediate effect, alongside publishing the information provided by all applicant clubs and the ranking used to allocate the slots. The results of the process should then be discussed at the first Captains' Meeting of Term.

We propose a change to a sooner request deadline and thus sooner communication so that clubs have the opportunity to actually organise outings should they receive extra slots.

2.8.b.ii

Clubs with a high number of crews may apply for an extra slot through an application to the Sabbatical Officer prior to Sunday of ~~1st~~ 0th Week. Ten extra slots (two per weekday) are awarded each Michaelmas and Hilary Terms, with no club having more than one extra slot in a term.

[...]

2. The Sabbatical Officer will announce the recipients of an extra slot on ~~Sunday of 1st~~ Friday of 0th Week ~~with immediate effect~~ to take effect Monday of 1st week, alongside publishing the information provided by all applicant clubs and the ranking used to allocate the slots. The results of the process should then be discussed at the first Captains' Meeting of Term.

Proposer: Sam Schipper (New/OURCs)

Seconder: Sophie Kubik (OURCs/OUSport)

It was explained (Sam Schipper) that current extra slot application procedures, implemented last year, were under review for the scheduling convenience of captains. It was suggested that the Sunday Week 0 deadline is too early, as clubs won't yet have novice signup numbers in Michaelmas. A Wednesday Week 1 deadline was proposed, but it was noted that this would require slots to be announced and implemented Monday Week 2 for fairness reasons.

It was noted that most clubs have consistent intake year on year and can estimate (as many did this year). A friendly amendment was proposed by St. Catherine's College that the deadline for applications be Friday, Week 0, with an announcement from OURCs as to recipients of extra slots on Saturday Week 0, to take effect Monday Week 1.

2.8.b.ii



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Clubs with a high number of crews may apply for an extra slot through an application to the Sabbatical Officer prior to ~~Sunday~~ Friday of ~~1st~~ 0th Week. Ten extra slots (two per weekday) are awarded each Michaelmas and Hilary Terms, with no club having more than one extra slot in a term.

[...]

2. The Sabbatical Officer will announce the recipients of an extra slot on ~~Sunday of 1st~~ Saturday of 0th Week ~~with immediate effect~~ to take effect Monday of 1st week, alongside publishing the information provided by all applicant clubs and the ranking used to allocate the slots. The results of the process should then be discussed at the first Captains' Meeting of Term.

For: 56

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1

Motion Passes

14.Changes to the Rules of Racing – Sam Schipper to Speak [15 minutes]

Following an exclusion at Vllls 2025, Wolfson brought a motion to amend the technical bumps rule. Minutes excerpt below:

Technical Bumps

- a. The Event Committee may award technical bumps to crews which:
 - i.do not start in accordance with OURCs regulations;
 - ii.are excluded by the Senior Umpire ~~under A1.5.h.iii. and/or;~~

Proposer: Tomas Gray (Wolfson)

Seconder: Mads Hoefer (Wolfson)

They were bringing this motion to avoid the situation that arose in bumps where Churchill [sic] did not receive a technical bump despite being excluded. They decided to bring the above after discussing more wording with the Sabbatical Officer.

For: 43

Abstentions: 2

Against: 0

Motion passes.

In A3.16.b, there is a subsequent detail regarding how a division should be set off if an exclusion has occurred with a crew already boated. The aim of this is therefore to standardise these clauses for consistency and the avoidance of ambiguity. Therefore, the change proposed is:



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b. In the event of a crew being excluded by the Senior Umpire ~~(A1.5.h.iii)~~ their bungline shall be left empty and the division shall proceed as normal.

This should not change the meaning of the rules, and normalises the fact that there are multiple grounds for SU exclusion.

Proposed: Samuel Schipper (New / OURCs)

Seconded: Sophie Kubik (OURCs/OUSport)

The Secretary (Sam Schipper) explained that in the TT25 Week 8 rule changes referenced above, a reference to the rule that was changed (A1.5.h.iii) was not removed. This amendment aims to remove that reference for the clarification of existing rules, which note that there are multiple grounds for SU exclusion.

For: 55

Against: 0

Abstain: 2

Amendment Passes.

15. Capsize Drills and Swim Tests – Sophie Kubik to Speak [5 minutes]

The Sabbatical Officer (Sophie) spoke to ask captains to remind their athletes to wear correct attire (T shirt which covers shoulders, shorts or leggings, no swimming aides (e.g. goggles, swim caps). It was explained that medical documentation was needed to justify the use of swimming aides – this can be sent to the Sabbatical Officer if needed.

Captains were thanked for their hard work so far and reminded of the phased booking system. It was announced that a test has been added for the evening of Friday 24th October, to be opened for phase 1 booking on 16th October, noon.

16. Extra Slots – Sam Schipper to Speak [10 minutes]

The Secretary (Sam Schipper) explained procedures outlined in Code of Conduct 2.8. He announced and verified the recipients of MT25 extra slots. It was explained that if crews wanted to swap days, they must clear it with each other's committees and then inform the secretary and sabbatical officer for record-keeping purposes.

17. AOB

The following administrative notices were made by the OURCs committee:

Sabbatical Officer:



OURC

- The British Rowing Safety Audit is open, clubs must complete it by the stated deadline in order to remain affiliated with OURCs and BR.
- A plea to update contact details on the OURCs website, particularly of senior members.
- If clubs have a designated swim test contact they should email the sabbatical officer with their name and email. Unless otherwise specified, swim test results are sent to both captains.
- The committee has new emails which are [ourcs.\[position\]@sport.ox.ac.uk](mailto:ourcs.[position]@sport.ox.ac.uk). It was noted that the ourcs.co.uk addresses are still in operation through the end of term but new inquiries should be directed to the @sport addresses.
- It was noted that OURCs have purchased a new engine for our safety launch, X03.

Treasurer:

- It was asked that clubs email Julia (ourcs.treasurer@sport.ox.ac.uk) if they would like to change the designated contact for invoices.

Meeting adjourned 20:04.