



O U R C s

Captains' Meeting Minutes

7pm, Thursday 1st week Michaelmas Term

17th October 2019

Vernon Harcourt Room, St Hilda's

Chair: Tina Christmann, OUWBC President

1. Welcome

Attendance:

College boat clubs: 51

Squads: 1

OURCs Committee: 8

Absences: Osler House

Total voting body: 60

2. Minutes of the last meeting

- Available at <http://ourcs.co.uk/>

3. Matters Arising

a. **Affiliation fees** – Viv Leong to speak

Affiliation fees are calculated based on the number of boats entered in Eights and pay for part of the RowSab's salary. This year they are £39.50 per boat entered in Summer Eights 2019. Invoices will be going out shortly.

b. **Safety** – Jo Egan to speak

- **Lights:** please make sure all crews have adequate lights for morning and evening outings
- **Ergs:** An athlete was taken to hospital after an erg session recently, please be sensible and look after yourselves and your crewmates on ergs
- **Long hair:** to reiterate the safety advice from the recent HRSA: a junior sculler capsized in Ireland recently, her hair became caught in her rigger and she could not get back to the surface to breathe. She suffered brain damage as a result. Please make sure any rowers with long hair tie it up in a bun before outings.

c. **BR Safety Audits** – Jo Egan to speak

The link on the BR website is broken. To do the Audit, please use the link sent around by BR in an email on the 30th September, which will be sent around on the mailing lists. Please get the Audits done by 31st October.

d. **Transgender subcommittee** – Iona Woodward to speak

The Transgender subcommittee was set up last year to introduce a transgender policy to prevent discrimination against any athletes who do not identify wholly with the gender they were assigned at birth. They wrote a policy which is currently in the rules and are aiming to make a clear and

concise separate document which is easier to read. The previous head of the subcommittee has graduated and the committee is looking to recruit new members. Please get in touch with OURCs or Iona Woodward if you are interested in joining.

- e. **Women's subcommittee** – Beri Kotetko to speak
The women's subcommittee was set up last year with the aim of reaching equal numbers on men's and women's crews racing. Many committee members have graduated, please get email sabbatical@ourcs.co.uk if you are interested in getting involved.
- f. **OURCs vacancies and recruitment** – Joe Lord to speak
There are a few vacancies for Ordinary Committee Members at the moment. Most of the current committee have exams during Summer Eights, so please get in touch with secretary@ourcs.co.uk if you would be interested in running or helping to run it.
- g. **Open Meeting** – Joe Lord to speak
The Open Meeting will be held from 7-9pm on Tuesday of 3rd week, Lecture Room B, Worcester College. Feel free to drop in and then leave again. It will be an opportunity for anyone to ask questions etc. of the OURCs secretary.
- h. **Autumn 4s 2018 Medal Presentation**– Joe Lord to speak
Medals were presented to Wadham on behalf of their Women's 4+ which won Autumn 4s 2018. The IWL pennant was also presented to Corpus Christi Women for winning IWL 2017-18.

4. Squad reports

OUWBC – Tina Christmann

OUWBC had a good season of summer racing. We saw one coxed four winning at Reading Amateur Regatta. We had an eight and a coxless four competing at Henley women's with the eight making it to the Semi-Final. The coxless four also qualified for and competed at Henley Royal Regatta. We had a motivated development squad, of which 8 rowers now trial. In July we had a 4 day cycling training camp in Wallingford.

Pre-season has started on the 9th of September and we had a good turn up, with many people from the dev squad, 7 returner and new people with decent previous rowing experience and 8 coxes. Our season has started well, we've done a lot of training in small boats and the ergometer tests are on a decent level. We're soon getting into our term-time routine and will prepare for four's head, Regatta of London and other upcoming races.

OUBC - Augustin Wambersie

This year I have appointed Charlie Buchanan as Vice President and Tobias DeMendonca as club Secretary to assist me in my role. Both have been performing well in their roles so far. The start of this years campaign began with a prescribed minimum volume of training over the summer in order to ensure that those trialing would start with a certain level of base fitness on day one.

Trialling began with 58 athletes in total, a significant step up from last year, 15 of which were returners, 7 from last seasons Blue boat. After an intensive period of testing and seat racing, the squad now reduced to a more operational number of 30. In the current squad we have an even balance between grads and undergrads, with 5 and 4 freshers from each, all with significant past rowing experience. The arrival of two new talented coxes has also greatly helped improve the level of sessions on the water.

Our focus has now turned to putting together lineups for fours head with 6 entries lined up in different categories

OUWLRC – Leah Mitchell

After the Lightweight Boat Race, we entered a number of boats at BUCS regatta. The squad won a gold in the Championship Lwt 8+, a silver in the Intermediate Lwt 1x, and a Bronze in the Championship Lwt 4-. Our Championship Lwt 4x also came 4th, qualifying them for EUSA. Our athletes then returned to their college clubs to row in Summer Eights, after which our summer racing season began, largely in small boats at regattas including Met regatta, Reading Town, Henley Women's, Molesey, and Henley Town and Visitors. 4 athletes raced in the Championship Lwt1x and one in the Aspirational Lwt1x at HWR, making up over a third of the field in the Championship event. At Molesey regatta, both our 2x and 2- won the Tier 1 event, and Naomi Holland won the 1x Tier 2 event. At Henley T&V, both our athletes came away with pots having won their respective categories in the 1x. We were also invited to take an 8+ to the World Rowing Universities Regatta in Xi'an, China, where we won bronze and had a lovely time, meeting rowers from international universities and participating in the Chinese culture. We finished our summer season with our 4x winning silver at EUSA (and doing an erg marathon to fundraise their way there!). We also ran a successful Development Squad during the summer term, culminating in Reading Town regatta, where we entered two coxed fours and an eight. The seniors also joined, winning their 2x and 4+ categories. Chris and Jill took a small group of development squad athletes to Wimbleball along with the EUSA 4x, as a mini pre-season training camp. Most of these athletes are returning to trial with us this season.

We have begun the 2019-20 season with a new Head Coach, Martin Cambareri, and a promising group of athletes. We will be working towards the new challenge of a Tideway race, and are excited to see how our squad develops over the coming months.

OULRC – Arthur Arnould

After a summer that included a silver medal at EUSA and prequalifying for Henley Royal Regatta, OULRC has had a good start to the 2019-20 season. With three returning Blue Boat members and six from the reserve crew being joined by many talented new recruits, the squad has great strength in depth.

We have managed to get a lot of good quality training in on the water during pre-season, alongside some off the water testing. We are looking forward to upcoming races as we head into the start of term.

There is a great squad atmosphere and everyone is highly motivated. Athlete retention has been good thus far and we are excited to carry this good momentum through the rest of the season.

5. Senior Umpire appointments – Jo Egan to speak

- Rachel Quarrell
- David Locke
- Ian Maconnachie
- Pat Lockley
- Caroline Barnes
- Alex Woods

All SUs are usually ratified at the beginning of the year. However, Alex Woods, an ex-College, -Isis, and -Blue Boat rower, has not begun his SU training yet. The plan was to train him up during the year and he would only SU solo at Summer Eights at the earliest.

Unfriendly amendment to withdraw Alex Woods from the list of SUs for ratification:

Votes in favour: 17

Opposed: 24

Abstentions: 19

Amendment fails

Ratification of all 6 appointments:

Votes in favour: 57

Opposed: 1

Abstentions: 2

Ratified as a slate

6. Ratification of Ordinary Committee Members – Joe Lord to speak

- Ty Rallens (Merton) - reappointment
- Tom Surridge (Mansfield)
- Rebecca Jackson (Magdalen)

Ratified unanimously

7. COUR Rep

The COUR rep represents the Captains on the Council of Oxford University Rowing, a safety council which sits once per term.

The new COUR Rep is Henry Connor, Hertford.

8. Transfers under A1.2

Objections may only be made on the grounds that:

- *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*
- a. Eloise Stark: GTC to Wadham (Harris Manchester) – *papers in order*
 - b. Christopher Whiteman: Oriel to Somerville – *papers in order*
 - c. Charlotte Lee: GTC to Balliol – *papers in order*

No objections

9. River Closures

a. Autumn Fours

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

Proposed: Joe Lord (St Benet's/OURCs)

Seconded: Jo Egan (OURCs)

b. Isis Winter League

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

IWL B: Sunday 1st December (8th Week) – 12:00 until Closing Time or End of Racing
Proposed: Joe Lord (St Benet's/OURCs)
Seconded: Jo Egan (OURCs)

Autumn Fours and Isis Winter league voted on together.

Passed unanimously

c. **Nephthys Regatta**

Friday 15th November (5th Week) – 11:00 until Closing Time or End of Racing
Saturday 16th November (5th Week) – Opening Time until Closing Time
Proposed: Jack Ren (OULRC)
Seconded: Arthur Arnould (OULRC)

Nephthys Regatta has moved from its usual time in 6th week to 5th week as Fours Head is the weekend of 6th week. As a result of the earlier time, novice crews must have coxes who registered in Trinity Term 2019 or earlier. Novice coxes will be permitted to cox senior crews.

Passes unanimously

d. **Christ Church Regatta**

Wednesday 27th November (7th Week) – 11:00 until Closing Time or End of Racing
Thursday 28th November (7th Week) – 11:00 until Closing Time or End of Racing
Friday 29th November (7th Week) – 11:00 until Closing Time or End of Racing
Saturday 30th November (7th Week) – Opening Time until Closing Time
Proposed: Xueer Zhou (Christ Church)
Seconded: Matthew Cooke (Christ Church)

Passes unanimously

10. Amendment to Constitution

Change 1.5.f: All affiliated clubs are required to pay invoices to OURCs within the 30 day credit terms as issued. Any invoice unpaid 30 days after the due date will cause the corresponding club to disaffiliate from OURCs at a date within 44 days of the original due date. This date shall be fixed by the OURCs treasurer and OURCs Senior Treasurer 30 days after the original due date. Exceptions in cases of bona fide financial hardship may be agreed prior to that date with the OURCS senior treasurer.

to

(additions shown in red)

All affiliated clubs are required to pay invoices to OURCs within the 30 day credit terms as issued. Any invoice unpaid 30 days after the due date will cause the corresponding club to disaffiliate from OURCs at a date within 44 days of the original due date. This date shall be fixed by the OURCs treasurer and OURCs Senior Treasurer 30 days after the original due

date. **If the disaffiliation point falls between 1st July and 30th September of the current calendar year inclusive it shall automatically become 12 noon on Monday 1st week of the upcoming Michaelmas Term.** Exceptions in cases of bona fide financial hardship may be agreed prior to that date with the OURCs Senior Treasurer.

Proposed: Viv Leong (St Hugh's/OURCs)

Seconded: David Locke (OURCs)

The OURCs Treasurer and Senior Treasurer realised that if the disaffiliation point comes in the long vac, clubs may not have access to their money and not be able to pay the fine. This did not seem fair.

Constitutional amendment, requires 2:1 majority of those in favour to those against, and an overall majority of those present and eligible to vote.

Passes unanimously

11. Amendment to Rules of Racing

Add to A3.14 Technical Bumps

A3.14g: If the Event Committee chooses to award a Technical Bump during Rowing On, the bump shall be applied on the first day of Bumps Proper.

And

In A3.7j Rowing On

Renumber: **A3.7j:** 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.

To **A3.7j.i**

And add

A3.7j.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.

Proposed: Jo Egan (OURCs)

Seconded: Joe Lord (St Benet's/OURCs)

Two crews were disqualified from Rowing On last year for breaking the rules in ways that would only have led to Technical Bumps if the same rules had been broken during the week of actual bumps racing. Due to the way the rules were written, Technical Bumps could not be given in Rowing On. Technical Bumps are the least severe racing penalty that can be given, disqualification is the most severe, it does not seem fair to have two such different levels of penalty for the same thing.

Passes unanimously

12. Amendment to Rules of Racing

Add to A1.4 Event Committee

A1.4b: The Event Committee shall exist from 90 minutes before the scheduled start of the first race on a given day until all decisions and appeals relating to that day's racing are concluded.

Proposed: Jo Egan (OURCs)

Seconded: Joe Lord (St Benet's/OURCs)

The Event committee has significant powers but next to no formal definition in the rules.

Votes in favour: 59

Opposed: 0

Abstentions: 1

Motion passes

13. Extra Slots

Applications from: New College, Christ Church, University, Queen's, Wolfson, Hertford, Magdalen, GTC, Merton, Mansfield, St Peter's, Pembroke, Jesus, Linacre

Monday: Opening-8am	New College
Tuesday: Opening-8am	Pembroke
Wednesday: Opening-8am	Magdalen
Thursday: Opening-8am	Christ Church
Friday: Opening-8am	St Peter's
Sunday: 1pm-3pm	Mansfield
Sunday: 3pm-5pm	University

14. Ratification of Major transgression Meetings

- a. Jesus – No lifejacket (Eights), £40
- b. St Edmund Hall – No Lifejacket (Eights), £40
- c. St Edmund Hall – No Lifejacket, £50
- d. Keble – transit in City Closure, £10

No objections

Passes unanimously

15. AOB

a. Mailing lists – Joe Lord to speak

Please remind your rowers and coxes to join the mailing lists. There have been some issues with RCML, these are hopefully being fixed now.

b. Discussion point: Summer Eights Rowing On date – Jo Egan to speak

Last year, the Eights Rowing On date was moved from Friday afternoon to Saturday afternoon to avoid athletes having to move academic commitments on Fridays for two weeks in a row, and to avoid a compulsory exam that 1st year medics sit every year.

The move to Saturday meant that there was more river traffic and clubs lost more training time as a Saturday race requires a full day's river closure.

Alternative suggestion is to hold Rowing On on Friday evening, starting at around 5pm as this will leave Saturday unaffected and should avoid academic clashes two weeks in a row.

There was general support for this idea from the meeting, OURCs Secretary and Sabbatical Officer will check with other river users and Senior Umpires.

c. Discussion point: Torpids Contingency plan – Jo Egan to speak

Several years ago, the idea of a Torpids Contingency plan to allow some racing if all four days of Torpids were lost was brought up, with the suggested plan being to move to Dorney Lake and run some racing there.

This plan was looked into in detail last year by the RowSab and Acting Secretary, and it was found to be financially and logistically impossible (for example, there are not enough trailers in the Oxford area to transport a men's and women's Eight for each college to the lake, and transporting the athletes would require just about every single coach in the Oxfordshire area, which is incredibly expensive).

An alternative suggestion is 8th week Torpids. This would run on the Isis, so does not have huge transport costs, though having the medics on standby for an additional week would lead to some extra costs. These costs would be covered by OURCs and would not be transferred to the college clubs.

If this is done, it, like Dorney Torpids, would only happen if all days of racing were lost in the normal (6th or 7th week) Torpids slot. As many undergraduates have to move out of College accommodation on Saturday of 8th week, this could probably only run on Wednesday and Thursday (and potentially Friday). If this is found to be feasible, more discussion at a Captains' meeting will be needed to iron out the details, e.g. do the results count towards the Bumps Charts?

There was general support for the idea of looking into an 8th week Torpids contingency. OURCs committee will investigate further and report back.

- d. Discussion point: Changes to Bumps order outside of a regatta – Jo Egan to speak
- i. No changes to the finish order will be allowed after the results are finalised*
 - ii. Any rules found after a regatta to be broken during a regatta will be addressed in an MTM after the regatta with any resulting Penalty Bumps applied to the next year's Start Order*
 - iii. Finalised finish order can be altered under certain circumstances (circumstances and procedure tbd)*

An individual (who wishes to remain anonymous) got in contact with the RowSab and the Senior Umpires over the summer to query the legality of the composition of a crew at Summer Eights 2019. The SUs investigated this query with the colleges involved and found that no rules had been broken and the crew in question was legal. However, it raised the question of what they could and should do in such a situation if the crew had been found to have broken the rules, and they would like the captains' feedback and opinions on this.

No-one present knew any examples in the past of crews having been found to have broken rules after the end of the regatta. However, the increasing number of race photos being posted online after the end of the event means that the likelihood of any incorrect crews being spotted after the event is increasing.

The three above points are examples of the range of possible options that could be aimed for and are intended to be used as a starting point for discussions. The meeting discussed the three suggestions. It was pointed out that option 1 suggests that crews can get away with breaking rules as long as no-one notices at the time. Option 2 was seen as somewhat unfair to future crews as they could be penalised for rules broken by past crews which they had no control over.

It was pointed out that in other sports, such as athletics or cycling, the results can be changed at any time and the winners found to have broken rules can be stripped of medals, the equivalent of changing a past finish order. The possibility of changing a finish order affects anything awarded for that year, such as Headship or blades (though blades are awarded by colleges and at their discretion). In some past cycling races, when the winner has been stripped of their win for doping or similar, the medals were not reawarded as it was assumed that any non-winners were also doping and so ineligible. It would therefore be possible, if, for example, a broken rule affected the Headship, for the Headship not to be awarded that year, though a different crew would start on bungline 1 of division 1 the next year.

The meeting felt that the severity of the rule broken should be reflected in the punishment and a 4th option, between options 2 and 3 in severity, was suggested:

- iv. Any rules found after the end of a regatta to have been broken during the regatta will be addressed in an MTM, which will have the power to apply penalties to either Start or Finish Orders, depending on the severity of the rule broken.*

Informal show of hands to gauge the approximate level of penalty preferred:

- i: 7 votes
- ii: 6 votes
- iii: 6 votes
- iv: 30 votes

RowSab will work with Senior Umpires to word a proposal based on option 4, to be brought to a future Captains' Meeting.

e. Swim test availability – Tabitha Thornton-Swan to speak

Around 19 colleges are having trouble booking enough swimtest slots for their novice rowers to take the test. The number of slots this year is based on the number of tests last year. The general feeling is that last year was a very poor year for recruitment, this year has been a good year so far, so there is more demand for the slots than slots available.

Unfortunately, the times when the pool is available are limited, as it is shared between pool members and University squads and societies, so finding extra time is difficult.

The Sab has been discussing the need for more tests with the Sports Department. They think they can run tests faster than they originally thought, so the capacity per time slot will be increasing for the Friday 18th October and Tuesday 22nd October slots. Depending on how this goes, capacity for future slots may also increase. Additional slots will also be added for an extra half hour after the original finish time of both tests. These Friday slots will be assigned first to clubs who have not got any slots so far, with the Tuesday slots open for general booking.

Many additional slots will be added on the 9th November, with the tests running until 9:30pm to get more people tested, though it is appreciated that this is quite late in term.

The other possibility for more slots is on Thursday 31st October, when Sports department staff (who run the tests) may be willing to stay very late (e.g. until midnight). However, this will only be possible due to staff goodwill. If the slots are not going to be fully booked, or people do not show up to the slots they book, the staff will not be willing to help out in the future.

It was agreed that the Captains will book slots in chronological order, starting with the earliest slots and working up to the later ones if needed. The RowSab will move any slots that do not conform to this. This will hopefully be open for booking as soon as possible. Any late slots that are not sufficiently full approximately a week before will be cancelled.

The captains also had the following suggestions for ways to improve the new system:

- Each college is automatically assigned a number of slots based on previous numbers and can then edit if they need more/fewer
- Make captains book each slot individually, including putting in OSSIDs to try to ensure the correct number of slots are booked
- Change the minimum cancellation time to 48 hours before the slot to make clubs think ahead. Any last minute cancellations, e.g. due to

illnesses, can be emailed to the RowSab, who can contact other clubs and offer them the slots.

f. Coxing reminders – Alex Koffman

N-X assessments can be run on blue flag if necessary, get in touch with coxing@ourcs.co.uk to request them

g. Senior status reminder – Joe Lord and Alex Koffman

Under the rules, only crews with at least four experienced rowers (more than 3 term's experience) and an S status cox can automatically count as senior as required under amber flag. For any other crews (e.g. uncoxed boats, scullers etc), you need permission from the Secretary and Captain of Coxes. Please get in contact with them, tell them who will be in the boat and their experience levels.

h. OUWBC announcement – Tina Christmann

OUWBC are looking for volunteers, full details will be sent to the mailing lists shortly.