



O U R C S

Captains' Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 8th week Trinity Term 2018

18:00, 13 June 2018

St. Anne's College

Chair: Eleanor Shearer

1. Welcome

Absent: Hertford, Keble, Mansfield, St Peter's, Worcester, Osler House (excused).

43 voting members present.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting

Available at www.ourcs.org.uk

3. Matters Arising

a) Outstanding Payments:

Linacre £35
Wadham £10
St Hugh's £55
Hertford £241
GTC £14
Exeter £4
Christ Church £32
St. Benet's £2
St Antony's £87
Queens £18
Pembroke £46
SEH £205
St. Peter's £256
LMH £69
Mansfield £376
Merton £301
Magdalen £143
Lincoln £409
Keble £72
Wolfson £10
Jesus £95

b) Women's Torpids Trophy See report 1.

Voting was overwhelmingly in favour of repurposing an old trophy (2 for a new trophy, 1 abstention), having a 'winner's book' (4 for engraving the old winners, 4 abstentions) and having a ceremony for the headship crews (2 against having a ceremony, 22 abstentions).

c) Women in Rowing.

See report 2.

Kate asked for anyone interested in being involved to contact her.

4. Election

OURCs Sponsorship Secretary

No candidate.

OURCs Captain of Coxes

- a) Ty Rallens
Proposed: Matilde Soares da Silva (Merton)
Seconded: Fabio Schmidt-Fischbach (St Antony's)

- b) Katherine Davies
Proposed: Dylan Gutt (Merton)
Seconded: Elysia Hannaford (Jesus)

Ty: 16 votes
Katherine: 23 votes
Abstentions: 4 votes

Katherine Davis is our new Captain of Coxes

OURCs Treasurer

Lukas Koch

Proposed: Dylan Gutt (Merton)
Seconded: Dylan Matilde Soares da Silva (Merton)

0 opposed
1 Abstention

Lukas Koch is re-elected Treasurer

5. Changes to the Rules of Racing

With academic pressure increasing and the fact that a first-year medics' exam took place during Eights Rowing On this year, it would be prudent to look now at alternative options for staging Rowing On to ensure as many athletes as possible can participate.

Any rule changes would depend upon the approval of the Environment Agency, town clubs and other relevant bodies.

Proposal to change A3.6.3 from: Rowing On races shall normally take place on the Friday preceding the bumps races. To one of the following alternatives.

Option 1:

To: Rowing On races shall normally take place on the **Sunday** preceding the bumps races.

We just go for Sunday with no backup plan. Weather is usually sufficient, certainly in Eights, but is risky.

Option 2:

No rule change required, but Rowing On start time moved to e.g. **3pm**.

Starting at 3pm instead of 1pm, R/O runs roughly 3pm-6.30pm - still leaves crews time for some outings in the evening and means there is time for at least one division after 5pm. Not viable for Torpids (sunset too early), would require approval of town clubs.

Option 3:

Rowing On races shall normally take place on the **Saturday** preceding the bumps races.

Saturday afternoons instead of Friday afternoons means no academic clashes. This would require agreement of the town clubs; preliminary discussions suggest they would agree to this but they would probably ask for a river closure in the morning. This would have a knock-on effect on Fixed Division crew training (especially if we are then forced to postpone to Sunday).

Option 4:

Rowing On races shall normally take place on the **Tuesday of the week** preceding the bumps races (i.e. if Eights is in 5th, Rowing On shall be Tuesday of 4th)

Tuesday before bumps means that nobody is asking to move two tutes in a row at any point. Probably better for Torpids as this could mean <4 weeks' preparation for Eights crews.

PROCEDURAL NOTE: If a different decision between Torpids and Eights, suggest creating rule A3.6.3a: For Summer Eights, Rowing On shall normally take place etc.

Proposed: Oliver Hedges

Seconded; Katherine Halcrow

Preferences for the different options:

Option 1:

Torpids: 0

Summer 8s: 7

Option 2:

Torpids: 0

Summer 8s: 5

Option 3:

Torpids: 18

Summer 8s: 20

Option 4:
Torpids: 14
Summer 8s: 6

Vote to change the rules for option three for Torpids:

9 in favour
4 abstentions

Motion fails

Vote to change the rules for option three for Summer Eights:

20 in favour
18 against
2 abstentions

Motion passes.

Change Rule A1.4.g From:

‘Impose fines on Boat Clubs for not complying with the above rules, such fines to be confirmed by the Race Secretary, who (or another member of Committee, typically the OURCs Treasurer) shall notify the Colleges involved by midnight of that day's racing. Where fines are incurred on the Saturday of a bumps regatta, the clubs must be notified by midnight of the following Saturday.’

To:

‘Impose fines on Boat Clubs for not complying with the above rules or ***the Event Plan***, such fines to be confirmed by the Race Secretary, who (or another member of Committee, typically the OURCs Treasurer) shall notify the Colleges involved by midnight of that day's racing. Where fines are incurred on the Saturday of a bumps regatta, the clubs must be notified by midnight of the following Saturday.’

Proposed: Oliver Hedges

Seconded; Katherine Halcrow

Passed unanimously

6. Change to the Code of Conduct

Change 2.4.1.a From:

‘ensuring that all athletes have passed a swim test in the last six years demonstrating their ability to meet the standards laid out in RowSafe, section 1.9, or produce evidence to the Rowing Sabbatical Officer of an equivalent swimming ability. Prior to the taking of such a test, College Boat Clubs should follow the guidance provided by the Sabbatical Officer. All rowers and coxes should be swim tested at the first available opportunity and in any case before their 6th session on the water. No

athlete who has yet to pass a swimming test may go out onto the water following their 5th session, or following the failure of such a test until they subsequently pass.’

To:

‘ensuring that all athletes have passed a swim test in the last six years demonstrating their ability to meet the standards laid out in RowSafe, section 1.9. Prior to the taking of such a test, College Boat Clubs should follow the guidance provided by the Sabbatical Officer. All rowers and coxes should be swim tested at the first available opportunity and in any case before their 6th session on the water. No athlete who has yet to pass a swimming test may go out onto the water following their 5th session, or following the failure of such a test until they subsequently pass.’

Proposed: Oliver Hedges

Seconded; Katherine Halcrow

Passed unanimously

7. Major Transgression Meetings

University – No Lifejacket, £100 fine.

Pembroke – No Lifejacket, £100 fine.

LMH – No Lifejacket, £25 fine.

Jesus – Outing during City Closure, £0 fine.

All ratified.

8. AOB

- a) Access to Christ Church Meadows.

The Christ Church Stewards are the suggested points of contact for access. We encourage all college boat clubs to open dialogues, either individually or as a group.

- b) Balliol’s Gordouli Races.

Paper 1

I was asked by the captains to investigate the provision of a women's torpids headship trophy on the grounds that this is the only headship that does not have a trophy which is clearly not equitable or sustainable. However, given the considerable cost estimates initially provided, thought to be in the region of £10-15k, this needed careful consideration in case other options were available. I do not want this meeting to take a binding vote, but will ask for an indicative show of hands as the details are not quite worked out yet and some are having to remain confidential owing to ongoing negotiation.

One option would be to withdraw the men's trophy and so achieve parity at no cost. While this does sound perverse, it should be remembered that this trophy went missing for 8 years in the recent past before anyone missed it and the engravings of winning crews on it are thought to be about 35 years out of date. This option is not recommended however as recent neglect does not seem a good enough justification to withdraw such an important historic link to the early days of torpids racing. Captains are asked to consider this option on informal show of hands though as it is a feasible thing to do.

A second option would be to purchase a brand new trophy. To be comparable to the men's trophy (which feels like the only reasonable thing to do, a lesser trophy would seem almost as bad as not having one at all) the cost would likely be in the originally estimated £10-15k. This feels to me to be too much money for a trophy which is very rarely seen and is unlikely, in reality, to be held by more than a handful of clubs in the foreseeable future given typical headship changes. Captains are asked to consider this option on informal show of hands though as it is a feasible thing to do.

My preferred option would be to obtain an historic trophy, of similar standing and gravitas to the men's. These are available from a number of sources and look like you'd imagine an Oxford rowing trophy should look. A silver smith would then engrave it appropriately, such that it was impossible to tell it was re purposed and a new base fitted to take shields. The total cost of this option, including the silver smith and new base is estimated at £5k, though clearly it depends on how much work is needed and the exact size. As an indication, exclusive of base the men's trophy is thought to be about 45cm tall, I am inspecting it on Friday this week. Captains are asked to consider and, if appropriate, endorse this option on an informal show of hands. While the details must remain confidential it is likely that a non-corporate donor has been identified who would bear much, if not all, of this cost. Captains are asked though to endorse spending OURCS funds over the long vacation if this donation is not forthcoming.

Captains are also asked to consider what is done with these trophies. They currently sit in the safes of a tiny number of colleges, rarely seen. I would recommend that captains request the OURCS committee and sabbatical officer to initiate a presentation of the trophies for all 4 headships, taking place a few days after bumps at a modest reception in a neutral college with a guest presenter and modest refreshment to make a bit more of a 'thing' of the receipt of the trophy. Captains are also asked to endorse the idea that the shields on the existing trophies should be brought up to date. We note that this is typically at the expense of the college holding the headship and that an engraved shield is approximately £100.

Finally, captains should consider what should happen to women's winners of the torpids headship prior to the purchase of the trophy. This is a matter of opinion. To me, it feels like it would be re writing history and pretending this inequity had never existed if we retrofit back to the late 1970s when women's torpids racing began. Instead, I would like to propose a leather bound 'winners book', with proper artistic writing, is created to list the crews who won up to the present day, which is kept with the trophy in perpetuity.

Best,

David

Paper 2

Women in Rowing - Initial Meeting

May 11, 2018

Meeting Participants:

Juliette Perry, Jo Egan, Harriet-Rose Noons, Hannah Germain, Emma Sadler, Kate Halcrow

Abstract:

In Oxford bumps racing, the first ever women's crew competed in a men's division. In 1969, St. Hilda's was the first women's college to have a women's crew qualify by "Rowing On" for Summer Vllls, competing in Men's Div VIII. 2026 marks 50 years of full women's divisions in rowing bumps races in Oxford. OURCs and Captains' Meetings have seen recent discussion points along this theme, culminating in the development of a committee devoted to facilitating changes in the culture of Oxford rowing. We believe women's and men's rowing and racing deserves equal prestige and wish to act in support of a shift in attitude, an altered zeitgeist, geared towards gender parity in the sport of rowing.

GOALS

SHORT TERM:

- Address community with regular updates (CMs)
- Ask for interested individuals to send applications to Kate (see below)
- Continue planning Women's trophy(ies)
- End race event with Women's Division through adjacent divs or two short pauses
- Encouraging more composite crews if it would mean more women rowing and racing
- Recruit more women individually and in groups through college events. GET EVERYONE TO BBQ's and ROWING TASTER DAYS!

MID-RANGE:

- Completion of Women's trophy(ies)
- Equal number of Men's/Women's divisions in races
- Equal definition of "Fixed Divisions" and "Rowing On Divisions" (Rules of Racing A3.2.1.a-b)
- Torpids: Women's Div 3 considered part of "Senior Divisions" (Rules of Racing A3.2.1.h-i)
- Linking up OUWBC and women in college clubs
- Consider gaining Brookes/Taurus and city club (CORC, Falcon) involvement

LONG GAME:

- Increase female participation in sport generally, and specifically get more women rowing.
- Continue the initiative (this is not a one year initiative!)
- Address gender parity issues involving OUBC and OUWBC
- 8 years out: Mark the 50 year anniversary of Women's Racing Divisions. Reach goal of equal divisions, with Women's Div 1 as final event of racing in 2026 to celebrate achievement.

RESOURCES and ASSET MANAGEMENT

To college clubs and captains! If you feel so driven, have a discussion about your club finances. How much do you spend on the men's side and how much for the women? What about other tangible assets?

What about intangible assets? How long does your boat club keep records of finances?

APPLICATIONS

"We need people who are passionate and have drive." - HRN

Please send email Kate at secretary@ourcs.ox.co for an application with the subject line "WOMEN IN ROWING" including applicant name, college/club, and what the applicant (self or other)

would bring to the initiative. We are interested in a variety of individuals for a well-rounded approach:

women, men, students, alum, staff, associates, people outside of Uni of Oxford involved in rowing.

WHY DO WOMEN ROW?

"WHY DID YOU START? WHY DO YOU KEEP ROWING?"

EXCITEMENT: "In bumps, the minute the gun goes, it's a constant sprint. You have to stay ahead of them the whole way until you physically bump into the other boat."

FUN: "There's something really nice about the atmosphere. There's nothing quite like being on the bungline, feeling like you're going to pass out, and then being like, 'again, again, again!'"

ENVIRONMENT: "I love being on the water. Also, I held onto a blade, and I sat up a little taller. I thought, 'I know what to do with this.'" It was somehow empowering.

OPPORTUNITY for SUCCESS: "Trialling is the best thing I could have ever done."

ACCEPTANCE and TEAMWORK: "I got chosen to be on a sports team. It was so cool."

FALLING IN LOVE WITH THE SPORT: "Do you know the boat crackle? I love the boat crackle. I like making boats go fast. I cox because I can make fast boats go fast. There's also a specific crew, and a specific feeling... look at this picture. We rowed over in absolutely glorious sunshine... it was the perfect moment."

GAINING SKILL: "The boat moving well is a good feeling. I don't row anymore, but I cox. Coxing skills make a difference in an outing regardless of whether the coach is there or not."

TANGIBLE GOALS and COMPETITION: “The sport is wonderful because it’s both simple and extremely complex. I thought I’d be good at it, I like to win, but more importantly, I like to work to win.”

FRIENDSHIP: Because it’s fun. And because you automatically get 8 friends just by turning up.

[... Literally bouncing up and down...]

EXERCISE and WELLBEING: “I feel better after I do it. Whether I row, erg or cox, I feel better after I do it.”

Rowing and racing provides structure, celebrates achievement, helps us experiencing tradition, gives participants the concrete feeling they have a place in Oxford. Come join us!