



**O U R C s**

# Captains' Meeting Agenda

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> week Hilary Term 2023

7.00pm, 19<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Doctorow Hall, St Edmund Hall

Chair: James Forward (OUBC)

## Attendance:

College Clubs: 59 (59 voting)

OURCs Committee: 6 (5 voting)

Absences: St Benet's & St Peter's

1. **Welcome**
2. **Minutes of the Last Meeting**  
Available at [www.ourcs.co.uk](http://www.ourcs.co.uk)

**No objections. Minutes ratified.**

3. **Matters Arising**  
No matters arising

4. **Squad Reports**

## OUBC

The squad looks back on a productive season thus far. Our first race was Upper Thames Autumn Head, where we came first and second in the coxed four, first in the coxless four and first in the eight- winning the fastest women's crew of the day trophy. We had strong performances in Fours Head showing depth and progress in the squad as well as highlighting where we can improve. Our Four's head result suggests that the Boat Race against Cambridge in March will be close. One of our athletes also competed at GB trials. We finished the term with Trial Vllls, a fantastic opportunity to get our first full run down the Championship course this season.

We are grateful to have been abroad this year in Temple-Sur-Lot for our winter training camp with OUBC. We took 20 rowers, 3 coxes, our coaching staff and a physiotherapist. It has been useful to get the miles in alongside a technical focus on a long stretch of uninterrupted water and refine our focus for the months ahead. The squad came together and made huge improvements over the course of the training camp.

The new calendar year brings fixtures against some of the UK's top women's crews. Athletes are working hard to make their seats in the final crews, with the last rounds of ergo testing and seat racing lined up in anticipation of crews being announced for the Boat Races.

## OUBC

Before Christmas, our team split up into two eights to prepare for the traditional trial eights race. Each boat had two weeks in a fixed line-up before competing on the racecourse in London in mid-December. The race was extremely exciting and both crews were gutsy throughout the entire piece. Neither boat was able to get ahead by more than half a length until a clash late in the race led to a crab. Although the race was decided in that moment, it could have gone to the last stroke, and it proved the determination of the team to not give

their opposition an inch. We learnt some valuable lessons during that campaign which be critical later in the season.

Our team is now in training camp in Le-Temple-sur-Lot, France, to keep working on the foundations as well as starting get some miles in ranked boats. After returning to Oxford, the crews will only have a little over ten weeks left until the race. Everyone is extremely excited to make the most of the remaining time to put ourselves in the best possible position for March 26th.

### **OUWLRC**

Michaelmas term saw plenty of success for the lightweight women, with wins at Wallingford LDS and UTAH. We also produced competitive results at the Fours Head, with the 2nd fastest time in the Academic 4+ and 3rd in Academic 4-, ahead of our Cambridge lightweight counterparts. This momentum was carried on as we moved into match eights in preparation for Trial VIIIIs at the end of term. It was a gutsy day of racing, with coxes and rowers performing incredibly well. After a couple of weeks of home training over the Christmas period, we then welcomed in the new year with a week of training on the Tideway. The camp saw lots of progress made, kilometres covered, and boat speed found, and we hope to build on this as we begin to count down the final 9 weeks until race day.

### **OULRC**

After a busy Michaelmas term and a two and a half week winter break, OUL returned to training on the 3rd of January. Michaelmas saw a host of successes for the club; most notably hosting Nephthys Regatta, participating in our first Head of the Charles Regatta in the USA, and a successful showing at Fours Head - including the retention of the Academic 4- category, and favourable results relative to openweight crews in the Championship and Academic divisions. Trial VIIIIs preparation was hampered by injury and illness, requiring a number of substitutes in the build up to the race, which unfortunately did not provide the side-by-side we were hoping for. Nevertheless, it proved a useful learning exercise. Michaelmas culminated in the selection of 12 athletes to remain in the squad in the lead-up to the Lightweight Boat Races to ensure OURA compliance.

Looking ahead, we are (at time of writing) within 11 weeks of our race. The next months will be aimed at selecting our fastest racing boats to compete against Cambridge. We have a number of fixtures in London to prepare for the race, and will be racing at Quintin head, as well as attending a handful of training weekends on the tideway.

#### **5. Ratification of reappointed Ordinary Committee Members – Q Sun to speak**

- Zara Watson (Queen's)

**No objections. Ratified.**

#### **6. Ratification of Webmaster – Q Sun to speak**

- Agathiyar Bragadeesh (Wadham)

**No objections. Ratified.**

#### **7. 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

- Christian Coester: St Annes to Wolfson (papers in order)

- Eloise Stark: Green Templeton College to Wadham (papers in order)

Ratification of all transfers as a slate.

**No objections. Ratified.**

8. **River Closures** – Q Sun to speak

a. **Isis Winter League**

**IWL C:** Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> January (2<sup>nd</sup> Week) – 12:00 until Closing Time or End of Racing

**IWL D:** Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February (4<sup>th</sup> Week) – 12:00 until Closing Time or End of Racing

*Proposed: Q Sun (OURCs)*

*Seconded: Natasha Smith (OURCs)*

b. **Torpids**

**Rowing On:**

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February (5<sup>th</sup> Week) – 08:30 until Closing Time or End of Racing

**Rowing On Contingency:** (to be used if Rowing On can't run on date above)

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February (6<sup>th</sup> Week) – 08:00 until Closing Time or End of Racing

**Torpids:**

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February (6<sup>th</sup> Week) – 11:00 until Closing Time or End of Racing

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February (6<sup>th</sup> Week) – 11:00 until Closing Time or End of Racing

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February (6<sup>th</sup> Week) – 11:00 until Closing Time or End of Racing

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February (6<sup>th</sup> Week) – Opening Time until Closing Time

*Proposed: Q Sun (OURCs)*

*Seconded: Natasha Smith (OURCs)*

Voted on as a slate.

**Passed unanimously.**

9. **COUR Report** - Natasha Smith to speak

In the MT22 COUR meeting there was a discussion on the use of Vortex Edge blades. There was a suggestion that a redesign of the Vortex Edge in 2009 had made them less dangerous, however COUR are still concerned there is a risk of delamination. Any decision regarding the rule is made with the safety to rowers as the priority, and the risk is deemed to be high still. COUR ultimately decided that the rule to not allow Vortex Edge blades in bumps racing will remain unchanged.

10. **Entry fee increases** - Q Sun to speak:  
(Simple majority)

Over the past six academic years, OURCs has run major deficits in excess of £5,000 per annum on average. In 2021-2022, the loss was just under £9,000. This year, the loss is projected to be around £6,000.

In order to offset this loss, advised by our Senior Treasurer, David Seale, we plan to increase entry fees in order to continue to run regattas:

Competition	Boat class	Old entry fees	New entry fees
Isis Winter/ Spring League	8+	£16	£20
	4+, 4-, 4x, 4x+	£14	£16
	2+, 2-, 2x	£12	£14
	1x	£10	£12
Autumn Fours	4x+	£15	£20
Bumps (Torpids, Eights)	8+ that rows on	£50	£75
	8+ that fails to row on	£25	£25

*Proposed: Q Sun (OURCS)*

*Seconded: Natasha Smith (OURCs)*

It was noted that the increase is larger than inflation over the past ten years, this was explained by lost investors necessitating a bigger increase. We are unlikely to get a large investor this year but an effort to find new investors is being made.

A question was raised regarding financial assistance if a club is unable to afford the increase. This matter will need to be discussed with the Senior Treasurer before an answer can be given.

Voting:

Votes in favour: 62

Votes against: 1

Abstentions: 1

**Motion passes.**

#### 11. **Amendment to the Rules of Racing** –Q Sun to speak

*Simple majority to pass*

The price increases for Bumps leads to knock-on effects in the Rules of Racing, notably for Rowing On.

As voted on, the entry fee for an 8+ in Bumps shall be £75 from £50, though the entry fee for a crew that fails to Row On shall remain at £25. This is reflected in the proposed change in the Rules of Racing.

Change:

##### 7.Rowing On

a.All crews who did not finish in a fixed division in the final finishing order of the previous competition including insertions (as described by A3.17.b) will be required to qualify by 'Rowing On'.

b.Rowing On races shall be held as an OURCs event under the jurisdiction of the Event Committee with the powers defined in A1.4.

c.Rowing On races shall normally take place on the Friday before Torpids, and the Saturday before Summer Eights.

d.Rowing On races shall be timed rows with a rolling start, measured from Longbridges raft to a semaphore placed approximately midway between Univ Boathouse and the Head, with the fastest crews to qualify.

- e. Crews being overtaken during Rowing On are required to give way. Failure to do so may result in a time penalty.
- f. Crews impeded by other craft during Rowing On may be awarded a time bonus.
- g. In the event of crews having an equal time and if this affects the starting order, the crews involved may organise a private rerow and notify the Event Committee of the result.
- h. Crews failing to Row On shall be refunded half their entry fee.

To (changes in red):

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- e. Crews being overtaken during Rowing On are required to give way. Failure to do so may result in a time penalty.
- f. Crews impeded by other craft during Rowing On may be awarded a time bonus.
- g. In the event of crews having an equal time and if this affects the starting order, the crews involved may organise a private rerow and notify the Event Committee of the result.
- h. Crews failing to Row On shall be refunded ~~half~~ **two-thirds** of their entry fee.

*Proposed: Q Sun (OURCs)*

*Seconded: Natasha Smith (OURCs)*

Voting:

Votes in favour: 64

Votes against: 0

Abstentions: 0

**Motion passes.**

## 12. Side-by-side race course – Ty Rallens to speak

OURCs would like to hear your thoughts on the different versions of the side-by-side racecourse used this year in Autumn Fours, Nephthys, and Michaelmas Novice Regatta (appended to the end of this document). We would like to know if you have a preference on which one worked best, and if you would prefer just one pattern going forward, or if multiple different types are okay.

Thoughts are open to the entire community, including coaches, coxes, and club members. Please send opinions to club captains or directly to OURCs via email.

Discussion:

A preference was expressed for an early crossing to land at Univ boathouse, rather than rowing to Longbridges and following a race before landing. It was pointed out that this early crossing comes at the cost of two additional marshals, which clubs have to provide.

Michaelmas Novice Regatta used a crossing point entering the gut for crews warming up, which led to some issues with crews exiting the gut also needing to cross. It was suggested that an additional marshal could be placed there to help, and for extra emphasis on where coxes should wait when attempting to cross the gut.

Thoughts about the stagger used in the various races was also asked for, as MNR followed the towpath while Autumn Fours and Nephthys's crossed the stream. It was noted that Nephthys had a worse stagger than MNR. Additionally, it was stated that some novice coxes struggled to be ready in time before the SU called go, additional time to allow the crew to be ready would be helpful.

The length of the coxing briefing was raised, pointing out that the MNR briefing was considerably longer than for Nephthys's. It was noted that MNR had a longer briefing due to the different circulation pattern. Typically, the two coxing briefings can be joined together, however the two races were scheduled two weeks apart this year, which is too long a period of time to combine both briefings. In future years, if they are a week apart, the briefings can be joined to save time.

It was suggested that the addition of a quiz at the end of the coxing briefing might help with attention span.

### 13. **Starting location for Rowing On** - Q Sun to speak

The starting location for Rowing On is currently the upstream side of the gut, therefore crews are not steering through the gut while attempting to qualify for bumps. We would like to get opinions from the captains about moving the starting line for Summer Eights 2023 and/or Torpids in the future.

Discussion:

It was asked if moving the start line would be done in conjunction with moving the finish line. This point will be raised with the SUs to discuss.

It was raised that an earlier start line would be good racing line practice for bumps, with less pressure than during bumps. In Hilary term in particular, it is common to lose multiple weeks during term due to bad weather, and IWL events may be cancelled, in which case a lot of new coxes won't have many opportunities to practice the racing line.

It was asked why the start line is upstream of the gut, which was explained as a way to make racing quicker and to get through the many crews which need to row on. It has been previously considered that marshalling through the gut is a good enough test for coxing competency.

It was questioned how overtaking in the gut would be handled. This would be discussed in further detail should a change be made, however would likely follow a similar procedure as IWL.

Torpids is often done in poor conditions, and steering in higher stream is different compared to green flag conditions. It was noted that there is a preference for coxes to be able to experience steering the racing line in these conditions.

#### 14. Ratification of Club Safety Reviews - Natasha Smith

- Magdalen - £0
- University - £0
- St Edmund Hall - £60
- Worcester - £60

**No objections, ratified.**

#### 15. Extra Slots

Applications from: Worcester, Magdalen, Lady Margaret Hall, Corpus, Balliol, St Hugh's, St Catherine's, Queens, Wolfson, Lincoln, New, University, St Peter's.

New	Monday:	Opening - 8am
LMH	Tuesday:	Opening - 8am
Lincoln	Wednesday:	Opening - 8am
Magdalen	Thursday:	Opening - 8am
Queens	Friday:	Opening - 8am

Clubs who have received slots may swap days if they want to, but please let OURCs know so that the list can be updated.

#### 16. AOB

- **Recruiting new Treasurer** –Q Sun to speak

OURCs currently has no Treasurer - this position is a vital role within the committee and helps ensure OURCs' finances are in a good position, with assistance from the Senior Treasurer. There is a brilliant host of people in the OURCs Committee to support the next Treasurer and it is an amazingly rewarding role. If you are interested in the position, please get in touch with Q at [secretary@ourcs.co.uk](mailto:secretary@ourcs.co.uk).

- **Life jacket servicing** – Natasha Smith to speak

I am still working on arranging a visit from the RNLI to teach clubs how to inspect and maintain their own lifejackets. They are run by volunteers, who are very busy, but hopefully it will happen sometime this term.

In the meantime, please get your lifejackets formally serviced if they need to be. British rowing says you lifejackets should be checked every six months, and a record of that kept. The following video explains how to do these checks: <https://youtu.be/h5-9wC-c9cw?t=147>. If you wish to get your lifejackets formally serviced, we can recommend Marine Warehouse Ltd.

- **Sunken boat** – Natasha Smith to speak

The boat opposite Jesus boathouse has drifted from being tucked in along the towpath to being further into the stream. It is only partially visible, bankriders, coxes, and scullers should be aware

of its location and avoid venturing too close to it. The EA have been notified and hopefully will address the issue soon.

- **“light red” flag**

A question about introducing a “light red” flag was raised, suggested to be similar to amber but with further restrictions on the number of boats allowed out. It was pointed out that amber flag is used for only short times, as a transition from red to dark blue (and vice versa).

- **Boating from Univ**

It was asked if crews boating from Univ could be allowed to boat upstream under certain circumstances (e.g. transiting). It was raised that visibility is low around the bend and deviating from expected circulation could be dangerous, and crews can’t be certain that the river is completely clear, even in high stream conditions.



## Treasurer's Report: MT22 – End

Oxford University Rowing Clubs

Regarding the two (2) months ended 30/11/2022

*N.B.* the convention is in terms of income: '(amount)' represents an expense and 'amount' represents an income.

### 1. Racing

This term, OURCs successfully ran IWL A and Autumn Fours, with IWL B being cancelled. In a standard year, we expect to make a small profit on IWLs, to make up for the losses made during bumps. A number of IWL expenses were made in 12/2022, hence not accounted for in this report.

The Summer VIIIs expenses shown are due to a refund due to a double payment on an invoice.

OURCs also collected entry fees on behalf of OULRC for Nephthys Regatta this year. Linacre Boat Club collected entry fees independently for the Michaelmas Novice Regatta. These collected entry fees will be paid to OULRC by HT23.

Racing:

Isis Winter League Entry Fees: 1,028.00

Isis Winter League Expenses: (360.00)

Autumn Fours Entry Fees: 1,020.00

Autumn Fours Expenses: (477.00)

Summer VIIIs Expenses: (320.00)

Total racing: 891.00

Nephthys Entry Fees: 7,135.00

Total Nephthys: 7,135.00

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### 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.

Colleges pay OURCs for swim tests before the Sports Department invoices OURCs for pool hire, hence an income was shown in the TT22-End report, when all the colleges had paid OURCs, and a loss is shown now, when the Sports Department has invoiced OURCs for pool hire.

The

Swim Tests:

Swim Test fees: 564.00

Swim Test expenses: (4685.50)

Total swim tests: (4121.5)

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### 3. Affiliation fees

Affiliation fees are paid from college boat clubs to OURCs to cover a portion of the Rowing Sabbatical Officer's salary. The payment towards the salary will be made in TT23.

Affiliation fees:

Affiliation fees: 7,250.96

Affiliation fees: 7250.96

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#### **4. 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 will be paid to the Lightweight clubs later in the year.

Fines:

Racing fines: 705.00

Training fines: 0.00

Total fines: 705.00

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#### **5. Equipment, radios, and training**

Various repairs to equipment, mostly launches, and radios were made to allow regattas to run smoothly. These include insurance and further repairs to the repeater and radios. Moreover, OURCs pays for jackets for new committee members to allow them to be identified during regattas.

In order to allow the safe driving of launches during regattas, six OURCs committee members undertook RYA2 powerboat training. Crucially, having OURCs committee members who are RYA2 qualified allows medics and marshals to be safely transported.

Equipment, radios, training:

Equipment and repair expenses: (1882.41)

Training expenses: (1440.00)

Total equipment and radios: (3322.41)

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#### **6. Subscriptions, consumables, and one-offs**

Paying for subscriptions to SuperSAAS, our accounting software, and for website maintenance.

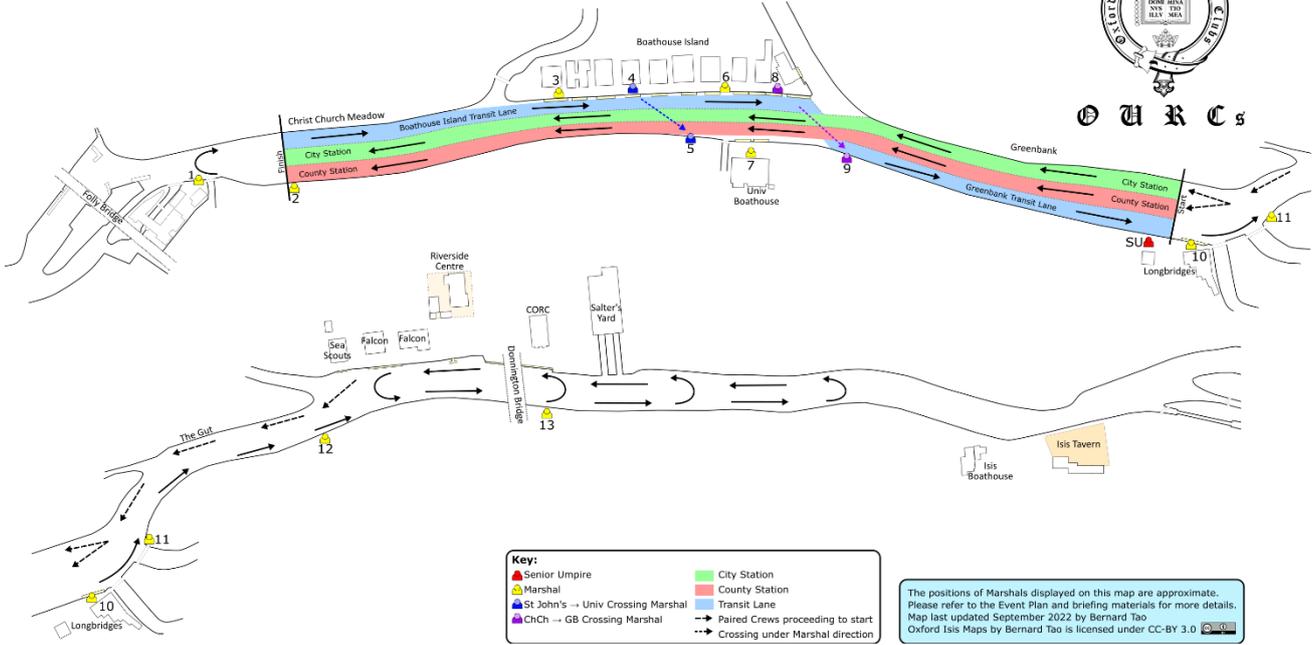
We expect all subscriptions to, naturally, show a loss.

Miscellaneous technology costs:

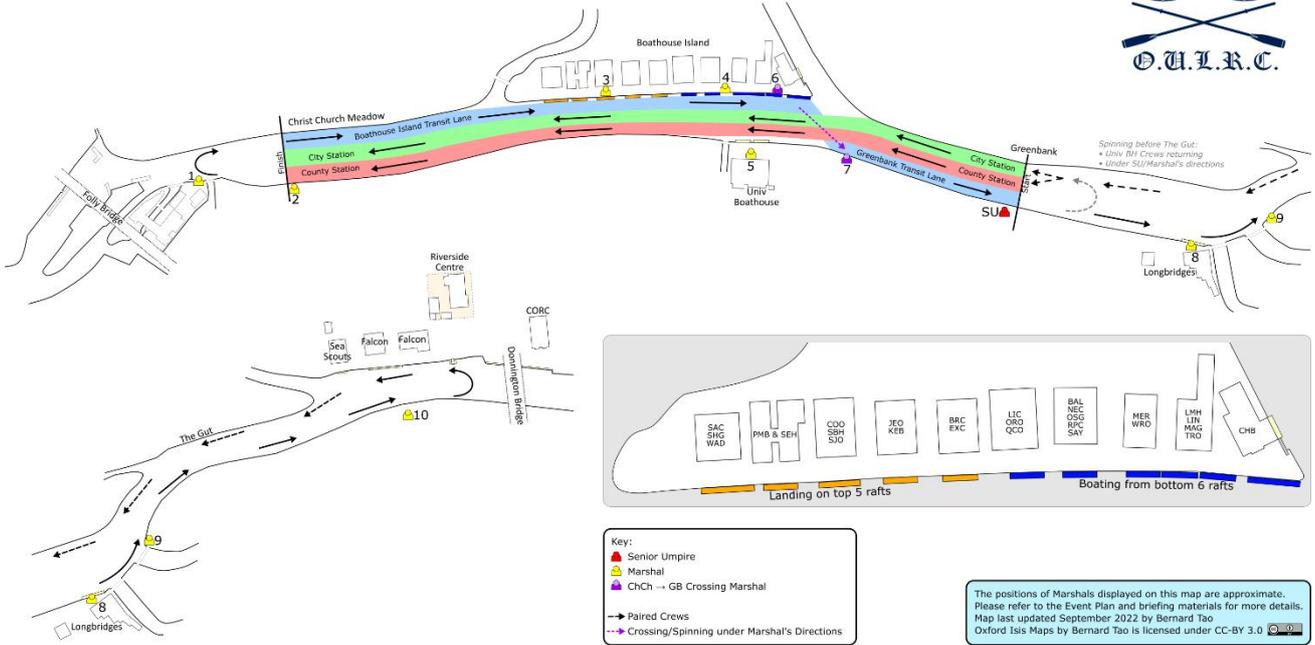
Subscriptions, consumables, and one-offs: (67.20)

Total miscellaneous technology costs: (67.20)

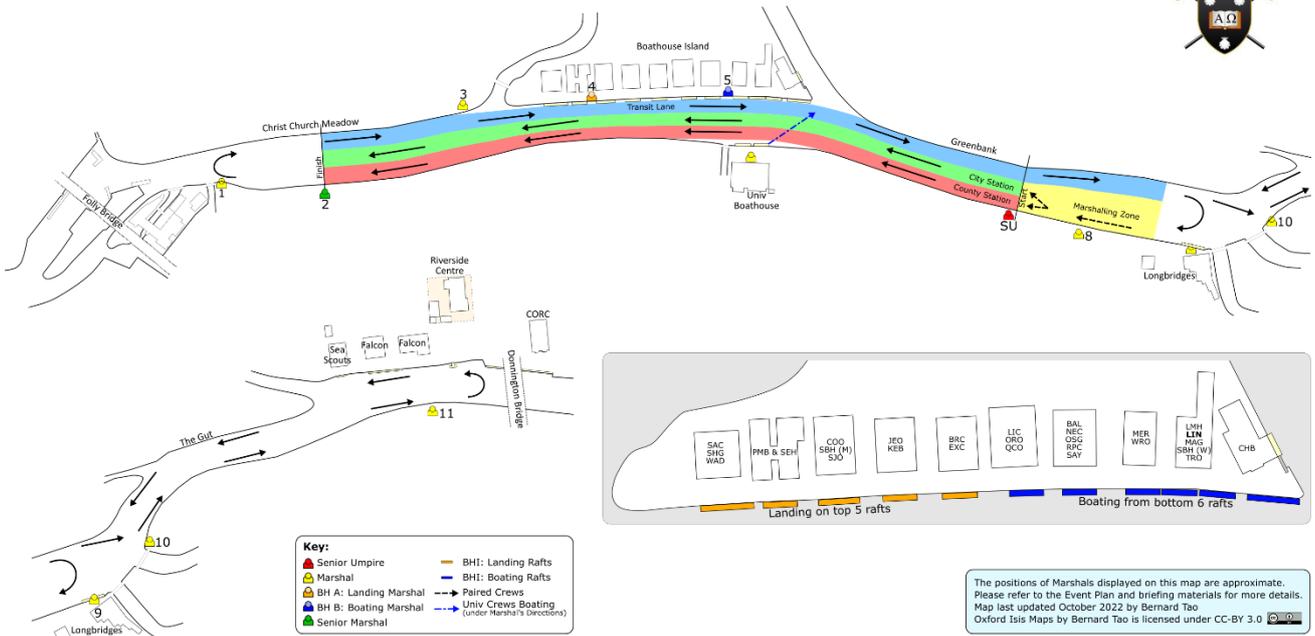
# Oxford University Rowing Clubs Autumn Fours Circulation & Placement of Marshals



# Oxford University Lightweight Rowing Club Nephthys Circulation & Placement of Marshals



# Michaelmas Novice Regatta: Circulation & Placement of Marshals



# Michaelmas Novice Regatta: Short Course Circulation & Placement of Marshals

