



**O U R C s**

# Captain's Meeting Minutes

7pm, Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> week Trinity Term 2021

27<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Chair: Alexander Bebb (OUBC President)

## 1. Register and Welcome

Attendance:

College Clubs: 87 (63 voting)

Squads: 1

OURCs Committee: 9

**Total Voting Body: 73**

## 2. Minutes of the Last Meeting

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

## 3. Matters Arising

No matters arising.

## 4. River closures – Jack Woodward to speak

Please note that the below river closures are subject to event and safety plans being approved by the Proctors and Environment Agency.

- **Isis Spring League**

**ISL A:** Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May (4<sup>th</sup> Week) – 12:00 until Closing Time or End of Racing.

**ISL B:** Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> May (6<sup>th</sup> Week)- 12:00 until closing time or end of racing.

*Proposed: Jack Woodward (Worcester/OURCs)*

*Seconded: Beth Carter (OURCs)*

- **Summer Torpids**

Rowing On – Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> week (5<sup>th</sup> June)– 08:30 until Closing Time or End of Racing

Rowing On Contingency – Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> week (6<sup>th</sup> June) – 8:30 until Closing Time or End of Racing

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> week (8<sup>th</sup> June) – 11:00 until End of Racing

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> week (9<sup>th</sup> June) – 11:00 until End of Racing

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> week (10<sup>th</sup> June) – 11:00 until End of Racing

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> week (11<sup>th</sup> June) – 11:00 until End of Racing

*Proposed: Jack Woodward (Worcester/OURCs)*

*Seconded: Beth Carter (OURCs)*

- **Oriel Regatta 2021**  
Racing Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> week (29<sup>th</sup> May) – 8am until Closing Time or End of Racing  
*Proposed: Henry Hawkins (Oriel)*  
*Seconded: Sarah Wisialowski (Oriel)*

The above river closures were voted on together.

**Voting:**

Votes For: **47**

Votes Against: **0**

Abstentions: **2**

Motion passes.

**5. Change to Code of Conduct**

*2/3 majority to pass*

Change 1.14. a. Sponsorship

Sponsorship agreements signed by both the Senior Member and Secretary of OURCs shall be recognised by OURCs and treated as an agreement between OURCs and the sponsor. Any liability incurred by the signatories when signing as representative officers of OURCs, shall be indemnified by OURCs.

To:

1.14.a. Sponsorship

Sponsorship agreements signed by **the OURCs Senior Treasurer**, the Senior Member and the Secretary of OURCs shall be recognised by OURCs and treated as an agreement between OURCs and the sponsor. Any liability incurred by the signatories when signing as representative officers of OURCs, shall be indemnified by OURCs.

*Proposed: Jack Woodward (Worcester/OURCs)*

*Seconded: David Seale (OURCs)*

**Voting:**

Votes For: **40**

Votes Against: **0**

Abstention: **4**

Motion passes.

**6. Transfers under A1.2 – Beth Carter to speak**

*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*

- Laurel Kaye: Worcester to Christ Church (papers in order)
- Thomas Surridge: St Catherine's to Mansfield (papers in order)
- Barbara Roggeveen: Lincoln to St Antony's (papers in order)
- Thomas Campbell: New College to Lincoln (papers in order)
- Natasha Bradley: Lincoln to Merton (papers in order)

No objections. Ratified.

**7. Extension of Student Status** – Beth Carter to speak  
*Simple majority to pass*

There were no questions from captains about any of the extension requests, each extension was voted on individually and the results are as follows.

- **Augustus Porter (Pembroke):** Augustus's thesis corrections will be due on Friday of 4<sup>th</sup> week and so he expects to have his student status for racing, but would like to apply for an extension in case he receives his leave to supplicate early.  
*Proposed: Edward Smith (Pembroke)*  
*Seconded: Emily Wright (Pembroke)*  
**Voting: 45 Votes For, 1 Vote Against, 2 Abstentions. Motion passes.**
- **Michael Garstka (Trinity)** is expecting to submit their thesis at the end of May and has his viva in July.  
*Proposed: Alannah Burdess (Trinity)*  
*Seconded: Tom Lewis (Trinity)*  
**Voting: 43 Votes For, 2 Votes Against, 3 Abstentions. Motion passes.**
- **Mike Walmsley (Christ Church)** is expecting to receive his leave to supplicate in approximately a month's time, and so would like to extend his student status to ensure he can compete as a full member in Summer Torpids.  
*Proposed: Sebastien Laclau (Christ Church)*  
*Seconded: Anna Betteridge (Christ Church)*  
**Voting: 39 Votes For, 5 Votes Against, 2 Abstentions. Motion passes.**
- **Jessica Dunham (Wolfson)** is a student at St Cross who is submitting her thesis this term, she would like to extend her student status in case she receives her leave to supplicate before racing.  
*Proposed: Sarah Martin (Wolfson)*  
*Seconded: Mary Sanford (Wolfson)*  
**Voting: 44 Votes For, 1 Vote Against, 3 Abstentions. Motion passes.**
- **Rosie Munday (St Edmund Hall)** is submitting corrections this term and wants to extend her student status in case she receives her leave to supplicate before 7<sup>th</sup> week.  
*Proposed: India Brough (St Edmund Hall)*  
*Seconded: Jessica Radley (St Edmund Hall)*  
**Voting: 44 Votes For, 1 Vote Against, 3 Abstentions. Motion passes.**

- **Heather Dunn (Linacre)** is due to hand in in late May, she does not expect to receive her leave to supplicate but would like to request and extension of student status just in case.

*Proposed: Lauren Wilburn (Linacre)*

*Seconded: Emil Dryvik (Linacre)*

**Voting: 43 Votes For, 2 Votes Against, 3 Abstentions. Motion passes.**

**8. Permission for Associate Member to Row in a Senior Crew** – Beth Carter to speak  
*Simple majority to pass*

One of the captains present expressed that they would like to ask all of the clubs who have requested permission for an associate member to row with their crews in fixed divisions how many athletes they actually have in their squads and why they are unable or unwilling to enter an eligible member of their club. A representative of Somerville College Boat Club expressed that they have asked for permission for Fergus to row in their M1 because he has been with their club for the last few years, and if he does not row in their M1 then they will have to enter an individual who only started rowing in Michaelmas of this year. The Somerville captain further clarified that if Fergus is not allowed to row with them, their M1 will be composed of seven senior rowers and one novice.

A representative from Trinity College Boat Club said that their primary concern is the safety of their crew, they currently have seven eligible seniors willing to row in their M1, and they hope to also have Andrei, if they are not allowed then they will use a novice. Trinity stated that they are asking for this permission in the spirit of racing as Andrei is a valued member of their boat club. When asked whether Trinity is planning on entering other crews into fixed divisions it was made clear that they are intending to enter an M2 into Division 4. Other captains stated that if they have another boat of eligible rowers they should use the available training time this term to give them a chance in M1, and leave the associates in lower boats as is the case every other year. The Captain of Coxes raised the point that this rule only allows for associates to be given permission to row in a club's lowest boat of that gender in a fixed division, therefore if granted Andrei would only be able to row in Trinity's M2 boat, not their M1.

A representative from Hertford College Boat Club stated that they do not have any other available coxes, they said that they have 8 eligible members who are willing to row for their women's side and Chloe is their only option for a cox. Hertford stated that they do have other coxes who are already rowing in their W1, though they are rowers first and they think that it would be unfair to force any of them to cox rather than row.

Voting was as follows:

- **Fergus Cooper (Somerville):** Somerville would like to request permission for Fergus to row in a fixed division at Summer Torpids. Their M1 are currently in Division 3 and they do not expect to be entering an M2 crew.

*Proposed: Samuel McLoughlin (Somerville)*

*Seconded: Christopher White (Somerville)*

**Voting: 23 Votes For, 27 Votes Against, 8 Abstentions. Motion Fails.**

- **Andrei Stefanescu (Trinity):** Trinity would like to request permission for Andrei to row in higher divisions.  
*Proposed: Alannah Burdess (Trinity)*  
*Seconded: Tom Lewis (Trinity)*  
**Voting: 19 Votes For, 28 Votes Against, 11 Abstentions. Motion Fails.**
  
- **Chloe Readman-Bell (Hertford):** Chloe is an associate cox and Hertford would like to request permission for her to race with their W1.  
*Proposed: Penny Hyde (Hertford)*  
*Seconded: Alison Carrington (Hertford)*  
**Voting: 43 Votes For, 8 Votes Against, 7 Abstentions. Motion passes.**

**9. Senior Crew Hours – Discussion Point** – Anna James Bott (St Hilda’s) to speak

“The number of hours of senior crew-only restricted should be reduced to allow for greater novice training in pursuit of safety for Trinity term 2021.

In TT21, the necessary focus on the safety of crews requires providing as much water time as possible for novice crews. The river is currently closed to non-senior crews / lower boats every week as defined by the Code of Conduct 2.8.b.iv. As a first boat rower, I understand the desire of quicker boats to have some exclusive training time but given the current circumstances of college rowing we should focus on both making eights a safe event and preserving the future of the sport in Oxford.

I see a few options for implementing this.

1. Reduce the number of restricted days (e.g. just Tuesday and Thursday)
2. Reduce the number of hours each day (5 - 6pm rather than 5 - 7pm)
3. A combination of suggestions 1 and 2.

Given that many clubs do not have access to alternative training locations (my club included), I support the continuation of at least some top-boat exclusive times, but I think it should be reduced.

Any suggestions on alternative implementations would be greatly appreciated.”

**Motion amendments reflecting previous discussion welcomed:**

‘TEMP 8: For Trinity term of 2021, the days on which only senior crews are allowed on the river as defined in the Code of Conduct 2.8.b.iv should be reduced to Tuesday and Thursday to greater enable novice training and general crew safety.’

*Proposed: Anna James-Bott (St Hilda’s)*

*Seconded: Kira Miller (Worcester)*

Anna explained that she wanted to propose this rule to give novice crews more of a chance to train to be able to compete safely in bumps racing this year. Given the major disruptions to training time over the last couple of years, this rule change could be very important to a number of crews.

A captain asked whether it would be possible to vote on which two days the existing senior closure will still apply. Following a poll, Tuesday (59.6%) and Thursday (50.9%) were the most popular options among captains and so they will be the days proposed in the rule change.

It was suggested that the rule change could be amended to only allow each club to have two fours or eights out at one time during this period to avoid the river being overly busy and therefore unsafe. This was accepted as a friendly amendment. The agreed wording can be seen below in 'TEMP 8'.

One of the captains raised some concerns about whether this rule change would be disruptive to the training of first boats later in term, and so suggested that perhaps there could be some sort of time limit on the rule. Following discussions, it was decided that, instead of being automatically re-voted on at the next Captain's Meeting, the rule change will be mentioned in 'matters arising' on the next Captain's Meeting agenda. That way the rule will not automatically expire, but if any captains still have concerns, they can easily raise them at the next meeting and re-vote if they wish.

Another captain raised the point that as the rules stand at the moment, the definition of 'senior' crews only includes eights. Given the current circumstances and likelihood of crew members needing to quarantine through term, some clubs have to spend a lot of time training in fours. They suggested that another temporary rule change should be put forward to make this definition of 'senior' crews apply to smaller boats too. The agreed wording and proposed rule change can be seen below in 'TEMP 9'.

**Voting:**

**TEMP 8:** For Trinity term of 2021, the days on which only senior crews are allowed on the river as defined in the Code of Conduct 2.8.b.iv should be reduced to Tuesday and Thursday to greater enable novice training and general crew safety. This will be limited to two fours or eights at a time for clubs on other days.

**Voting: 49 Votes For, 6 Votes Against, 4 Abstentions. Motion passes.**

**TEMP 9:** For Peak Term of Trinity term of 2021, between 5.00pm and 7.00pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays, only athletes fulfilling the following conditions may be on the water (superseding Code of Conduct 2.8.2.d): '

- Athletes entered for the Senior divisions in Eights (as defined by the Rules of Racing),
- The top crew of the division below the Senior Divisions in Eights,
- All college 1st Vllls,
- Single Sculls,

The above applies to crews in boats of any size.

**Voting: 49 Votes For, 5 Votes Against, 5 Abstentions. Motion passes.**

**10. General Information** – Jack Woodward to speak

- Earlier entries closing date  
This is a heads up to say that the entries deadline for Summer Torpids will be earlier than usual in order to give clubs sufficient notice about their division timings and

rowing on. Given that the event is later in term than in normal years, captains do not need to worry about this yet, but should keep this in mind.

- **Rowing On**  
More crews than usual will be expected to row on this year given the significant disruptions to training over the last couple of years. The exact number of crews expected to row on will be decided based on the number of entries, though this will be communicated well in advance of the event.
- **Available support for college clubs**  
If any clubs are struggling to negotiate boathouse access/training/anything else with college authorities, please get in touch with the sabbatical officer as soon as you can ([sabbatical@ourcs.co.uk](mailto:sabbatical@ourcs.co.uk)). OURCs can offer support wherever possible.
- **Potential new rules layout**  
At one of the Captain's Meetings this term Jack intends to put forward a motion to change the layout of the rules to make them into one document with the aim of making them easier to understand/search through. They don't expect to be making any real content changes, though if they do put any forward these will be clearly marked.

**11. Swim-tests** – Beth Carter to speak

Please keep filling in the swimtest survey distributed earlier in the week. This will let me know how many more swimtests clubs need and when they want them to take place – responses are much appreciated.

**12. AOB**

The Captain of Coxes position will be open for applications soon (as well as the Secretary and Sabbatical positions), if anyone is interested or has any questions about what the role might involve please contact [coxing@ourcs.co.uk](mailto:coxing@ourcs.co.uk). For more information about the secretary position please contact [secretary@ourcs.co.uk](mailto:secretary@ourcs.co.uk), and for information about the sabbatical position please contact [sabbatical@ourcs.co.uk](mailto:sabbatical@ourcs.co.uk).