



O U R C s

Captains' Meeting Agenda

Thursday 2nd week Trinity Term 2022

7pm, 5th May 2022

Tanner Room, Linacre College

Chair: Amelia Standing (OUWBC)

1. **Welcome**
2. **Minutes of the Last Meeting**
Available at www.ourcs.co.uk
3. **Matters Arising**
No matters arising
4. **Squad Reports**
5. **Oxford Academicals BR Head Race proposal** – Nick Silvester to speak
Oxford Academicals RC would like to raise the possibility of running an out-and-back head race (2 lengths) on the Isis in the future. The proposed date would be such that it would enable colleges to do a BR race without significant travel before WeHoRR/HoRR (both now require previous BR race experience for crews wishing to enter) without compromising dates for Torpids. It is likely we would run a test event in 2023 replacing/complementary to IWL D, with the first official regatta running in 2024. We are currently in the initial planning phase and would appreciate any questions or feedback from the colleges and other river users.
6. **British Rowing affiliation fees** – Caitlin Armstrong to speak

7. **Rowing Sabbatical Officer Election** – James Lucas to speak

- Natasha Smith (Worcester)

Proposed: Kealan Pritchard (Worcester)

Seconded: Ruby Harrison (OURCs)

- William Burrow (Oriel)

Proposed: Cassidy Hoeft (Oriel)

Seconded: James Halsall (OULRC Blue)

8. **River Closures** – Ty Rallens to speak

a. **Summer Eights**

Rowing On:

Saturday 21st May (4th 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 22nd May (5th Week) – 08:00 until Closing Time or End of Racing

Summer Eights:

Wednesday 25th May (5th Week) – 11:00 until Closing Time or End of Racing

Thursday 26th May (5th Week) – 11:00 until Closing Time or End of Racing

Friday 27th May (5th Week) – 11:00 until Closing Time or End of Racing

Saturday 28th May (5th Week) – Opening Time until Closing Time

Proposed: Ty Rallens (OURCs)

Seconded: James Lucas (OURCs)

b. **Oriel Regatta**

Saturday 11th June (7th Week) – 8:00 until Closing Time or End of Racing

Proposed: William Burrow (Oriel)

Seconded: Cassidy Hoeft (Oriel)

9. **Summer Eights entry deadline** – Ty Rallens to speak

10. **Racedesk helpers and marshalling discounts** – Ty Rallens to speak

11. **Ratification of a Senior Umpire** – Ty Rallens to speak

- Lynch Mason

12. **Ratification of OURCs Ordinary Committee Members** – Ty Rallens to speak

- Timea Csahok (Jesus)

13. **Treasurer's Update** – Evan Roberts to speak

14. **Transfers under A1.2** – James Lucas 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*
 - Christopher Hull: Oriel to Magdalen (papers in order)
 - Thomas Campbell: New to Lincoln (papers in order)
 - Alex Wythe: Merton to Christ Church (papers in order)
 - Martin Barasko: Oriel to Christ Church (papers in order)
 - John Gardner: Linacre to Jesus (papers in order)
 - Megan Chester: Somerville to Christ Church (needs enrolment cert in order)

15. **Extension of Student Status** – James Lucas to speak

Simple majority to pass

- Dan Hameiri-Bowen (Pembroke):** Dan's thesis corrections are due in May - and so he expects to have his student status for racing, but would like to apply for an extension in case he submits and receives his leave to supplicate early. We'd request an extension of status until the 29th May.
Proposed: Edward Smith (Pembroke)
Seconded: Hannah Lund (Pembroke)
- László Benercei (Balliol):** László's thesis corrections were submitted on 19/04/2022 and so he expects to have his student status for racing, but would like to apply for an extension in case they receive their leave to supplicate early. This extension shall last until 28/05/2022.
Proposed: Alec Berry (Balliol)
Seconded: Sian Dennett (Balliol)
- Alban Schmidt (Balliol):** Alban's viva will occur in 3rd 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. This extension shall last until 28/05/2022.
Proposed: Alec Berry (Balliol)
Seconded: Sian Dennett (Balliol)

- d. **Zhanna Ter-Zakaryan (St Antony's):** Zhanna is currently waiting on her department to let her know when she will receive her leave to supplicate and is expected to graduate in the autumn. Zhanna rowed in the St Antony's W2 boat in Torpids 2022 and would like to continue rowing with the same crew in Summer Eights 2022. There is uncertainty related to whether she will receive leave to supplicate before or after Summer Eights, thus St Antony's would like to request an extension of her student status until 30th June 2022 just in case.
Proposed: Caroline Herlin (St Antony's)
Seconded: Philipp Dietrich (St Antony's)
- e. **Martin Kraemer (Linacre):** Martin is currently doing his corrections and may receive leave to supplicate later this term. We request that his student status be maintained (if he does receive leave to supplicate), such that he can compete as a full student member in Summer Eights 2022. This extension of student status would expire on the final day of Summer Eights 2022 (28th May 2022).
Proposed: Kasimir Dederichs (Linacre)
Seconded: Liam Brown (Linacre)
- f. **Ada Hermelink (Christ Church/Kellogg):** Ada is applying to suspend her studies for medical reasons for Trinity 2022 and would like to continue rowing for Christ Church as a full member this term and participate in Summer Eights. She learned rowing at ChChBC in the 2020/21 year, has previously been in the club's W1 and W3 crews, and would like to row in W2 for Summer Eights this term. Despite suspending, she will be staying in Oxford throughout Trinity term. Rowing at ChChBC is helping her manage her health problems and is affecting her extremely positively so she would like to continue being an active and full member of the club this term. This extension of student status would last until the start of Michaelmas Term 2022 (1st October 2022). *Permission has not yet been received from the Kellogg Senior Tutor.*
Proposed: Kate Friesen (Christ Church)
Seconded: Ayman D'Souza (Christ Church)

16. **Amendment to the Rules of Racing** – Dominik Kloepfer to speak
Simple majority to pass

Adjusting the Process for Evidence Submission for Appeals in Bumps Races

Many crews of many clubs have in past years disagreed with the result of appeals decisions. Of course, any decision on an appeal will inevitably involve some judgement calls that can leave some of the affected parties unsatisfied. Nonetheless, a significant source of discontent about decisions by a Race Committee can be removed by correctly deciding the relevant facts and sequence of events based on unambiguous evidence.

The proliferation of photos and videos taken of bumps races means that, in many cases, such unambiguous evidence exists. However, the appeals process currently requires any such evidence to be collected and submitted within twenty minutes, which is not always enough time in the excitement of a

day of bumps, when having to track down a video clip taken by a spectator, or due to technical limitations.

We, therefore, propose to amend the Rules of Racing concerning the appeals process to explicitly allow evidence to be submitted after the initial 20-minute window, provided that the existence of the evidence was made known ('registered') within that time. This is similar to how the appeals process was handled during the past Torpids races, but this rule change would make this possibility explicit, lay it out in more detail, and would make it more widely known.

We would still require registration of evidence to allow the Race Committee to determine the point at which the amount of available evidence will no longer improve it can make a decision. Written evidence must be submitted within the initial 20-minute-window and cannot be submitted late to ensure that the relevant events are as fresh as possible in the memory of those involved.

Appeals affecting the starting order of later races will need to be resolved in time, so we include the ability to impose a deadline for the submission of late evidence. This deadline may be not much later than the current 20-minute-window for appeals affecting the sandwich boat, and for others, the deadline would be a reasonable time by which they could get their video evidence uploaded or carried to race desk, accounting for things like the camera being used in the next race or the long distances from some boathouse to Longbridges, but the time to submit evidence would never be shorter than the current status quo.

To improve (or at least not further deteriorate) the legibility of the Rules of Racing, we also propose changing the formatting of rule A1.10.b.iii to more clearly lay out the process of collecting evidence.

Change:

A1.10.b.iii. Having been notified of a complaint or an appeal, the Event Committee shall inform all crews whose result is affected by the appeal, who then have 10 minutes in which to send a representative to put their case. In exceptional circumstances, people can contact Race Desk by phone. No evidence shall be accepted more than 20 minutes after the announcement of the appeal, unless such evidence has been directly and independently requested by the race committee that is sitting to resolve the appeal or at the request of the Senior Umpires if they believe additional evidence should be considered for an appeal being made to them. Evidence will be formally accepted and initialled by a member of the Event Committee.

To (changes in red):

A1.10.b.iii. Having been notified of a complaint or an appeal, the Event Committee shall inform all crews whose result is affected by the appeal, who must send their representative(s) to Race Desk to provide evidence for their case. In exceptional circumstances, people can contact Race Desk by phone or by other means such as the Race Secretary may announce. The Event Committee shall collect evidence as follows:

1. Evidence will be formally accepted and initialled by a member of the Event Committee.
2. Written evidence must be provided within 20 minutes of the announcement of the appeal.
3. Photographic or video evidence must be registered with the Event Committee within 20 minutes of the announcement of the appeal and provided as soon as possible thereafter.
4. If evidence delays will disrupt later races, the Event Committee may impose a deadline for providing evidence no shorter than the 20 minute window.
5. In all other cases, the Event Committee shall consult each provider of evidence and then set a reasonable deadline for providing the evidence which, under most circumstances, should be early enough for the dispute to be resolved before the opening of the river after racing.
6. Additional evidence may be submitted after the passing of a deadline or without prior registration if such evidence has been directly and independently requested by the race committee that is sitting to resolve the appeal or at the request of the Senior Umpires if they believe additional evidence should be considered for an appeal being made to them.

Proposed: Dominik Kloepfer (Wolfson)

Seconded: Aimee Ruffle (Wolfson)

17. Amendment to the Rules of Racing – Ty Rallens to speak

Simple majority to pass

Alternating Division orders. Now that we have an equal number of men’s and women’s divisions in Bumps, a clear plan is needed for how the order of men’s and women’s divisions will alternate.

There are a few options for how the rule will work. The proposers wish to know from the captains if one of the options below, or something else, is preferred. The second option is designed to allow more discretion to the Race Secretary, for example to handle the situation where several Torpids are cancelled within 2-3 years (a not-unlikely possibility, unfortunately). These options would work out as follows:

	First Option		Second Option	
	Torpids	Eights	Torpids	Eights
Year A	(CANCELLED)	WDiv I Last	(CANCELLED)	WDiv I Last
Year B	WDiv I Last	MDiv I Last	WDiv1 I Last	MDiv I Last
Year C	(CANCELLED)	WDiv I Last	(CANCELLED)	MDiv I Last

Change:

A3.2.a.v. Divisions to be raced in descending order numerically (division 1 being the top division, and men's division 1, the last scheduled division to race).

To (changes in red):

EITHER

A3.2.a.v. Divisions to be raced in descending order numerically **with Men's and Women's divisions in alternating order.**

1. In Summer Eights, the last scheduled division shall be of the opposite gender from the previous Summer Eights.
2. In Torpids, Men's and Women's Divisions shall be scheduled in the reverse of the expected order in Summer Eights of the same academic year.

OR

A3.2.a.v. Divisions to be raced in descending order numerically **with Men's and Women's divisions in alternating order.**

1. Under normal circumstances, the Race Secretary shall alternate the gender of the last scheduled division between Torpids and Summer Eights, and between academic years.

Proposed: Ty Rallens (OURCs)

Seconded: Joe Hitchen (Senior Umpire)

18. **Amendment to the Rules of Racing** – Ty Rallens to speak

Simple majority to pass

Summer Eights entry deadlines. With the new rules for equal divisions of men's and women's crews in Bumps, the timing of entries closing must be tightly coordinated with several critical planning steps in order to be ready in time for Rowing On and Bumps racing. Here is how I am planning for these activities to play out:

- Entries will open tonight after the Captains' Meeting.
- Entries will close at **noon** on **Monday** of Week 4.
- The Senior Umpires and Race Secretary will announce the sizes of the Rowing On divisions on Tuesday or Wednesday (A3.2.a.iii).
- The scratch deadline will be **Thursday at 0800** (giving time after the coxing briefing).
- The marshalling and umpiring rotas will come out on **Friday**. (The number of slots assigned to a club is determined by the number of crews entered in the event, not the number that qualify. In some years a discount has been given to Rowing On crews, but this may not be technically feasible this year because of expanding Rowing On.)

Traditionally, the scratch deadline has been the midnight before Rowing On to give clubs the maximum opportunity to field crews. However, the increased complexity created by the equal divisions rules (larger Rowing On event to plan, more ambiguity in the Starting Order) means more time is now needed for planning in-between the scratch deadline and the start of Rowing On. Therefore, I am bringing the following motion to alter the Rules of Racing with respect to the scratch deadline.

Change:

A3.8.b. Any crew withdrawn prior to midnight before Rowing On, or, in the absence of Rowing On races, prior to the Friday before the bumps race starts, shall be refunded their full entry fee, and regarded as 'not entered'.

To (changes in red):

A3.8.b. Any crew withdrawn prior to **08:00 AM on the Thursday** before Rowing On, or, in the absence of Rowing On races, prior to the **Thursday** before the bumps race starts, shall be refunded their full entry fee, and regarded as 'not entered'.

Proposed: Ty Rallens (OURCs)

Seconded: James Lucas (OURCs)

19. **Vortex Edge Blades** – James Perkins to speak

Vortex-edge blades currently contravene the OURCs rules of racing:

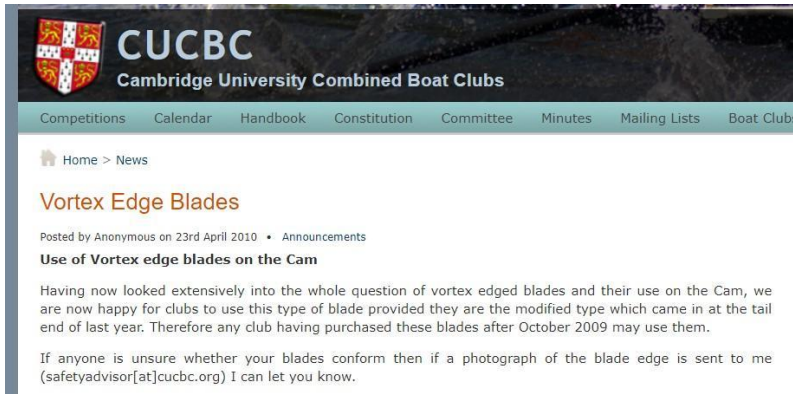
A3.20. Equipment:

a. Oars with sharp protrusions on the spoons are not permitted.

This reflects a concern from when vortex-edges were first produced that triangular shaping might cause injury if blades were to collide with athletes during racing.

We note that:

- a) Vortex-edge blades now have triangular shaping set back from the edge of the spoon. The edge of the spoon has no protrusion and is protected by rounded rubber-plastic. The blades are not 'sharper' than the worn/chipped edges of traditional blades.
- b) Vortex-edge blades are not restricted by British Rowing and are increasingly fitted as standard to new/refurbished blades.
- c) Cambridge University Boat Clubs removed an equivalent ban in April 2010 after discussions between the captains, their safety advisor, and British Rowing. This recognised changes to vortex-edges in a 2009 redesign (See screenshot announcement and CUCBC Captain's Meeting minutes 19th April 2010: <http://www.cucbc.org/node/351>)



The screenshot shows the CUCBC (Cambridge University Combined Boat Clubs) website. The header includes the CUCBC logo and a navigation menu with links for Competitions, Calendar, Handbook, Constitution, Committee, Minutes, Mailing Lists, and Boat Clubs. The main content area is titled 'Vortex Edge Blades' and is dated 23rd April 2010. The text discusses the use of vortex-edged blades on the Cam and provides contact information for safety concerns.

CUCBC
Cambridge University Combined Boat Clubs

Competitions Calendar Handbook Constitution Committee Minutes Mailing Lists Boat Clubs

Home > News

Vortex Edge Blades

Posted by Anonymous on 23rd April 2010 • Announcements

Use of Vortex edge blades on the Cam

Having now looked extensively into the whole question of vortex edged blades and their use on the Cam, we are now happy for clubs to use this type of blade provided they are the modified type which came in at the tail end of last year. Therefore any club having purchased these blades after October 2009 may use them.

If anyone is unsure whether your blades conform then if a photograph of the blade edge is sent to me (safetyadvisor[at]cucbc.org) I can let you know.

This rule was brought in for understandable concerns of safety, but now misrepresents the risk posed by vortex-edge blades and hinders rather than aids college rowing by restricting the equipment available to clubs.

We therefore move that:

- a. The captains indicate a wish to revoke or alter rule A.3.20. Equipment in order to permit the use of vortex-edge blades in OURCs races
- b. A representative be appointed to make the case for such a change to COUR at their meeting on 6th May 2022

20. Elections for next year's OURCs Exec Committee – Ty Rallens to speak

21. Ratification of Club Safety Reviews – James Lucas to speak

- Regent's Park - £0
- Merton - £50
- Pembroke - £0
- Linacre - £50
- University - £0
- St Peter's - £0
- Worcester - £0

22. AOB