



O U R C s

Captains' Meeting Minutes

Tuesday 1st week Michaelmas Term 2021

7.30pm, 12th October 2021

Simpkins Lee Theatre, LMH

Chair: Amelia Standing (OUWBC)

Attendance:

College Clubs: 66 (58 voting)

OURCs Committee: 8 (7 voting)

Absences – Brasenose, Magdalen

1. Welcome

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting

Available at www.ourcs.org.uk

No objections. Minutes ratified.

3. Matters Arising

● Appointment of Interim Treasurer

Since no Treasurer was elected at the last meeting, the post fell vacant when Viv Leong's term expired at the end of Trinity. As per the Constitution 1.8.d.i, the Secretary (Ty Rallens) appointed Evan Roberts (Christ Church/Kellogg) as Treasurer for the interim period, pending this meeting's election.

● Affiliation of Wadham College Boat Club

Per the Constitution 1.4.f and 1.4.g, clubs which do not enter OURCs events in a given academic year face disaffiliation unless an exception due to bona fide financial or other hardship is agreed with the OURCs senior member or senior treasurer prior to 1st October. The OURCs Senior Member (Paul Azzopardi), Senior Treasurer (David Seale), and Wadham College Boat Club agreed on 6th September, 2021 that WCBC shall be granted an exception under 1.4.g and remains affiliated with OURCs coming into MT21.

4. Squad Reports

OUWBC

This year our pre-season training began on the 7th of September. Since then we have been maximising our time on the water before the vast majority of our athlete's academic commitments begin, alongside having our first 5k erg test and physiology testing. We have a promising squad this year with 4 senior internationals, including Gabby Smith who placed 5th in the double at the Olympics. We have 14 returning athletes in total

including half of the 2021 Blue Boat. Additionally, we have a strong group of athletes who raced in our development crews over the summer at BUCS and Henley Womens' Regatta.

We had some racing success over the summer. At BUCS we won both championship and intermediate pairs and our development squad eight performed strongly at every opportunity. Some of our athletes raced internationally: Gabby Smith at the Olympics for Canada, Christine Cavallo was 3rd in the World Rowing Beach Sprints for the US and myself (Amelia) won at the U23 World Championships.

The squad is highly motivated, and morale is high for the coming season. In general, we have had a promising start to the season and there is a sense of excitement for what the team will be able to achieve this year.

OUBC

The OUBC had a busy and successful summer racing season. Three members of the 2021 Blue Boat raced in the GB 8+ at the U23 World Rowing Championships in July and won the Gold medal. We had success at BUCS, winning the Men's pair, and nine members of the team raced at Henley Royal Regatta in August. With Henley being so late this year, it was a good opportunity for those returning members to get a solid training block over the summer and there was good technical progress achieved in a short period of time. To end the summer racing season, two members of our team competed at the European U23 Rowing Championships and won gold in the GB Men's 8+.

We had our first day of training as a squad for the upcoming campaign on September 6th. We have had an excellent start to the season and completed a difficult first month of training. The team is very strong and the calibre of all three boats will be much higher than last year. Coming up this term we have two races – the Upper Thames Head in Henley in October and the Four's Head in London in November. I am very excited to continue working throughout Michaelmas to engrain the culture that will be needed to beat Cambridge in April.

OUWLRC

In Trinity Term last year, OUWLRC ran a Development Squad programme to give athletes from college boat clubs the opportunity to try rowing at a university level, and to start building a group for the new season. As a club, we rely heavily on athletes that learn to row at Oxford, so it was great to see the skill level and enthusiasm developed by the college boat clubs, especially given the complications of bad weather and COVID in the last few years. We really appreciate the work that the college clubs do and look forward to seeing our triallists race for their colleges at Summer Eights.

The delay in the racing calendar due to the pandemic allowed us to take some of the Development squad to BUCS, where we entered 10 boats across the Development and main squads. After this, we focused on sculling until we finished for the summer in mid-July. Three of the current squad also used summer training to enter Henley Women's Regatta.

We started the new season on 19th September, using a two-week preseason period to assess the ability of the new squad on the water and in the gym. Overall, we have a strong squad of around 30 members this

year, including 7 returners. We are now settling into termtime routines, working with the Blues Performance Scheme to provide strength and conditioning, nutrition, and sports psychology support alongside our normal training programme. After the lack of racing opportunities last year, we are hoping to attend several head races in the next few months as part of our preparation for Trial Vllls in December. The squad is excited to be training normally after the disruption of last season, and we are looking forward to a new Boat Race campaign.

OULRC

Training recommenced on the 13th September, and has continued on the regular schedule up to the start of term. This year we are running a smaller, higher performance squad of 16 rowers and 3 coxes (in line with new OURA guidelines). Training so far has seen the squad rotated through coxed/coxless fours, building up towards fours head in mid-November. Following this, a short interlude for Nephthys Regatta will be followed by seat racing in the build up to Trial Vllls. Our regular training plan is being supplemented through continued work with the Blues Performance Scheme, allowing the squad to attend S&C sessions as well as receiving injury, psychological and nutritional support.

This year there are 6 returning athletes from last year, 1 returning member from two years ago and a squad member coming in from OUBC – this gives the squad a strong competitive platform to build from. The high turnover of squad athletes, from both last year and those previous, show the amiable culture of the club, while the strong uptake of new triallists suggests a success in the feed through system from college rowing clubs. The first set of erg trials were promising, and saw a slight increase in performance on last year, and results on target for this time in the season. Water performance is much the same story. Having regained the opportunity to compete in national regattas and fixtures against other universities, we hope to put these gains into practice soon.

5. Senior Umpire appointments – James Lucas to speak

- Rachel Quarrell
- David Seale
- Ian Maconnachie
- Patrick Lockley
- Caroline Barnes
- Alex Woods
- Joe Hitchen
- Zoe de Toledo

Proposer: Rachel Quarrell

Secunder: James Lucas (OURCs)

Ratification of all appointments as a slate.

Voting:

Votes in favour: 60

Votes against: 0

Abstentions: 6

Ratified as a slate.

6. OURCs Treasurer Election – James Lucas to speak

- **Evan Roberts** (Christ Church)
Proposer: Ty Rallens (OURCs)
Seconder: Ayman D’Souza (Christ Church)

Voting:

Evan Roberts: 59

Against (RON): 0

Abstentions: 5

Evan Roberts wins and is the new OURCs Treasurer.

7. COUR Representative Election – James Lucas to speak

- **Joe Cary** (Brasenose)

Voting:

Joe Cary: 38

Against (RON): 12

Abstentions: 14

Joe Cary wins and is the new COUR representative.

8. 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*
 - Kaitlyn Purdie: Linacre (Reuben) to LMH (papers in order)
 - Jan Ole Ernst: Wolfson to Oriel (papers in order)
 - Kirsty Peacock: Trinity to Wolfson (papers in order)
 - Coraline Jortay: Queen’s to Wolfson (papers in order)

No objections. Ratified.

9. Request for Staff Honorary Membership – Aimee Ruffle to speak

Two-thirds majority to pass

Wolfson would like Jessica Dunham to be granted Staff Honorary Member status at Wolfson College for the 2021-2022 year (Michaelmas, Hilary and Trinity). They are not seeking permission for her to row in W1.

Jessica Dunham holds a College Staff University Card, number 764571. She is a full-time employee of Wolfson College on a probationary period until 4th May 2022, prior to a permanent contract with no fixed end date. Proof of this status in the form of a copy of a contract counter-signed by the relevant college authority has been received and verified by the OURCs Sabbatical Officer.

This Honorary Membership should expire on 18th June 2022.

Proposed: Aimee Ruffle (Wolfson)

Seconded: Dominik Kloepfer (Wolfson)

Voting:

For: 56

Against: 1

Abstentions: 12

Request for Staff Honorary Membership granted.

10. River Closures – Ty Rallens to speak

a. Isis Winter League

IWL A: Sunday 31st October (4th Week) – 12:00 until Closing Time or End of Racing

IWL B: Sunday 28th November (8th Week) – 12:00 until Closing Time or End of Racing

Proposed: Ty Rallens (OURCs)

Seconded: James Lucas (OURCs)

b. Autumn Fours

Sunday 7th November (5th Week) – 12:00 until Closing Time or End of Racing

Proposed: Ty Rallens (OURCs)

Seconded: James Lucas (OURCs)

c. Nephys Regatta

Friday 19th November (6th Week) – 11:00 until Closing Time or End of Racing

Saturday 20th November (6th Week) – Opening Time to Closing Time

Proposed: Cici Hong (OULRC)

Seconded: Matthew Hudson (OULRC)

d. Christ Church Regatta

Wednesday 24th November (7th Week) – 11:00 until Closing Time or End of Racing

Thursday 25th November (7th Week) – 11:00 until Closing Time or End of Racing

Friday 26th November (7th Week) – 11:00 until Closing Time or End of Racing

Saturday 27th November (7th Week) – Opening Time until Closing Time

Proposed: Kate Friesen (Christ Church)

Seconded: Ayman D'Souza (Christ Church)

Voted on as a slate.

Passed unanimously.

11. Amendment to the Constitution – Ty Rallens to speak

Two-thirds majority to pass

Notification period for constitutional amendments. This change closes a procedural loophole in order to ensure that constitutional amendments and other changes governed by the same process are proposed with an appropriate notice period for review and discussion.

Change:

1.11.d Proposed alterations to the Constitution must appear as an item on the agenda circulated in advance of the Meeting.

To (changes in red):

1.11.d Proposed alterations to the Constitution must appear as an item on the agenda circulated at least 48 hours before the Meeting.

Proposed: Ty Rallens (OURCs)

Seconded: James Marsden (OURCs)

No questions.

Voting:

For: 66

Against: 0

Abstentions: 3

Motion passes.

12. Amendment to Code of Conduct – Ruby Sioux Harrison to speak

Simple majority to pass

Blue flag and Novice status coxes. In recent years rain has pushed the flag up to blue or amber for large amounts of Michaelmas and Hilary Terms. The Code of Conduct prevents Novice status coxes from training at all under blue flag, resulting in a severe loss of training time for coxes during these terms. Less training in MT and HT for coxes results in less-prepared coxes racing in Torpids and Eights, but a judicious rule change can mitigate this risk. The proposed change permits colleges to train their novice coxes on blue flag under very limited conditions chosen to ensure such outings remain safe.

If the amendment passes, it will come into effect after the meeting of COUR on 22nd October 2021, subject to approval at that meeting. OURCs and COUR will then monitor the implementation of this policy to ensure that it is having its intended effect and that safe crews are going out under this rule.

Changes to the Code of Conduct

1) Change:

2.8.g.iii Blue Flag (2 bucks): Experienced and Senior status coxes only. Crews must spin between the red and white posts 100m downstream of Donnington Bridge and on Haystacks Corner and may not spin at Longbridges, except to land at Longbridges. The river is closed between Folly Bridge and Oxford Canal. Navigation of Osney and Iffley Locks is prohibited.

To (additions in red):

2.8.g.iii **Dark Blue Flag (3 bucks):** Experienced and Senior status coxes only. Crews must spin between the red and white posts 100m downstream of Donnington Bridge and on Haystacks Corner and may

not spin at Longbridges, except to land at Longbridges. The river is closed between Folly Bridge and Oxford Canal. Navigation of Osney and Iffley Locks is prohibited.

2.8.g.iv Light Blue Flag (2 bucks): Experienced and Senior status coxes only. Crews must spin between the red and white posts 100m downstream of Donnington Bridge and on Haystacks Corner and may not spin at Longbridges, except to land at Longbridges. The river is closed between Folly Bridge and Oxford Canal. Navigation of Osney and Iffley Locks is prohibited.

2.8.g.iv.1 In addition, on Light Blue Flag (but not Dark Blue Flag) Novice status coxes with at least one full term of coxing experience may train under the following four conditions: 1) the outing must occur between Sunrise and Sunset; 2) other than the cox, the crew must be a Senior crew as defined in 2.7; 3) the cox must be accompanied by a bank rider with, in case of emergency, a throw-line and a mobile phone, programmed with the phone number for Iffley Lock, which is 01865 777277; and 4) the names of the full crew, cox, and bankrider and the outing time must be registered with the OURCs executive committee at least 2 hours in advance using the web form at the following URL: <td>. This rule applies only for a trial period ending on Saturday of Week 8 in MT21 unless otherwise renewed in a Captains' Meeting.

2) Change:

Renumber 2.8.g.iv-vi to 2.8.g.v-vii

Proposed: Ruby Sioux Harrison (OURCs)

Seconded: Ty Rallens (OURCs)

This motion was thought by the proposers to be the strongest version of a Flag change proposal. It was stressed that this change would only come into effect after this term's COUR meeting, if approved at that meeting by COUR. The opinion was stated that putting the telephone number of Iffley Lock into the outing requirements was outdated and makes outings more dangerous, as Iffley Lock doesn't have a lock-keeper any more.

Last-minute substitutions for 6am outings under the proposed rule were discussed. The rule was designed to prevent 'random' last-minute substitutions that weren't thought through, but substitutions may be planned in advance, with a list of possible subs submitted with the outing plans. The restriction to Sunrise was explained: the primary concern is to avoid Novice coxes boating in the dark. Boating at Sunrise also gives X and S coxes more time on the river before N-status coxes boat. Clarification was provided that the one term's coxing experience requirement meant no Novice coxes who started this term, and not 'one term since registration', but a term of coxing outings. Off-Isis experience is taken into account when coxing status is assigned at the coxing briefing.

It was asked whether this Flag change will be coming to Godstow and if it would need a trial period there too. The Isis Flag was explained to be the priority for this motion as it affects the most clubs. The Flag change will be trialled on the Isis and rolled out if it is judged safe. A Godstow Flag change was judged by some as unlikely to get through COUR – X-status coxes under Amber Flag have only recently been introduced there.

Voting:

For: 64

Against: 0

Abstentions: 5

Motion passes.

13. Amendment to the Constitution – Evan Roberts to speak

Two-thirds majority to pass

Affiliation fees for 2021/22. This addresses the need for affiliation fees to be representative of recent club size. The number of crews competing Summer Torpids 2021 is considered unrepresentative for many clubs. The total number of crews shrunk by 23%. Some colleges entered far fewer crews than normal (e.g. Wadham, Jesus, GTC). The number of crews competing in Summer Eights 2019 might be the most reasonable alternative, but this does not account for the growth that some clubs continued to experience or the re-emergence of Osler House in college rowing.

To address the issues arising from each of these ways of calculating affiliation fees, the constitution should be temporarily amended such that the number of crews is taken as the largest of entries for Summer Torpids 2021 and Summer Eights 2019. With the total number of crews calculated in this way, the affiliation fee per boat for the coming year will be £38.14. The amount owed per club is listed [here](#).

The language of the 1.5.g will also be reverted to its state prior to its most recent modification.

Change:

1.5.g All College Boat Clubs are required to pay an affiliation fee to OURCs, which will be used solely to fund the OURCs Sabbatical Officer. College Boat Club affiliations will be based on the number of boats competing in the most recent Bumps competition where at least one full day of racing was completed (excluding boats that fail to row on). The fee per crew must be confirmed in the first Captains' Meeting in Michaelmas Term.

To (changes in red):

1.5.g All College Boat Clubs are required to pay an affiliation fee to OURCs, which will be used solely to fund the OURCs Sabbatical Officer. College Boat Club affiliations will be based on the number of boats competing in **Summer Eights 2019 and Summer Torpids 2021** (excluding boats that fail to row on), **whichever is larger**. The fee per crew must be confirmed in the first Captains' Meeting in Michaelmas Term.

Following the invoicing of fees this year, the wording will change to (changes in red):

1.5.g All College Boat Clubs are required to pay an affiliation fee to OURCs, which will be used solely to fund the OURCs Sabbatical Officer. College Boat Club affiliations will be based on the number of boats competing in the most recent **Eights** competition where at least one full day of racing was completed (excluding boats that fail to row on). The fee per crew must be confirmed in the first Captains' Meeting in Michaelmas Term.

Proposed: Evan Roberts (Christ Church/OURCs)

Seconded: Ty Rallens (OURCs)

No questions.

Voting:

For: 57

Against: 4

Abstentions: 8

Motion passes.

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

Simple majority to pass

Starting Order motions. Under the current Constitution and Rules of Racing, the captains' authority over the Starting Order of the next Torpids and/or Eights is not clear. College rowing is a self-governing institution, unlike the cuppers of some other sports which are run by the relevant university clubs. Therefore, the federated clubs, in the Captains' Meeting, should hold final authority over future Starting Orders, though it should be rarely or never exercised. This change also clarifies the roles of the OURCs committee, event committees, and race committees who act on behalf of the federated clubs.

Add:

A3.9.f The Starting Order may be amended through a motion passed in a Captains' Meeting.

- i. Motions to alter previous race results are subject to the following conditions:**
 - 1. No decision of the Senior Umpires may be overturned.**
 - 2. The motion must be brought at the next available Captains' Meeting after racing.**
- ii. The Senior Member may veto vexatious Starting Order motions.**

A3.9.g Any motion to amend the Starting Order or to alter the rules governing the Starting Order in A3.8 and A3.9 must be brought in accordance with the procedural rules associated with a constitutional alteration under 1.11.

Proposed: Ty Rallens (OURCs)

Seconded: Ruby Sioux Harrison (OURCs)

A point was raised in relation to both this proposal and the Repeal of A3.21: a captain stated that a new version of A3.21 is still needed. The Secretary stated that the best Bumps outcomes are still going to result from appealing to the Senior Umpires within racing; this is better than going to the captains afterwards. The Secretary stated that they expected that Starting Order Motions would be used seldom or never, but that the purpose of this amendment was to make the procedure through which they occur unambiguous.

Valid reasons for bringing a Starting Order Motion were discussed. Suggested reasons were the insertion of a new or returning boat club into the Starting Order, the discovery of photographic evidence of cheating, or resolving an issue with the process of race decisions that had not been escalated to the Senior Umpires. It was pointed out that last year a motion to insert Osler House into the Starting Order was prevented. It was hoped by the proposers that this rule amendment would allow such decisions to be passed back to the captains. An explanation was given of how motions to amend Starting Orders have been applied in the past:

it has been quite common to have had motions that apply to new or returning clubs, but captains have previously never amended a Starting Order to overturn the results of racing.

Whether or not Starting Order Motions should be allowed to overturn Senior Umpire decisions was briefly discussed. Clarification was given by the Secretary that the Senior Umpire role is already solely in an appeal capacity – they check to see if rules were applied properly, evidence was properly considered and proper process was followed, but do not make the race decisions.

Concerns were raised about the definition of ‘vexatious’. The reason for the inclusion of the clause on vexatious motions was explained: when drafting the rule, thought was given to how it most could be misused. This clause limits the amount of time that can be wasted with joke motions or motions that make it seem as though safety isn’t a consideration. It was added that the hatred that can occur around Bumps could result in an unpopular club having a motion brought against them in anger. In addition, it was explained that the definition of vexatious was also not left to the judgement of an Event Committee, again to prevent possible misuse. It was stated that the proposed rule makes the Senior Member, someone with a degree of separation, the ultimate arbiter instead. A concern was raised that the Senior Member would be given too much power by this proposed rule, and that truly silly motions would always be voted down by captains. It was pointed out that the Senior Member is not without oversight, and captains have the power to remove the Senior Member if exceptional circumstances require that course of action. The possibility of personal relationships affecting a Senior Member’s decision to veto a Starting Order Motion was raised, and it was argued that a Senior Member who abused their position in that way would be removed.

The idea of the Senior Member making the decision on whether a Starting Order Motion was vexatious at a Captains Meeting was raised, but it was argued that a lengthy trial over each vexatious motion would be good to avoid. It was asked whether the content of vetoed motions, along with the reasons for a veto, would be provided, and pointed out that this has not happened in the past. It was confirmed that there would not be scope for debate on this veto.

A friendly amendment was proposed to A3.9.f ii. “The Senior Member may veto vexatious Starting Order motions but must provide a statement for the minutes of the reasons for doing so.”

Proposed: Ty Rallens (OURCs)

Seconded: Jake Liebers (St Benet’s)

Friendly amendment added.

It was asked whether, if vexatious Starting Order Motions haven’t been common, the implications of limiting ‘vexatious’ motion would be worse than the possible effects of time-wasting nuisance motions.

An unfriendly amendment was proposed to remove clause A3.9.f ii.

Proposer: Will Jones (LMH)

Secunder: James Mason (St Hugh’s)

Votes:

For: 17

Against: 20

Abstentions: 27

Unfriendly amendment fails.

Voting on amended motion:

Add:

A3.9.f The Starting Order may be amended through a motion passed in a Captains' Meeting.

- i. Motions to alter previous race results are subject to the following conditions:
 1. No decision of the Senior Umpires may be overturned.
 2. The motion must be brought at the next available Captains' Meeting after racing.
- ii. The Senior Member may veto vexatious Starting Order motions, but must provide a statement for the minutes of the reasons for doing so.

A3.9.g Any motion to amend the Starting Order or to alter the rules governing the Starting Order in A3.8 and A3.9 must be brought in accordance with the procedural rules associated with a constitutional alteration under 1.11.

For: 53

Against: 3

Abstentions: 14

Motion passes.

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

Simple majority to pass

Repeal A3.21. This rule change was introduced (in HT2020Wk1, after a discussion in MT2019Wk1) in response to the hypothetical situation in which photographic evidence could indicate that a crew had competed with an ineligible athlete. The intention of this rule was to allow redress of wrongs discovered outside of the normal appeals window for bumps results. However, in the first instance where this rule was applied (in June 2021), it was found not fit for purpose. While redress of wrongs discovered outside of appeals windows may be needed, it can be better handled with an appropriate Starting Order motion or a new rule.

1) Repeal:

A3.21 Complaints arising outside the appeals window

- a. *Complaints outside the appeals window can only be brought regarding regattas that have occurred during that academic year, defined to run from 1st October to 30th September inclusive.*
- b. *Any complaints brought between the first and last days of the Bumps Regatta shall only be considered after the Bumps Regatta has been concluded.*
- c. *The Procedure for making and receiving a complaint shall be:*
 - i. *The individual wishing to bring the complaint shall direct it to either*
 1. *The Race Secretary of the regatta, or;*
 2. *Any of the Senior Umpires for that regatta, or;*
 3. *Any member of the OURCs executive committee (Secretary, Sabbatical Officer, Captain of Coxes, Treasurer)*

- ii. *The individual who receives the complaint shall, with any of the individuals listed in A3.21c.i. who are deemed to be impartial and including at least one Senior Umpire and at least one member of the OURCs executive committee, decide whether:*
 - 1. *The complaint could not be brought during racing, and;*
 - 2. *The complaint is factually supported, and;*
 - 3. *The alleged breach of the rules is severe enough to warrant sanctions being imposed.*
 - iii. *If all three of the conditions in A3.21c.ii are judged to have been met, a Major Transgression Meeting shall be held under Code of Conduct section 2.12.d.ii to determine the penalties to be applied to the crew. The MTM shall consider, in order, whether the crew has*
 - 1. *broken rules, and;*
 - 2. *given themselves a significant advantage by doing so, and;*
 - 3. *benefited from it.*
 - iv. *If A3.21c.iii.1 is not met, no penalties shall be applied.*
 - v. *If all three of the conditions in A3.21c.iii are met, the Major Transgression Meeting will have the power to alter the finish order of the regatta, including applying Penalty bumps.*
 - 1. *If this course of action is taken with regard to a crew that has won blades, their college shall be informed of the decision and the outcome through the appropriate channels after the ratification of the Major Transgression Meeting.*
 - 2. *If this course of action is taken with regard to a crew that has won Headship, the crew shall be stripped of its Headship and the Headship not reawarded. Their college shall be informed of the decision and the outcome through the appropriate channels after the ratification of the Major Transgression Meeting.*
 - vi. *If either of A3.21c.iii.2 and iii.3 are not met, penalties shall be applied to the Start Order of the next year's regatta, with the Finish Order left unchanged.*
 - vii. *In all of these cases, the MTM must be ratified by a two-thirds majority at the next Captains' Meeting.*
- d. *If a complaint is brought with regard to Rowing On, the complaint shall only be considered after the Bumps Regatta has been concluded, with any penalties applied to the results of Bumps Proper. If the crew failed to Row On, no penalties shall be applied.*

2) Change:

A3.10.b.i Complaints against other crews must be registered with the Event Committee within 10 minutes of the end of the race, or according to A3.21.

To:

A3.10.b.i Complaints against other crews must be registered with the Event Committee within 10 minutes of the end of the race.

Proposed: Ty Rallens (OURCs)

Seconded: Ruby Sioux Harrison (OURCs)

No questions.

Votes:

For: 54

Against: 1

Abstentions: 8
Motion passes.

16. Amendment to the Code of Conduct and Rules of Racing – Ty Rallens to speak
Simple majority to pass

Reform major transgression meetings. Past major transgression meetings have, contrary to their intended purpose, veered into unhelpful behaviours of blaming and/or defending individual club members for their actions and decisions. Best practices for investigating serious failures in medicine ([Cook, 1998](#)), transportation ([Strauch, 2017](#)), and other fields have long encouraged a focus on systems, rather than individuals. In the context of college rowing, nearly all serious incidents, whether safety-related or otherwise, are caused by the interaction of several club systems, such as planning procedures, equipment storage, and member training. This change aims to shift attention away from blaming individuals, particularly novice coxes, and toward the creation and maintenance of club and university systems for participating in rowing safely and harmoniously. Obsolete numbering used to refer to section 2.11.d has also been updated.

Changes to the Code of Conduct:

1) Change:

2.11.d Types of breach of the Code of Conduct are:

- i. Minor transgressions are defined as those breaches of these rules with only minor safety implications or which only minimally inconvenience other river users.*
 - 1. The first transgression of a certain type in each term will result in a caution and will be recorded. The fine for the second minor transgression of a certain type each term shall be £10.*
 - 2. For each additional offence of the same type within the same term, up to the 5th offence, the value of the fine will keep doubling. If a single Boat Club accrues 5 minor transgressions within 1 term then this will be viewed as a major transgression and acted on as per 2.12.4.b. Following the OURCs decision on the major transgression, fining for any subsequent transgressions will start at the level of the fine stated in 2.12.4.a unless otherwise determined in the penalty for the major transgression.*
- ii. Major transgressions are defined as those with potentially serious safety implications; those which cause serious incidents; those which significantly inconvenience other river users; those which give significant training advantages; those committed with deliberate intent; rowing whilst banned (for example by the OURCs flag or a previous penalty); or five minor transgressions.*
 - 1. Only a formally convened OURCs Committee Meeting may impose the penalty for a major transgression, the nature of which is at its discretion.*
 - 2. The captains of the club(s) involved shall be notified 24 hours before the meeting and may present a statement either in writing or in person. The Senior Member(s) of the club(s) involved may be notified at the discretion of the OURCs Secretary and Sabbatical Officer.*
 - 3. The committee meeting may impose fines and or further sanctions on the Boat Club involved. Examples include, but are not limited to: banning crews from the river and/or from OURCs races and/or giving time or position penalties in any OURCs event to the crew involved. The decision of the committee comes into effect immediately but is subject to ratification at the next captains meeting.*

To (changes in red):

2.11.d Types of breach of the Code of Conduct are:

- i. Minor transgressions are defined as those breaches of these rules with only minor safety implications or which only minimally inconvenience other river users.
 1. The first transgression of a certain type in each term will result in a caution and will be recorded. The fine for the second minor transgression of a certain type each term shall be £10.
 2. For each additional offence of the same type within the same term, up to the 5th offence, the value of the fine will keep doubling. If a single Boat Club accrues 5 minor transgressions within 1 term then this will be viewed as a **serious incident** and acted on as per 2.11.d.ii. Following the **meeting for the Club Safety Review**, fining for any subsequent transgressions will start at the level of the fine stated in 2.11.d.i.1 unless otherwise determined in the **Club Safety Review**.
- ii. **Serious incidents** are defined as those with potentially serious safety implications; ~~those which cause serious incidents;~~ those which significantly inconvenience other river users; those which give significant training advantages; those committed with deliberate intent; rowing whilst banned (for example by the OURCs flag or a previous penalty); or five minor transgressions.
 1. **After any serious incident, a formal OURCs Committee Meeting shall be convened to conduct a Club Safety Review. The purpose of a Club Safety Review is twofold: first, to help the club(s) involved understand how their own systems contributed to the incident and improve those systems to prevent future incidents; and, second, to foster good relations between the club(s) involved and OURCs committee members who have experience related to the incident and can be resources to the club(s) in the future.**
 2. The captains of the club(s) involved shall be notified 24 hours before the meeting and may present a statement either in writing or in person. The Senior Member(s) of the club(s) involved may be notified at the discretion of the OURCs Secretary and Sabbatical Officer.
 3. The **Club Safety Review** may impose fines and or further sanctions on the **club(s)** involved. Examples include, but are not limited to: **recommending suspension or endorsement of the status of cox(es) to the Captain of Coxes**, banning crews from the river and/or from OURCs races, and/or giving time or position penalties in any OURCs event to the crew(s) involved. The decision of the committee comes into effect immediately but is subject to ratification at the next captains meeting.
 4. **The minutes of Club Safety Reviews will be circulated to and approved by all those present before being reported to the Captains for ratification.**

2) Change:

2.11.e.ii *be regarded as a major transgression.*

To (changes in red):

2.11.e.ii be regarded as a **serious incident**.

3) Change:

2.11.i *Fines under 2.12.4.a. shall be suspended from Sunday of 0th week until Sunday of 5th week of Michaelmas term. Repeated transgressions occurring in the subsequent weeks of term will incur fines at the level it would have been if the offences in the first 5 weeks had been fined.*

To (changes in red):

2.11.i Fines under 2.11.d.i.1 shall be suspended from Sunday of 0th week until Sunday of 5th week of Michaelmas term. Repeated transgressions occurring in the subsequent weeks of term will incur fines at the level it would have been if the offences in the first 5 weeks had been fined.

Changes to the Rules of Racing:

4) Change:

A3.12.b.ii If any crews involved in such collisions are adjudged by the Race Committee to have deliberately caused the incident, this will be adjudged extremely dangerous conduct and will also be treated as a major transgression in accordance with the Code of Conduct section 2.12.4.b.

To (changes in red):

A3.12.b.ii If any crews involved in such collisions are adjudged by the Race Committee to have deliberately caused the incident, this will be adjudged extremely dangerous conduct and will also be treated as a serious incident in accordance with the Code of Conduct section 2.11.d.ii.

(if motion to repeal Rules of Racing A3.21 fails)

5) Change:

A3.21 - replace all mentions of “Major Transgression Meeting” with “Club Safety Review”

Proposed: Ty Rallens (OURCs)

Seconded: Ruby Sioux Harrison (OURCs)

No questions.

Votes:

For: 69

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1

Motion passes.

17. **Ratification of Major Transgression Meetings** – Ruby Sioux Harrison to speak

- St Hugh’s - £90

Ratified.

18. **Extra Slots**

Applications from: New College, Hertford, Magdalen, Linacre, St Hugh’s, University, St Catherine’s, Green Templeton, Wolfson

| | |
|------------------------|----------------|
| Monday: Opening – 8am | St Catherine’s |
| Tuesday: Opening – 8am | Hertford |

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| Wednesday: Opening – 8am | University |
| Thursday: Opening – 8am | Linacre |
| Friday: Opening – 8am | Wolfson |
| Sunday: 1pm – 3pm | Magdalen |
| Sunday: 3pm – 5pm | New College |

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

19. AOB

- **Recruiting new Webmaster** – Ty Rallens to speak
 Are you interested in Python and databases? Have you heard of django? (did you just look it up?) You might be a good candidate for the vacant OURCs Webmaster position. OURCs is seeking someone who can maintain our existing web assets including the website, the entries system, social media accounts, and G-Suite. People who have a subset of these skills but are willing to learn are welcome to apply. Contact Ty Rallens at webmaster@ourcs.co.uk for more information.

- **Ordinary Committee Member positions** – Ty Rallens to speak
 The purpose of OURCs is to promote safe rowing within the University and to organize inter-collegiate competitions. Volunteer OCMs are essential for all of these activities, and helping to run one of the largest amateur rowing systems in the world can be quite fun! Also, joining the committee is a fast way to gain background knowledge about college rowing and bumps in particular. At the moment, seven OCM positions are vacant. New OCMs are sought especially from clubs who have not had an active presence on the OURCs committee in recent times. OCMs do not need to be students or members of the University, so keen associates are most welcome! Interested individuals can assist at racedesk for IWLs or Autumn Fours on a trial basis. Contact Ty Rallens at secretary@ourcs.co.uk to nominate yourself or request more information.

- **“One-off” Extra Slots** – Ty Rallens to speak
 One-off extra slots on Sunday afternoons may be given at the discretion of the OURCs Secretary. One has been granted this term for a Lincoln alumni event that could not take place at any other time. The principles on which one-off slots will be granted are: it does not provide any training advantage and it could not happen on another day.

- **Long Vac Treasurer’s Report** – Evan Roberts to speak
 The Treasurer’s Report over the Long Vac could not be prepared by the end of 0th Week, due to the late appointment of interim treasurer. Evan Roberts will prepare the Long Vac report for the next Captains’ Meeting.

- **Reminder of open letter calling for Christ Church boycott** – Jenyth Evans to speak

A St Edmund Hall captain raised an open letter, circulated to JCR and boat club committees a few terms ago, which called for a boycott of Christ Church sporting events, including Christ Church regatta, after a number of racist incidents. It was explained that the St Edmund Hall boat club committee at the time had signed this letter, and the current boat club committee wished to remind other clubs in case it had got lost in the handover, as well as hear from Christ Church about what actions had been taken. The St Edmund Hall captain suggested accessing the letter by asking previous captains for the link, and was happy to provide the link in a personal capacity. The Christ Church president then spoke on behalf of Christ Church boat club, directing other questions about the college more generally to the Senior Censor (senior.censor@chch.ox.ac.uk). It was explained that Christ Church boat club had been making changes. The Christ Church president stated that the boat club had rowed to Fulham to raise money for Fulham Reach (a London boat club and charity that works to give access to rowing to underprivileged children and open up the rowing community), and that Christ Church had been building a long-term relationship with this club, including inviting them to Christ Church regatta. It was explained that Christ Church boat club now have an Access Officer on their committee, provided the Bumps livestream as general outreach, and have been working hard within college to make Christ Church boat club accessible to college members.

- **BR Audits** – James Lucas to speak

British Rowing Audits must be received *and approved* by the British Rowing Regional Representative by 16th November, so please make a start on this early. Contact the Rowing Sabbatical Officer with any questions.

- **Swim test expirations** – James Lucas to speak

As required in the Code of Conduct 2.4.a.i, all athletes competing in OURCs events must have passed a swim test within the past six years. Any athletes entered in regattas this term with expired (or missing) swim tests will not be allowed to compete. James will be sending a list to each club of athletes in the entries system who have near-expiring or expired swim tests. As a reminder, clubs can remove athletes from their rosters in the entries system by clicking on the “deactivate” button shown on the athlete’s individual profile. Contact the Webmaster for any assistance needed.

- **Life jacket servicing** – James Lucas to speak

Please contact the Sabbatical Officer by Friday 15th October if you’d like OURCs to send your life jackets away for servicing.

- **Safety on the towpath** – James Lucas to speak

It was reported that coaches and bank riders have been feeling unsafe, particularly during the hours of darkness, due to unwanted attention from people on the towpath. Captains were encouraged to take discussion of these incidents to their clubs for two reasons. First, if club members reported similar issues, clubs were invited to share their experiences with the Rowing Sabbatical Officer or with relevant personnel at their colleges, with the aim of building up a body

of evidence for this matter to be escalated to, for example, the University. Second, those not targeted by harassment were alerted to the problem, and looking out for one another on the towpath was promoted – for instance, hanging back to provide support if someone being hassled was witnessed.

- **Informal conversations after the meeting** – Ty Rallens to speak

After the meeting, Ty, James, and some other committee members will remain to chat informally with any club members who have specific questions or concerns. Since we have the privilege of meeting in-person, please take the opportunity to say hello.