



OURCs

Captains' Meeting Minutes

Thursday 2nd week Trinity Term 2023

7.00pm, 4th May 2023

Doctorow Hall, St Edmund Hall

Chair: Sara Helin (OUWBC)

Attendance (voting members):

College Clubs: 56

OURCs Committee: 5

1. **Welcome**
2. **Minutes of the Last Meeting**
Available at www.ourcs.co.uk

No objections. Minutes ratified.

3. **Matters Arising**
No matters arising

4. **Squad reports**

OUBC

It has been over a month since the boat race was held in London. All the crews had some tough and close racing, but Cambridge were ultimately better. In a race of two crews where one can only win or lose, it is hard not to look at the whole year through the lens of the result. However, despite the result, the team has made a lot of progress throughout the year and showed an incredible team spirit. Every member fought hard until the bitter end, no matter whether they were pushing for a seat in the bottom of the reserve crew or at the top of the blue boat. It has been a pleasure to be part of such an experience again and to see people give their absolute all to something that has meant so much to many OUBC rowers before and will continue to do so for the future.

Most people are back training for next year including some athletes who are trialing for the u23 GB rowing team. The rest of the team who will be members of OUBC again next year are already back to training and competing in summer racing. Next year's boat race season is now less than 11 months away.

OUWBC

Our team looks back proudly on a season of hard work, regardless of our defeat in the Boat Race.

We finished off our fixtures in Hilary Term with some strong results and tough competition, winning against Thames and Molesey, with close racing against Leander and then losing to a strong Brookes

eight. We had a few injuries in the run up to the race and throughout fixtures, which were managed as best they could.

Finally, in our Boat Race we had a strong start, leading against Cambridge for the longest time in many years on the Tideway, before Cambridge took the lead around their bend. We went for a bumps push when the Cambridge Boat steered in front, but Cambridge just moved out the way and went on to take the win. Our spare pair were too injured to race, and Osiris also lost after lots of disruption from clashing. While taking the loss was a gutting experience, I could not be prouder of the team that has progressed incredibly far in the short Boat Race season.

OUIWBC has kept busy, inviting a fresh load of Development Squad athletes from college crews to try out racing with the University. Elections are scheduled for early May and athletes are either preparing for summer racing or exams.

OULRC

The boat race run-in was challenging for OUL. Hilary term saw 3 members of the blue boat sidelined at various points for 1-4 weeks due to injury, and 1 member losing 10 days due to COVID. Alongside the flooding, this meant we were only able to train with a full 8 for the two weeks before the race, with substitutes in the boat for all but one of our fixtures.

Despite having one of our best rows on the day of the race, we were not able to put up a fight after an early clash. There is clearly a lot to digest as we look to set up for next season - with key issues around athlete care to avoid injury and illness, recruiting and squad depth to allow productive training when first choice members are injured, and contingency planning to reduce lost rowing time. Unfortunately many of these factors are beyond our control due to OUIA squad caps which limit year-on-year development and budgetary pressures which limit the feasibility of off-site training in winter to avoid effects of flooding.

Many of the squad returned on 1 April to commence training for BUCS, however rising stream and river levels put a halt to on-water training once again. Looking to Trinity term, our focus remains on BUCS at the end of April despite the continued disruption. After BUCS, we shift towards a handful of summer regattas in preparation for Henley Royal, and the development of athletes to trial for next year's blue boat via the development squad - for which trials will be held at the beginning of Trinity.

OUIWLR

OUIW had a busy buildup to the Lightweight Boat Race, with every other weekend throughout Hilary spent in London on the course. This included competing at the Women's Eights Head for the first time in several years, delivering a strong performance. Squad confidence and dynamic continued to build as the race approached, and the belief we could win held strong until the race. Despite this making the outcome that much more painful, post race debriefs and analyses have already highlighted key areas for change in the coming season.

This weekend will see some of the squad racing at BUCS regatta, before our development squad kicks into action the following week. We aim to give these athletes the experience of training in the university squad, culminating with racing at some external local regattas towards the end of term. Many current

squad members have also continued to train intensively with the aim to be competitive at Henley Women's Regatta in June. It promises to be an exciting term as we start identifying potential athletes to shape the 2024 Blue Boat.

5. **Rowing Sabbatical Officer Election** – Natasha Smith to speak

- Samuel McLoughlin (Somerville)

Proposed: Henry Paton (Somerville)

Seconded: Corinne Barker (Somerville)

Voting:

Votes in favour: 57

Reopen Nominations: 4

Samuel McLoughlin wins.

6. **Ratification of new Ordinary Committee Members** – Q Sun to speak

- Madeline Connolly (Brasenose)
- Richard Mifsud (Worcester/Osler)

Ratification of all appointments as a slate.

No objections. Ratified.

7. **Ratification of reappointed Ordinary Committee Members** - Q Sun to speak

- Matilde Soares da Silva (Merton)
- Sophia Ungermann (Linacre)
- Daina Šadurska Houghton (St. Cross/ Wolfson)
- Tímea Csahók (Jesus)
- Ambre Bertrand (Reuben/Linacre)

Ratification of all appointments as a slate.

No objections. Ratified.

8. **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

Under A1.2.a:

- Robert Mitchell: Merton to Lincoln (papers in order)
- Christopher Hull: Magdalen to Oriel (papers in order)

Ratification of all transfers as a slate.

No objections. Ratified.

9. **Extension of Student Status** – Natasha Smith to speak

Simple majority to pass

a. **Peter Young (Linacre)**

I'd like to move that Peter Young from Linacre BC remain in student status until the day after Summer Eights if given the sudden leave to supplicate.

Proposed: Maksymilian Brzezicki (Linacre)

Seconded: Thomas Ginnis (Linacre)

Voting:

For: 60

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1

Extension of student status granted

b. **Natasha Smith (Worcester)**

Natasha's thesis corrections are due at the end of May and she expects to have her student status for Summer Eights but would like to apply for an extension in case she submits and receives leave to supplicate earlier. We would like to request an extension of student status until May 28th.

Proposed: Arthur Bown-Mazzoni (Worcester)

Seconded: Helen Jones (Worcester)

Voting:

For: 60

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1

Extension of student status granted

c. **Andrew McMahon (Wolfson)**

Andrew's thesis corrections are due in May and so he expects to have his student status for Summer Eights but would like to apply for an extension in case he submits and receives leave to supplicate earlier. We would like to request an extension of student status until May 28th.

Proposed: Dominik Kloepfer (Wolfson)

Seconded: Zhaoying Ma (Wolfson)

Voting:

For: 60

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1

Extension of student status granted

d. **Michael Austin Argentieri. (Green Templeton College)**

Austin received his leave to supplicate in January 2023 after completing his DPhil. He is still in Oxford completing a post-doc but as he was forced to miss Torpids because he returned home for personal reasons, we want to allow him to compete in his final races at Oxford. We request

that his student status be extended such that he can compete as a full-student member in Summer Eights 2023. This extension of student status would expire on the final day of Summer Eights 2023 (27th May 2023).

Proposed: Benjamin Dinsdale (GTC)

Seconded: Lachlan Arthur (GTC)

It was noted that Michael received his leave to supplicate in January, and typically the extension is applied to racing occurring within the same term as receiving leave to supplicate. A member of OURCs stated this motion went against the spirit of the rule as this person is no longer a student and hasn't been for a number of months now. A representative of GTC notes that this was an abnormal application as Michael was unable to participate in Torpids, when he otherwise would have.

Voting:

For: 34

Against: 2

Abstentions: 19

Extension of student status granted

10. River Closures – Q Sun to speak

a. Summer Eights

Rowing On:

Saturday 20th 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 21st May (5th Week) – 08:00 until Closing Time or End of Racing

Summer Eights:

Wednesday 24th May (5th Week) – 11:00 until Closing Time or End of Racing

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

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

Saturday 27th May (5th Week) – Opening Time until Closing Time

Proposed: Q Sun (OURCs)

Seconded: Natasha Smith (OURCs)

No objections. Ratified.

b. Oriel Regatta:

Saturday 10th June (7th week) – 8am until 6:30pm or End of Racing

Proposed: Amelia Monaghan (Oriel)

Seconded: Alex Abel (Oriel)

No objections. Ratified.

11. Amendment to the rules of racing – Q Sun to speak

Two-thirds majority to pass

Following the assimilation of SBHBC members into Blackfriars (BC) as a consequence of the unfortunate closure of St. Benet's Hall, as voted for in the MT22Wk1 Captains' Meeting, and coinciding with the detachment of Reuben College members from LBC, St. Benet's Hall, Blackfriars', and Reuben College Boat Club was formed, taking the place of Blackfriars' (BC) as in A1.1.b.i.2.

This boat club will be able to participate in OURCs events after 31/07/2023, at the same date that Reuben students may no longer row as Full Members of Linacre, as in A1.1.b.i.4, and will take on the positions of current Blackfriars' boats (currently competing as "St. Benet's Hall Boat Club") in both Torpids and Vllls.

Change:

A1.1.b. Respective college

i. For the above points A1.1.a.i.1.(a-c), respective colleges shall be defined as the College or Private Permanent Hall that Boat Club represents, with the exception of Osler House, which represents Clinical Medical Students. The following boat clubs represent more than one college:

1. Wolfson College Boat Club also represents St. Cross College.
2. Blackfriars also represents St Stephen's House and the former St Benet's Hall, competing as "St Benet's Hall Boat Club", until 31/7/23.
3. Regent's Park College Boat Club also represents female members of Blackfriars.
4. Linacre College Boat Club also represents Nuffield College. From 1/9/21 Linacre College also represents Reuben College, to expire automatically on 31/7/23 after which this sentence will be removed from the Rules of Racing. [...]

To (changes in red):

A1.1.b. Respective college

i. For the above points A1.1.a.i.1.(a-c), respective colleges shall be defined as the College or Private Permanent Hall that Boat Club represents, with the exception of Osler House, which represents Clinical Medical Students. The following boat clubs represent more than one college:

1. Wolfson College Boat Club also represents St. Cross College.
- ~~2. Blackfriars also represents St Stephen's House and the former St Benet's Hall, competing as "St Benet's Hall Boat Club", until 31/7/23.~~
2. St. Benet's Hall, Blackfriars', and Reuben College Boat Club represents the former St. Benet's Hall, Reuben College, Blackfriars and St. Stephen's House. This clause will take effect from 31/7/23, after which this sentence will be removed from the Rules of Racing.
3. Regent's Park College Boat Club also represents female members of Blackfriars.
4. Linacre College Boat Club also represents Nuffield College. From 1/9/21 Linacre College also represents Reuben College, to expire automatically on 31/7/23 after which this sentence will be removed from the Rules of Racing. [...]

Proposed: Ambre Bertrand (Reuben/Linacre)

Seconded: Q Sun (OURCs)

A friendly amendment was proposed by an OURCs committee member to remove A1.1.b.i.3. A brief discussion occurred; however the amendment was tabled to allow for a fuller discussion with Regent’s Park and Blackfriars.

Motion voted on as written.

Voting:

For: 61

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

Motion passes.

12. Amendment to the rules of racing – Q Sun to speak

Two-thirds majority to pass

Under the current rules set out by A3.9.b, there exists a concept of “semi-fixed places”, where crews that finish in Rowing On Divisions in a previous year’s competition may retain their places (or higher) in the Starting Order if they Row On, but may be wholly removed from the Starting Order if they do not Row On; hence, “semi-fixed”. After divisional parity was established in both the Torpids and Vllls events, alongside gradual expansion of both, the number of Rowing On Divisions is now, for both sexes, 2 for Torpids, and 3 for Vllls.

The current rules, therefore, could lead to reliable, and well-performing Rowing On Division crews having a poor year and dropping, in the extreme case, nearly three divisions from the top of Div5 to the bottom of Div7 in the next year following qualification. This is excessively punitive on these crews that show particularly consistent performance over many years, and this amendment seeks to cushion the impact of a bad year on Rowing On Division crews.

However, this amendment reduces mobility for new entrants that will, inevitably, be placed below these reinserted crews, so we welcome discussion as to the balance between the kindness to existing crews and the detriment to newly entered crews.

For Crew A:		Current rules		Rules under this amendment	
Year	Rows On/ Enters?	Initial Starting Order	Final Finishing Order	Initial Starting Order	Final Finishing Order
2023	Yes	Retains position or higher	Final position after bumps and reinsertions	Retains position or higher	Final position after bumps and reinsertions
2024	No	<i>Removed</i>	Not reinserted (i.e. not present)	<i>Removed</i>	Reinserted with standard penalty
2025	If Yes	Randomised below semi-fixed places	Final position after bumps and reinsertions	Retains position or higher relative to previous Final Finishing Order	Final position after bumps and reinsertions
	If No	<i>Removed</i>	Not reinserted (i.e. not present)	<i>Removed</i>	Not reinserted (i.e. not present)

Change:

A3.8. Withdrawals

- a. The Race Secretary should be notified, in writing, of any withdrawals.
- 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'.

- c. Provided no lower crews of the same sex from the same College Boat Club are entered, Fixed Division crews that were 'not entered' shall be reinserted 6 places lower in the Starting Order for the following year in Torpids, 4 places lower in the Starting Order for Eights. If lower crews of the same sex from the same College Boat Club ARE entered, Fixed Division crews that were not entered will NOT BE REINSERTED.
[...]

, and:

A3.17. Finishing Order

- a. The finishing order of a division, subject to revisions following the awarding of penalty bumps, technical bumps, and technical row-overs, shall be:
 - i. In Torpids, the same as the starting order except that any crews which have been bumped are moved below the crew(s) which have bumped them.
 - ii. In Eights, the same as the starting order except that the two boats involved in each bump shall exchange places.
- b. The final finishing order for the event should include crews that were 'not entered' or withdrawn as set out in A3.8 reinserted with the correct number of places forfeited and other crews moved down the necessary number of places. In the event of there being more than one crew to reinsert, the crews should be reinserted starting from the Head of the River and working downwards.
- c. Composite crews shall be removed from the final finishing order with any non-composite crews moved up in order to fill their place.

To (changes in red):

A3.8. Withdrawals

- a. The Race Secretary should be notified, in writing, of any withdrawals.
- 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 08:00 AM on the Thursday before the bumps race starts, shall be refunded their full entry fee, and regarded as 'not entered'.
- ~~c. Provided no lower crews of the same sex from the same College Boat Club are entered, Fixed Division crews that were 'not entered' shall be reinserted 6 places lower in the Starting Order for the following year in Torpids, 4 places lower in the Starting Order for Eights. If lower crews of the same sex from the same College Boat Club ARE entered, Fixed Division crews that were not entered will NOT BE REINSERTED.~~

, and:

A3.17. Finishing Order

- a. The finishing order of a division, subject to revisions following the awarding of penalty bumps, technical bumps, and technical row-overs, shall be:
 - i. In Torpids, the same as the starting order except that any crews which have been bumped are moved below the crew(s) which have bumped them.
 - ii. In Eights, the same as the starting order except that the two boats involved in each bump shall exchange places.
- b. The ~~f~~Final ~~f~~Finishing ~~e~~Order for the event shall be the Finishing Order of the last day of racing and ~~should~~ shall include crews from the Final Finishing

Order of the previous instance of the event that were 'not entered', did not qualify, or withdrawn as set out in A3.8 reinserted ~~with the correct number of places forfeited and other crews moved down the necessary number of places~~ as follows:

- i. If lower crews of the same sex from the same College Boat Club are entered, higher positioned crews that were 'not entered' or withdrawn shall not be reinserted.
 - ii. Crews in Rowing On Divisions that do not enter or do not qualify for the second consecutive instance of an event shall not be reinserted.
 - iii. Crews withdrawn on safety grounds in accordance with A3.8.d shall be reinserted into their original position.
 - iv. In Torpids, crews shall be reinserted 6 places lower.
 - v. In Eights, crews shall be reinserted 4 places lower.
 - vi. Other crews shall be moved down the necessary number of places.
 - vii. In the event of there being more than one crew to reinsert, the crews should be reinserted starting from the Head of the River and working downwards.
- c. Composite crews shall be removed from the ~~f~~Final ~~f~~Finishing ~~e~~Order with any non-composite crews moved up in order to fill their place.

Proposed: Q Sun (OURCs)

Seconded: Joe Hitchen (OURCs Senior Umpire)

It was asked why there is a 1 year limit. The secretary explained that there would be a need to track crews, which adds admin time to the already stretched committee. Additionally, removing such crews after a year would reduce producing an excessively long finishing order while incentivizing clubs to recover their lower boat crews after a single bad year.

Voting:

For: 58

Against: 0

Abstentions: 3

Motion passes.

13. Amendment to the Rules of Racing - Q Sun to speak

Two-thirds majority to pass

There is a change from "Starting Order" to "Finishing Order" under A3.8.d; this is to be consistent with A3.17.b. The current rules are not used in practice and don't really make sense.

Change:

A3.8. Withdrawals

[...]

- d. In the event of a crew withdrawn after the deadline in A3.8.b, but before the Starting Order is finalised, the crew shall be removed entirely from the Starting Order and NOT REINSERTED THE FOLLOWING YEAR, all other crews moved up one place and the fastest crew failing to Row On shall be invited to start at the bottom of the lowest division.
- e. In the event of the Senior Umpires permitting early or late withdrawals from bumps races on safety grounds, arising from a significant loss of river time to

colleges, such crews will maintain their places in the following year's Starting Order without penalty. A request for such a withdrawal must be made in writing and signed by the club captain.

- f. Crews withdrawing after the Start Order is finalised, or failing to boat for their race are withdrawn from the competition and not reinserted the following year. Crews in the division are moved up one place and a bungline left empty at the bottom of the division for the day's racing. In the Start Order for the following day all other crews are moved up one place and the fastest crew failing to Row On shall be invited to start at the bottom of the lowest division.

[...]

To (changes in red):

A3.8. Withdrawals

[...]

- d. In the event of a crew withdrawn after the deadline in A3.8.b, but before the Starting Order is finalised, the crew shall be removed entirely from the Starting Order and NOT REINSERTED ~~THE FOLLOWING YEAR~~ into the Final Finishing Order, all other crews moved up one place and the fastest crew failing to Row On shall be invited to start at the bottom of the lowest division.
- e. In the event of the Senior Umpires permitting early or late withdrawals from bumps races on safety grounds, arising from a significant loss of river time to colleges, such crews will maintain their places in the ~~following year's Starting Order~~ Final Finishing Order without penalty. A request for such a withdrawal must be made in writing and signed by the club captain.
- f. Crews withdrawing after the Start Order is finalised, or failing to boat for their race are withdrawn from the competition and not reinserted ~~the following year~~ into the Final Finishing Order. Crews in the division are moved up one place and a bungline left empty at the bottom of the division for the day's racing. In the Start Order for the following day all other crews are moved up one place and the fastest crew failing to Row On shall be invited to start at the bottom of the lowest division.

[...]

Proposed: Q Sun (OURCs)

Seconded: Joe Hitchen (OURCs Senior Umpire)

Voting:

For: 60

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

Motion passes.

14. Amendment to the Rules of Racing - Q Sun to speak

Two-thirds majority to pass

Tautological rules often crop up in the RoR or CoC after many generations of Captains and OURCs Committee amend these pieces of living documentation and are often forgotten about. Duplicate rules such as A3.8.g and the first sentence of A3.8.f serve no purpose but to confuse future generations of Captains and OURCs Committee.

Change:

A3.8. Withdrawals

[...]

f. Crews withdrawing after the Start Order is finalised, or failing to boat for their race are withdrawn from the competition and not reinserted the following year. Crews in the division are moved up one place and a bungline left empty at the bottom of the division for the day's racing. In the Start Order for the following day all other crews are moved up one place and the fastest crew failing to Row On shall be invited to start at the bottom of the lowest division.

g. If a crew fails to boat for its race, it shall be regarded as having withdrawn from the competition.

[...]

To (changes in red):

A3.8. Withdrawals

[...]

f. Crews withdrawing after the Start Order is finalised, or failing to boat for their race are withdrawn from the competition and not reinserted the following year. Crews in the division are moved up one place and a bungline left empty at the bottom of the division for the day's racing. In the Start Order for the following day all other crews are moved up one place and the fastest crew failing to Row On shall be invited to start at the bottom of the lowest division.

~~g. If a crew fails to boat for its race, it shall be regarded as having withdrawn from the competition.~~

[...]

Proposed: Q Sun (OURCs)

Seconded: Natasha Smith (OURCs)

Voting:

For: 60

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

Motion passes.

15. Amendment to the code of conduct – James Marsden to speak

Simple majority to pass

Change:

2.8. Rules specific to the Isis

a. Scheduled Closures

i. In addition to the rules above, no member of a Member Club may row between the following times (out of courtesy to other river users):

1. Between 8.00am and 1.00pm on Sundays.

2. After 7.00pm on Wednesdays.

To (changes in red):

2.8. Rules specific to the Isis

a. Scheduled Closures

i. In addition to the rules above, no member of a Member Club may row between the following times (out of courtesy to other river users), **except for the purpose of transiting, with the written consent of the Captains of Oxford Academicals RC, City of Oxford RC and Falcon RC. The written consent must be sent to the Secretary at least 24hrs prior to the transit.**

1. Between 8.00am and 1.00pm on Sundays.
2. After 7.00pm on Wednesdays.

Proposed: James Marsden (OURCs)

Seconded: Natasha Smith (OURCs)

It was stated that the town clubs have expressed frustration about the overuse of transit requests and the late notice from some. Captains are asked to limit their use of this rule to only exceptional cases, and that the town club captains have the right to refuse any request if they wish.

Voting:

For: 60

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

Motion passes.

16. **Amendment to the Rules of Racing** — Hamish Tynan to speak *Two-thirds majority to pass*

Rule addition to A1.2. regarding transfers **(in red)**:

A1.2. Transfers

[...]

d. — Where a bona fide student, visiting student, or fellow eligible under A1.1.a.ii.1 of college A is unable to row in OURCs competitions with College Boat Club A for an unresolvable and serious welfare reason documented by the Senior Tutor, Dean, or equivalent, and wishes to have membership of College Boat Club B, the student may be transferred by the following procedure:

i. — The student or fellow must provide to the OURCs Sabbatical Officer:

- 1. — Their name;**
- 2. — Details of the type of University card they hold, and the number;**
- 3. — Written permission of the captains of both College Boat Club A and B. In the event of refusal to give permission by the captains of College Boat Club A, the Dean, Senior Tutor, or equivalent may provide this in their stead.**
- 4. — Proof of academic status, including the finishing date for their course of study or fellowship. An enrolment certificate signed by the Senior Tutor, or equivalent, will be acceptable.**
- 5. — Written and confidential documentation from the Dean, Senior Tutor, or equivalent, confirming the existence of an unresolvable and serious welfare issue preventing the student from rowing for and with College Boat Club A. Unless explicitly desired by the student or staff, any information about the nature of this welfare issue will be treated by the**

- ~~OURCs Sabbatical Officer as confidential information and should not form part of the vote held by captains in subsection iv.~~
- ~~1. At the next Captain's Meeting, the OURCs Sabbatical Officer will include a list of transfers requested under this section on the agenda that have been received before the publishing of that agenda.~~
 - ~~1. At the next Captain's Meeting, the captains will be given the opportunity to register their objection to the transfer. Objections may only be based upon one of the following:

 - ~~6. The student or fellow is not a bona fide student, visiting student, or fellow eligible under A1.1.a.ii.1 of college A.~~~~
 - ~~1. If there are no objections, a vote to allow the transfer will be held and passes with a simple majority.~~
 - ~~1. In the event of an objection, the OURCs Sabbatical Officer will resolve whether or not the transfer can be brought under this section. This must be resolved before the end of the meeting in which the motion was raised.~~
 - ~~Transfers have effect from the end of the Captain's Meeting at which they are announced by the OURCs Sabbatical Officer. The student or fellow will no longer be eligible to row with college A in OURCs events except as an associate member, unless they transfer back to the college where they are currently a bona fide student, visiting student, or fellow eligible under A1.1.a.ii.1.~~

Proposed: Hamish Tynan (St Hugh's)

Seconded: Erika Dutton (St Edmund Hall)

17. Amendment to the Code of Conduct – Natasha Smith to speak

Simple majority to pass

Following the motion submitted in MT22, the Proctors were petitioned to adjust the Proctors closure to allow pairs and doubles to row during the weekday closure. Following discussion with COUR, the Rules Committee met and approved the request. This change does not come into effect until MT23 (8th October 2023).

Once amended, s. 5.1 of the [Regulations for the Activities and Conduct of Student Members](#) will state:

No student member (other than a student member currently in residence at All Souls College, Green Templeton College, Kellogg College, Linacre College, Nuffield College, St Antony's College, St Cross College or Wolfson College) shall participate in rowing on the river except in a single scull, pair, or double, between the hours of 8.30am and 1pm from Monday to Friday inclusive during Full Term without the prior permission of the Proctors.

As per s. 8(2) of the [Council Regulations 42 of 2002](#), the change will come into effect on Sunday 08 October 2023, the first day of Michaelmas Term 2023. The current restrictions will continue to apply until then.

In line with this, and the upcoming creation of St. Benet's Hall, Blackfriars', and Reuben College Boat Club, we would like to propose the amendment to the Code of Conduct be made:

Change:

2.6.o. As decreed by the Proctors, no member of a Member Club, as defined in 1.3, may row at the following times:

- i. Before Opening Time or after Closing Time.
- ii. Between 8.30am and 1.00pm on weekdays between 1st and 8th week inclusive, unless:
 1. from the following College Boat Clubs: Green Templeton, Linacre, St Antony's, Wolfson
 2. in a single scull
 3. with the Proctors' permission

To (changes in red):

2.6.o. As decreed by the Proctors, no member of a Member Club, as defined in 1.3, may row at the following times:

- i. Before Opening Time or after Closing Time.
- ii. Between 8.30am and 1.00pm on weekdays between 1st and 8th week inclusive, unless:
 1. from the following College Boat Clubs: Green Templeton, Linacre, St Antony's, Wolfson or (with effect from 12/10/23) St. Benet's Hall, Blackfriars', and Reuben College Boat Club
 2. in a single scull, double, or pair (the latter two classes to take effect from 12/10/23, after which this bracketed section will be automatically removed from the Rules of Racing)
 3. with the Proctors' permission

Proposed: Natasha Smith (OURCs)

Seconded: Q Sun (OURCs)

A friendly amendment was proposed: Alter the date from 12/10/23 to 08/10/23

Proposed: Natasha Smith (OURCs)

Seconded: Q Sun (OURCs)

Friendly amendment added.

Voting on amended motion:

2.6.o. As decreed by the Proctors, no member of a Member Club, as defined in 1.3, may row at the following times:

- i. Before Opening Time or after Closing Time.
- ii. Between 8.30am and 1.00pm on weekdays between 1st and 8th week inclusive, unless:
 1. from the following College Boat Clubs: Green Templeton, Linacre, St Antony's, Wolfson or (with effect from 08/10/23) St. Benet's Hall, Blackfriars', and Reuben College Boat Club

2. *in a single scull, double, or pair (the latter two classes to take effect from 08/10/23, after which this bracketed section will be automatically removed from the Rules of Racing)*
3. *with the Proctors' permission*

Voting:

For: 60

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

Motion passes.

The captains are reminded that during TT23, pairs and doubles are NOT permitted during the Proctors closure. This change will only come into effect on 08/10/23 in MT23.

18. Ratification of Club Safety Reviews - Natasha Smith to speak

- St Catherine's - £50
- St Catherine's - £40
- Worcester - £0
- Magdalen - £100
- St Peters - £50

No objections. Ratified.

19. Poling off contracts – David Seale to speak

The Senior Treasurer wished to discuss the nature of payment for those who pole off crews during bumps racing. Thus far, poling has been very casual, many doing this as an add-on or taking annual leave to do this. However, this has left them uninsured and opens the university up to a liability claim should an incident happen. The university has agreed to grant a zero hours contract under one college and provide insurance, which will be done under Linacre thanks to David Seale, Senior Treasurer of OURCs. All of the main boatmen and volunteers have agreed to this.

The impact this will have to clubs is that payment now be done via an invoice from Linacre college to each boatclub. This invoice can then be passed on to the college, or paid directly by the boat club, as needed. All the college bursars have agreed to this arrangement. This change results in a small increase in cost to include living wage, tax, and holiday pay. Linacre will not profit from this, simply acting as administrators. This change will be initiated for Summer Eights.

One or two of the boatmen already have poling in their contract, if this applies to your club, they won't receive a bill unless there are multiple crews/other polemen are used.

It has been requested that these invoices are paid promptly when received in June.

20. Coxing reminders – Becky Hore to speak

If looking for an upgrade assessment, they must be done before Summer Eights while the river is still busy enough. Please request them soon if wanted.

If interested in the Captain of Coxes position, please speak to Becky Hore.

The Summer Eights coxing briefing will be on Wed 17th, 7:30/8pm.

21. **MNR Opinion Poll** – Q Sun to speak

After a successful MNR in MT22, the Captains were informally polled about their views on the future of the end-of-term regatta in MT. Captains overwhelmingly agreed that Linacre ran MNR very well and suggested that they could run the regatta for another year. Captains also believed that a name change from MNR would be good, so a shortlist was generated within OURCs.

A simple majority vote was proposed to see if the captains were happy for Linacre to run MNR again.

Voting:

For: 60

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

Linacre have been granted permission to run MNR in MT 2023.

Names up for voting are:

- Novitius (Latin)/Archarios (Greek)
- Tamesis Regatta, named after the Brittonic name for the river and where we get "Isis" from. Interestingly, the proto-Celtic "tamēssa" means dark.
- St. Fridewide's Regatta, named after the patron Saint of Oxford.
- Wordsworth Regatta, named after the progenitor of the Boat Race in 1829.
- Linacre regatta

The captains were encouraged to discuss the options amongst themselves and OURCs welcome proposals for other options. This matter will be readdressed after Summer Eights.

22. **Summer Vllls important dates, times** - Q Sun to speak

As before, Captains, please save these dates into your calendar:

Entries close: 12:00, Monday 15th May.

Scratch deadline: 08:00, Thursday 18th May.

Provisional dates for briefings:

Marshal and Umpire briefings: 10:00-11:00, Sunday 21st May and 20:00 - 21:00, Monday, 22nd May.

Bankrider briefings: TBC.

Vllls 2023 Rowing On: Saturday 20th May, with Sunday 21st May as contingency.

Vllls 2023: Wednesday 24th May to Saturday 27th May.

23. **Elections for next year's OURCs Exec Committee** - Q Sun to speak

Elections for the positions of Captain of Coxes, Treasurer, and Secretary will be held in the TT23Wk4 Captains' Meeting for the 2023/2024 academic year. These positions are integral to Oxford College Rowing and allow the smooth running of Bumps and other OURCs regattas.

These positions are extremely fulfilling and provide a year's worth of immersion into the deepest, darkest corners of College Rowing, and can form precious parts of one's CV. Anyone who is interested in these roles, please get in touch with the current office holders and feel free to approach them at Captains' Meetings:

Captain of Coxes (coxing@ourcs.co.uk): Becky Hore

Treasurer (treasurer@ourcs.co.uk): Charlotte Rumney

Secretary (secretary@ourcs.co.uk): Q Sun

Description is on the constitution, email with any questions,

24. Headship presentation – Q Sun to speak

The headship presentation will be in the afternoon of Thursday 8th June (7th week). This will be for both Torpids and Summer Eights headship crews, plus coaches and any additional attendees. Arrangements about the safe transfer of trophies will be made by the OURCs Senior Treasurer with the Bursars of the relevant colleges.

25. AOB

- **Amendment to the Rules of Racing** – Hamish Tynan to speak
Two-thirds majority to pass

Rule addition to A1.2. regarding transfers (in red), changes from point 16 in blue:

A1.2. Transfers

[...]

- d. Where a bona fide student, visiting student, or fellow eligible under A1.1.a.ii.1 of college A is unable to row in OURCs competitions with College Boat Club because of an unresolvable conflict that causes a serious welfare reason documented by the Dean and Senior Tutor, or equivalent, of College A and wishes to be released from their ties to College Boat Club A, they may do so by the following procedure:
 - i. The student or fellow must provide to the OURCs Sabbatical Officer:
 1. Their name;
 2. Details of the type of University card they hold, and the number;
 3. Written permission of the captains of College Boat Club A;
 4. Proof of academic status, including the finishing date for their course of study or fellowship. An enrolment certificate signed by the Senior Tutor, or equivalent, will be acceptable.
 - ii. The respective College officials ultimately responsible for disciplinary matters (e.g. Dean) and welfare issues (e.g. Supervising Welfare Lead) at College A must provide to the OURCs Sabbatical Officer:
 1. The existence of a documented conflict, having resulted in an Decanal investigation that, in their opinion, renders the student unable to row with College Boat Club A, for concerns of their welfare.
 2. In the event of refusal to give permission by the captains of College Boat Club A, the respective officials may provide this in their stead.
 3. If both the disciplinary and welfare roles at College A are held by the same individual, the College's Senior Tutor must additionally sign off the documentation. This means that, at a minimum, two Senior College officials must undersign the above.

4. At no point should the College officials or the student be expected to provide any confidential information relating to the underlying issue.
- iii. At the next Captain's Meeting, the OURCs Sabbatical Officer will include a list of requests for release under this section on the agenda that have been received before the publishing of that agenda.
- iv. At the next Captain's Meeting, the captains will be given the opportunity to register their objection to the release. Objections may only be based upon one of the following:
 1. The student or fellow is not a bona fide student, visiting student, or fellow eligible under A1.1.a.ii.1 of college A.
- v. In the event of an objection, the OURCs Sabbatical Officer will resolve whether or not the release can be brought under this section. This must be resolved before the end of the meeting in which the motion was raised.
 - i. The release will have effect immediately when they are announced by the OURCs Sabbatical Officer. The student or fellow will no longer be eligible to row with college A in OURCs events except as an associate member, and will be considered a student of a College without a respective Boat Club, making them eligible for transfer under A1.2.b.
 - ii. If the student wishes to transfer under A1.2.b, and has previously competed in an OURCs event for College Boat Club A, they may request a waiver of this exclusion requiring a majority vote at a Captain's Meeting.
- e. Any motion to amend the above rules must be brought in accordance with the procedural rules associated with a constitutional alteration under 1.11.5.

Proposed: Hamish Tynan (St Hugh's)

Seconded: Erika Dutton (St Edmund Hall)

It was pointed out that this motion is a late addition to the agenda, and OURCs expressed concern about the haste with which it has been proposed. The motion was originally proposed as point 16 in the agenda, but following discussion with Rachel Quarrel and the Secretary, an updated version was submitted shortly before the meeting. The key changes have been highlighted in blue. The secretary stated that OURCs had not had sufficient time to properly review such a motion and thus warned the captains that there may be flaws which have not been worked around yet.

It was suggested that the amendment hinges on all parties involved being honest and that it is a subjective motion. The captains were encouraged to really look at it and think about it before deciding.

The proposers stated that the changes made were mostly in the middle section, altering who had to provide proof and rendering this a request to be released from a club, rather than a transfer. It was asked why someone couldn't row as an associate in another club, to which the proposers responded that it seems unfair if you have suffered a serious welfare issue that you can't row in a higher boat.

In its current form, the impetus is on the student applying for the release, rather than the college/club forcing them to leave. Concern was raised about anyone using this rule then having their name displayed permanently in the minutes, which has wide implications.

The proposers stated they wish to put this motion forward now so that it may be used in the following Captains' Meeting ahead of Summer Eights. The secretary argued this motivation would pressure the captains to vote before they were ready. A captain expressed discomfort over using a

specific case to drive a motion, while OURCs stated they were not involved in welfare cases within clubs, as this is handled by the colleges and clubs directly.

A question was raised regarding college resources being used by someone who was not a member of the club, to which the proposers stated that this motion related to leaving a club, rather than joining a new club. The Sabbatical Officer informed the captains that they would like to get more information from the college deans and it was proposed to table the motion to discuss further.

It was noted that a similar case occurred approximately ten years ago, which was rejected by the captains. In this case, it is believed that the captains requested an exception be made for the specific case.

The captains were then asked if they would like to vote on the motion or if they would like to table it for a future meeting. The decision was made to table the motion.

- **Composite crews** - Q to speak:

Each year the Captains are required to decide if Composite crews are allowed in Bumps. Do you wish to have Composite women's crews allowed in Eights under Rules A.1.12 and A3.4?

Voting:

For: 58

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

Motion passes.

- **Composite crew authorisation** - James Marsden to speak:

A1.12.g requires the Captains to re-authorise the Composite Crews rule each year. Composite crews have now run successfully for four years and the Captains have never voted against authorisation

Motion: Repeal A1.12.g so that Composite crews do not need to be authorised each year.

Proposed: Q Sun (OURCs)

Seconded: James Marsden (OURCs)

The captains asked by composite crews can only be formed by womens crews? It was explained that historically, mens crews outnumber women and composites were an attempt at encouraging gender parity.

It was noted that A1.12.g was intended as means to assess the need for composite crews until gender parity occurred. OURCs stated they were unsure of the current state of any gender differences, the committee will explore further and present the captains with the numbers from the past few years.

The captains elected to table this motion until such evidence could be presented.



Treasurer's Report: HT23 – End

Oxford University Rowing Clubs

Regarding the two (2) months ended 17/03/2023

1. Racing

This term, OURCs successfully ran IWL C and Torpids, with IWL C being cancelled. This was the first bumps racing with the newly increased entry fees. The profit will help to counteract the losses made during previous years, and aid in reaching the target of £4,000 retained earnings. Furthermore, this year we unfortunately experienced significant damage to the tannoy system which will need to be repaired, at a fairly large cost to us.

Racing:

Isis Winter League Entry Fees: (1,528.00)

Isis Winter League Expenses: 878

Torpids Entry Fees: (11,450.00)

Torpids Expenses: 7,593.11

Total racing: (4,507)

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### 2: Swim Tests

We expect to break even on swim tests, with the cost of pool hire divided between each test slot and distributed directly to the clubs.

Swim Tests:

Swim Test fees: (2,357.75)

Swim Test expenses: 2,485.36

Total swim tests: 127.61

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4. Affiliation fees

Affiliation fees are paid from college boatclubs to OURCs to cover a portion of the Rowing Sabbatical Officer's salary, with the other half covered by the University. The payment towards the salary will be made in TT23.

Affiliation fees are invoiced for in MT. The small loss shown is due to an overpayment made by one college in MT22.

Affiliation fees:

Affiliation fees: 86.44

Affiliation fees: 86.44

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### 5. Fines

Racing and training fines are issued and collected by OURCs as per the Constitution. These fines are evenly distributed between OUWL and OUL.

## OURCs Treasurer's Report MT22-End

The money collected from fines will be paid to the Lightweight clubs throughout the

Fines:

Racing fines: (2,880.00)

Training fines: (300.00)

Total fines: (3,180.00)

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6. 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.

Due to the changeover in treasurer (twice) some reimbursements for equipment expenses were processed at a later date and will hence appear on the next treasurer's report.

Equipment, radios, training:

Equipment and repair expenses: 307.86

Training expenses: 0.00

Total equipment and radios: 307.86

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### **7. 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.

There was also a one-off expense of £500.00 for trimming trees to make navigation of the raceline during torpids easier and safer.

Miscellaneous technology costs:

Subscriptions, consumables, and one-offs: 637.20

Total miscellaneous technology costs: 637.20