



O U B C s

Captains' Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 5th Week Hilary Term 2017

19:00, 15 February 2017

Habbakuk Room, Jesus College

Chair: Tom Foster (OUBC)

1. **Welcome**
2. **Minutes of the Last Meeting**
Available at www.ourcs.org.uk
3. **Matters Arising**
4. **Squad Reports**

OUBC: We had a very productive training camp in France. The squad is now back at Wallingford with a few days at Caversham now that the lake is not frozen. We have another round of testing coming up in a week's time. Overall the guys are excited and have bought into the training programme. The first of three pre Boat Race fixtures is at the end of the month against Oxford Brookes.

OUBWC: At this stage we are a squad of 23 athletes and 3 coxes. Coming up we will have several training weekends at Dorney as well as on the Tideway to establish further rankings as well as getting more racing experience. We also have several fixtures coming up as preparation for the Boat Race, which will take place on the Tideway.

Our Dev Squad is now open for applications, please contact Jamie Kirkwood (jamie.kirkwood@sport.ox.ac.uk) for further details.

OULRC: Since my last report the squad has made reasonably pleasing progress. After a period rowing in matched eights in preparation for Trial Vllls we split into a 1st and 2nd VIII and took part in a number of head races towards the end of Michaelmas term. The top VIII performed solidly, however it struggled to find the same easy rhythm and cohesion it had enjoyed early in the season.

Due to financial constraints we decided to hold training camp this year at Wallingford. This was a great success, with near perfect weather and very manageable river conditions. By the end of camp good strides had been made forward, and we were close to a provisional selection for the top VIII.

We have a busy schedule of racing in the weeks ahead, and will be competing in fixtures with London RC, Quintin BC and Nottingham University amongst others.

We will be running a Dev squad next term and inquiries can be directed to president.oulrc@gmail.com.

OUWLRC: Our training camp was again held in Lajas, in the Galicia region of Spain for 10 days. Although a little chillier than expected on some days, the weather was brilliant – no rain, almost no wind and usually sunny in the afternoons. Water conditions were consequently perfect. Facilities at Lajas Caldaria are world-class. Four coaches attended as well as one massage therapist. There was an increased emphasis on small boat training this year, helped by the advantageous conditions. Pairs training culminated in a Pairs Matrix. There were also two sessions of seat racing in coxed fours.

Two of our athletes will go to the second GB Trials assessment on the 11th of February. Looking forward, we have fixtures arranged for both eights (provisional Blue Boat and Tethys line-ups) against Lady Eleanor Holles School (22 Jan), Headington School (29 Jan and 25 Feb) and Molesey Boat Club (18 Feb). A mini-camp at Lake Wimblesball has been arranged for the Blue Boat on 10 - 12 March.

Our Dev Squad is now open for applications, please contact Alba Pellerogue (ouwlrcdevelopmentsquad@gmail.com) for further details!

5. **Permission for an associate to row in a Senior Division – Kate Roll (Green Templeton)**

Proposed: Sanja Broljih (GTC)

Seconded: Lukas Lohove (GTC)

GTC are requesting that Kate be allowed to row in their W1 boat, which they have confirmed will be their lowest boat for Torpids. Sanja has requested this be placed early on the agenda due to time commitments.

Requires majority vote in favour

GTC: High drop-out rate after Christ Church. Kate is an alumna, lecturer at Somerville. GTC say the only way to have a W1 on the water is if Kate comes in.

Questions over whether GTC really were struggling to the extent that they had only seven rowers. The possibility of seat-sharing current students was discussed. There was a query about whether Kate would qualify for Honorary Staff Membership of Somerville. No more questions, so moved to a vote.

31 in favour, 15, against, 5 abstentions

Motion passes

6. **Isis Winter League D Feedback Slot**

One captain expressed a wish for it to be cancelled the night before, to allow captains to arrange alternative training. Counter-argument: After a week and amber and red, you should make sure to have contingency plans in advance.

It was pointed out that IWL D was a very rare scenario and the river would usually be more predictable.

No vote, but general agreement that OURCs made the right decision.

7. **Safety**

- Launches

TC warned captains that he had been getting messages about launches with poor lights and killcords. Killcords MUST be worn and attached to the driver as one of the definitive safety issues involved with rowing.

- PLA Tideway App

TC told the captains that the Port of London Authority had launched a handy app describing the conditions and weather warnings in place on the Tideway.

8. **Major Transgression Meetings to Ratify**

St Anne's – transiting a lock on red boards - £50 fine

Linacre - 2nd and 3rd no lifejackets - £150 fine and safety meeting with RowSab and Rachel Quarrell

Wadham - 3rd no lifejacket - £100 fine and safety meeting with RowSab and Rachel Quarrell

Magdalen - 2nd no lifejacket - £100 fine

no objections

9. **Ratification of Ordinary Committee Members**

Alistair Mowbray (Worcester)

Keir Bowater (Jesus)

no objections

10. **Changes to the Rules of Racing**

- **Re-number the current section A4: All Other Regattas to A5**

- **Create new section A4: Rules of the Isis Winter League and subsection A4.1: Rules of Racing**

- **Create rule A4.1.1:** "Crews being overtaken during Isis Winter League events are required to give way, except during the Gut, where slower crews will have priority. Failure to do so may result in a time penalty."

Requires majority vote in favour

Proposed: Joseph Page (Univ)

Seconded: Katie Hammond (Univ)

Note: Afraid to say this will not be binding for IWL E - the event plans for the Winter League 2016-17, including the current overtaking rules, were approved by the Proctors in October, but is on the agenda for future committees to reference – TC

Clarification of motion. JP adds that crews compete for points and can lose them due to essentially a poor draw which is deeply unfair.

A statement from Rachel Quarrell, Senior Umpire, attached as Appendix 1, was read out by TC.

It was pointed out that bad coxes can occur in slow crews as well as good ones and crews can overtake poorly as well as give way poorly. Question of whether Gut was the right place to overtake. TC proposed amending it to "downstream of Longbridges". Rejected.

Consistency of overtaking position questioned.

Do we need to worry about the first IWL and novice-ness of coxes at IWL A versus later IWLs? The general idea of "move out of the way" is not a particularly difficult one. Encouraging crews to point out mistakes in crew order of draws. Novice coxes have to learn before Rowing On, this would allow them do so.

Scott: Is it worth setting up a sub-committee of interested people to codify the IWL rules? Bring it to first CM of next term. We are having a vote on the rule change and then a vote on the formation of the committee. Moved to a vote.

48 in favour, 1 against, 2 abstentions

Motion passes

- **Create subsection 4.2: Rules for Entries**

- **Create rule 4.2.1:** A crew is defined as a duplicate crew if its removal from the list of entries would not reduce the total number of competitors who are competing in the relevant Isis Winter League. An eight is defined as semi-duplicate if 7 out of 9 competitors are entered in another eight. A four or quad is defined as semi-duplicate if 3 out of 5 competitors are entered in another four or quad.

- **Create rule 4.2.2:** In the event that an Isis Winter League event is oversubscribed at the scratch deadline all clubs will be given 24 hours in which they can voluntarily scratch crews without having to pay any fees. After 24 hours if the event is still oversubscribed crews will be removed in the following order:

i) Any duplicate crews will be removed in the following sub-order: singles, doubles, fours/quads, eights. If only a subset of crews within a subcategory needs to be scratched so that the event is no longer oversubscribed then a random draw shall be used to determine which crews are scratched.

ii) Any semi-duplicate crews will be removed in the following sub-order: fours/quads, eights. If only a subset of crews within a subcategory needs to be scratched so that the event is no longer oversubscribed then a random draw shall be used to determine which crews are scratched.

iii) The club with the largest entries of crews into the event will have a crew of their choice scratched. This shall be repeated until the total number of entries is such that the event is no longer oversubscribed. If a club does not inform the race secretary of the crew they are scratching within 24 hours of being notified that a crew must be scratched then the lowest ranked crew shall be removed. In the event that multiple clubs have the same number of entries a random draw shall be used to determine which club is required to scratch a crew.

Requires majority vote in favour

Proposed: Joseph Page (Univ)

Seconded: Katie Hammond (Univ)

After discussion about deadlines, amendment added that crews must be completed by entry deadline.

JL suggests motion mandating the RowSab/Sec to create a sub-committee since the motion looks rushed and has flaws. CM: Coxes as athletes?

Motion withdrawn

New motion proposed: **Mandate the Secretary and RowSab to form a sub-committee of interested captains and OURCs members to create the IWL rules**

Passed with no objections or abstentions.

11. Constitutional Correction to Ratify

1.5.2a states: "In the case of St Benet's, "and two captains" shall be read as "and their captain"."

This clause is no longer needed as St Benet's now have two captains.

Ratified

12. Transfers under A1.2

Objections may only be made on the grounds that:

- *Athlete is not a member of the college they are transferring from*
- *Athlete has never been a member of the college they are transferring to*

Jill Betts – St Catherine's to Wolfson

Former grad at Wolfson, now doing graduate entry medicine at St Catherine's.

Ellen Pasternack – Harris Manchester to Pembroke

Former Pembroke rower, now doing graduate studies at Harris Manchester, supported by both captains.

Oliver Watson – New to LMH

Former LMH rower, now president, doing post-grad studies at New, supported by both captains.

Slate of St Stephen's House students:

Elizabeth Miller

Nathalie Gier

Manal Bougazzoul

Sarah Blair

Tiarnach McDermott

Sam Aldred

Jan Walukiewicz

Blair Radford

William Hamilton-Box

All are fully matriculated students of St Stephen's House who wish to row with St Benet's Hall under A1.2.2. *Objections may only be made on the grounds that any of these students are not legitimate students of St Stephen's House, or that they have previously competed in an OURCs event for another college club.*

All passed without objection

13. Extension of student status under A1.a.i.3:

James Marsden (Corpus): has received Leave to Supplicate for his DPhil as of 29th Jan (Sunday 3rd week) and requests an extension of student status until the end of Torpids in order to act as injury / emergency cover for CCCBC. He does not plan on rowing in M1, and certainly wouldn't be a great enhancement to the crew if subbed in! Leave was not expected to come through until Easter but the University administration has had a sudden attack of wholly uncharacteristic efficiency.

Unanimous

Claudia Vadeboncoeur (Wolfson): has just been granted leave to supplicate (4th Feb), she would like to come back to row for one day in our lowest boat for Torpids.

Unanimous vote in favour

14. River Closure

James Heatley (Worcester) and Jameson Lee (Worcester) asked for an informal river closure between 3 and 4.30 on Sunday 5th March to allow Worcester to do side-by-side races against St Catharine's College, Cambridge. Given there were unlikely to be boats out at this time, everyone was okay with this.

49 in favour, 2 abstentions

15. OURCs Twitter

Will Frost (OURCs) seeks the captains' opinion on whether the OURCs Twitter account during racing should be run by OURCs or by marshals (following an incident last Summer Eights).

All in favour of marshals being provided to run Twitter but accountable, e.g. personal conduct fines.

16. OURCs Finances – Harriet read out a list of names who haven't replied to her.

Harriet suggested reducing the price of "ordinary" swim tests to £2, lessons to £7 and £10 for extraordinary swim tests at which very few people generally arrive.

Henrik Hannemann (OURCs) suggested reducing the price of lessons which are helping people to row. Harriet to produce something for the next meeting.

Balliol Men suggested running swimming lessons **before** the first swim test of Michaelmas. TC reckons these would be unpopular, but admits it is up to the captains. Harriet is happy to run them if there is a mandate from the captains. One extra session in Michaelmas as well.

17. AOB

- EA registrations

TC warned the captains that the Environment Agency were planning on checking up on boat registrations at college boat clubs, fines for which could be serious. These can be renewed online via British Rowing!

- Captain of Coxes vacancy

JL told the captains he intends to stand down at the end of the year so he can trial and is hoping to elect a replacement at the first captains' meeting of next term.

- Secretary vacancy

WF said pretty much the same as the above only with Finals instead of trialling. HB also interjected to say that she was graduating and would also be standing down from the role of Treasurer.

- RowSab 2017-18

TC told the captains that applications to be next year's RowSab would open immediately after Torpids. Successful candidate would be expected to shadow the current Sab either at Torpids or Eights so be careful if you have Finals. But if you fancy writing these minutes in a year's time, feel free to e-mail him with any questions!

Appendix 1 – Statement by Rachel Quarrell

As one of the four co-inventors of the IWL, I can confirm we thought hard about overtaking when we came up with the format. IWLs are run much earlier in the year than Rowing-On, when the general experience level of coxes, coaches and rowers is much lower. I realise it sounds lovely to have slow crews move out of your way, but it's a much harder approach to explain to an inexperienced cox who may never have raced before and may not find it easy to work out which way to move.

Furthermore, the amount of time given away by virtually all coxes in IWL overcomes any suggestion that steering around a slow crew makes a difference. The vast majority of IWL crews stay right in the middle of the stream (which is against you) from at least Donnington Bridge to well into the Gut, and rarely hug the banks as they should. Get the basic steering sorted out and then you can claim that overtaking is a big issue.

While it might look neat and tidy to have regattas use the same rules, it's not necessarily the safest thing to do. There are good reasons for Rowing On having a more stringent safety rule than IWL, because the results determined whether or not you race bumps. Being later in the year, Rowing On is able to be more complex. I imagine someone will say that all public heads have the same rules. They don't.

David Locke joins me in having concerns about this proposal. Should it pass, we will be having discussions with OU Sports Safety Officer David White before the submission of next year's event plans, and may not support this change being implemented in those plans.

Thank you,

RQ.