



# Captain's Meeting Minutes

7pm, Tuesday 7th week Michaelmas Term 2018

20 November, 2018

Habakkuk Room, Jesus College

Chair: Felix Drinkall, OUBC President

Attendance:

BAL 1 BRC 1 CHB 2 COO 1 EXC 1 GTC 2 HEC 2 JEO 2 KEB 2 LMH 2 LIN 1 LIC 1 MAG 1 MAN 2 MER 2  
NEC 1 ORO 1 OSG 1 PMB 1 QCO 1 RPC 1 **SOM 0** SAC 1 SAY 1 SBH 2 SCO 1 SEH 2 SHI 1 SHG 2 SJO 1 SPC  
2 TRO 1 **UCO 0** WAD 2 WOO 2 WRO 2 OUW 1

OURCs 10

SUs 1

1. Welcome
2. Minutes of the Last Meeting
  - Available at [www.ourcs.org.uk](http://www.ourcs.org.uk)
3. Matters Arising (none)
4. Elections:

## Sponsorship and Media Officer

Candidates:

Tom Murphy: Wants to get more involved in OURCs. Priority: looking at more sponsorship after Neptune contract expires. Expand support for colleges seeking sponsorship.

Joe Lord: Involved w/ OURCs (OCM) and Benet's JCR. Ample experience on racedesk. Bring to role: working on Benet's sponsorship attempt (first time). OURCs sponsorship is important, helps college clubs. Working w/ Neptune. Drawing experience on those successful in obtaining sponsorship, create resources for all college BCs seeking support. Spoke to previous SMO, Max Spicer and made sure has time for role.

Candidates give 3 minute speech and answer questions as per Constitution 1.8.1

Move to vote by hand instead of by ballot:

For: 57

Against: 1

Abstentions: 0

Motion passes.

Vote:

Murphy: 43

Lord: 20

Abstain: 4

Tom Murphy wins.

**Webmaster (ratification not election, as is non-elected position)**

Stefan Clarke. St. Johns. 2<sup>nd</sup> year Maths. Large programming experience. Website is moving from PHP to Django/Python, and he has lots of experience in both of these.

Vote to ratify:

60 in favour, 1 abstention, motion passes.

**COUR Rep: people to send Keir email**

Alex Nevin (Worcester) expressed interest – will become rep unless other candidates make themselves known after minutes circulate.

5. Appointment of Ordinary Committee Members (1.8.5)

Alex Wilson: has previously been OCM

Hannah Germain: long-time racedesk helper, tutor, lives in Oxford

Sacha Tchen: reappointment as current OCM term expires this term.

Tom Stewardson: Previously OURCs Secretary, now back in Oxford

Alex Koffman: involved in Hilda's BC – new addition to racedesk

Move to vote as a slate passes unanimously.

Vote for ratification as a slate:

60 in favour, 1 abstention. Motion passes.

6. Transfers under A1.2

- a. Lukas Krone, Hertford to Merton
- b. Dan Bowen, Christ Church to Pembroke
- c. Alexander Herkert, Lincoln to St. Catherine's
- d. Andrew Ramos, St. Edmund Hall to Wolfson
- e. Marcos Molteni, Pembroke to Wolfson
- f. Tyson Rallens, Green Templeton to Merton
- g. Christina Kartali, Jesus to St. Peter's

- h. Meredith Ellis, St. Anne's to Oriel
- i. Isabelle Clarke, St. Hugh's to Oriel
  - Papers in order for all of the above

An OURCs member clarified that there is no need to vote – these are placed in the Captains' Meeting only to give opportunity for objection under A1.2's rules. No objections raised.

## 7. Rule changes

- a. Major changes – proposed Rachel Quarrell, seconded Kate Halcrow

Rachel: explains background to this motion – we must continue to take all possible steps to ensure safety.

*Includes further improvements following discussion on the OURCs forum*

New or changed areas since the original publication are [in blue](#).

Separate rule change motions are separated by a horizontal line.

There are three motions to include: the Rule Zero first, then the Substitutions & Rowing On (can be combined for convenience), and then the remaining complex bumps rule changes, which are all intertwined.

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To be inserted into the Rules of Racing, at the top:

### **A0: Guiding principle**

1. Safety shall be the overriding principle of all OURCs racing. Crews and coaches not conducting themselves safely while taking part in events are liable to be penalised.

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First motion to pass the above passes unanimously.

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## A3.4 Substitutions

1. Substitutions fall under two categories; regular and extra-ordinary.
2. If substitutes conform to the entry requirements, then that substitute is considered regular. Any substitution that does not so conform is to be considered extra-ordinary. This includes swapping a rower between crews.
3. Coxing substitutions that are within the defined coxing restrictions, which may be relaxed for poor conditions, are deemed regular but must still be done in accordance with A1.7. All coxes must be on the OURCs cox database.
4. Regular substitutions will be approved by the Event Committee upon receipt of the information required and having confirmed that they conform to the rules of racing.
5. Extra-ordinary substitutes may be permitted at the discretion of a Race Committee in circumstances including, but not limited to, sudden injury:
  - a. The Race Committee shall first determine whether the circumstances presented by the college are defined as extraordinary and, once this test is passed, shall apply either 3.4.5.b (in the case of coxes) or 3.4.5.c to 3.4.5.f (in the case of rowers). Following that process, A3.4.5.g to A3.4.5.i shall be applied in all cases.
  - b. The Race Committee shall make safety considerations of prime importance when deciding whether or not to permit an individual cox to be selected as an extraordinary substitute, and may request a summary of the proposed cox's experience. Associates with a coxing registration may be used as extraordinary substitute coxes in fixed divisions at the Race Committee's discretion.
  - c. If a rower in a given boat is injured, it is encouraged that a rower from a lower boat is substituted up; further consequential substitutions of this type are equally encouraged such that the vacant seat is in the college's lowest boat. It is not expected that men's crews substitute a rower from a fixed division boat in a women's division.
  - d. It is expected that this vacancy is then resolved by the use of a regular substitution; examples include: the use of any associate rowers; or the use of rowers of either gender (where applicable) that failed to Row On.
  - e. If the college's lowest boat for that gender is in a Rowing On division, and all three associate member slots are in use, a fourth associate member will be permitted. If this boat is in a fixed division, an associate member may be permitted at the discretion of the Race Committee.
  - f. In each of the cases in A3.4.5.c-e, the associate member must provide the Race Committee with a summary of their previous rowing experience. If this is judged to be an enhancement to the crew, then the substitution will be refused.

*(the following sections are not altered, but g has been split out from f and the remainder renumbered)*

- g. If this associate member is eligible to row with another college boat club as a non-associate as detailed in A1.1.1.a-e, then written or oral permission must be given by the relevant club captain, and the decision is still at the discretion of the Race Committee.
- h. If an extra-ordinary substitution is permitted, this must be announced, most often through the tannoy, between 60 and 5 minutes before the relevant division(s) are due to start. Appeals may be lodged at any point until 10 minutes after the results have been announced.
- i. It is at the discretion of the Event Committee to allow any person who has been moved to a higher-ranked boat to move back down to their original boat

on subsequent days. This permission will not be granted in the case of Rowing On

## A3.6 Rowing On

1. All crews who did not finish in a fixed division in the final finishing order of the previous competition including insertions (as described by A3.16.c) will be required to qualify by 'Rowing On'.
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2<sup>nd</sup> motion to pass the above:

Some points from Rachel:

Extraordinary subs: safety as first principle

Rowing On is good safety feature: view all boats to check that they cox/race safely ahead of Bumps.

Rowing On happens even if there are fewer boats than places

Objection: This rule can be abused to argue that a cox from a lower boat is not safe with a higher crew, to get a better (perhaps associate/graduated) cox into the boat.

Default position is that a cox must be safe if they are racing – e.g. any racing cox would be considered safe from this position, so this prevents abuse.

Vote:

59 in favour, 2 abstentions. Motion passes.

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## A3.11 Racing Conduct

1. All competitors in both Rowing On and bumps must make safety their first priority. Coxes, with the help of rowers, are required to keep a good look-out at all times ahead of and around them.
  - a. Crews are expected to steer around non-racing obstructions when possible and not use the presence of an obstruction as an attempt to artificially improve their racing result.
  - b. When interpreting whether it was possible to steer safely around an obstruction, a Race Committee shall apply the test of the behaviour expected of a competent crew relative to their position in the start order.
2. No crew shall collide with another river user (including crews who are still racing, those who have bumped out, and those on rafts) at a speed and angle which either causes, or could reasonably be expected to cause, injury to crew members or significant damage to equipment.
  - a. Incidents involving such collisions will be assessed by a Race Committee which will consider the award of penalty bumps against the offending crew or crew on grounds of dangerous conduct, unless there are proven mitigating circumstances. This Race Committee may be the same as that ruling on the bumps outcome for the crews concerned, and procedure will follow rules A3.14 and A1.10.
  - b. 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.
3. Crews are expected to race wherever possible within the ideal racing line area. If they race outside it, they may be required to abide by their own accidents.
    - a. The ideal racing line is defined as being on the County towpath side from the bottom bungline until the upstream left-hand/stroke side corner of the Gut; crossing to the City side of the river at the top end of the Gut; beside the City bank for approximately two-thirds of the Green Bank from Longbridges upwards; crossing to the County towpath side between the upper end of the Green Bank to the downstream corner of the Univ raft; and beside the County bank for the remainder of the course to the finish line.
    - b. Racing crews who race outside the ideal racing line may be subject to penalty bumps if their actions are adjudged to contribute to a dangerous incident, whether or not they were personally involved.
    - c. Any crew which clears into the ideal racing line should have a good reason to do so, and must clear out of it as soon as safety possible. If their actions are adjudged to contribute to a dangerous incident, they may be subject to penalty bumps.
    - d. Crews that cause an entanglement in the ideal racing line, such as through not winding down or a late concession, may be subject to penalty bumps if their actions are adjudged to contribute to a dangerous incident, whether or not they were personally involved.
  4. Coxes shall not wear cameras or other equipment which could distract or inhibit them from looking round and maintaining proper observation around their boat.

### **A3.11 Bumps**

renumber to A3.12

### **A3.12 Technical Bumps**

renumber to A3.13

### **A3.13 Penalty Bumps**

renumber to A3.14 and change to:

1. Penalty bumps may be awarded by the Event Committee in the event of dangerous conduct, illegal interference with other crews racing, or incompetence leading to a klaxon. Penalty bumps may be applied in addition to other penalties applied.
2. When applying penalty bumps, the Event Committee will put safety awareness ahead of consideration of the resulting finishing order.
3. (renumbered from 2)
4. (renumbered from 3)
5. (renumbered from 4)
6. (renumbered from 5)
7. (renumbered from 6)

### **A3.14 Technical Row-Overs**

renumber to A3.15 and make changes:

1. Crews conducting themselves in accordance with A3.11 who, on grounds of safety, have no alternative other than to stop racing to avoid collision with another crew, shall be awarded a technical row-over.
  - a. Having to steer around obstructions where there is a safe and viable route around (including routes outside the racing line) is deemed a racing incident, and technical row-overs shall not ordinarily be awarded.
  - b. Internal factors such as equipment failures, crabs, inability to row well or poor steering are also racing incidents, and technical row-overs shall not ordinarily be awarded.
  - c. In exceptional circumstances where a crew acts in the best interests of safety the Race Committee may award technical row-overs (for example, a crew that stops to avoid a non-racing obstruction such as a person in the water when a klaxon has not yet been fired).
  - d. Bumps gained or suffered by crews not directly awarded a technical row-over under this rule shall stand.
  - e. A Race Committee shall determine how many crews impacted by any one incident may be awarded a technical row-over.
2. Crews that stop... (etc) *remaining subsections 2-6 will stand as is.*

### **A3.15 Finishing Order**

renumber to A3.16

### **A3.16 Stopping Racing**

renumber to A3.17

### **A3.17 Cyclists**

renumber to A3.18

### **A3.19 Equipment**

renumber to A3.19

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3<sup>rd</sup> motion to pass the above:

POI from an experienced OURCs member: We have lost the concept of the racing line. 10 years ago Race Committee would penalise any cox outside of racing line. The above outlined nominal position on the river is helpful to simplify coxing, esp. for novice coxes.

A3.11.4: Camera on head may inhibit a cox.

RQ explanation: Hope that more crews race in the ideal racing line. In the editions, idea that crews MUST be there has been removed, but to reinforce that crews stopping there cause problems. Hard

collisions aren't acceptable. Part 2 addresses this -Penalty Bumps: Event committee can apply this in case of really dangerous conduct.

Query: 3.11.2. Is this intended to entirely stop bumps?

Answer: Not to prevent bumps altogether, just dangerous/fast ones.

Query from SHG Men's Captain, Howard Hall: OURCs Coxing Guide "manoeuvre to get other crew to crash". This seems far outside OURCs' normal advice

Answer: We are currently moving to new site, and will be reviewing and taking outdated documents down. In general, find date of document, and do not trust very old sources!

Query: Camera: (3.11.4) – Is this intended to ban coxes wearing head cameras altogether? Headcam can be educational. Wearing camera may encourage safer behaviour because you know you have caught things on the camera.

Answer RQ: Yes. There has been a difference of opinion here though – If we cannot agree about the head-mounted camera rule, then vote to pass rest of motion excluding this part. A3.11.1 still allows for penalties on coxing where the camera is seen to reduce the cox's ability to race safely.

Vote on including A3.11.4:

5 in favour, 12 abstain, 44 against. Motion fails.

Query: where exactly is the racing line? E.g. one half of the river, right by bank, etc?

A: By bank is intention, but could consider rewording in a later meeting.

Q: Consider giving umpires power to award bumps, as in Cambridge?

A: No, but could be considered later

Q: 3 boat sandwich situation – these rules may confuse this situation further.

A: 3 boat sandwich: 10 years ago, everyone kept rowing to clear . More recently, bumped/bumping crews stopped. This rule tries to get back to how it used to be – safer.

Q: Racing close to bank increases probability of hitting bank.

A: Coxes must learn to steer near bank without hitting it

Q on 3.11.3.d: Experienced coxes are sometimes used to there being a racing line, and do not expect coxes to obstruct. An experienced cox at my club clashed with a crew in the towpath bank during racing because they did not expect anyone to be in the racing line. Might this rule increase the likelihood of this?



Answer: A cox's prime objective is to keep a good lookout – this includes the racing line! The coxing briefing is to be altered to emphasise this, as well as to reinforce clearing the line after a bump.

Move to vote on 3<sup>rd</sup> motion excluding A3.11.4:

60 in favour, 1 abstention. Motion passes.

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## 2. St. Benet's/Stephen's: Proposed Caitriona Quigley, seconded Joe Lord

SSH athletes have been rowing as associates w/ Benet's for 2 years, want to make them full athletes. SSH's bursar has expressed interest in merging the clubs, though they do intend to form their own club eventually.

### From

A1.1.2.i: For the above points A1.1.1.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:  
2.St Benet's Hall Boat Club also represents Blackfriars....

### To

2.St Benet's Hall Boat Club also represents Blackfriars and St. Stephen's House....

### N.b.

A1.1.3: 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

1.11.5:

1.11 Alteration of the Constitution and Code of Conduct

5.Motions to alter the Constitution require a 2:1 majority of those in favour to those against, and an overall majority of those present and eligible to vote.

### Vote:

60 in favour, 1 abstention. Motion passes.

## 8. Transgender athlete policy group - proposed Dylan Gutt, seconded Leah Mitchell

- 1) This motion recognises that Oxford college rowing should be as inclusive as possible.
- 2) This motion notes that If a transgender individual does not know whether the rules of racing will allow them to compete in college rowing they are unlikely to feel included or comfortable participating.
- 3) This motion notes that OURCs currently has no explicit policy on the competition status of transgender individuals. In particular there is no clarity as to whether transgender women may race in women's divisions.
- 4) This motion notes that such a policy, regardless of its content, is required to give transgender individuals and college boat clubs clarity and certainty. College boat clubs captains are likely to be the first point of contact on this issue and their responses must be informed and consistent across colleges.
- 5) This motion mandates the OURCs Secretary and any other appropriate executive committee members to appoint a working group/sub-committee of OURCs officers, boat club captains and other interested parties, to consult with the Oxford college rowing community on the issue of transgender inclusion. This group should report its conclusions as to what rule OURCs should institute on this question at the second Captains' Meeting of Hilary Term 2019. This group must be prepared to set out the options and any debate to the captains so that they may make an informed decision regarding whatever new rule is proposed.

OURCs has no policy on transgender. Needs to be answered.

POI: BR has a transgender policy. Fundamentally: men's comp is "open" so anyone can row in these. Women's division. BR want medical proof of gender change for rowing women's divisions.

POI: Discussion w/ Jon Roycroft Director of Sport is important on this.

POI: Perhaps also talk to OU LGBTQ

Alex W to head this group up.

Vote:

60 in favour, 1 abstention. Motion passes.

#### 9. Women's Committee: Kate

*The established sub-committee on Gender Parity/Women in Rowing met for the first time at the end of October to arrange introductions, discuss general aims, and outline thoughts on a Women's Torpids Trophy. Future meetings will be held, including one intended for the end of this term, to further process individual roles, decide on an exact name for the group, and to "set realistic deadlines". A*

*Women's Torpids Trophy, intended to be presented this upcoming Torpids, has been acquired by David Locke, Senior Treasurer, with the input of the group, and is currently in the process of engraving. The proposed and agreed upon item was made in the 1920's and is suitable as a token of accomplishment. It is well-made of fine silver, similar in aesthetic gravitas compared to the Men's Torpids Trophy, but without copying the exact style of the Men's Torpids Trophy. Photos of the long-awaited item will be made available as soon as they are ready.*

AOB:

Kate:

- OURCs kit was voted on in TT18 – we intend to move on this and make a new stash order
  - Permission: Please get in touch with Secretary regarding launch transit, uncommon outings including instances of less-than-full complement, and if you have questions! I'd love to help answer!
  - - Website: Your patience is appreciated as the website is overhauled and relaunched. Current website is still working, but specifics will be changing over the vacation.
  - - IWL-B: get your crews in! Last chance to race and train for conditions before holiday vacation! IWL races will start up again in HT.
- . Wearing lights and visibility for bank-riders is important – community members complaints

Ellie Shearer (OUWBC): OUWBC dev squad. Weekly Dev Squad on Sundays. One-off events. Assistant Coach on Isis most mornings. Wants engagement, we want to be a resource for you.

Felix: OUBC dev squad – please contact Brendan Gliddon.