



# Captains' Meeting Agenda

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> week Trinity Term 2022

7pm, 5<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Tanner Room, Linacre College

Chair: Amelia Standing (OUWBC)

## Attendance (voting members):

College boat clubs – 58

OURCs – 6

1. **Welcome**
2. **Minutes of the Last Meeting**  
Available at [www.ourcs.co.uk](http://www.ourcs.co.uk)
3. **Matters Arising**  
No matters arising
4. **Captains' input on BR regatta concept** – Ty Rallens to speak

Brief comments were collected on a suggested British Rowing Regatta run by Academicals to take place on the Isis, possibly replacing a Hilary Term IWL, though the proposers were not present, so comments were collected only in general terms.

It was clarified that this planned regatta would be a British Rowing event, so the entrance fees were likely to be the same as other BR Events (i.e. more expensive than an IWL) and competing athletes would have to be British Rowing members. It was pointed out that a similar BR event for small boats (Isis sculls) already exists in the racing calendar; the planned race is thought to be open to larger boat classes too. It was noted that a certain amount of BR points/race experience is needed to be able to enter the London Heads like the Eights or Fours Head of the River, so having a BR event close to home would be convenient for crews who plan to enter these. It was stated that IWLs are important OURCs preparation for Summer Eights; from a racing perspective as many chances for crews to race as possible are desired and from an organising perspective practice running IWLs is very useful to train race desk in advance of Torpids.

Alternative dates to replacing an IWL during term time were discussed. Captains stated that it could be nice to have an event in Michaelmas term for senior crews to train for. It was noted both that replacing an existing college race with a more expensive one requiring athletes to have BR memberships could exclude people from entering and that running on a weekend in term time with no racing planned would result in a

lost day of training. It was asked whether such a race could take place in 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> week so that colleges could stay and compete if they wanted, without taking away a weekend of training/racing in term.

5. **British Rowing affiliation fees** – Caitlin Armstrong to speak

Caitlin Armstrong, the British Rowing representative for Thames Region (TU1) introduced themselves. She was elected for 3 years in January 2021. She can be contacted with any questions for British Rowing at [caitlin.armstrong@thames-rrc.org](mailto:caitlin.armstrong@thames-rrc.org). It was reported that every college had paid their BR affiliation fees.

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

- Natasha Smith (Worcester)

*Proposed: Kealan Pritchard (Worcester)*

*Seconded: Ruby Harrison (OURCs)*

- William Burrow (Oriel)

*Proposed: Cassidy Hoeft (Oriel)*

*Seconded: James Halsall (OULRC Blue)*

Voting:

*Natasha Smith: 59*

*William Burrow: 4*

*Abstentions: 0*

**Natasha Smith wins.**

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

a. **Summer Eights**

**Rowing On:**

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

**Summer Eights:**

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

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

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

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> May (5<sup>th</sup> Week) – Opening Time until Closing Time

*Proposed: Ty Rallens (OURCs)*

*Seconded: James Lucas (OURCs)*

**No objections. Ratified.**

**b. Oriel Regatta**

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

*Proposed: William Burrow (Oriel)*

*Seconded: Cassidy Hoeft (Oriel)*

**No objections. Ratified.**

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

OURCs can't run Summer Eights without volunteer helpers – both marshals and race desk helpers. Marshal rotas will be published on the Friday before Rowing On. On the Saturday of Summer Eights there are static umpires (replacing cycling umpires); unlike normal marshalling slots, colleges are assigned one position on the river to be filled for all of Saturday. A call was also put out for race desk helpers; race desk was slightly understaffed for Torpids leading to slow processing of appeals and not enough people for video marshals. Help at race desk is greatly appreciated.

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

- Lynch Mason

It was stated that Lynch was a very experienced umpire, who was returning from abroad and could act as a back-up Senior Umpire if needed.

**No objections. Ratified.**

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

- Tímea Csahók (Jesus)

**No objections. Ratified.**

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

The Treasurer's Update is appended to the end of these minutes.

It was noted that the OURCs Senior Treasurer, who is the current Sponsorship Officer, has been working hard to secure a sponsor but there has so far been little interest. The prospect of small local sponsors was discussed, though it was stated that a large sponsor is needed to fund OURCs in a meaningful way, and small local sponsors dilute the desirability of sponsoring us for a large sponsor.

It was asked what the difference between the impact on the OURCs reserves of the two 'bad' years (2019/20 and 2020/21) and the continuous 'bleed' in good years was. It was estimated that the rough amount of bleed was likely equal to the £5000 – £10,000 OURCs used to receive in sponsorship. It was also clarified that bad years can occur in different ways, with the worst being a year when all events were cancelled at the last minute (with fees re-funded but medic costs etc. still paid).

It was estimated that increasing entry fees in line with inflation since their last increase would roughly cover the yearly deficit. An indicative vote was taken on raising entry fees to balance the budget, with a strong majority in favour.

#### 12. **Transfers under A1.2** – James Lucas to speak

*Objections may only be based on the following:*

- *Athlete is not a member of the college they are transferring from*
- *Athlete has never been a member of the college they are transferring to*
  - Christopher Hull: Oriel to Magdalen (papers in order)
  - Thomas Campbell: New to Lincoln (papers in order)
  - Alex Wythe: Merton to Christ Church (papers in order)
  - Martin Barasko: Oriel to Christ Church (papers in order)
  - John Gardner: Linacre to Jesus (papers in order)
  - Megan Chester: Somerville to Christ Church (papers in order)

**No objections. Ratified.**

#### 13. **Extension of Student Status** – James Lucas to speak

*Simple majority to pass*

- a. **Dan Hameiri-Bowen (Pembroke):** Dan's thesis corrections are due in May - and so he expects to have his student status for racing, but would like to apply for an extension in case he submits and receives his leave to supplicate early. We'd request an extension of status until the 29th May.

*Proposed: Edward Smith (Pembroke)*

*Seconded: Hannah Lund (Pembroke)*

*Voting:*

*For: 59*

*Against: 0*

*Abstentions: 5*

**Extension of student status granted.**

- b. **László Benercei (Balliol):** László's thesis corrections were submitted on 19/04/2022 and so he expects to have his student status for racing, but would like to apply for an extension in case they receive their leave to supplicate early. This extension shall last until 28/05/2022.

*Proposed: Alec Berry (Balliol)*  
*Seconded: Sian Dennett (Balliol)*

Voting:

*For: 58*

*Against: 0*

*Abstentions: 6*

**Extension of student status granted.**

- c. **Alban Schmidt (Balliol):** Alban's viva will occur in 3rd week and so he expects to have his student status for racing, but would like to apply for an extension in case he receives his leave to supplicate early. This extension shall last until 28/05/2022.

*Proposed: Alec Berry (Balliol)*  
*Seconded: Sian Dennett (Balliol)*

Voting:

*For: 58*

*Against: 0*

*Abstentions: 6*

**Extension of student status granted.**

- d. **Zhanna Ter-Zakaryan (St Antony's):** Zhanna is currently waiting on her department to let her know when she will receive her leave to supplicate and is expected to graduate in the autumn. Zhanna rowed in the St Antony's W2 boat in Torpids 2022 and would like to continue rowing with the same crew in Summer Eights 2022. There is uncertainty related to whether she will receive leave to supplicate before or after Summer Eights, thus St Antony's would like to request an extension of her student status until 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022 just in case.

*Proposed: Caroline Herlin (St Antony's)*  
*Seconded: Philipp Dietrich (St Antony's)*

Voting:

*For: 58*

*Against: 0*

*Abstentions: 6*

**Extension of student status granted.**

- e. **Martin Kraemer (Linacre):** Martin is currently doing his corrections and may receive leave to supplicate later this term. We request that his student status be maintained (if he does receive leave to supplicate), such that he can compete as a full student member in Summer Eights 2022. This extension of student status would expire on the final day of Summer Eights 2022 (28th May 2022).

*Proposed: Kasimir Dederichs (Linacre)*  
*Seconded: Liam Brown (Linacre)*

Voting:

*For: 58*

*Against: 0*

*Abstentions: 6*

**Extension of student status granted.**

- f. **Ada Hermelink (Christ Church/Kellogg):** Ada is applying to suspend her studies for medical reasons for Trinity 2022 and would like to continue rowing for Christ Church as a full member this term and participate in Summer Eights. She learned rowing at ChChBC in the 2020/21 year, has previously been in the club's W1 and W3 crews, and would like to row in W1 or W2 for Summer Eights this term. Despite suspending, she will be staying in Oxford throughout Trinity term. Rowing at ChChBC is helping her manage her health problems and is affecting her extremely positively so she would like to continue being an active and full member of the club this term. This extension of student status would last until the start of Michaelmas Term 2022 (1<sup>st</sup> October 2022). *Permission has not yet been received from the Kellogg Senior Tutor.*  
*Proposed: Kate Friesen (Christ Church)*  
*Seconded: Ayman D'Souza (Christ Church)*

*Voting:*

*For: 57*

*Against: 0*

*Abstentions: 7*

**Extension of student status granted conditional on permission from Senior Tutor.**

It was stated that notification of the granting of this extension of student status would be emailed round the captains' mailing list on receipt of permission from the Senior Tutor.

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

### **Adjusting the Process for Evidence Submission for Appeals in Bumps Races**

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

The proliferation of photos and videos taken of bumps races means that, in many cases, such unambiguous evidence exists. However, the appeals process currently requires any such evidence to be collected and submitted within twenty minutes, which is not always enough time in the excitement of a day of bumps, when having to track down a video clip taken by a spectator, or due to technical limitations.

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

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

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

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

Change:

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

To (changes in red):

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

- 1. Evidence will be formally accepted and initialled by a member of the Event Committee.*

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

*Proposed: Dominik Kloepper (Wolfson)*

*Seconded: Aimee Ruffle (Wolfson)*

It was clarified that the intention of this rule change was to reduce the stress around submitting evidence for appeals, but that appeals still had to be resolved by race desk in a timely manner. A “reasonable deadline” would still be set – something like “evidence is on the raft, on its way down the towpath, or coming in an hour” – what would not be a reasonable deadline would be late at night. It was stated that race committees will still try to resolve appeals in a day of racing, so that everyone can leave the river with their results.

Voting:

*For: 58*

*Against: 1*

*Abstentions: 5*

**Motion passes.**

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

*Simple majority to pass*

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

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



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

Change:

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

To (changes in red):

EITHER

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

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

OR

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

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

*Proposed: Ty Rallens (OURCs)*

*Seconded: Joe Hitchen (Senior Umpire)*

It was stated that, in a scenario where the order was discretionary, it would be decided at the beginning of term. It was also confirmed that it would be possible to have a fixed order and make a one-off rule for a different ordering of divisions if it was thought necessary.

A vote on which of the two options to vote on was taken. The first option received 27 votes, the second option received 36 votes, with 2 abstaining.

The following motion was voted on:

Change:

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

To (changes in red):

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

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

**Motion passes unanimously.**

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

*Simple majority to pass*

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

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

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

Change:

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

To (changes in red):

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

*Proposed: Ty Rallens (OURCs)*

*Seconded: James Lucas (OURCs)*

No comments or questions.

**Passed unanimously.**

## 17. **Vortex Edge Blades** – James Perkins to speak

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

*A3.20. Equipment:*

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

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

We note that:

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



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

We therefore move that:

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

**Angus Alder (Jesus) was empowered by this body to go to COUR and speak on this issue.**

#### **18. Elections for next year's OURCs Exec Committee – Ty Rallens to speak**

There will be elections for a new OURCs Secretary, Treasurer, and Captain of Coxes at the next Captains' Meeting in week 4. These are vital roles and rewarding positions. It was stated that many of the old committee plan to be around to help and support candidates as best they can.

#### **19. Ratification of Club Safety Reviews – James Lucas to speak**

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

It was asked why, in the Linacre CSR, the cox was temporarily downgraded from X to N. It was explained that this temporary downgrade has been consistent every time an X status cox has been involved in a no-PFD incident this year. (The minutes for the MT Keble CSR incorrectly stated that the cox was X status, when they were in fact N status.) The rationale behind a temporary downgrade was explained: X status coxes (and above) have a degree of personal responsibility for safety above and beyond club systems; this is also stressed in the email from the Captain of Coxes after an upgrade. The temporary downgrade ensures extra support on the bank in case a safety incident such as forgetting a lifejacket was an indicative sign that other dangerous things might occur. It was raised that the temporary downgrade of a cox can be quite difficult logistically for clubs and suggested that other members of the boat club can provide support for coxes at this time.

It was asked why, in the Linacre CSR, the club was given a fine when this was the first no-PFD incident of the club and explained that this was the second Club Safety Review involving the club this year, so the decision was not taken to waive the £50 fine for the first instance of forgetting a PFD.

**No objections. Ratified.**

## 20. Request for an Associate Member to cox Trinity W1

*Simple majority to pass*

Trinity would like to request that Michael Hobley (associate) cox Trinity W1. Trinity W1 are in Senior divisions. They do not have enough rowers to form a W2 boat.

*Proposer: Caitlin Pang (Trinity)*

*Seconder: Rose Faure (Trinity)*

The Trinity captains explained that their only senior coxes were finalists, with the only available senior cox coxing M1. Other coxes that had been training with this crew had been injured and could no longer cox. It was felt that a senior cox was needed for a relatively inexperienced W1 containing lots of freshers. It was stated that it would not be possible for the M2 cox to cox W1. It was asked whether, without this cox, Trinity could not race, and explained that Trinity did not want to put stress on someone's degree by forcing a finalist to cox. They might be able to find a different sub for every day but feel that is not a good thing for the crew. Michael Hobley is the Trinity women's head coach.

Voting:

*For: 54*

*Against: 2*

*Abstentions: 7*

**Motion passes.**

## 21. AOB

### a. **Wolfson Camera Marshals** – Mary Sanford to speak

Instead of continuing with running live OxBumps, Wolfson proposes to set up a video marshalling system for Summer Vllls. We think this could be particularly useful especially on later days of racing when more spectators show up, therefore encumbering the towpath and making the umpires' job very difficult. The idea is to have a team of marshalls stationed at key points along the course (exactly where to be discussed) taping their perspective of the races. Then, the bike marshall would pick up the SD cards from the marshalls and bring them to a stationary Wolfson member for upload and compilation. This could happen between each division or per battery life of the cameras. The videos would then be uploaded for use by OURCs in appeals and accessible to any interested party upon request to OURCs. To pull this off, we would need at least 2-3 more marshall slots per day (overall not per club). As such:

- What do the captains think of this idea?
- Would you support a motion to request 2-3 extra marshall slots each day of 8s? (again, overall not per club)
- If so, where do you think the cameras should be positioned? We were thinking of upstream Donny bridge, bottom gut, top gut, and somewhere between Univ and the finish

(potentially on boat house island), but this is something we definitely want more ideas on from you all.

- Wolfson would take care of the backend each day and make sure the videos are compiled and uploaded timely. As such, we would request a reduction of our marshalling and umpiring slots with the equivalent of 1 race desk helper per day.

It was explained that OURCs used to provide video in previous years, before some of the extra responsibilities that race desk has accrued; there is no longer a division-by-division video. Providing video could not be sustained in the last Torpids, as there were not enough people to be video marshals in later part of the day and for most of the day there were not the race desk personnel to co-ordinate video evidence. Video evidence collected in Torpids was not used at all in appeals; it was explained that this was because less than an hour of footage was recorded every day, in divisions without many appeals, meaning that the video recorded was not relevant. Video collected by Wolfson Camera Marshals would be prepared for appeals as a priority, but Wolfson would plan to upload all footage, eventually, provided it was appropriate for uploading.

It was raised that one-off people already provide great footage and suggested by the proposer that their proposal might synch with individuals. It was clarified that OURCs may look at evidence taken by drones in appeals, but drones but does not control or check the licensing of drones (and also explained that drone footage is often not actually that useful for appeals).

It was stated that the responsibility for camera equipment for this proposal might need to be negotiated between OURCs and Wolfson. For the first trial year a mixture of OURC's existing cameras, and cameras sourced from Wolfson and the wider rowing community could be used at no extra expense.

It was clarified that this proposal replaces OxBump, which Wolfson felt there was no longer strong support for. Race Desk Live and Race Desk Twitter will continue to be ways to get live Bumps results.

The motion was split into two parts for voting, the first for race desk helpers and the second for extra marshalling slots. The requested race desk helper dispensation would be to do the back-end of compiling videos. Wolfson would provide the laptop to do this. The extra marshalling slots would be allocated to the marshals standing on the bank filming and would be ring-fenced for that purpose. Without these extra marshalling slots it was predicted that there would be 2-3 video marshals until the end of Division 5, and likely to be none after that point. It was raised that it is already difficult for colleges to fill their marshalling slots.

1<sup>st</sup> Motion – A reduction of Wolfson's marshalling and umpiring slots with the equivalent of 1 race desk helper per day to allow Wolfson to invest in handling co-ordinating video for Summer Eights.

*Proposed: Mary Sanford (Wolfson)*

*Seconded: Ty Rallens (OURCs)*

**Voting:**

**For: 55**

**Against: 1**

**Abstentions: 7**

**Motion passes.**

2<sup>nd</sup> Motion – Two additional marshalling slots all day in Summer Eights (ie, 2 in each shift of marshals) to be filled by college clubs and ring-fenced for use as video marshals.

*Proposed: Ty Rallens (OURCs)*

*Seconded: Mary Sanford (Wolfson)*

The Secretary stated that they were the proposer, would be abstaining for the captains to vote themselves whether they wanted to send more volunteers to fill these positions.

**Voting:**

*For: 25*

*Against: 18*

*Abstentions: 18*

**Motion passes.**

b. **Transfer 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*

– Sheila Lumley: Trinity to GTC (papers in order)

**No objections. Ratified.**

## OURCs Treasurer's Report

Dear Captains,

The OURCs Secretary and I have been carefully considering our accounts. In particular we have been looking at the last six years which mark a transition from a sponsored model to the self-supported model we now operate under. With Neptune's sponsorship of college rowing ending in 2019, we also find ourselves needing to disentangle the effects of the pandemic and flooding on our finances.

Many items in the OURCs budget may appear to be income, but are in fact balanced by expense. For example, swim test fees are calculated to balance the cost of pool hire. Affiliation fees go to the University to pay the sabbatical officer. Fines are donated to the University lightweight Blues. This leaves us with the only income we receive for operating expenses being race entry fees.

Our expenses are a much broader field. The most obvious ones are those associated with events. The largest of these is the hire of medics to facilitate the safe running of racing. For Torpids this year, the payment of medics accounted for well over half of the in-event costs. Other costs include the hire of the Isis Boathouse to store equipment and give shelter to the polemen, purchasing of food to ensure that racedesk helpers are fed and watered during the day, stationery, and small tools.

There are also a large number of larger, less event-driven expenses. An average laptop is considered fully depreciated after 3 years. Our previous set lasted 5 but were in desperate need of replacement as the demands we place on them increase.

Our bank of two-way radios need to be maintained in good working order for us to run our events safely. Good radios are expensive, and need to be replaced or repaired often. We are currently short of a full working set by around 15 units. This is in part because of the higher demand created by static umpires in Summer Eights when compared to Torpids where we were able to operate with the smaller set. This partial refresh of our radios comes to £1,618.78 and should be a regularly scheduled part of the OURCs budget. The repeaters which allow us to use the radios along the entire length of the river are also a substantial investment. The tannoy system, which is also an important part of river communication, is also expensive and requires maintenance to keep it functional.

Safety launches come with many costs. Fuel is expensive, particularly at the moment, but engine and hull maintenance is also required regularly. Our launches are only used on a small number of days each year, but are expected to perform critical safety functions on those days. We bolster their ranks with assistance from colleges who provide launches for non-safety functions which are also very important - largely the transport of equipment and people up, down and across the river. This year, both of our launches required some substantial maintenance after several years without major work.

OURCs must also plan for bad years. We keep funds in reserve which allow us to account for two sequential bad years. You will have noticed that, despite the recent flooding and pandemic, college rowing has continued to function at a remarkable capacity. In part, this is because of good planning by our Senior Treasurer who has kept a good reserve fund for occasions such as these. In a maximally bad year in which all events are cancelled but our expenses remain (for example a string of late cancellations), we can expect to lose at least £10000. There is also the risk of loss of assets. We need to be able to replace all of our major equipment to run racing. Replacing all of the equipment mentioned earlier would cost around £50000. We consider that the occurrence of two sequential bad years is likely enough that we should be prepared for it. That is why our target reserve fund is £60000. This money is not accessible to the student treasurer and is administered



by the Senior Treasurer. Part of the OURCs budget should be replenishing and further building on this stockpile. Our target for annual retained earnings is £4000.

A good year for OURCs involves the successful and fully attended running of all of our events through both for bumps and our winter races. The recent logic of OURCs finance has been that bumps events make a small loss which is countered by profit making IWLs. This is a delicate balance which has not been maintained well over the last decade. We currently find ourselves in the situation where even in a good year, the running of college rowing is a loss-making enterprise. As I mentioned earlier, we only have one source of income - entry fees. This means that we only have one avenue to prevent this loss - increase entry fees.

I'd like to preface this discussion with a note that these changes will not affect prices for Summer Eights 2022. They will instead be adopted from MT22.

The last time entry fees were changed was a decade ago. The current price for a boat in Torpids or Eights is £50. To reach our target retained earnings in a good year, we need to raise this to £75. This is in line with inflation over the same period. Autumn Fours would also see a 50% price increase from £15 to £22.50. We recognise the positive impact of IWLs as training for safe bumps (rowers, coxes, marshals and racedesk) and consider participation to be the priority for these events. As such these prices will only increase by 25%. Additionally, we do not wish to penalise clubs for encouraging participation in bumps, and as such, crews which fail to row on will still only be charged £25. Those of you who have raced externally will know that £75 for four (or five with rowing on) days of racing is remarkably good value when compared with the vast majority of external BR events.

This plan has been created and discussed with the OURCs Secretary, Sabbatical officer and Senior Treasurer. It is, in our opinion, the only reasonable way to keep college rowing afloat. For this reason, we ask for your support as we take our new price plan to the University Sports Committee.

Evan Roberts  
OURCs Treasurer