



OURC

Captains' Meeting Agenda

Thursday 5th Week, Hilary Term 2025

19:30, 18th February 2025

Doctorow Hall, St Edmund Hall

Chair: Tom Mackintosh (OUBC)

1. Welcome

Attendance taken.

College Clubs: 48 (Absence from Keble)

OURCs: 5 (4 voting)

Blues: 0

SUs: 2

Total members present: 55

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting

Available at <https://ourcs.co.uk/organisation/meetings/>

3. Matters Arising

It was explained that the vote on Jonathan Brown's status last meeting was void as there was no senior tutor permission given to found the Captain's Meeting vote. This warning had been given in the previous Captain's Meeting, that the vote could have no effect, and was not being brought up for the first time now.

Wadham raised that it was unilaterally approved at the last Captain's Meeting and asked for a vote to affirm it. It was explained that a vote could not be had as there was no rule under which to vote, as senior tutor permission was not present.

4. Bumps Etiquette – David Seale to speak

A few words on bumps etiquette were given – encouraging all to be sporting. Bumps is a student sport and supposed to be fun, and enjoyment rarely results from an argument at the river either in raised voices or with swear words with later consequences.

It is never fun dragging an appeal through to the Nth degree of the rules. Have a think when dealing with race officials and come back the next day with a "we'll be faster" rather than appealing every time.

The chair also added that he had found that a lot of "who can jimmy the rules" had occurred while he was at Oxford, and said that working together as a team to pull the oar through the water as hard as you can is really what rowing is about – not appeals and rules.

5. **Torpids Safety and Event Contingencies** – Rachel Quarrell to speak

Rachel echoed David and Tom's comments and encouraged clubs to pass them onto their coaches, who should be kind at racedesk, as they are members of boat clubs as well.

There was incoming rain at the start of the next week, unsure how much would fall. The rain that really matters is upstream and Rowing On has sometimes been the only event. If the forecast for Sunday was as it looked on Thursday it is likely that we can run something all week. If higher, the start of or the whole week could be wiped out. If less, we could run even more.

Referring to the contingency document, each contingency was explained. Low red flag does result in rowing. Bumps is considerably more patrolled and safer than regular training as we know exactly where crews are and have lots of marshals and safety launch cover who can summon help. Coxing status is higher, crews themselves are further from the lock (eg. Red flag). On red flag, the plan may limit racing to senior coxes only. Bottom red flag and amber may result in half divisions for lower and top divisions are in full divisions.

The direction of the wind also matters as when it is from the bank's shadow it is much calmer on the river. This is usually the case with the prevailing wind. Direct southerly wind can happen, but it is rarer. Blue flag can run with novice coxes in every division if the wind is okay. Certainty will be aimed to be provided two days beforehand, but this might be less if the rain arrives overnight on Sunday or Monday.

Contingencies are on the website, and bumps will absolutely be safe. We won't put anyone in a situation which is unsafe and this is part of the reason that coxing status is controlled so carefully. Clubs must focus on coxing training and retention over the next term and summer. Encourage coxes to go to local clubs, whether that is in Oxford or at home. Other issues like the cold and ice are not expected to be bad during Torpids, but marshals should wear weather specific clothing, especially waterproofs in the rain.

6. **Change to the Rules of Racing** – Rachel Quarrell to speak

A1. General Rules of Racing

1. Definitions

a. Members of College Boat Clubs are classified either as:

i. [...]

ii. Fellowship Members

~~1. Senior 'Full' Fellows or Junior Research Fellows of the respective college, only for the time during which this status is enjoyed at the college (emeritus, honorary and visiting fellows are excluded).~~

1. Any Fellow of the respective College who, by virtue of holding their fellowship, is either a current member of the Governing Body of that College or eligible to serve on that Governing Body by right or rotation, for the duration of that fellowship. For Colleges where the Governing Body are not the trustees of the College, this rule extends to those currently serving on, or eligible to serve on by right or rotation, the Trustee Board (or equivalent) of that College by virtue of their status as a fellow, but not to non-fellow appointments of that Trustee Board.

- a. In the above clause "by rotation" is defined as a situation where a fellowship category can choose amongst themselves who will serve in places on the Governing Body reserved for that category. It would generally be expected that such a status will be defined in the college's Statutes or Regulations.
2. For categories of Fellowship or college officership where Governing Body membership is not automatic, College Boat Club full membership only applies for the duration of the period during which that individual has been elected to the college's Governing Body.
3. Emeritus, honorary, Benefactor and visiting fellows cannot be full members of College Boat Clubs.

Proposer: Rachel Quarrell (Senior Umpire)

Seconder: Oscar Hayden (OU Sport/OURCs)

It was explained that this was intended to be a clarification of the eligibility rules and was not intended to fall foul of the constitutional clause preventing changes to eligibility after close of entries.

It was explained that the interpretation of the current rules was that fellows on Governing Bodies were full members. This is because bursars at colleges expect this to be a "coppers sport" for students – and fellows were permitted so that clubs could have influence on the governing body level.

Wolfson raised the point that they believed that this would affect several of their rowers, and due to the uncertainty as to whether this would change eligibility, the motion was withdrawn to ensure that nobody entered in Torpids would be affected if these rules changed.

7. **Election for Captain of Coxes until End of TT25** – Oscar Hayden to speak

- James Hopkinson (Queen's)
Proposer: Dylan John (Magdalen)
Seconder: Jack Davies (OURCs/St Hilda's)
- Felicity Thomas (Balliol)
Proposer: Julia Bellardo (Balliol)
Seconder: Elias Arie (Balliol)

Round 1 Votes:

Felicity Thomas: 27

James Hopkinson: 22

R.O.N: 3

Spoiled Ballots: 1

Felicity Thomas elected to be Captain of Coxes.

8. **Transfers** – Oscar Hayden to speak

Objections may only be made if:

The athlete is not a bona fide student, fellow or visiting student at the college they are transferring from.

*The athlete has never been a **student** member of the college they are transferring to.*

Transfers under A1.2.a

- Dorothea Stark - Magdalen to Worcester
- Philipp Riederle – St Catherine’s to Wolfson
- Christine Rosa de Freitas – Wolfson to Oriel
- Louis Corrigan – GTC to Wadham
- Anna Seeley – Exeter to GTC
- Katelyn Ridgway – GTC to Worcester
- Max Bolton – Keble to University
- Lorenzo Versini – St Anne’s to Mansfield
- Boldizsár Poór - Keble to Wolfson (Keble permission required)

All transfers approved. Keble captains were not present, and so the transfer was delayed until after the meeting. This approval was later given, and the transfer was passed.

9. **Tamesis Regatta Reports** – Q Sun to speak

See the attached papers about Tamesis Regatta (Papers 1, 2 and 3). The Captains’ Meeting at the end of Week 7 will be focused on Tamesis Regatta.

Q explained Tamesis and stated that nobody has raced it in two years. A bid process is operative after Christ Church yielded the right to the regatta three years ago. The overall report reflects last year, where there were no bids and Linacre kindly stepped in as long as there were some changes to the process.

The important thing is that Captains’ now look at the documents and come back in 7th week to decide if Linacre should continue if they would like or whether the Captains’ would like to reopen bids.

Note that the room charge in the financial report was not charged to either OURCs or Linacre.

10. **Ratification of Club Safety Reviews**

- Queen’s [Paper 4]
- Pembroke [Paper 5]
- Balliol / St Hilda’s [Paper 6]

All papers ratified. The OURCs Captain of Coxes reminded colleges to keep their heads screwed on while spinning, especially in higher streams. Bumps can get crowded during Torpids at the head, so stay aware.

It was stated that the addition of “Dark Blue or below” in coxing conditions was to be specific, and generally in line with previous practice, although all coxing conditions are discretionary.

11. HRR Consultation Sessions – Q Sun to speak

The Chairman of Henley Royal Regatta contacted Oxford College Rowing through the bursar of St Edmund Hall. There would be a consultation in Doctorow Hall from 11am to 1pm on Sunday 9th March, and each club is allowed two representatives (like a Captains' Meeting). Come along for an insight into the next generation of HRR.

12. Key dates for Torpids – Q Sun to speak

Clubs were reminded about the coxing briefing on Wednesday 19th February, the bankrider briefing on Sunday 23rd February, and the marshall briefings on Saturday 22nd February and Monday 24th February at 8pm.

Clubs were also encouraged to fill out the teardown marshalling form – which would earn your club a discount to marshalling.

13. Changes to the Code of Conduct – Oscar Hayden to speak

2.6 Outing Requirements

[...]

f. Coxes must wear a securely-fastened personal flotation device at all times when on the water, worn on top of all other clothing (see RS, section 7.3).

i. Lifejackets must have a correctly worn crotch-strap and may not be manufactured more than 10 years before the date of the outing.

Proposer: Oscar Hayden (OU Sport/OURCs)

Seconder: Jack Davies (OURCs/St Hilda's)

It was explained that the RNLI had required these in the check last month, and since it was strongly advised by them, this was being proposed to help with awareness between years in clubs, as many had failed the checks previously.

The wording was questioned, one captain asked why "lifejacket" was used when it appeared nowhere else in the rules. It was explained that the usage of lifejacket was specifically intended to avoid banning Buoyancy Aids, which do not have a crotch strap, and who have different expiry dates than lifejackets. At this moment, the proposer did not feel well qualified enough to legislate for buoyancy aids, which are also permitted in training as "Personal Flotation Devices" and were therefore excluded from this rule intentionally.

It was asked whether crotch straps would catch on a bowloader. The seconder, a senior cox, stated that in his many years of coxing he had never had a crotch strap catch on a bowloader, and this is extremely unlikely to happen.

Voting:

For: 53

Against: 1

Abstentions: 0

The motion passes.

14. **Other Lifejacket Notices; Events and Delivery** – Oscar Hayden to speak

OURCs bumps races do not permit buoyancy aids.

This was explained to be because of two factors. Primarily, the increased risk of head injury and potentially unconscious rower means that buoyancy aids, which do not reorient an unconscious person, are not permitted to mitigate the risk of drowning.

Manual lifejackets are permitted as rowers are within reach, and are unlikely to be knocked out as the cox is in the way of any approaching boat, and would be able to pull the inflate cord on a manual lifejacket. This would reorient the cox, unlike a buoyancy aid. On balance they were therefore permitted.

Secondly, buoyancy aids fully cover the chest area, whereas lifejackets inflate around the neck and upper chest and aren't as tight around the torso. If someone is unconscious and not breathing, CPR is easier with a lifejacket.

Automatic lifejackets are strongly recommended as the safest options, but the mitigations only require lifejackets in general.

Clubs who had ordered lifejackets through OURCs were informed to come up to the front at the end to retrieve them.

15. **AOB**

If you are interested in OUBC – contact james.hopkinson@oubc.co.uk

Send him 2k or 1k times, or any other kind of test – the aim is to tie college and university rowing together more than just the development squads.

It was asked if this was the same for women, and people were encouraged to contact annie.anezakis@oubc.co.uk

Almost every club has received an email about completing Torpids crews, it's a lot of work and fast responses were appreciated. Thank you for being on it.

There is a formal agreement about polemen, if you aren't sure about if your boatman is poling off at Torpids, contact David Seale.