



# Captains' Meeting Agenda

Wednesday 8th Week, Hilary Term 2025

5:30pm 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025

Location: St Cross Building, Manor Road

Chair: James Hopkinson (OUBC)

## 1. Welcome

College Clubs: 51 (Absence from Pembroke and Trinity)

OURCs: 5 (4 voting)

Blues: 0

SUs: 1

Total members present: 57

## 2. Minutes of the Last Meeting

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

## 3. Matters Arising

## 4. Thames Regatta – Sydney Rose and Fergus Cooper to speak

As agreed in the bid process, Linacre chose to indicate that they would like to run Thames Regatta again for in MT2025. The captains unanimously agreed for Linacre to do so.

## 5. Extra Slots Rules Renewal – Alex Rigamonti to speak

2.8 Rules Specific to the Isis [...]

b. Scheduled restrictions [...]

~~ii. Extra Slots are awarded at the discretion of the OURCs Committee. Applications must be made to the Sabbatical Officer prior to the publishing of the agenda for the first Captains' Meeting of each term and will be announced at that meeting with immediate effect.~~

ii. Clubs with a high number of crews may apply for an extra slot through an application to the Sabbatical Officer prior to Sunday of 1st Week. Ten extra slots (two per weekday) are awarded each Michaelmas and Hilary Terms, with no club having more than one extra slot in a term.

1. Extra Slots will be allocated based on a Club's expected number of racing crews, minus the number of racking spots in use elsewhere, starting with the largest Club. In the event that multiple clubs have an equal number of crews, priority should be given first to clubs unable to train during the Proctors' closure (as defined in 2.6.o), and then to clubs that did not have an extra slot in the previous term. a.

The OURCs committee can depart from this process within reason when awarding slots but must explain all changes at the first Captains' meeting. Changes may be challenged and overturned by majority vote.

2. The Sabbatical Officer will announce the recipients of an extra slot on Sunday of 1st Week with immediate effect, alongside publishing the information provided by all applicant clubs and the ranking used to allocate the slots. The results of the process should then be discussed at the first Captains' Meeting of Term.

~~3. Rules under 2.8.b.ii apply only during a trial period ending on Saturday of Week 8 HT25. After that, the wording of 2.8.b will revert to its original form as of 22/01/2024, unless otherwise renewed in a Captains' Meeting.~~

Proposer: Alex Rigamonti (University) Seconded: Isabel Warnock (St Hugh's)

### Votes

For: 56

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

### 6. Torpids Entry Fees – Connor Philp to speak

There are two parts to this

- 1) A discussion as to what fees we are planning on charging crews for Torpids:
  - a. Racing crews pay full
  - b. Rowing on crews that qualified pay half
  - c. Rowing on crews that did not qualify pay the standard £25
  - d. Crews that did not participate in rowing on or torpids pay nothing
- 2) A request to the captains that OURCs be permitted to take the fines money from Torpids to subsidise the halved entry fees.

A full event was run, with all the costs associated with running the event being incurred by OURCs, so two methods were proposed: the first being that fines money from Torpids 2025 was utilised to avoid charging clubs full price entry or running a serious deficit.

Reuben argued that they were in a unique position, being a one-year old club, finding it slightly unfair for a crew that had only participated in Rowing On, to still pay half of the entry fee having not participated in Torpids proper.

Another club mentioned that the fines money is currently just sitting there, not being used, and so it would be ideal to use up the fines to subsidise the entry fee for those crews that did row on but did not participate in Torpids proper.

St Hugh's disagreed with using the fines money as it is a short-term solution to a long-term problem (Torpids 2023 also made a loss). It requires a long-term solution.

The Senior Treasurer noted that the fines agreement in 2010 was for the fines money to be distributed to the Lightweight clubs, though this is no longer possible due to the merging of the squads into OUBC. Several years ago, OURCs was sponsored by Neptune but this has not yet been replaced despite the best efforts of the Senior Treasurer and the University Development Office. Hence, since then OURCs has been making a loss, and medical costs have increased with them costing £8000 over Torpids 2025 alone.

The Senior Treasurer asked the Captains to consider the Treasurer's request to use fines to subsidise entry fees as a one-off, with OURCs agreeing to a longer-term technique to tackle the income and spending discrepancy over a year.

St Hugh's worry that using fines to subsidise entry fees may incentivize OURCs to fine clubs more, which the Senior Treasurer stated would not happen, as OURCs would not see any incentive in the long run.

The Chair mentioned that if every crew that raced in Torpids and Rowing On paid the full entry fee, this would amount to £9000, barely scraping the medic cost. The current deficit was £2.8k, and the fines money was 2.5k. Using the fines money would total a deficit of £300. St Hugh's proposed tabling the fines into a separate pot for now, and for OURCs to see a long-term solution of what to do with the fines money.

Reuben mentioned that they supplied marshals and umpires and, despite that, they are still being charged £45, which they argued to be too much for subsidising other clubs' racing having only raced Rowing On as a head race.

University argued that the entry fee for Rowing On is substantially cheaper than other BR races of similar format – head races – and colleges budget in for the entry fees at the start of the year, so it would be reasonable to expect those to be paid.

Somerville also mentioned that almost every club had rowers that did not race, who would be charged the fee.

New and St Hugh's proposed a longer-term solution – a pro-rata rebate for crews related to the base cost for racing rowing on + a rebate per day of not racing on Torpids proper.

The Secretary pointed out that the Rules of Racing, alongside the Constitution and Code of Conduct, do not give the Captains' power to change entry fees, which is a power solely with the OURCs Secretary, who wanted to affirm a decision on Torpids fees before the end of this meeting for certainty. Longer term solutions could be discussed for future races, rather than potentially later discovering issues with any new proposed system and not being able to resolve Torpids 2025 fees until the Captains' meeting in Trinity Term Week 1.

St Hugh's asked whether it was good precedent to start using fines that should be distributed to the clubs indirectly, and whether it is unconstitutional to use fines. It was clarified that the Constitution does not make such provisions.

A vote was held to poll clubs on using fines money:

Against: 3

Abstentions: 8

For: 45

A vote was held to poll clubs on charging fees at half for all Rowing On crews, full for Senior Divisions and none for Division 4 crews:

Against: 2

Abstentions: 14

For: 40

The Treasurer would take account of these votes when charging clubs entry fees.

#### **7. OURCs Committee Openings – Jack Davies to speak**

All four OURCs Exec positions will be vacant at the end of the academic year.

If you are interested in running for any of the following, please contact the current office holders:

Sabbatical Officer - (paid administrative and safety role): [sabbatical@ourcs.co.uk](mailto:sabbatical@ourcs.co.uk)

Secretary - (racing and presidential role): [secretary@ourcs.co.uk](mailto:secretary@ourcs.co.uk)

Treasurer - (accounting role): [treasurer@ourcs.co.uk](mailto:treasurer@ourcs.co.uk)

Captain of Coxes - (coxing safety and registration role): [coxing@ourcs.co.uk](mailto:coxing@ourcs.co.uk)

#### **8. AOB**