



O U R C S

Captain's Meeting Agenda

7pm, Thursday 5th week Michaelmas Term 2020

12th November 2020

Chair: Alexander Bebb (OUBC President)

1. **Register and Welcome**
2. **Minutes of the Last Meeting**
 - Available at: <https://ourcs.co.uk/organisation/meetings/>
3. **Matters Arising**
4. **Ratification of Ordinary Committee Members** – Jack Woodward to speak
 - Aksel Saukko-Paavola (St Edmund's Hall)
5. **Events Calendar Cancellations** – Jack Woodward to speak
 - Autumn Fours (8th November)
 - Nephys Regatta (13th-14th November)
 - Michaelmas Novice Regatta (25th-28th November)
 - IWL B (29th November)
6. **7th Week Torpids** – James Baker and Sasha Webb to speak

Proposal to move Torpids to 7th Week HT, in spite of the WEHoRR clash.

In light of the four-week lockdown, Michaelmas training has been severely limited for many colleges. This is further compounded by the awful weather throughout last year, and the loss of Trinity term, leaving most college clubs with two year-group's worth of largely novice rowers. The amount of training we will get this Hilary is uncertain, between the Covid situation and the scarcity of senior coxes and rowers, to deal with any poor weather conditions. As such, it would seem more beneficial in terms of safety and preparation to give colleges an extra week of training before Torpids.

Although WEHoRR is a great event, it caters towards more experienced rowers, since it is 6.8km and in tidal conditions. Additionally, for entry, it requires that 6/9 crewmembers have competed in at least one regatta/head race under BR rules. There are at least five or six viable races due to happen next term, before WEHoRR, but none are in any way guaranteed, since colleges may be prevented from attending, depending on how long the university-wide ban on external sporting events lasts. While a few of these things will not be a problem for some, I imagine that these issues are present for the majority of college clubs. Further to this, WEHoRR itself is at risk of being cancelled, or at reduced capacity, while the Hammersmith Bridge works are going on.

I would propose that the college captains should assess how likely it is that they will attend WeHorr, given the limited training and uncertainty surrounding the event, and decide whether an additional week of training for Torpids would be more beneficial instead.

Proposed: James Baker (Corpus Christi)

Seconded: Sasha Webb (Corpus Christi)

7. Proctors Closure discussion point – Isla Henderson and Morten Pahus to speak

Dear Captains,

We're writing regarding the significant impact that limited access to boathouses, combined with the existing river restrictions, are having on our club. We imagine many of you are facing the same problems. Post-lockdown, we imagine these factors will continue to impact us, and so we raise them now hoping that early discussion will help us all work towards resolution for Hilary 2021 and beyond.

We anticipate that as current restrictions stand, we will have insufficient time to prepare crews and coxes that are both safe and competitive to race in Torpids. In terms of safety, the combination of existing river restrictions, current boathouse restrictions, and very limited access to racks at St Edward's School, mean we are limited to two morning slots per week for our 70-strong club. This is simply not enough time to prepare crews to be safe to race. A secondary consideration would be whether rushed preparation for Torpids 2021 is in the best interest of new athletes in our club. In terms of competitiveness, we believe the impact of ongoing, unequal access to water time is detrimental to the quality of rowing and racing in Oxford. With only Graduate Colleges allowed to boat eights during the quieter period of 8.30am-1pm, it is increasingly difficult, without this advantage, to prepare crews that are competitive for Torpids and Eights. As far as is possible, we believe river restrictions should seek to create a level playing field.

Thinking towards solutions, we are sure there are many creative ideas out in the rowing community and would welcome them. We suggest that any changes could be subject to a trial period, and subject to a consultation, before being extended. We would not endorse restricting access to water-time. Two initial ideas are

- extending water time for all colleges. A slot-based system could make this possible to ensure city clubs are not adversely affected.
- increased access for 2x/-, 4x/+ during the day, although increasing 8+ time should be prioritised in terms of equality.

We realise that Proctors have an interest in rowing not impinging on academic activities. However, we see no reason that our athletes are not capable of managing their own priorities and workloads. As a club, we will continue to make it imperative

that academic activities are prioritised over outings, and would support any necessary protocols being put in place to manage any potential problems.

We raise this now hoping for productive, solution-oriented conversations. Acting now to level the playing-field would ensure both better, safer rowing and more competitive racing for years to come.

Welcoming your ideas and responses!

Isla Henderson & Morten Pahun
Club Captains, Wadham College Boat Club

8. Swim-tests – Beth Carter to speak

9. Safety/Reminders – Beth Carter to speak

- COVID
- BR Safety Audits
- Lifejacket servicing

10. Ratification of Major Transgression Meetings

- Balliol – No lifejacket, £40

11. AOB

- BR Regional Representative – Scott Houghton to speak
- Christ Church Lockdown Regatta – Olly Markeson to speak