



O U R C s

Captains' Meeting Agenda

Thursday 4th week Hilary Term 2023

7.00pm, 9th February 2023

Mordan Hall, St Hugh's

Chair: Tassilo Von Mueller (OUBC)

Attendance:

College Clubs: 51 (51 voting)

OURCs Committee: 6 (5 voting)

1. Welcome

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting

Available at www.ourcs.co.uk

No objections. Minutes ratified.

3. Matters Arising

No matters arising.

4. COUR Report – Natasha Smith to speak .

At the COUR meeting this term, the committee discussed the request to amend the proctor's closure to allow pairs and doubles out during the weekday morning closure. The committee do not have the ability to approve this request, however have made a recommendation to the proctors that COUR supports a trial period of the proposed amendment, potentially with additional requirements such as a bankrider. The proctors will discuss this and the outcome received after the rules committee meets.

5. Ratification of new Ordinary Committee Members – Q Sun to speak.

- Sydney Rose (Linacre)

No objections. Ratified.

6. Transfers under A1.2 – Natasha Smith 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

- Jessica Ward: New to Worcester (papers in order)
- Keri Grieman: Christ Church (Kellogg) to Linacre (papers in order)

Ratification of all transfers as a slate.

No objections. Ratified.

7. **Extension of Student Status** – Natasha Smith to speak

Two-thirds majority to pass

Sarah Kime (St John's): A second-year at St. John's, had to suspend in Michaelmas of 2022 due to bereavement of an immediate relative. Before Sarah suspended she was an active part of the rowing club for the past 2 terms. She is now working for a charity in Oxford and would like to train and race with our club again. This would allow her to maintain important friendships and social connections, which will be a great help to settle back into Oxford now, and when she returns as a full student next year. We would like to request an extension of her student status from the captains for the duration of HT23 to allow her to race with our W2 in Torpids 2023. Sarah only started rowing in Trinity 2022 so her experience matches that of the rest of the boat and will not give the boat an unfair advantage during the races.

Proposed: Hannah Koch (St John's)

Seconded: Cameron Renwick (St John's)

It was highlighted by the Secretary the importance of the “extraordinary circumstance” applicability for each case applied for under this rule. There is concern of overuse of this rule, which could result in exploitation in future years. The alternative option is utilising the associate rower rules and applying to the captains for an exception under those grounds instead. The captains were cautioned to consider the applicability before approving this, and future, cases.

Voting:

Votes in favour: 55

Votes against: 0

Abstentions: 1

Motion passes.

8. **River Closures** – James Marsden to speak.

The river closure for Rowing On passed in the previous Captains' Meeting begins the closure at 08:30. Racing does not begin until the afternoon, therefore we would like to propose changing the start time of the closure to 11:00 to allow graduate clubs out prior to racing.

Change:

“Rowing On: Friday 17th February (5th Week) – 08:30 until Closing Time or End of Racing”

To (changes in red):

“Rowing On: Friday 17th February (5th Week) – 11:00 until Closing Time or End of Racing”

Proposed: James Marsden (OURCs)

Seconded: Anna Jones (Wolfson)

Typically, the Rowing On river closure begins at 8:30, however, as rowing on is on a Friday, this would restrict graduate clubs from using the river during the proctors closure despite racing not beginning until later in the day. It was noted that should Rowing On be on a Saturday, this would not be possible, as a morning river closure is granted so that the city clubs may have some time before racing commences in the afternoon.

Voting:

Votes in favour: 56

Votes against: 0

Abstentions: 0

Motion passes.

9. **Treasurer's Election** – Natasha Smith to speak.

- Charlotte Rumney (Queen's)

Proposed: Tom Batchelor (Queen's)

Seconded: Q Sun (OURCs)

Voting:

Votes in favour: 56

RON: 0

Abstentions: 0

Charlotte Rumney elected as Treasurer

10. **Conduct around Racedesk** – Q Sun to speak.

A reminder to captains to not send too many people to racedesk in the event of an appeal. Send anyone relevant, but no excess, and please be cordial with both racedesk and anyone else involved with the other side of the appeal.

If submitting video evidence, please provide it trimmed to the relevant clip, and of a reasonable file size so it can be downloaded at racedesk.

11. **Torpids entries** – Q Sun to speak.

Torpids entries are already open, closing 13th February at noon. Please get your entries in soon, with a fully swim tested crew and meeting all other eligibility and exclusivity requirements.

Upcoming briefing dates:

Coxing briefing: 7:30pm*, Wednesday 15th February (Bernard Sunley Lecture Theatre, St Catherine's)

Bankrider briefing: 6pm, Sunday 19th February (online)

Marshal briefings: 9:00am, Sunday 19th February (online)

8:00pm, Monday 20th February (online)

*The exact time depends on coxing experience, please see the email from the Captain of Coxes for more information

Additional reminders were issued regarding swim tests, ensuring crews entered are fully swim tested and eligible. The final swim test will be on the 14th February.

12. **Ratification of Club Safety Reviews** - Natasha Smith to speak.

- Brasenose - £70

- Univ - £50
- Training ban for all Univ crews on Sunday, 12th February, from Opening Time until 2pm

It was discussed that the training ban was felt not to be significant enough, and the rules regarding the locks were queried. The rules state that no crew may transit a lock when on yellow boards, and a launch may only do so following the submission and acceptance of a risk assessment.

No objections, ratified.

13. AOB

- **IWL D marshal slots** – Arthur Bown-Mazzoni to speak.

It was noted that a number of captains struggled to fill marshalling slots and trying to fill them causes a lot of stress and work for captains. It was asked whether there were any alternatives that OURCs could offer which would improve the situation.

The Secretary explained that with 6 divisions or fewer, it is almost impossible to have a marshalling slot which doesn't collide with racing. The shifts could be shortened and made into 3 slots; however this would result in an additional slot's worth of people, and only a small (~30min) reduction in time required by each marshal.

It was asked if a record could be kept of marshals and their experience, however this comes with GDPR concerns, additionally there are a number of different marshal briefing groups depending on the position, which would be hard to match.

Briefings online were asked about; however an on-the-water briefing would still need to happen for specific positions, therefore an on-line briefing would likely only save ~20 minutes and would be necessary multiple times across the terms. Alternatively, a pamphlet was requested, however there are already laminated sheets describing each position which already serve most of this purpose, and we cannot be sure everyone would read the pamphlet properly.

- **Applications for Rowing Sabbatical Officer** – Natasha Smith

The position of Rowing Sabbatical Officer will be open for applications soon, if anyone is interested in the role and would like to know more, please contact the RowSab at sabbatical@ourcs.co.uk

- **Any questions regarding Torpids entries or rules?** – Q Sun to speak

The starting order was enquired about, the Secretary explained the finishing order for Torpids 2022 will be the starting order for Torpids 2023, with differences occurring only due to non-entry of within un-fixed divisions after Rowing on. The Secretary agreed to send out the division timings from Torpids 2023, noting Men's Div 6 would be at 11:45am, and Women's Div 1 at 5:15pm. Rowing on will be for men's and women's divisions 5 and 6.

OURCs would like to invite the wider college rowing community to volunteer to help at racedesk. Doing so can show what happens behind the scenes and allows for greater involvement with the event. Volunteering can also gain marshalling discounts for your club.

The captains were reminded that e-scooters are illegal on the towpath. There does exist an exemption regarding those with mobility issues. Captains should ensure their coaches are not breaking the law while bankriding outings.

Captains are reminded to be cautious of volume during early mornings so as to not disturb those in the houseboats.

Any queries regarding rules and Torpids, please email the committee and we will help as best we can.