

## Council for Oxford University Rowing

Minutes of Meeting held at Christ Church on Monday 24 January 2005 at 8pm.

### Present:

Mr Hugh Richardson (Chair)	Senior Member, OURCs
Miss Claire Weldon	President, OUWLRC
Mr James Gillies	President, OULRC
Dr Rachel Quarrell	For Senior Treasurer, OUWBC
Mr Tom Cadoux-Hudson	For Senior Member, OUBC
Mr Andrew Hadcroft	University Safety Officer (Sport)
Mr Jon Roycroft	Director of Sport
Mr Martin McNally	Senior Member, OULRC
Miss Jen Thomson	Secretary, OURCs
Mr Steve Royle	Director of Rowing, OUBC
Mrs Barbara Wilson	Administrator, OUBC

### Apologies:

Mr Robin Bourne-Taylor	President, OUBC
Mr Charlie Humphreys	ARA Div 10 Representative

There were no minutes available from the previous meeting.

### 1. COUR Constitution

This was in its final draft and had been submitted to the Proctors and to be circulated to all. It was agreed the final version would be placed on the OURCs website.

### 2. Single Scullers

The rules committee had approved the wording adding 'with exception of single sculling, in conjunction with OURCs Rules'. Each boathouse should have a safety log and both UG and PG single scullers should report to the boatman. The new ruling would not be effective until October 2005. Guidelines are to be clearly displayed in each boathouse and RA amended accordingly. To be brought to final captain's meeting of term.

### 3. OURCs Sabbatical Position

The Captains' had been very supportive of the proposed part-time position but Colleges need to identify where their contribution to the funding of this post, which was agreed more than a year ago, will come from. JR agreed to investigate funding sources and report back to HR within 4 weeks. JR/AH to circulate the proposed job description. It was discussed that the VIII's week programme could become an OURCs activity. Oriel Captains were discussing this issue this week. COUR, as the official body representing rowing within the University, fully supports the establishment of such a sabbatical position.

**Actions** JR to decide whether OUSD can take this on  
JT to look into Programme/ College funding  
College Domestic Bursars to be fully briefed  
The new post of Rowing Officer would have a position on COUR  
OURCs would still retain a secretary.

### 4. Rule Changes

OURC and the Senior Umpires had met and discussed Torpids and VIII's and some clarification on safety points was needed.

- There should be some recognition of good coxing behaviour
- Entering either Torpids or Eights binds crews to the rules of the event
- Safety is paramount

## **5. Squad Reports**

OUBC. In RB-T's absence, SR gave the report. A good training camp had been held in Spain. An announcement about a new sponsor was imminent. The Blue Boat crew was now selected and fixtures were planned against Molesey on 27 February and Leander on 12 March. All the Blue Boat crew pulled under 16 minutes in the latest 5K ergo test. The Isis crew were looking strong. Mike Spracklen was to be a guest coach for 10 days in February.

OUBC/OUWLRC. Both squads had been to a joint training camp in Belgium. They were planning on entering Henley 4's and 8's Head and WHORR. Fixtures were planned against Thames, Old Girls and Leander (not OUWLRC).

OULRC. Had been on training camp in France which had gone well apart from difficulties with the tow vehicle. 7 out of the 8 seats had now been selected. Sponsorship had been secured of £17.5K per year for 2 years.

## **6. ARA Representative**

Charlie Humphreys had expressed his wish to step down from this role. Mark Blandford-Baker had been recommended as a successor which was agreed by all. BW to write to the ARA on behalf of COUR to inform them of this change, and also to MBB.

## **7. Website**

RQ flagged the potential problem that Stuart Jones, the previous OURCs webmaster had threatened legal action regarding Intellectual Property over the OURCs website. The website was currently being changed.

## **8. Rowing Lake**

RQ/HR/SR had been investigating 3 potential sites in the Oxford region. Hinksey (H), Newnham Courtenay (NC) and Cassington (C). HR reported that they had held discussions with the University's Land Agent which led to the belief that the C and NC sites had more potential. The real issue at NC was whether the University can persuade the local planning authority that the need for a rowing lake is justification to extract the gravel. There was some urgency for the University to make an application for gravel extraction in early 2005.

At C, HR had written to the owner as gravel is already being extracted. MM stated that there maybe an archaeological site in the area. JR stated that there was £2K available for investigating C lakes.

## **9. Towpath**

The state of the towpath was raised. JT reported that leaflets had been placed on posts of fences on the towpath for reporting problems. To contact the Lock Keeper for information on the possible ways forward.

## **10. Torpids**

Plans were well under way for this year's event. Table top training was being used for new umpires. A meeting had been held with the EA regarding Torpids and VIII's.

## **11. AOB**

### **Equipment Purchasing**

HR questioned whether the Colleges had ever discussed purchasing equipment in bulk, rather than as individual clubs and colleges such as the IARU model. Also exchanging information about what to buy. It could be web based to encourage the captains to collaborate. RQ commented that Q & A around the table to new captains at their training day often brought out these issues.

## **12. Date of Next Meeting**

Monday 9 May 8 for 8:15pm. (New President of OUBC to arrange venue.)

The meeting closed at 9.10pm