



Minutes of the Council for Oxford University Rowing

12th November 2007, St Catherine's College

Present:

Paul Azzopardi [Chair]
(OURCs Senior Member)

Mark Blandford-Baker
(ARA Division Representative)

Nicole Zitzmann
(OUWBC and OUWLRC Senior
Member)

Nick Brodie
(OUBC President)

Judy Gleen
(Rowing Sabbatical)

Jon Roycroft
(Director of Sport)

Ben Davis
(OULRC Senior Member)

Elizabeth Rowles
(OUWBC President)

Katie Taylor
(OUWLRC President)

Richard Dodsworth
(Area Safety Officer for Sport)

Rachel Quarrell
(OUWBC and OUWLRC
second representative)

Barbara Wilson
(OUBC Administrator)

Henry Sheldon
(OULRC President)

Apologies

John Bell
(OUBC Senior Member)

David Pallot
(OURCs Secretary)

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

These were approved.

2. Squad Reports

OUBC Report

- Trial Eights was on 12th December. 'Shirts' beat 'Skins' by 3 lengths.
- Two days after Trial Eights the squad went to Davos, Switzerland, for cross country skiing.
- On the 2nd January they rejoined for training camp in Mequinenza, Spain with a focus on technique rather than (the usual) selection.
- Back in the UK the squad is in the final stages of selection. The bad conditions will mean heavy use of Caversham Lake.

N Brodie, OUBC President

OULRC Report

- At British Indoor Rowing Championships OULRC claimed 5 of the top 10 BUSA Lightweight times.
- Just prior to BIRC the squad ran Nephthys Head and Regatta which proved to be an invaluable source of income, as well as the only novice side-by-side racing in Michaelmas as Christ Church Regatta was cancelled.
- In Trial Eights at Henley the 'Autobots' beat the 'Decepticons' by half a length.
- The first training camp was held in Tilburg in the Netherlands. The squad spent quality time in small boats and underwent some vigorous seat racing.

- The second training camp was in Soustons in the South of France, rowing mostly in Eights.
- H Sheldon OULRC President

Ouwbc report

- At BIRC, OUWBC claimed 8 of the top 20 BUSA Women's places, including the silver medal.
- For training camp in Hazewinkel, Belgium, the squad was joined by Andy Green (currently at Headington School), who will take over the Head Coach position in April, following on from Ian Shore.
- Selection is expected in a couple of weeks.
- Bad conditions meant Wallingford Head was cancelled, but the squad hope to make Henley Head (*note from Sab, Henley Head has now also been cancelled*), Reading University Head and Women's Head plus several match races before the Boat Race.
- The squad ran a raffle and After Party at Christ Church Regatta, making £1500 despite the Regatta itself being cancelled. They also plan to run a 'sponsor a seat' campaign.

E Rowles, OUWBC President

OuwLRC Squad Report

- The squad's attended a training camp at Wimbleball, Dorset for 4 days in December and returned to Wimbleball for a further week in January, recording times on the water unseen before by the club.
- Due to Wallingford Head being cancelled they have not yet managed to put their training to the test.
- They plan on racing at Henley Head and Women's Head.
- The squad is still training at Wallingford (*weather permitting*) but hopes to move to Henley early in preparation for the Boat Race.

K Taylor OUWLRC President

Full reports can be obtained from the rowing sabbatical if requested.

MBB asked if anything had come of the Henley Meeting. RQ replied that Dorney Races as a contingency were discussed but no change was made. MBB noted that it was helpful in these instances for the Presidents to have the input of the coaches. The Chair asked if coaches were on the committee and RQ explained that they were not members, but could be invited to join the meeting though had to leave before the vote.

RQ asked if anyone had the date of the OUBC challenge, which NB confirmed as the 5th March. RQ also asked if there were any more coxes for the taking. NB replied that they were likely to hang on to all four left but that someone might want to approach Olivia Rissland as she still doesn't seem to be affiliated.

3. Rowing Sabbatical Report

- Met with the EA and it seems that lock defences are impractical because would hinder access for the tug to the weirs.
- Met with Freshfields but as of yet, still have no answer on sponsorship (*note from Sab – Freshfields have now decided not to re-sponsor. Will be meeting with the dev office to look for someone new*).
- Have had the green light from the Insurance department and the flag system was updated at the last Captain's Meeting.
- Purchased the new PA system and am in the process of wiring the connectors. The plan is to pay 2 or 3 guys £50 (or so) for half a day's labour moving setting up the system, in the hope that we ensure there is always someone willing to set it up.
- Currently working on obtaining risk assessments for all colleges that do not row on the Isis/Godstow. Currently very few exist so it will be a work in progress.

- RD has been looking into purchasing a swipe system for swim tests but currently data protection is making it rather difficult, even though we aren't asking for any data that we don't already get.

JR explained that David Hastings reported issues of security because it seems they cannot filter the information (OUSD has been asking for a similar swipe system for the front desk to save huge amounts of man-hours, the same as the reason for the swim test swipe system). The Chair asked who was ultimately in charge. JR replied he thought it must be Jennifer Noon in charge of data protection.

RQ suggested it would be worth re-raising the issue of Lock Defences and that she could speak to Paul Smith. It was agreed that the Sab Officer would look at the cost and speed of creating such defences. The Chair suggested an aquatic or marine engineering company. MBB said he would find out the name of the contractor used for HRR.

MBB suggested that advice be offered on how to write a risk assessment. RQ noted that she had not been asked, as usual, to run the session in Michaelmas term by OURCs. HS suggested that it would be useful to have a list of paperwork that needed doing and when. JR noted that there was a safety briefing by OUSD on everything that needed doing for the University. MBB also noted that in writing the risk assessment Boat Clubs needed to know the status of their insurance and it might be useful for OURCs to collect copies of insurance certificates.

4. ARA Div Rep Report

- MBB noted that there was little to report as the next council meeting was Feb 9th.
- He explained the reason for the delays with the safety audit. The firm that amended the TRRC form to comply with the ARA changes had been exceptionally slow in putting up the form (it went back online 28th December.)
- RQ asked if it would be possible to find out if any clubs still hasn't sent theirs in.
- MBB also noted that the EA hadn't yet received all the licence renewal forms which needed sending in.

M Blandford-Baker, ARA Divisional Representative

5. Discussion Items

a. OURCs Rules

JG explained the proposed expansion of the Scope of the OURCs rules to include all stretches and all times. Any rules which were time or location specific had details added to them.

BW asked for a clarification on the process of reporting transgressions. JG explained that in order to properly define who could issue fines, all transgressions should be reported to OURCs who could then issue fines or warnings etc as appropriate.

RQ pointed out that it would be necessary to refer to all relevant water authorities, not just the Thames EA and to be aware that some ARA rules (such as lifejackets) do not extend abroad. She asked whether the extension of rules needed to be policable, which JG explained that the Insurance department didn't believe they did. RQ suggested that a way to ensure enough capsizing drills were offered would be to investigate where the local clubs take their drills and offer these as alternatives.

The Chair suggested that the mentions of the Senior member could be altered to the responsibility of the Boat Club. He also suggested that 8.2 required an 'exception under external competitions'.

The Chair requested that the changes were circulated via email.

b. EA Lock Keepers

JG explained that the EA were in the process of reducing the numbers of lock keepers in the area and getting rid of the post at Iffley Lock could cause significant problems for OURCs.

RQ suggested the Div Rep make this point at TRRC as it would affect many clubs.

c. IWL and Torpids Cancellations

OURCs had been discussing current flag to allow training time.

RQ replied that it would be beneficial to have at least one IWL for marshal practice but that it might be useful for OURCs to cancel the others.

For Torpids the issue was of minimal water time prior to race week. RQ informed that a few years ago something similar happened and they allowed all crews to choose to compete, but also to scratch without penalty. It would be unfair to impose a blanket ban.

6. Any Other Business

a. Morning Rowing

RQ explained that the current Senior Proctor may be willing to relax the restriction on morning rowing. Whilst it used to be 9-12pm, it currently stands at 8.30-1pm. This heavy restriction on rowing may reduce available water time and become a safety issue – it being safer to maximise water time. MBB pointed out that the University was very hands off about all other academic issues and this rules seemed remnant of a time when they were more involved.

COUR agreed that it was in favour of shortening the ban and that if it could not, then it should address whether this ban needed to apply to all stretches of water.

b. Code of Conducts and Risk Assessments

JR requested that all squads comply with the Proctors' rulings that these been up to date and online.

c. Review of Sport

With the current Review of Sport, JR requested that squads put together a brief account of the cost of rowing to the participating athletes.

RQ noted that it would be very useful to compare this to the cost of rowing to top end college rowers to highlight the discrepancy.

The next COUR meeting will provisionally take place before the OUBC Trust Fund Meeting next term (28th April), 6.30pm at St Catherine's College.