



Minutes for Council of Oxford University Rowing

20th October 2008, St Catherine's College 6.30pm

Present:

Nicole Zitzmann (Chair)
(OUWBC and OUWLRC Senior Member)

Mark Blandford-Baker
(ARA Division Representative)

Ben Harrop-Griffiths
(OULRC President)

Colin Smith
(OUBC President)

Ben Reed
(Rowing Sabbatical)

Jon Roycroft
(Director of Sport)

Rachel Quarrell
(OUWBC and OUWLRC second representative)

Claire Galloway
(OUWBC President)

Barbara Wilson
(OUBC Administrator)

Richard Dodsworth
(Area Safety Officer for Sport)

Phil Gemmell
(OURCs Secretary)

Ruth Crewe
(OUWLRC President)

Paul Azzopardi
(OURCs Senior Member)

Apologies

John Bell
(OUBC Senior Member)

Ben Davis
(OULRC Senior Member)

Donald Fraser
(Senior Proctor)

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

It has been noted that the proposed rule on Torpids eligibility for those trialling with squads has not been taken to a Captains' Meeting.

[This has now been done, see B3.1.]

There was also a discussion about the Eights trophy. Several questions were raised:

- i) who was to pay to the repairs that it now needs;
Barbara Wilson said that OUBC could not afford it. Mark Blandford-Baker said that the colleges could not be charged this time. After much discussion Nicole Zitzmann asked that the cost of the repair be found out.
- ii) who insures the trophy;
NZ asked Ben Reed to find out the premium and where the trophy is insured for the next meeting.
- iii) who owns it.
Rachel Quarrell suggested that ownership needs to be found out, if only to be sure.

2. Squad Reports

These are attached at the end of the minutes. Additional comments are given below:

- a. OUBC
Colin Smith: No OUBC activity over the summer, though 6 or 7 won medals at the Olympics. Thirty odd athletes initially turned up to trial. This has now been whittled down to 25.
The Fours Head is the next event.
- b. OUWBC
- c. OULRC
Ben Harrop-Griffiths: Twenty athletes have now reduced to 17 and 1 cox, so the club is a little short on numbers. Two fours will race at the Fours head, four at Marlow.
- d. OUWLRC
Ruth Crewe: Down to thirteen rowers, but the standard is higher than last year.

RQ said she would advertise for more coxes to come forward and trial.

3. Rowing Sabbatical Report

NZ requested that the Sabbatical and Div Rep reports be circulated before the meeting.

The Rowsab report is attached at the end of the minutes.

Comments made by the other members:

In relation to model risk assessments and codes of conduct, RQ suggested that captains should be made to submit theirs before gaining access to those produced by the Rowsab and Area Safety Officer.

In relation to Talent ID, RQ stressed that students should be doing boat races not World Class Start. BH-G mentioned that the new OULRC coach wanted to split the season in two to have the post-Boat Race time spent in practising sculling with a view to GB trials. RQ reiterated that she did not want to see a WCS club in Oxford.

4. ARA Div Rep Report

MBB:

- i) Green Templeton had gone through ARA Council, but Osler House as now is still Osler-Green with the ARA.
- ii) OULRC and OUWBC are not registered with the ARA, only Nephthys and Osiris. RQ pointed out that subs had been paid and a safety audit submitted for Osiris, and wondered whether this might be an error at the ARA's end.
- iii) Safety audits and affiliation fees can be done now. BR stated that one e-mail had already gone to captains. MBB stressed that this had to be done before the end of the year, and applies to university and college clubs.
- iv) Club codes had been displayed pretty well. BR noted that this applied to launches as well as boats. MBB pointed out that ARA admin may use the codes so it was important they were in place.
- v) ARA Coaching Conference in January.
- vi) ARA Council meeting to be held on 27th November.

BR and RQ enquired about the Competition Commission plans.
MBB expected them to be ratified at the meeting.
BR then asked about the release of Row Safe.
MBB told him not to hold his breath.
RQ suggested contacting Rich Stock, a former Rowsab.

5. **Discussion Items**

a. RoPSA Review

Review of conclusions attached at the end of the minutes.

Paul Azzopardi enquired as to the status of the RoSPA report. Will it have to be acted on, or might it have to be acted on?

Jon Roycroft noted that the university would have to go with what the ARA said at the time. There could be implications for going beyond what the ARA advised.

PA asked MBB whether the review was up for discussion, whether there would be a consultation.

MBB admitted that the ARA had not handled the consultation well.

RQ raised the issue of the named officer of the day.

MBB replied that this had been slammed at the ARA Council.

RQ requested that COUR could get a copy of those minutes.

In relation to 9.1.3:

RQ noted that colleges do not keep a schedule of boat maintenance and repair, and said that captains should be told.

In relation to 9.1.6:

MBB stressed the difference between an accident and an incident, noting that the TRRC's desire for all incidents to be reported was unachievable. He suggested that guidance could be issued about the distinction.

PA highlighted the fact that little data exists on boat accidents, and that the sport needs it to show how safe rowing actually is.

When Ruth Crewe asked for clarification BR differentiated between reportable accidents and recordable incidents.

RQ asked that OURCs ensure that all events keep an incident log.

Richard Dodsworth pointed out that there had not been any reports from university events.

JR contrasted this with other sports, who do keep records.

In relation to 9.1.7:

RQ asked whether the lock keeps a record of water temperature.

BR would find out.

BR pointed out how unlike real life the current capsizing drill was.

Colin Smith said that it was better than nothing.

PA questioned whether one time was enough, contrasting it with army practice.

RQ asked whether these concerns could be taken to the ARA.

MBB replied wondering whether Carl Douglas' views were correct. Can, for example, everyone get on top of an up-turned single?

RQ said that these views should at least be considered, as some of them make sense.
MBB continued that some people would not be able to pass the test.
RQ responded that perhaps these people should not be sculling.
RC pointed out the variables, including the differences between singles on one hand, and pairs and fours on the other.
BW said that these points could all be discussed during the drill, and that therefore Oxford could take them into account without going back to the ARA. OUBC currently put coxed in a lifejacket and inflate it during the drill.
NZ asked whether COUR should talk the issue through at the meeting?
MBB suggested putting something together to put to the ARA, after having consulted the colleges.
PA proposed performing an experiment, doing the drill with half the colleges, and checking results. He believed a lot was only paying lip service.
RQ stressed the benefit of talking through the scenarios, and the fact that coaches should talk to crews about it.
On a tangent, RD asked whether crews needed to have passed the swim test before being allowed on the water, or whether those who had failed could wear lifejackets.
BR pointed out that OURCs rules said no to the latter, but the ARA WSC allowed it.
RQ wondered whether these should be synchronised.
PA said that people should be able to pass the swim test.
CS called for a more stringent swim test.
Returning to the capsize drill, NZ asked COUR members to pass their thoughts to BR to collate.
JR asked whether the ARA has to follow the RoSPA recommendations.
MBB noted that this should relate to practice, not just box-ticking, but raised the question of how far a National Governing Body could control what clubs do.
PA criticised RoSPA for having no evidence on which to base its findings.

In relation to 9.2.2:

RQ said that lodges could be used to record that crews were on the water. Porters could do this when giving the boathouse key out, or crews could meet in the lodge and make a note on a blackboard.
RC queried as to whether porters would actually react if a key was not returned or just assume that it was a student forgetting to do so.
RQ said boatmen could not act as officers of the day as they were not there at important times, and covered several colleges.
PA asked whether, even if someone knew a crew had not returned, they do something about it.
MBB agreed that the officer of the day proposal was difficult.
To improve coaches' communication, it was proposed and carried that the OURCs include the Iffley Lock-keeper's phone number.
[This has been done.]

In relation to 9.3.1:

CS asked what the definition of buoyancy was.
MBB said that the ARA will probably go with FISA, but that FISA had yet to act.
JR felt that this was the main part of the RoSPA review.

PA was sceptical as there was no definition of buoyancy.

b. Chapter 2 of OURCs rules

The sections which aim to summarise the EA or ARA requirements only do so partially. For instance R3 and R4 cover the boat and the rower, but there is no mention of the boathouse, which is covered in 1.3, 1.5, 1.6 and 1.7 in the WSC. Even in relation to the boat, R3's coverage of 1.11 is partial. I think this needs to be looked at, either making the references complete, or just having the cover-all phrasing in R1.

RQ and MBB both felt that people should be made to read the WSC. RQ noted that things specific to the Isis could be in the OURCs rules, such as the need to have white lights, the most commonly broken rule on the Isis.

PA agreed and suggested that the OURCs rules contain links to relevant external websites.

c. Novice coxes of colleges boating from boathouses below the Gut

At present novice coxes are not allowed to go through the Gut, which in effect makes it impossible for crews with novice coxes to boat from boathouses below the Gut, as some are now doing at the Isis Boathouse. I think they have used common sense and are looking to rack a boat on Boathouse Island for the use of their novice crews, but it is a new situation worth considering.

RQ said that this had been dealt with at the end of last term. Novice crews from colleges boating at the Isis Boathouse would have special dispensation to spin at Falcon.

BR noted that this ruling was not widely known; he did not know about it, no-one on the OURCs committee knew about it, and the captain of at least one of the colleges concerned did not know about it.

PA asked whether novice crews from these colleges could not just be allowed to go through the Gut.

RQ said no.

d. Crews training below Iffley Lock, and hence going through Iffley Lock

It seems that some colleges boating on the Isis are finding it crowded, particularly at the moment with the novice crews out, and are looking to train below Iffley Lock. This brings with it the possibility of launches regularly transiting the Isis, as well as crews looking to go through Iffley Lock, possibly in the dark and with the stream. Again this seems to be a new situation.

RQ pointed out that crews could go through the punt station.

PA said that etiquette demanded that crews going onto the Radley stretch should ask Radley.

PA asked whether this was to allow another crew out. If this was the case, he did not think it a good idea, feeling that the quotas on the Isis should apply.

MBB felt this to be the thin end of the wedge.

BR linked this to the Proctors' Ruling which banned students on the water between 8.30 and 1pm, noting that it was a shame that the Senior Proctor could not attend the meeting.

People were looking elsewhere to train because the Isis was crowded in the early mornings, and they could no longer afford to rack off the Isis.

RQ spoke against the Proctors' Ruling.

CS suggested that COUR talk to the Proctors about it, and the possibility of having novice time and senior time on the water.

JR agreed that COUR should engage with the Proctors about this.

PA also felt that COUR should write to the Proctors about it as a safety issue.

COUR will draft a letter to be sent to the Proctors.

COUR passed a rule for OURCs banning transit of Iffley Lock before sunrise.
[This has been done.]

e. Punt/Rowing boat hire companies

There are two companies on the Isis, and one now at Godstow. There are clear safety implications for rowing at both stretches if this growth continues. Those hiring the boats don't follow a circulation pattern, and often are not in control of their craft. The EA are unwilling to look into this.

RQ said that incidents should be reported.

MBB pointed out that the boat hire company at Magdalen bridge did not register their craft with the EA, despite the fact that they were frequently taken onto the Isis. He felt that you would never be able to enforce a circulation pattern, but that it was important that you should be able to identify boats.

PA felt that it would be possible for hirers to give rudimentary rules to those they hired boats to.

PA and RQ felt that the hirers should be contacted before Eights.

f. Safety documents for college boat clubs

I have produced some drafts which it might be worth circulating to College captains. These are attached.

RQ said that BR should just get on with these.

g. Squad launches

Several of the squads seem to be in need of launches.

RD raised the point that squads did not seem to be budgeting for launch purchases, and were getting caught out.

PA said that the squads should go to the Trust Fund for loans.

6. Any Other Business

1. NZ asked whether a written COUR report had to be made.

JR said that the minutes and a verbal report were sufficient.

2. RQ asked that COUR reports could be added to future Captains' Meetings' agendas.

3. BR noted the creation of Christ Church SCR Boat Club

RQ said that it would come under OURCs rules.

MBB said it would be in Div 12.

4. JR clarified the position of OxILP in relation to Oxford University. It was now wholly Brookes, with its members no longer eligible for university second teams.

5. The next meeting is to be held at 6.30pm on the second Monday of Hilary term, which is 26th January.

[Following the OUBC Trust Fund meeting, a request was made that this be moved to Monday of 1st week, 19th January.]

SQUAD REPORTS: OCTOBER 2008

OUBC:

The journey to the 2009 Boat Race began 16 September with our first meeting and the training has steadily progressed up to this point. With only a handful of returning squad members from last year, there are many new faces from throughout the globe. Although the squad brings many new faces, a good sense of team unity has begun to grow and it feels as though we have all been teammates for far longer than the four weeks that we have been training together. If I took anything away from last year it is that a positive squad unity and a hunger to win pushes all the athletes to succeed. So far so good!!!

In a little less than a month we will be racing on the Tideway for the Fours Head and with a large squad at the moment there are many athletes vying for spots in each boat. Our 5k ergo test towards the end of this month could prove to be a make or break time for each athlete in terms of selection. The Fours Head is always a good early season test to gauge our speed against Cambridge, and although results mean little with regards to Oxford victories come March, smashing the Tabs is always a great way to spend a Saturday on the Tideway.

The future for this squad looks bright. With Beijing Olympians, former Blues and Isis members, talented American collegians, and a good group of Oxford college rowers, the depth of our team will continually push every member to be at their best during every ergo, weights practice, and rowing session from now until The Boat Race. I am looking forward to seeing this team grow together for the next six months and to repeat last year's double victory against the Tabs on March 29th, 2009.

C. GROSHONG, OUBC Co-Secretary 2008-9

OuwBC:

OuwBC started training again on 6th September following one of its most successful summer seasons to date. At Henley Women's Regatta our Senior Coxed Four was involved in a very tight final with a Nottingham/UL composite but battled through the headwind to win by ½ a length. We also had a clear 1¼ length victory in the Intermediate Eight event, which was a composite boat with OUWLRC. Our Elite Coxed Four did well to reach the semi-finals in their event, losing to Furnivall, the eventual winners.

A week later the two Coxed Fours combined to make up an Eight in the Remenham Cup event at Henley Royal Regatta. The Eight qualified without problem and went on to make it through to the Saturday semi final, the furthest OuwBC has ever reached at Henley Royal. However, it was then beaten in the semi final by a Furnivall/Leander composite, which did in fact have three of our old girls in it.

Some of squad stayed for the National Championships at the end of July. Dogged by injury we ended up entering a scratch Eight on the day, which did extremely well to come 5th in the Championship Eights event. However, our Coxless Four took the bronze in their event, making sure we didn't leave empty handed.

Now back in full training we have quite a strong squad with a good mix of new and old. There are a couple of returning blues, one from last year's lightweight Blue Boat, four from Osiris, and most of our summer development squad have decided to carry on. We have already competed at Reading Small Boats Head and Pairs Head, in the latter winning a pennant in the Women's S4 2x category.

Andy Green has now settled into his new position as Head Coach, taking over from Ian Shore after last year's boat race. Megan Patrick and Chris Reid carry on as assistant coaches.

Over the next few weeks we will be entering more events such as the BUCS 2k test, BUCS small boats head, Four's Head of the River, and Wallingford Head. We are also looking to get top squad members involved in GB trialling at all levels – the Youth Olympics, U23s and Seniors.

CLAIRE GALLOWAY, OUWBC President 2008-9

OULRC:

OULRC had a successful summer season, winning a silver medal at the British Universities Championships and a bronze medal at the European Universities Championships both in the Lightweight Coxless Fours events.

The summer was also spent looking for a new Head Coach. With around 20 applicants for the job, OULRC chose Pedro Figueira for the post. Pedro comes to the club from London RC where he has spent the last two years working closely with Paul Reedy coaching the lightweight squad. He also coached the FISU lightweight four this summer containing OULRC ex-President Alex Woods.

The 2008/09 squad started training on Wednesday 17th September and is progressing well. Despite a large number of people showing interest in trialling this season at the end of Trinity Term, the OULRC squad is somewhat smaller than hoped, with only 16 rowers and one cox, of which only two are returners. However, preparations for the Boat Race have got well underway and we hope to enter two crews for the Fours Head and four crews for Marlow Head. We also look forward to Trial Eights on the 7th December and training camps in Holland and Portugal during the Christmas Vacation.

BEN HARROP-GRIFFITHS, OULRC President 2008-9

OUWLRC:

The summer racing season saw yet another fantastic succession of results for Oxford women's lightweights. The highlights included wins at Wallingford Regatta, Metropolitan Regatta, Reading Amateur Regatta, Henley Women's Regatta and Sudbury Regatta.

In August five representatives from OUWLRC travelled to the small Irish town of Omeath, to take part in the Irish International Currach Championships. They were joined by teams from Cambridge, the USA, Canada and Ireland for two days of racing in traditional Irish currachs. Rachel Hall and Oliver Whitby (OULRC) beat Cambridge to take first prize in the mixed doubles competition.

In September Sarah Cornick represented Great Britain in the Lightweight Women's Single Sculls event at the EUSA Championships in Zagreb, Croatia. She narrowly missed out on a place on the podium, finishing 4th in the A Final.

This year's squad is shaping up to be a talented group of athletes including 5 returnees from the 2008 Lightweight Blue Boat, some strong newcomers from our summer development programme, as well as ex-juniors. Competition for the eight seats available in the 2009 Lightweight Blue Boat promises to be fierce.

OUWLRC are excited to announce the creation of Tethys Boat Club, which will be our racing name outside of the Boat Race. Already Tethys has had its first success of the season winning Women's Senior Three Coxed Fours at Reading Small Boats Head of the River. The squad is showing promise but it is early days and we have a lot of work to do! Next stop: Fours Head of the River.

RUTH CREWE, OUWLRC President 2008-9

COUR 20.10.08

Sabbatical Report

1) All “**start of season**” **meetings**, courses, briefings, drills and tests organised and booked if not completed.

Notable one was that between the Sports Fed and the HBR Squads for a meeting that allowed each to get a better understanding of the other.

2) **Autumn Fours and Isis Winter League** organisation started. Safety plans discussed with Richard Dodsworth, identified some changes to be made. Met with Paul Smith, and obtained consent letters from the EA.

I have raised with the OURCs Committee the issues of participation in Autumn Fours and ideas to increase it, and the need to create a league structure for the IWL. These are under consideration.

Still to do: Letters to be sent out to other river users. Senior Umpires to be appointed.

3) **Sponsorship from Barclaycard**. In contact with Rob Rayner. Looking to put together a package incorporating the sponsorship of OURCs, along with the OURCs-run events excluding Summer Eights.

4) **Safety elements:**

- i) read through the RoSPA Review and produced a summary of the conclusions that might impact on College rowing.
- ii) going through the Squad safety documentation to improve safety measures and to make them more accessible. Trying to get Squads to put these documents up on a Safety page linked from their homepage.
- iii) producing documents to assist college captains
- iv) added weather links to the OURCs website

Still to do: produce model risk assessments and codes of practice for the Isis, Godstow and Wallingford. Follow up push to improve college safety policies and documentation.

5) Contacted **Steve Gunn** to see whether some form of Talent ID can be set up in Oxford. He has agreed to a meeting. This has to be followed up.

6) **OURCs matters:**

- i) With David Pallot, overseen smooth divorce of Green from Osler, and the creation of Green Templeton Boat Club.
- ii) Reviewing Constitution and Rules.

7) At meeting with Paul Smith, raised the issue of **boat hire companies**. Bottom line: the EA should enforce the Collregs, but only after they have been broken (and if they see it). The EA will investigate any accidents that occur. However, they seem unwilling to attempt to broker any voluntary agreement to try to reduce the likelihood of an accident.

RoSPA Safety Review: important recommendations

The full report can be found here:

<http://www.ara-rowing.org/upload/files/Association/WaterSafety/RoSPAReview-June-08.pdf>

Edited highlights of the recommendations:

“9.1.2 ARA Club Auditing Process

- Review current process...”

[Expect the Safety Audit system to change at some point, though possibly not this year.]

“9.1.3 Club Management and Structure

- Spread responsibility for safety throughout club.

[This introduces the idea of everyone in the club being responsible for risk assessment and management, both overall and day-to-day. Captains and committees cannot leave it up to their college authorities/boatman/coaches/club water safety advisor; individual rowers cannot leave it up to their captain/coach/cox.]

- Introduce risk assessment and safe systems of work for maintenance and boat repair activity.”

[Agree with your boatman a schedule to regularly check all your boats over. Produce a written copy of this schedule (make sure this includes when checks will happen, and what will be covered by the check), and get your boatman to maintain a written record that logs when scheduled checks have been carried out, as well as any problems found and action subsequently taken.

Have a log for reporting boat damage, and for recording any repairs done. This should cover date, boat, damage sustained and action taken.

Establish a system for quarantining boats that are damaged or under repair, and make sure the rowers know what the system is so they can recognise it when it is implemented.

Have a small tool kit available to allow rowers to make MINOR running repairs, eg tightening topnuts, covering small nicks in the hull with electrical tape.

In general you need to be confident that if something happens to one of your crews you can demonstrate that it was not due to a fault with the boat, or, if it was, it was a fault that you did everything that could be reasonably expected of you to avoid. At any given point in time, can you **prove** that a given boat is in a fit state to row? This is much easier if you know when it was last checked, and when any repairs were carried out, and can provide evidence to substantiate this.]

“9.1.5 Rowing Boat Identification...

- That the current craft registration scheme operated on the Thames tideway is extended across all craft through the ARA regions...”

[I think this system has actually been extended to the whole length of the Thames anyway, but your boats and launches should now carry an identifying club code number.]

“9.1.6 Incident Reporting

- Guidance should be provided to boat crews by the ARA and clubs in turn over the importance of incident reporting...”

[Incident reporting that works well should allow you to observe patterns and act accordingly. This only works if incident reports are made (see section 2.4 of the WSC).

Incident report forms can be down-loaded here: <http://www.ara-rowing.org/upload/files/Association/WaterSafety/SafetyIncidentReportForm.pdf>. The original should be sent to the Regional Water Safety Advisor, and copies should be sent to the Rowsab and the ARA, as well as kept in your college accident log which section 1.7 of the WSC requires you to keep.

(Note the difference between a **reportable** and a **recordable** incident. A reportable incident, involving the process detailed above, is one in which there is personal injury and/or damage the repair of which is valued at £100 or more. A lesser incident is only recordable, and should just be logged in your accident log, a summary of which will be sent to your Regional Water Safety Advisor once a year.)]

“9.1.7 Hypothermia, Cold Water Shock and Capsize

- Specific risk assessment of incidents of immersion and hypothermia should be carried out by clubs for winter activity. There was little evidence that clubs revised their assessments in light of conditions in the winter period.

[It seems sensible to look over your current practice documentation and policies and see if they need to be revised to take into account winter conditions.]

- Ensuring, because cold is the killer, that clubs have better procedures in place and individuals are more aware of the issues relating to cold water immersion.
[Your rowers may have done the swim test, and even the capsize drill, but do they all fully understand the risks and possible outcomes of falling in, especially during the colder months?]

- Promotion of the 1 minute 1 degree code that is operated at Eton Dorney Lake.

[The ‘1 minute 1 degree rule’ is, as far as I can make out, a rough rule of thumb which states that you have a survival time in water of as many minutes as the temperature of the water in degrees. In other words you need to have ensured before boating, that you can get out /be fished out of the water in a time appropriate to the water temperature.

Jane Blockley has commented

(http://groups.google.com/group/rec.sport.rowing/browse_thread/thread/255fc8eda9cae8fa/5ddfd5fc114e997e?#5ddfd5fc114e997e):

“I’m not sure how they decided on 1 degree/1 minute - I don’t think it is based on the traditional cold water immersion survival graphs - which usually indicate a longer “possible” survival time than that. But the traditional graphs have many limitations and don’t take account of the many variables inherent in each individual, the other hazards of immersion such as cold shock or rapid cooling of the extremities (onset long before core hypothermia sets in - maybe within seconds of immersion - rendering hands useless for survival tasks e.g. holding on to anything) or other environmental conditions affecting survival time e.g. wave height/wind speed.

It seems to me to be an entirely sensible approach - it may err on the side of caution for a fat, fit, cold acclimatised adult, but would be near the mark for a thin junior. One easily remembered simple rule to cover all individual variations is much more user friendly than complicated graphs.”]

- The uncertainty about rowers’ ability to deal with capsize needs to be addressed with better systems of training and monitoring being provided by clubs.”

[At present only users of singles/pairs/doubles have to do the capsize drill here. However, it is not impossible for an eight or a four to capsize or swamp, so it is worth making sure that everyone in the club is aware of the dangers of falling in, and knows what to do if they end up in the water.

Another part of the doubt was whether a drill in a warm swimming pool sufficiently replicated the actual situation of suddenly capsizing into cold water, possibly in poor light, when you're tired, etc. I'm not sure what steps clubs can take to deal with this.]

“9.2.2 Supervision of Water Activities

- ARA to develop guidance on and for clubs to introduce documented daily launch decisions based on dynamic risks assessments and criteria that are logged as to why activity is done on any particular day.
[This suggests that all clubs will need to have a log recording the outcomes of risk assessments before every outing, certainly every day that rowing occurs. What would certainly be a good idea is to draw up a written risk assessment which the coach and/or cox run through at the start of every outing.]
- Clubs to introduce better logging of boats and crews from club houses onto and off water – a simple wipe board system is used by some clubs and would be sufficient.
[A whiteboard onto which outings can be entered, and then wiped off again when the crew returns is a good idea. (Make sure the pen cannot wander.) This board should record: boat name, crew, name of coach/bank rider, and expected time of return. (For clubs boating out of boathouses from which a boat could have outings either upstream or downstream [eg Radley, Wallingford, Keble] I would also include which direction gone.) I would put a list of the club coaches' mobile numbers next to the board. Such a board only works if people actually check it, so mention the presence of the board to your boatman, and make it standard practice that the last person to leave after a session checks it.]
- Introduce named nominated officer of the day.
[This seems to assume that there will be one person who remains at the boathouse while crews are on the water. While I can see the logic in having one person at the boathouse in case something happens on the water, I am not sure of how practical this is going to be in the Oxford context. Perhaps this could be the boatman, though they might well not be around when crews are most likely to be on the water.]
- Clubs need to review their communication systems between coaches, boats on water and nominated officer of the day and/or boat house.
[Realistically this would amount to having coaches/coxes carrying mobile phones during outings, pre-programmed with the number of the boatman.]
- That clubs and the ARA specifically differentiate between coaching and supervising roles, namely by establishing a definition of the different activities and specific limits of role, responsibility and activity covered.”
[A lot of clubs looked into by the review left safety aspects up to the coaches, rather than committees or the individual rowers. This recommendation reinforces the idea that risk assessment is everyone's responsibility, eg that the decision to boat is not the coach's alone.]

“9.3.1 Boat Buoyancy

- The ARA should modify their current policy on boat buoyancy. A new policy should state that all boats shall be buoyant, that they should have internal buoyancy and have an agreed policy for retrofit of existing boats or develop a system of dispensation for non-buoyant boats.

[It would be worth checking through your fleet to see which boats would require action.]

- Rules and/or regulations should be introduced to [...] require each owner of competition rowing fours and eights to periodically apply the same test [relating to a buoyancy standard] to each of their boats and for the boat to pass the test.”

[This would require all clubs to physically test the buoyancy of their boats to see that they still match up to the standard.]