



Minutes for Council of Oxford University Rowing

19th January 2009, 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)

Barbara Wilson
(OUBC Administrator)

Ben Reed
(Rowing Sabbatical)

Jon Roycroft
(Director of Sport)

Rachel Quarrell
(OUWBC and OUWLRC second
representative)

Claire Galloway
(OUWBC President)

Paul Azzopardi
(OURCs Senior Member)

Richard Dodsworth
(Area Safety Officer for Sport)

Ben Davis
(OULRC Senior Member)

Georgie Baines
(OUWLRC Vice-President)

Phil Gemmell
(OURCs Secretary)

Apologies

John Bell
(OUBC Senior Member)

Colin Smith
(OUBC President)

Donald Fraser
(Senior Proctor)

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

In relation to matters arising, Richard Dodsworth said that the Summer Eights trophy came under University Insurance.

Mark Blandford-Baker pointed out that the Torpids trophy, which was in Magdalen, was still damaged, and had been so for nine months now. He also noted that OUBC needed to decide what it wanted to do with the silver sculls.

In relation to the ARA Council minutes, MBB said that he had the draft minutes from November, but that they were not in electronic form, nor had they been approved.

Ben Reed will contact the Iffley Lock keeper to enquire as to whether they monitor water temperature.

No memos had been forwarded to BR in relation to the form of the capsized drill.

Jon Roycroft said that he had had a response from the Proctors, and that the matter will be on the agenda at the 10th February Rules Committee Meeting, where they will accept a COUR statement. It was agreed that Nicole Zitzmann would draft this statement. Rachel Quarrell had done some research and found that only half to two thirds of lectures were now in the 9-11 am period, which meant that a significant number were happening

outside that window, making it difficult to boat a crew in the time you are allowed, so forcing students to train in the early mornings. She stressed that a relaxation of the rule would not be to encourage students to miss work or lectures, but to recognise the fact that not all lectures were 9-1 pm. She pointed out that colleges could control access to their boathouses since most keys were signed out at the lodge. The rule was originally drafted for tutors, and ran until 12pm.

NZ stressed that the statement should stress the safety aspect of the issue.

JR repeated this, pointing to the number of boats out and the state of the light, and the fact that the rule actually made things worse.

MBB wondered whether this could be part of the Review of Sport.

2. Squad Reports

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

- a. OUBC
- b. OUWBC
- c. OULRC
- d. OUWLRC

In relation to the Dev squad, RQ wanted clarification as to whether any of them might get seats in the race crew.

Georgie Baines said she would raise the matter.

3. Rowing Sabbatical Report

These are attached at the end of the minutes.

4. ARA Div Rep Report

MBB said he had the draft minutes for the 29th November ARA Council Meeting. There would be some money available to offset some of the costs of the Level 2 and 3 coaching courses.

There were moves to allow some local use of Caversham.

Barbara Wilson said that OUBC did not have a problem with this.

RQ noted that it would just be in the summer, when the GB squad was away racing. She also noted that Univ had not yet managed to get access to the lake.

The Rules of Racing were coming out.

Row Safe has been published. He asked that BR check with colleges to ensure that all had received their copy of it.

[An e-mail was sent round on 2nd February. No responses back from captains saying that they have not received it.]

5. Discussion Items

a. Row Safe

RQ commented that it was not easy to see what to do, and that she was glad that the OURCs rules had retained sections duplicated in the ARA material.

MBB asked that comments be collated, and that the next Council Meeting was on the 7th February.

NZ asked for comments to be sent to her soon (by the end of the week), copied to MBB and BR for BR to collate.

[No comments were received.]

RQ asked about the chairman of the ARA.

MBB replied that only Di Ellis was standing.

b. Revisions to Chapter 2 of OURCs rules

RQ asked whether this was just reshuffling.

BR replied that it was.

c. Henley Boat Race Squad documents: Code of Conduct and Code of Practice

BW and RQ wondered why these drafts had been prepared, and whether the squads had asked for them.

BR replied that the squads had not requested them, but that from the point of view of the Area Safety Officer and himself the present versions needed to be looked at. Some were 27 pages long, which it was not reasonable to expect students to read through, and not all of which was relevant. These represented a rationalisation, and in particular a teasing apart of the Code of Conduct and Code of Practice. At the end of the day the drafts were now there for the squads to adapt to suit their purposes if they so chose.

BW asked why they covered only the Henley Boat Race squads.

BR replied that OUBC was deemed to be independent.

RQ wanted to raise the issue of how many documents the squads were being asked to produce, and how more were gradually being introduced all the time.

Paul Azzopardi said he thought the Code of Conduct was good for Senior Members, and suggested that the section on proposed activities be cut.

BR explained that the Code of Conduct served two purposes, one to be a statement by the club officials as to how they would operate, and second to be a supply of information from the club to the Area Safety Officer.

The proposed activities section would allow the clubs, as long as they also provided the Area Safety Officer with a squad list, to not have to fill in Trip Registration Forms every time they left Oxfordshire.

d. Access to the Isis for emergency services

Richard Dodsworth reported that the Ambulance service had come to the Isis to look at emergency access to the Isis during early morning outings.

It was hoped that boathouses could contain emergency boxes containing the keys to gates nearby.

RQ pointed out the problem with Longbridges could be that the gate gave access to houses as well as the boathouse.

PA suggested that the boathouse could contain cutters.

RQ pointed out that there would still be a problem if no-one was boating from the boathouse at the time.

RD pointed out that several other issues had been raised at the meeting, such as the fact that if someone was in the water the fire service had to be called as ambulance staff would not go in.

RQ noted that Row Safe made reference to the post codes of boathouses. MBB remembered that Rich Stock had looked into these and may have them.

PA and RQ suggested that life rings could be labelled with their location in GPS co-ordinates, and that the EA should be contacted.

NZ stressed that rowers needed to be informed about any system introduced.

- e. Proctors Rules about rowing during the morning
This had already been covered.

- f. Trailering and training

RD explained that Jamie Brooks from the Sports Fed and the University Insurance Department were reviewing the guide-lines in relation to this. Current guidance for the squads is thin. Next week there is to be a meeting to discuss points.

JR stated that these things had to come under University insurance.

Ben Harrop-Griffiths asked in relation to the need for a trailer test, what would happen in the instance of old boys helping out?

BW noted that courses were hard to find and expensive.

BR asked whether the meeting would cover trailering on the Continent.

GB called for simple guidelines.

RD and JR said they would both be going to the meeting.

RQ said they should look at the commercial side of things.

- g. ARA Council Representative

MBB noted that this should be for three years rather than on an annual basis.

The Council voted MBB as the ARA Div Rep for the next three years.

NZ asked BW to write to the ARA and inform them.

6. Any Other Business

MBB was pleased to hear that all but one college had submitted their Safety Audit, but stressed that Oriel will be treated as one club, not split into Men's and Women's if they

fall foul of ARA penalties. He suggested that the fact that they may not have received the paperwork was that it could still be going to the old captain.

BR raised the issue of alumni college clubs, and asked where they stood in relation to a need to affiliate to the ARA.

BW replied that they only need to if they were racing.

RQ said that Senior Members should be aware for insurance purposes.

MBB raised the issue of ARA Affiliation fees.

BR said he would raise this at the Captains' Meeting on Wednesday.

RQ wanted to congratulate the EA for setting up a website giving information about the river conditions, despite claiming previously that it could not be done.

The next meeting will be on Monday 11th May.

SQUAD REPORTS: JANUARY 2009

OUBC:

OUBC TRIAL EIGHTS: Bear mauls Bull

On December 11th OUBC set two eights against each other to compete in the annual Trials Eights Race from Putney to Mortlake on the Tideway, covering the full Boat Race course. This year, the crews were named 'Bull' and 'Bear' in honor of the tumultuous times in the financial markets.

The crews were assembled with the goal of having two boats of equal speed. After fine tuning both line-ups, the two boats were ready to put their speeds to the test. In training both crews had their moments of success, as such, uncertainty filled the air on the starting line.

On umpire Boris Rankov's "GO!", both crews propelled off the starting blocks just upstream of Putney Bridge. Off the line, 'Bull' on Surrey, stroked by President Colin Smith, rating higher, ultimately took a slim lead coming towards the Black Buoy. As the two crews found their base rhythms, 'Bear' on Middlesex, stroked by Ante Kusurin, began to pull back level around the beginning of the Fulham bend. As this first bend came to a close, 'Bear' used its advantage to garner a 1/2 boat length advantage over 'Bull'.

Over the next three to four minutes down the Mile Post straight, past Harrods, and on to Hammersmith Bridge, 'Bull' charged to regain the margin it had lost in the first three minutes of the race. Through Hammersmith Bridge, with the crews fighting for the best share of the stream, 'Bear' stole the advantage away from 'Bull' by pushing out to a bit of a lead on the outside of the bend as the crews passed St. Paul's School and on towards the Island.

Coming down the Island stretch and passing Chiswick steps with an increasing lead, 'Bear' gained a full length advantage by the Chiswick Pier. As the race seemed to come to a crucial knock out point for 'Bear' to break for open water, it caught a crab and almost brought the boat to a complete standstill. In this brief moment, 'Bull' attacked and found itself on level terms with a little over a mile left to row in the race.

In shock, spectators thought that 'Bull' would now have the advantage on the final portion of the Surrey Bend; enough to mitigate the advantage of the final bend towards Middlesex. In professional form, however, 'Bear' rebounded from this setback instantaneously and furiously clawed its way back onto terms with 'Bull' and proceeded to use the next two minutes passing the Bandstand to push back to a length lead. With the final bend in its favor, 'Bear' looked prime to hold off any late charges from 'Bull'.

As the boats approached Barnes Bridge, 'Bull' was still clinging to the stern deck of 'Bear'. With a near collision underneath the bridge and close side by side racing, in which oars were close to clashing, the race was still up for grabs. Using the inside portion of the turn, however, 'Bear' pushed out and began to open up 1/2 to 3/4 of a length of open water with the final 1:30 minutes remaining.

'Bear' held onto this lead and crossed the finish line downstream of Chiswick Bridge 1 1/2 lengths clear of 'Bull' with a time of 18 minutes 37 seconds.

Crews:

Bear: Ante Kusurin (s), George Bridgewater (7), Tom Solesbury (6), Alex Hearne (5), Martin Walsh (4), Mike Valli (3), Ben Rosenberger (2), Tim Farquaharson (b), Adam Barhamand (cox)

Bull: Colin Smith (s), Sjoerd Hamburger (7), Ben Harrison (6), Aaron Marcovy (5), Dave Hopper (4), Michal Plotkowiak (3), Doug Bruce (2), Colin Keogh (b), Phil Clausen-Thue (cox)

OUBC Winter Training Camp: Temple Sur Lot

On January 3rd, the OUBC squad packed up and traveled to a new venue, Temple Sur Lot, for the annual winter training camp. With roughly ten weeks until The Boat Race on March 29th, the squad sought to build on fitness and technical skills from the fall term in order to set the tone for the tough weeks ahead.

Temple Sur Lot, which is two hours from Bordeaux in southwestern France near “Tooo Louis” [Alex Hearne 2009], is a training center for the French National Rowing Team. Although the town was quaint, it was much livelier than Mequinenza, Spain which OUBC has traveled to for previous training camps at this time of the year. Unlike Spain, the town was equipped with a small café and shop to sustain the squads, aka Ante Kusurin’s, chocolate and Coke cravings.

Although in a new location, the theme of this camp was consistent to years past. With miles of flat water, the squad utilized water time to improve on the technical themes established in the Autumn as well as continued to build an on the water team identity.

Our days consisted of the following: Eat, Row, Sleep, Eat, Row, Eat, Sleep. Throw in a couple games of Scrabble and the occasional basketball warm up, and you get a sense of what each day was like.

On the second to last day of camp, a club crew from Bordeaux came to Temple Sur Lot to train with us. The crew brought a friendly face, that of Bastien Ripoll, the stroke of the 2006 victorious Blue Boat. It was a great experience lining up against a former Blue in training. Knowing the rigors of Boat Race preparation, Bastien’s boat proved a useful sparing partner each outing.

The squad will be back in Oxford to resume training on 13 January. Happy New Year. May 2009 be another year of the Dark Blues.

C. GROSHONG, OUBC Co-Secretary 2008-9

OUBC:

Over the last few months everyone in OUBC has made a massive step on in their training, which has been amazing to see, especially amongst the less experienced members of squad. Illness and injury means that numbers are a bit on the low side with only 17 athletes remaining; however, things are still moving on nicely.

At the end of October we entered BUCS small boats head, winning a bronze medal in the pair’s event. Four’s Head was disappointing in that we missed out on two pennants, finishing 2nd in Senior 2 coxless fours and Senior 2 coxed fours. We also had a crew placed 3rd in Senior 3 academic coxed fours. However, compared to CUWBC the results were fairly even so there was still everything to play for. Wallingford Head followed and we proved successful with wins in the Senior 1, 2 and 4 eights events.

Winter training kicked in and most of the squad managed to survive training up until 22nd December. We were back on the 29th December for some good water sessions before the New Year ready for training camp in Hazewinkel, Belgium, starting on the 2nd January. Unfortunately, however, it would appear that we had picked to go during one of the coldest weeks in a very long time (about 15 years), and had to cut our trip short by two days after the lake froze solid. We did manage to get all the seat racing needed done, with boats knocking out some quick times, and training back in Oxford has now resumed with a vengeance.

Last term we also held some fundraising events including an 8-hour ergothon. We had two teams, stroke side in the Westgate centre competing against bow side outside the science museum on Broad Street to see who could cover the furthest distance over 8 hours. With some people erging in hail we managed to raise over £400 for the club. We also ran our annual Christ Church Regatta raffle, which raised around £1000.

This term there is lots more to be done with now less than 9 weeks to go until our boat race. Racing wise we will definitely be competing in one of the Wycliffe Head or Peterborough Head (7th February), and Women's Eight's Head of the River (7th March), where the Blue Boat will be setting off first. Boat race crews are to be announced within the first couple of weeks of February.

CLAIRE GALLOWAY, OUWBC President 2008-9

OULRC:

Since the last meeting, the OULRC squad has come a long way. In November two crews raced in the Fours Head and recorded somewhat disappointing results coming 173rd and 214th. A few weeks later the squad raced in a number of combinations at the Marlow Fours Head at Dorney Lake with better results, including a win in S4 4+ and second in S1 4+.

After Marlow the squad was divided into our two Trial Eights Boom & Bust who raced at Henley on the 7th December. The smaller crew, Bust, lead by a canvass off the start, but by Upper Thames Boom had managed to row back through to take a half-length lead. However, Bust found a better rhythm in the second half of the race and started to move back, the two crews drawing neck-and-neck up to the line. In the end the verdict was given to Boom by just 2 inches.

A few days after Trial Eights, the squad went to Holland for the first of our two training camps. Hosted again by T.S.R. Vidar, the club of former coach Jan Willem Visser, OULRC was given access to a deserted 2km stretch of water and Vidar's excellent fleet of boats. This camp was extremely productive, with the squad making significant improvements in both technique and fitness as well as giving us the opportunity to do some seat racing.

After a break for Christmas & New Year, the squad reconvened for a second training camp held at the brand new Avizaqqua Training Centre in Avis, Portugal. Training in eights for the week, the entire squad made large improvements and despite the fact that the centre had not been completely finished in time for our arrival, the camp was extremely successful. During the camp OULRC raced against four Portuguese Club eights in a local regatta where the 'A' boat came first and the 'B' boat came third over a 4km course.

The OULRC squad looks to be in very good shape returning from our training camps and we look forward to finalising the crews over the next few weeks and continuing our preparations for the Henley Boat Races. OULRC hopes to match race London RC on the 1st February and enter the BUCS Championship Head on the 15th February before racing CULRC on the 22nd March.

BEN HARROP-GRIFFITHS, OULRC President 2008-9

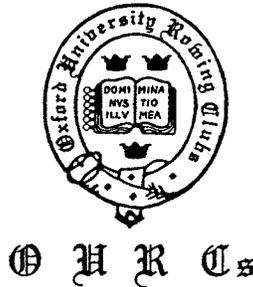
OUWLRC:

OUWLRC attended two training camps over the Christmas period. The first, a three day camp at the end of December held at Wimbleball Lake in Exmoor, Somerset. The camp was very successful and we got to know the lake and local area.

We headed back to Wimbleball again on the 2nd January for our main crew formation camp which was also very productive - a good balance of hard work and play. We did lots of video analysis, a few tough days of seat racing, and a mixture of other cross training including a day at the seaside carrying each other up and down sand dunes. Overall it was an exhausting and bitterly cold experience, our water pipes even froze over for two days which was quite problematic, but the whole squad came through it as a close-knit unbreakable unit.

The return from our winter training camps marks the start of the Boat Race term. The squad will be racing at Henley Head, Reading Head, and at the Women's Eights Head. We are currently recruiting college oarswomen to form a development 8+ to train and race alongside the current squad.

RUTH CREWE, OUWLRC President 2008-9



COUR 19.01.09: Sabbatical Report

- 1) **Swim tests:** Three mass swim tests and three capsized drills were completed last term.
 - i) There were an irritating number of people failing to attend any of these three, yet still expecting to be able to compete in Christ Church Regatta. Next year we should be very clear from the start about who can row and who cannot.
 - ii) We used the barcode reader for the first time, and experienced some teething problems. We had a significant number of Bod Card numbers that the Computing Services could not put names to. We also had a lot of people who were not on our list who claimed to have done the test. These people have been asked to re-test this term.
 - iii) We are having certain IT issues with the databases which the OURCs webmaster is looking into.
 - iv) Finally, the nature of the swim test will be changing with the publication of Row Safe. I managed to get a draft copy from Richard Stock, which included as a standard diving to retrieve an object. I e-mailed Stuart Ward to point out that this was not a standard and that it didn't really test what it set out to test, and suggested an alternative (swimming a distance underwater), which he adopted. Another change is that the treading water will now need to be for 2 minutes.

- 2) **Safety Audits:** All college and squad clubs have now completed their Safety Audits, with the exception of Oriel.

The process has raised the issue of alumni clubs, etc and whether they need to be affiliated to the ARA. The Deputy Area Water Safety Adviser listed: Balliol's Gordouli Boat Club; LMH's Cerberus BC; Worcester's Martlets; St John's Sirens and Argonauts clubs; St Anne's The Old Anne's Rowers Society; and University College's Dinosaurs. I have asked him to clarify at what point a club needs to affiliate to the ARA but have not heard back.

- 3) **Torpids** organisation has started. A review of all event safety plans is being conducted by Richard Dodsworth and myself. Suggestions from this will be fed into the Torpids

plans for this year's event. It is hoped that by the end of the academic year we will have gone over the plans for events for the Michaelmas term, and that these will therefore be in place for 2009-10.

One fly in the ointment is that the current OURCs Secretary, who was in the process of being trained up to be Race Secretary for Torpids and Eights, is now no longer going to be available during Torpids because of pressure from his supervisor. The remaining IWLs will be used to give experience to whoever takes his place.

On a related matter, there is still no structure to the Isis Winter League. This will be raised as a Discussion Point at the Captains' Meeting on Wednesday.

4) Sponsorship from Barclaycard: Barclaycard have agreed in principle. They are awaiting a list of costs from us, which depends on what arrangements we can come to with Dorney Lake.

5) Safety documentation:

- i) I have had a look through the Henley Boat Race Squad documentation and produced possible versions of the Code of Conduct and Code of Practice.
- ii) Various documents have been put up on the OURCs website to assist College Captains and Safety Advisers.
- iii) (On that last point, I have compiled a list of College Water Safety Advisers and their contact details. Some colleges clearly did not have one at the time; a few did not even know what one was.)

6) Access to the Isis: As a result of the review of event safety plans, and from having witnessed the handling of an incident at Longbridges during Christ Church Regatta, Richard Dodsworth and myself have looked into the issue of access to the Isis for the emergency services.

I contacted the colleges involved (Christ Church, Univ and Hertford) to see what access there was both for everyday training as well as during events. Christ Church seems to have porters available at all times, but the access roads to Univ and Longbridges boathouses are locked. Hertford were under the impression that ambulances carry keys to the gate, but this is not the case.

I also contacted John Price at the Isis Boathouse, and it turns out he is trying to get to grips with the same matter. He is having trouble getting permission to have an emergency gate put in next to his property.

Richard has been in contact with the local ambulance service, who have walked the river with him, and will give us a report on their needs in due course.

7) OURCs matters:

- i) Christ Church – Kellogg affiliation: Magdalen and Pembroke tabled a motion to disaffiliate Christ Church and Kellogg at the last Captains' Meeting. Given

the nature of the dispute, Colin Smith, in his role as OURCs President, offered to look into the matter and report back.

- ii) I have looked through Chapter 2 of the OURCs rules, which deals with day-to-day rowing activities, and restructured and clarified where necessary. Members of the OURCs Committee have read through my draft and offered comments, and the revised text is before the Captains at the next Captains' Meeting.

8) Matters from last year:

- i) Mark Seal has agreed to make the cannon boxes and white post for the Isis Boathouse, as well as repaint all the bungline markers.
- ii) I have tracked down Cat Stoodley from Pembroke and Hannah Ledermann from New College, who have filled in all the gaps in the women's headship crews. These now have to be engraved on the trophy.
- iii) Still to do is a valuation of the men's headship trophy.

Ben Reed

OURCs Sabbatical Officer