



Minutes for Council of Oxford University Rowing

11th May 2009, St Catherine's College 6.30pm

Present:

Rachel Quarrell (Chair)
(OUWBC and OUWLRC second
representative)

Joe Sadowski
(OULRC President)

Barbara Wilson
(OUBC Administrator)

Laurence McGivern
(Rowing Sabbatical Elect)

Richard Dodsworth
(Area Safety Officer for Sport)

Sonia Bracegirdle
(OUWBC President)

Phil Gemmell
(OURCs Secretary)

Fernanda Pirie
(OUWLRC Senior Member)

Mark Blandford-Baker
(ARA Division Representative)

Colin Smith
(OUBC President)

Ben Reed
(Rowing Sabbatical)

Apologies

John Bell
(OUBC Senior Member)

Nicole Zitzmann
(OUWBC Senior Member)

Georgie Baines
(OUWLRC Vice-President)

Paul Azzopardi
(OURCs Senior Member)

Jon Roycroft
(Director of Sport)

Donald Fraser
(Senior Proctor)

Ben Davis
(OULRC Senior Member)

1. Introduction

Rachel Quarrell chaired the meeting. She explained the nature and function of COUR to new-comers. The committee introduced itself to the new members. RQ explained that Richard Dodsworth was leaving his post. RD said that he was leaving at the end of May and that his replacement would probably be appointed in August. RQ also mentioned that Lisa Walker would be the new OUWBC Senior Member.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

Passed.

3. Squad Reports

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

- a. OUWBC
- b. OUBC

Good Boat Races, especially Isis, which included college rowers. Andy Nelder will run a Dev squad. Two 4+s or an 8 made up of members of the current squad will race at Henley Royal Regatta. Other boats may be made up from the Dev squad. A new President will be elected in three weeks.

c. OULRC

RQ congratulated the club on keeping Pedro.

d. OUWLRC

RQ noted that OUWLRC were in the middle of getting a new coach. An announcement would be made soon.

4. Rowing Sabbatical Report

This is attached at the end of the minutes.

In relation to the point about swim tests, RQ suggested looking at public pools.

Barbara Wilson said she had experienced similar problems when dealing with the Iffley pool.

Mark Blandford-Baker said that Magdalen had a lane booked which could be used. He would talk to Jon Roycroft.

RQ stressed the short time to Eights and the need to look at several avenues.

5. ARA Div Rep Report

All ARA subs and Safety Audits in on time. Last one just in before the strike-off deadline.

Got response from Stuart Ward in relation to Ben Reed's critique of Row Safe.

ARA was changing its name to British Rowing subject to approval.

New rules and classifications were in place. There had been moans at Notts City, but it was settling down now. Will get a better idea further into the season. Will happily pass on feedback.

Discussion about Row Safe:

RQ asked whether Row Safe was settled. BR said he didn't get the feeling that a revision was in the pipeline. RQ asked what elements of Row Safe would be a problem for OURCs next term. BR replied probably the first aid cover and Level 2 requirement for launch drivers. BW said that Level 2 was easy to do, and that it could be done in 2 days.

RD noted that it was hard to organise. MBB responded that it was good to do on the Tideway. RQ asked BW to give her contacts to Laurence McGivern. BR pointed out that OURCs would cover half the cost. RQ asked for this to be publicised.

6. Discussion Items

a. OURCs Race Desk

The Committee of the Longbridges Boathouse no longer wants OURCs Race Desk to be located there, so the next step forward needs to be discussed.

RQ outlined the history to this. After the fire at OUBC, Race Desk went to Longbridges. Didn't realise Longbridges were aggrieved due to the clearing up and the congestion. Paul Azzopardi was told first yes OURCs could use it this year, then no. Univ was an alternative, but there was no

shelter or storage. OURCs had been offered a tent outside. Overall Univ boathouse was not in a great position. The agreement with Longbridges had been only for a year. City Barge were keen for OURCs not to be there. A key man there, Richard Norton, had been one of the founders of Longbridges.

LM explained that he, as a member of Mansfield Boat Club, had been to see his college bursar. He had been told that it was Hertford's building. The bursars of the clubs were on the committee, as were the Presidents and others, including the LMH boatman. The bursars meet regularly, but there is also a termly meeting of the larger committee. Therefore in terms of decisions, it is hard to work out who took what.

MBB asked whether money was an issue.

RQ replied not, since Mark Seal had been asked to raise the point that OURCs were willing to pay.

MBB asked which bursar was taking the lead on this.

BR said that the Catz bursar was being proposed as the point of contact. Joe Sadowski mentioned that the Presidents of the boat clubs involved pushed the interference aspect to their clubs.

BR proposed: (i) offering to make covers for the City Barge boats; (ii) drawing up a written contract; and (iii) offering money.

JS mentioned that stuff had been left in Hertford's clubroom.

LM said that this had been moved there in order to leave clear access to the small boat bays.

RQ asked whether JS could advise PA.

JS said that Richard Norton was passionate about Hertford Boat Club, and that City Barge had stepped in when Longbridges needed a final partner. He said he could act as a mediator.

LM asked whether the last minute agreement was a trial for this term or this year.

RQ said that it was for the term, and that everything must be perfect.

b. Emergency Access to the Isis

RD explained that the Oxford Fire service came down and looked at the Isis. They decided on an RV point at the Riverside Centre. RD had also met with Paul Smith of the EA, and found that the EA procedures for emergencies on the Isis were useless. The Fire service wants one procedure, and for all boat clubs on the Isis to be on board.

RQ asked what implications this had for Eights.

BR replied that there was something of use: what information was required when making an emergency call; the co-ordinates of various locations.

RQ asked that the committee be briefed on this.

BR also explained that in addition to the one RV point at the Riverside, he and RD were trying to push for first responders to be able to be sent to other locations, namely Longbridges, Univ and Boathouse Island. He explained that the EA boat would take 20 minutes to get from Kidlington.

MBB said that he had asked whether the boat would be better located on the Isis.

JS asked whether the emergency services knew what the locations were.

BR answered that they did.

MBB offered the following contacts: Pete Graham, Mark Nixon, and John Parry.

BR said that at present the emergency services saw things from their perspective, rather than seeing what the needs of the rowers were.

7. Any Other Business

- a. RQ talked about Christ Church Meadow during Eights, in particular a letter received from Christ Church.
BR said he had already sent this round the OURCs maillist.
RQ noted especially the music from boathouses.
BR said that Worcester generally played music very loudly.
MBB pointed out that a licence was now required, and that large fines were involved.
BR said that OURCs cannot control this.
MBB wondered whether we had a duty of care.
- b. Letter from the Proctors
RQ asked where from here.
MBB suggested using the University Review of Sport.
RQ asked BR to send the letter that was sent.
Colin Smith pointed out that the Proctors changed, so this was in effect a new process.
MBB said it should be raised formally again.
RQ said she would get something off soon.
CS felt we were not bound by the letter.
RQ said there was a need to push this before 2010. She suggested going through all the lectures and find out the timetables. She asked for ideas to be sent to BR and Nicole Zitzmann.
- c. RQ asked about progress on removing the branches in Isis.
BR said he had contacted the EA.
Fernanda Pirie asked whether small stuff could be removed from the banks.
BR said he would talk to the boatmen.
MBB asked whose land the fallen tree was on.
RQ said it was probably Christ Church's.
- d. RQ asked for the reservoir to remain on the COUR agenda, and for an eye to be kept on it. Quick movement would be required.
- e. JS asked for Squad swim tests to be booked early in mid-September.
BW said that squads could join in with OUBC.
- f. Date of next meeting was set for Monday 19th October at 6.30pm.
- g. Thanks to RD, who is leaving COUR.

SQUAD REPORTS: MAY 2009

OUBC:

O UWBC:

The Women's Eight's Head was held on the 7th of March this year, and was our last major event before the Boat Race, to be held just two weeks later. Over the 7km Tideway course, the Blue Boat raced strongly to finish 9th overall, winning the University Pennant and recording a time 20 seconds faster than the Cambridge Blue Boat. Osiris also performed well to finish in 64th place, with a 9 second advantage over their Cambridge rivals, Blondie.

On the 22nd of March the crews met their Cambridge counterparts once again, this time over 2km along the Henley Reach. The Blue Boat pulled out to an early lead after 500m, and rowed strongly to ultimately finish 1 ¼ lengths ahead of the Cambridge Blue Boat. While Osiris also had the early advantage during their race, Blondie proved to be the stronger crew and rowed through to record a 1 ½ length victory.

We have just completed the first round of our Development Squad, which ran from 0th week to Wallingford Regatta last weekend. The second round of our Dev Squad will begin following Summer 8s, and is open to anyone keen to get involved and race with OUWBC over the summer. Both the Dev Squad and Senior Squad members will be aiming to compete in Reading Amateur and Henley Women's Regattas, held this year on the 13th – 14th of June and the 19th – 21st of June respectively.

SONIA BRACEGIRDLE, OUWBC President 2009-10

OULRC:

Despite lacking strength in depth OULRC managed to field two highly competitive crews this season. Nephthys, coached by Charlie Simpson, put in a good performance to come 131st in the HoRR on the 21st March before rowing over and beating a Durham Student's Rowing crew at the Henley Boat Races the following day. The Blue Boat came to Henley on the back of a morale boosting match race against Birmingham University, beating the BUCS bronze medal crew by 5 lengths at Wallingford. However the crew's technique and composure became unglued against an exceptionally strong CULRC in the Boat Race a week later, eventually losing by three lengths.

A week after the boat race many of our guys returned to prepare for BUCS regatta on 2nd & 3rd of May in Nottingham. Despite early enthusiasm for the event, injury and exam commitments meant that our crews lacked the quality and experience needed to compete for the medals. 11 oarsman took part in the event for OULRC, with our best performances being a 5th place in the final of the Ltw 8+, and a Bronze Medal for Ben Harrop-Griffiths in the Ltw Intermediate 1x. Overall a valuable learning experience for our developing squad and enjoyable trip away.

We look forward to welcoming back our coach Pedro Figueira next year and hope to build on the progress made this season. With a large number of confirmed returners we can expect a strong squad for 2009-2010 and are hell bent on victory next year.

JOSEF SADOWSKI, OULRC President 2009-10

OUWLRC:

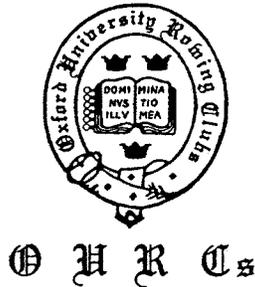
2009 has been a successful year for OUWLRC. Following our winter training camps at Wimbleball Lake, we went on to claim the Women's Senior 3 pennant at Reading University Head. Solid performances on the water were matched with achievements on the ergo; at the 2k test before the Boat Race, three athletes went sub 7:30, and the crew average was the fastest in recent years.

On the day of the Boat Race, the 2009 crew managed an easy victory of 2 ½ lengths ahead of Cambridge, in a time of 6 minutes 30 seconds. This time was fast enough to earn the crew discretionary Full Blues and is an achievement the club is proud of and demonstrates the direction we are aiming towards.

At the moment we have an active summer squad. Following the Boat Race, many of us have given sculling a try. We entered quads, doubles and singles in Wallingford Regatta and whilst no wins were to be had, the club gained a lot from the change in discipline. We have just returned from the Ghent International Regatta where we won a silver medal in the Women's Open Eights. Following this result we are considering a return to sweep for entries into Henley Women's Regatta.

Looking to the future, we are in the process of bringing together a development squad following Summer Vllls. This will aim to enter Reading Regatta and Henley Women's Regatta and form the basis of next year's squad.

GEORGINA BAINES, OUWLRC President 2009-10



COUR 11.05.09: Sabbatical Report

- 1) **Swim tests:** 250 people have been swim-tested so far this term, and there are still a sizeable number still to go. There have been problems matching the needs of the rowing community to what the swimming pool can provide. We need some time for people who are in labs/school/hospital during working hours, but the pool cannot provide us with a slot in the evening or during the weekend.

- 2) **Eights** organisation is in full swing. Most, if not all, of the preliminary jobs have been done. Of note, a meeting has been set up with Salters to continue the co-operation that Judy started last year. Also, this will be the first year of the Jones Day sponsorship, so work is being carried out on their behalf.

- 3) **Race documentation:** Over the Easter vac I went through all the OURCs events documentation (event plan, risk assessment, circulation pattern/marshalling positions, competitors' instructions, marshalling guide, umpiring guide) for Autumn Fours, IWL, Rowing On, Torpids and Eights. I will put this up on the OURCs website so that interested parties can review the drafts and make suggestions as appropriate.

- 4) **Access to the Isis:** The emergency services have proposed using CORC as the emergency RV point for any incidents on the Isis. While this would clearly make things convenient for them, I am not convinced that it would meet the needs of the rowing community, most of whom are not connected by land to this point. Richard Dodsworth and myself met with Paul Smith of the EA, who showed up the HRR plans which include several RV points along the Henley stretch. We will propose that, while CORC is the main RV point, Longbridges Boathouse, Univ Boathouse and Boathouse Island are seen as access points for a First Responder.

- 5) **Post-Eights:** I am arranging talks by headship winning coaches. Pete Sudbury has said yes, Andy Nelder has said nothing at all. I am also trying to arrange rowing-specific first aid courses to help clubs comply with Row Safe.

6) **ARA Water Safety Committee:** I attended a meeting of this committee in April, during which Incident reporting, the ARA's response to the RoSPA report, and boat buoyancy were discussed.

Ben Reed

OURCs Sabbatical Officer