



Minutes of meeting of Council of Oxford University Rowing

18th October 2010, Graham Tanner Room

List of those Present

Barbara Wilson (OUBC)
Paul Crewe (OULRC)
Ben Thurston (OURCs)
Raegan Shayler (OUSD)
Lucy Mase-Robinson (OURCs)
Aimee Campbell (OUWLRC)
Connie Spoor (OUWBC)
Ben Myers (OUBC)
Paul Azzopardi (OURCs)
Lisa Walker (OUWBC)
Fernanda Piri (OUWLRC)

1. Apologies For Absence

Jon Roycroft (OUSD)
Mark Blandford-Baker (British Rowing)
Ben Davies (OULRC)

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

Minutes were approved.

3. Squad Reports

a. OUBC

Good start with a big group. Completed first lot of 5k testing. A few people are attending upcoming GB trials. Then focus is on fours head.

b. OUWBC

OUWBC has had a good start to 2010-2011 season with better numbers than this time last year, and a lot of enthusiasm from the squad and coaches. New head coach Mike Genchi is settling in well and doing a great job.

So far, the only race Osiris has competed in is the Wallingford Long Distance Sculls. Kathryn Twyman and Ellie Piggott came first in the elite doubles category, with Kathryn going on to win the elite sculls category as well. Ellie put in a strong performance in the intermediate sculls coming 2nd. Silvia Breu performed well in the novice category, especially considering it was her first time racing in a single.

Plans for the immediate future are to enter two doubles into Pairs Head. After this the main focus will be Fours Head, for which we are planning on entering a quad and at least one 4+.

We will also be entering boats in the IM3 category of Vets Head the day before as an alternative for those without the requisite points.

c. OULRC

Season has begun with a large squad. Probably the result of a successful summer squad. Have had one cut already. New coach (Ben Reed), coached dev squad in the summer too. Stronger squad than in past few years. 4 pairs entered in the pairs head.

d. OUWLRC

I am pleased to report that OUWLRC has had one of the most successful summers it has had in a very long time. Since the last meeting, we have sent crews to Henley Women's Regatta, Henley Royal Regatta and the European Universities Championships. At Henley Women's Regatta the Lightweight pair made it through four rounds to the final, eventually being beaten by a very experienced Irish pair. OUWLRC's composite boat with OUWBC, earned one of the 4 unseeded places in the Remenham Cup in the Henley Royal Regatta qualifiers, beating 11 other domestic and international crews. However drawing the Dutch National squad, fresh from success at the World Championships, proved too much, meaning an early exit before the Semi-finals, however having representation at this regatta was a huge achievement in itself. We ended our season sending an Eight and a Quad to the European Universities Championships in Amsterdam, where we won Gold in the 8+ and bronze in the 4x. I would like to say a huge thank you to OURCs for giving us the financial support to make this trip possible.

4. Rowing Sabbatical Report

Good start to the term, including running a coaching seminar to try to promote college-squad relations. Some problems with passing over of key information from last rowsab.

5. BR Div Rep Report

In Marks absence Barbara reported on possible change to British Rowing points applied to OUBC Boat Race crews. The proposal is that members of the Blue Boat and Isis be given 12 and 6 sweep rowing points respectively.

General discussion suggested that this seems arbitrary and potentially unfair on some rowers, particularly those in Isis who have come from college rowing.

6. Discussion Items

1. Swim Test Report

Following the last meeting of COUR Barbara, Raegan and the Rowing Sabbatical tasked with coming up with a new swim test procedure.

Raegan: All tests in first week to prevent people rowing before having been swim tested. External company completed tests to ensure independent and kept exactly to British Rowing advised test. Had a 4% failure rate last year, this year 8%. At least 20 of those that failed couldn't swim at all. The evenings themselves ran very smoothly and we had no complaints about how they were run.

Discussion about failures. This year sent email to captains on evening of test to let them know who failed and that these people cannot row. It was very clear to the individuals

that they had failed. Next year we will have a system to email the individual to tell them that they failed and therefore cannot row.

Discussion about whether people should go out on the river at all without swim tests, even for taster sessions. That the rules should be made clearer. Taster days are much better manned, with experienced rowers and bank riders. Suggestion that making people swim test before the taster session will impact the number of people rowing. There shouldn't be holes in the system, just leaves us open if something happens.

Lucy to look at costing of lifejackets.

Lucy and Raegan to look at rules and how they are communicated.

2. Senior Members Meeting

Paul A: Nothing official, just to give Senior Members an idea of what is involved and the safety systems that are in place. Ensure they are well informed and understand that they are part of the chain. Invite SM's to meet Paul, Lucy, Ben, Mark, Jon, Raegan and Senior Member's of squads.

Paul C: Noticed his college Senior Member has become more involved since last years meeting.

Date for meeting: Thursday 4th November 5:30pm-7pm in the Ruskin Lane Room at Worcester College.

3. OUBC Rowing Points

See BR Div Rep Report

7. Any Other Business

Paul C and Raegan: Discussion of compliance.

Scheduled Restrictions:

Lisa: seems unfair that undergrad colleges can't row between 8:30am and 1pm on weekdays.

General discussion that the afternoon isn't used much anyway so there isn't really a case for changing it. Generally any discussion of change goes down badly with Proctors and Senior Members.

Ben: We're getting more issues with other local clubs wanting us off the river at certain times, this currently helps with that.

Vortex Blades:

Discussion about whether they are safe and how they have changed over recent years. Need a reason to change the rule.

Next COUR Meeting: Monday 24th January 6:30pm

Lucy to try and get a larger room but still at the sports centre.