



Minutes for Council of Oxford University Rowing

22nd October 2012, Dodgson Room, Christ Church, 7.30 pm

1. Present

Paul Azzopardi [Chair]	(OURCs Senior Member)
Fernanda Pirie	(OUWLRC Senior Member)
Barbara Wilson	(OUBC Administrator)
Jon Roycroft	(Director of Sport)
David White	(Area Safety Officer for Sport)
Ian Maconnachie	(Sabbatical Officer for Rowing)
Alex Davidson	(OUBC President)
Bridget Fryer	(OUWBC President)
Benjamin Walpole	(OULRC President)
Aislinn Brown	(OUWLRC President)
Michael Pontikos	(OURCs President/Secretary)
John McManigle	(College Representative)

2. Apologies for Absence

Ben Davis	(OULRC Senior Member)
Lisa Walker	(OUWBC Senior Member)
Mark Blandford-Baker	(BR Division Representative)

3. Minutes of Last Meeting

Not available. If made available, they will be sent out.

4. Squad Reports

Apologies from IM for not allowing enough time for squads to send in reports to be circulated beforehand.

a. OUBC

We have had a promising start to the season for the OUBC, with a large number of returning guys and a healthy influx of talent from overseas, as well as several people from last summer's dev squad programme putting themselves forward for selection. The team is coming together well and we are all relishing the challenge of the season ahead. Although we unfortunately could not put crews out for the jubilee regatta due to an unfortunately timed spate of illness at the beginning of last week, we will be out in force for the fours head before looking on to trial VIIIs.

b. OUWBC

There has been a lot of change for OUWBC over the past few months. Most importantly we have hired a new coaching team. Our new Head Coach is Christine Wilson who has moved over from Canada. She has coached for the US women's Olympic team and also at a number of US universities. It's fantastic having her onboard and in just a few weeks she has made a huge impact and been very well received by the squad. We are also looking forward to our new assistant coach, Natasha Page arriving this week. Natasha raced in the GB women's eight at the London and Beijing Olympics.

A squad of about 30 rowers and 5 coxes began training with OUWBC on the 15th September and we have since made our first cuts down to 22 rowers. It's a strong group with a good number of returners, a number of experienced undergraduate and postgraduate freshers and some talented college girls from our easter and summer development squads. After a lot of technical work on the water over the first few weeks we are had our first race at the Diamond Jubilee Champs at Dorney on the 22nd October. One eight was entered. We placed 3rd in Elite W8+ behind the GB eight for the European Championships and Molesy and won the pennant for top university with a time of 6.57. Cambridge entered 2 eights into the same event.

Unfortunately both myself and my Vice President have had to withdraw from trialling this year. Myself due to injuries and the vice due to work, we are still discussing what our next steps will be in this respect.

c. OULRC

We've now settled to a final squad of 19 rowers and 3 coxes. Though we'd hoped to have a few more guys at this stage, the guys we have are training hard and progressing nicely - we think we are ahead of where we were this time last year both in the the gym and on the water. The basic programme is now up to 12 sessions/week, with a small group doing extra sculling sessions in the hope of going to GB U23 trials at the end of this month. Four of this group (including myself) went to the Diamond Jubilee Regatta at Dorney in a straight four in order to gain eligibility to trial. We were pretty pleased with how we raced on an uncharacteristically flat day at Dorney, finishing 28/40 of all 4- after clinching a couple of photo finishes. Aside from the trials, the main focus at this point in the season is in preparation for Wallingford Head (Sun 9th), which will be the first racing for most of the squad, and the first real indication of how we're doing. After that we will continue training in Oxford after the end of term until Trial VIIIs, and then will be heading off on training camp to Sicily to bring in the New Year.

d. OUWLRC

OUWLRC is now 7 weeks into the start of the 2012-2013 season. We began the year with a very successful pre-season sculling camp in the September sunshine. This camp was aimed at getting our novice scullers competent to train in singles and doubles and means that the majority of our current squad are now making use of our fleet of sculling boats.

The squad is currently the largest OUWLRC has seen in recent years with twenty rowers and three coxes. We have benefited from two volunteer assistant coaches, Jill Betts (Blue Boat 2011 and 2012) and Toby Reinicke who have joined us recently working under head coach Chris O'Hara. There has also been a change to the Executive Committee with the reappointment of a new Vice President, Katherine Rollins after the previous Vice President resigned due to a number of other commitments.

Despite some problems with illness and injury training has started well for the squad. A number of our experienced scullers raced at Wallingford Long Distance Sculls, with good results all round, most notably from Jess Hudson who was the fifth fastest W1x, beaten only by a handful of

national level athletes. The whole squad is currently in preparation for Upper Thames Head on Sunday 28th October and further head races planned are for the rest of term (including Kingston Head and Wallingford Head).

OEWLRC's training camp this year will be split into a short Wallingford based camp in early December and the main training camp over the New Year period, when we will be returning to Coimbra in Portugal for the second year running.

5. Rowing Sabbatical Report

Michaelmas Term swim tests saw 1,616 people take the test, with 135 failing, for a failure rate of 8.35%, slightly lower than last year. The lower end seemed to have improved since last year. Numbers were about the same as last year, which is encouraging since the flag has been very unhelpful.

Flag is proving a problem since construction by Hinksey weir has made it much more sensitive. Construction due to finish in a week or so, but it is being delayed in high stream. Flag went up to red on Saturday of 0th week, getting in the way of lots of college taster days.

Measures may need to be taken in order to safely run Autumn Fours and IWL A, since crews will have had limited water time, if they run at all.

6. BR Division Representative Report

Mark Blandford-Baker not present to give report.

7. Safety

a. Conduct of cyclists on towpath

College Deans receiving complaints about conduct of coaches on towpath.

IM circulated email to OURCs asking clubs to remember that the towpath is a public right of way.

b. Foliage on towpath

It was noted that the foliage along the towpath had become very overgrown, such that it had become a safety issue, with the towpath being too narrow and coaches having to peer over it, not looking where they are going.

IM to look into possible solutions to this. OURCs may be able to pay for outside help, or University may look to support.

8. Any Other Business

a. Boats out on Red flag

BD heard boats had been seen out on the Isis on Red flag. IM pointed out that this was likely to be boats that aren't pushing off (as a makeshift tub). IM pointed out that if they boated it would be a major transgression and that the club would be punished appropriately.

OURCs to monitor.

b. Tank

It was noted that tank usage is high during MT but peaks when the river is high flow and novices can't go out. It was also noted that the tank had flooded when a coach took it upon themselves to turn the tap on.

c. COUR reporting structure

COUR reporting structure to University lost over recent years. It was suggested at the Sports Safety committee meeting to invite a representative to their meeting in MT, but not as a member. The exact person was left to COUR to decide. It wouldn't take effect until next year.

JR to look into.

d. Registered coxes for the squads

IM asked squads why no coxes had been registered with RQ for this year. As it happens, only OUBC have a new cox.

IM to find out if OUBC's new coxswain needs to register.

9. Date of next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would be at 7:15pm on Monday 28th January 2013, to follow after the OUBC Trust Fund meeting.