



Council of Oxford University Rowing

Minutes from the meeting of the Council on **Tuesday 3rd February at 8pm in the Summer Common Room at Magdalen College**

Those present: Ben Davis, Jon Roycroft, Nanda Pirie, Paul Azzopardi, Mark Blandford-Baker, Barbara Wilson, Constantine Louloudis, Anastasia Chitty, Joanna Green, Andy Saul, Stuart Walter, Tom Stewardson, Joe Hitchen, Will Clarke

Apologies for absence: Sir John Bell, Lisa Walker

1. Report of the meeting held in MT 2014

No particular comments on anything not discussed later in the meeting.

2. Matters arising, not covered elsewhere in the agenda

~ Action arising from the last meeting

a. Senior Umpire Feedback Report

SW – Went through each element of the report written by RQ, going through the changes which have been and will be made.

Isis Summer League contingency now written into the IWL event plan to be used in the case that a number of IWL races have to be cancelled.

Torpids contingency at Eton Dorney investigated and outline plan made

Moored boats given more warning about Torpids so they could move earlier if it looked like Yellow Boards were imminent – unsure how successful this would have been as many moved very late.

Division sizes to be looked at this summer, looking to reduce the number back down one if it is felt crews at the bottom of the ladder are not sufficiently competent.

3. University Squad Reports

No comment on reports

4. Rowing Sabbatical Officer' Report

No comment on report

5. Terms of Reference

- **Particular discussion of a river/rowing safety expert to join committee**

Documented in separate paper

6. OU Sports Safety Subcommittee

SW to attend meeting and report on the year and any ongoing issues

7. Rowing Safety

- MTM Feedback

Keble – For infractions including boating a non-senior crew in amber flag, boating an X-status cox in amber flag, a novice failing to take a swim test and participating in well over 5 outings and a cox without a life jacket in IWL B the penalties were as follows: £250 fine, forced to rewrite safety plan, safety meeting with RQ attended by significant majority of the boat club, equipment check at both boat houses Page 4 of 4 and a suspended ban from all rowing of an indefinite period upon any future safety breach until the end of the academic year. Coxes involved downgraded to N-status for fixed period.

Exeter – For boating an X-status cox in amber flag a fine of £25 (meeting also involved suspicion of nonsenior crew, was found to not be the case)

Balliol – Cox boating without a life jacket - £50 fine

Importance of Senior Member involvement discussed as they should keep an eye on how clubs are run.

OURCs to request SM signature on affiliation forms for 2015/16 academic year

PA to find the Exeter College Senior Member

- Changing the Godstow Amber Flag rule

Approval to change the rules at Godstow to allow X-Status coxes to go out under amber flag, each boat must be accompanied by a launch regardless of coxes status

Godstow has experienced very few safety incidents in memory, none caused by high stream

OURCs to monitor situation with remit to repeal the amendment if it is found to be inappropriate

8. Isis Towpath

Shrubs – Agreed a year ago that the hedges should be removed

Council have not cleared as we would hope. **PA and OURCs to investigate options (maybe talk to the Walter Sayer at Parks Authority)**

9. British Rowing Divisional Representative's Report

MBB no long divisional rep for UT1, Andy Weeks from CORC has taken over

Still a rep at TRRC, needs to be reflected in 'Terms of Reference'

BD or PA to formally introduce COUR to Andy Weeks

New BR CEO, Andy Parkinson.

Clubs to be encouraged to look at changes to Rules of Racing

10. Any Other Business

Still no definitive answer to who owns the tow path. Discussions with council will be on going
Circulation of council PSPO proposal, general agreement but some concern as to the allowed temporary mooring area in 'the gut'. **RQ to discuss with council**

Cheney School, new club affiliated with BR. Volunteer coaches from OU. **Discuss with press office?**

11. Date of next meeting

Provisional date of 12th May at 8pm – Serious problem matching staff and student schedules to find suitable time.



O U R C s

Council of Oxford University Rowing

Amber Flag rule change-

From: Amber Flag (3 bucks at Osney Lock, 1½ bucks at Godstow Lock or at the discretion of the St Edward's

School Boatman): The Godstow stretch is closed to all College crews except Senior crews as defined in 2.7. The river is closed below Rainbow Bridge. Navigation of Osney Lock is prohibited.

To: b. Amber Flag (3 bucks at Osney Lock, 1½ bucks at Godstow Lock or at the discretion of the St Edward's School Boatman): The Godstow stretch is closed to all College crews except Senior crews as defined in 2.7 **with the exception that experienced status coxes may be used. All crews must be accompanied by a launch. The river is closed below Rainbow Bridge, crews should spin no lower than the sailing club unless landing at the Keble yard. Navigation of Osney Lock is prohibited.**

This has passed a Captains' meeting vote

Reasoning –

As Godstow is much quieter than the Isis (and is limited by the number of boats St Edwards School allow) there isn't the same maneuvering requirement on crews.

The following launch allows better coaching supervision which isn't possible on the Isis

No stream related incident reports on the Godstow reach for many years suggesting we are over cautious here

Would allow clubs to train more in safe conditions