



Council of Oxford University Rowing

Unconfirmed minutes of the meeting held on **Wednesday 26th April** at 5.00pm in the **Griffiths Rooms, 11 Norham Gardens.**

Present:

Chair: Dr Nanda Pirie (OUWLRC Senior Member)
Barbara Wilson (OUBC Administrator)
Jon Roycroft (OU Director of Sport)
Will Frost (OURCs Secretary)
Tom Coles (Rowing Sabbatical Officer)
David White (OU Sports Safety Officer)

Apologies:

Dr Paul Azzopardi (OURCs Senior Member)
Dr Ben Davis (OULRC Senior Member)
Sir John Bell (OUBC Senior Member)
Dr Lisa Walker (OUWBC Senior Member)
Jameson Lee (OURCs Captain of Coxes)
Henry Shalders (Captains' Representative)
Mark Blandford-Baker (Thames Regional Rowing Council Representative)
Michael diSanto (OUBC President)
Dr Isabell von Loga (OUWBC President)
Rowan Arthur (OULRC President)
Alba Pellerogue (OUWLRC President)

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 1st February [Paper 1]

The minutes of the meeting held on 1st February were agreed, subject to minor amendments.

2. Matters arising

~ Action arising from the last meeting

Lights: OURCs will speak with captains. [**Action: TC**]

Foreign Training Camps: TC to liaise with NP to ensure advice sent out [**Action: TC, NP**]

Terms of Reference: agreed to amend the draft to refer to the Thames Regional Rowing Council Representative, rather than the British Rowing Representative.

3. Rowing Sabbatical Officer's Report

The report was noted.

4. Rowing Safety

The risks posed by punts and pedalos on the Isis was discussed. TC to talk with Magdalen Punt Company to encourage them to advise those who hire punts about the circulation pattern and the dangers of possible collisions, and to advise them to stick to the Christ Church Meadow bank and head up the Cherwell. **[Action: TC]**

TC and WF to remind college captains about punts on Isis. **[Action: TC + WF]**

5. British Rowing Rules of Racing

MBB asked that OURC remind captains about changes to British Rowing Rules of Racing.

[Action: TC + WF]

6. Update on the Houseboat Situation (TC)

TC reported on the situation. TC to remind captains and his successor of the importance of keeping OURCs informed about any incidents and to report serious matters to the police.

[Action: TC]

7. Any Other Business

Council expressed concern at low attendance.

TC and WF to make it clear to the next Captain of Coxes and Captains' Representatives that attendance is important. They were also encouraged to create hand-over notes for their successors and to attend the next meeting, in MT, if possible. **[Action: TC, WF]**

8. Date of next meeting

5.30pm Wednesday 11th October.

Agreed to make 5.30pm Wednesday of 1st week the default date for meetings.



O U R C s

Council of Oxford University Rowing
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Confirmed minutes of the meeting of the Council of Oxford University Rowing, held in the **University Club** at **5pm** on **Wednesday 1st February 2017**.

Present

Chair: Dr Nanda Pirie (OUWLRC Senior Member)
David White (OU Sports Safety Officer)
Gary Stephens (OU Sports Services Manager)
Jon Roycroft (OU Director of Sport)
Paul Azzopardi (OURCs Senior Member)
Barbara Wilson (OUBC Administator)
Alba Pelleroque (OUWLRC President)
Tom Coles (Rowing Sabbatical Officer)
Will Frost (OURCs Secretary)

Apologies

Mark Blandford-Baker (BR Representative)
Jameson Lee (OURCs Captain of Coxes)
Sir John Bell (OUBC Senior Member)
Dr Lisa Walker (OUWBC Senior Member)
Dr Ben Davis (OULR Senior Member)
Henry Shalders (College Captains' Representative)
Rowan Arthur (OULRC President)
Michael diSanto (OUBC President)
Dr Isabell von Loga (OUWBC President)

MINUTES

1. The minutes of the meeting held on 25th October were agreed.

2. Matters arising

JR confirmed to the council that Gladstone PLC are to install Bod Card scanners in the new updated sports department, which is expected to aid in swim tests.

3. University Squad Reports

No comments.

4. OURCs Reports

Rowing Sabbatical

OURCs were advised to take a look at the relative seriousness of their fines for lights compared with other sanctions. **[Action: OURCs]**

The Council considered a report tabled by TC concerning a crash involving a St Catherine's boat and a houseboat (paper 7). The Council approved OURC's proposal to test klaxon procedure with marshals and urged them to examine the process for briefing marshals. **[Action: OURCs]**

5. Foreign Training Camps

In response to a query raised by St Antony's, the Council agreed that it should give some general guidance to colleges concerning their responsibilities for safety on foreign training camps and the fact that Proctors' approval was not required for camps held outside term-time. It was agreed that TC should draft advice to this effect, to be sent to all captains after approval by the Chair. **[Action: TC, NP]**

6. OUWLRC pool time

OUWLRC tabled a paper expressing concerned about the lack of pool time to conduct capsized drills and the large waiting lists that were building up. It was agreed that this was a safety issue. TC said he would be meeting with the pool manager and would endeavour to arrange for another capsized drill in Hilary Term, and three in Trinity Term.

[Action: TC]

7. Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference, as amended, were agreed.

8. Timing of COUR meetings.

The Council agreed that COUR would meet in 1st week each term, in order to be able to submit its minutes to the Sports Safety Subcommittee in 2nd week.

9. Houseboats

TC tabled a paper concerning several incidents involving anti-social behaviour by residents of houseboats on the Isis (see paper 6). City of Oxford Rowing Club (CORC) had contacted TC and were keen to gain COUR's support in this matter.

PA explained that the council have been aware of this issue for some time, but that the landowners are ultimately responsible for moving the houseboats on. PA to speak to domestic bursars of relevant colleges.

[Action: PA]

The Council felt that it should be on the consultation list for the draft Public Spaces Protection Order currently being considered by the City Council and should liaise with CORC about this.

[Action: NP]

10. Ruling on Code of Conduct 2.6.13 - Ice

OURCs and the Senior Umpires suggested a change to the rule forbidding rowing in the event of any ice on the Isis, in order to allow rowing on sections not affected by ice. The Council approve the idea and decided that this should be a matter for the college captains. TC agreed to draft a proposal to put before the college captains. **[Action: TC]**

11. OU Sports Safety Subcommittee

PA confirmed that he had been present as COUR's representative on the SSC.

12. Date of next meeting

5.30pm on Wednesday 26th April 2017.

Squad Reports - Paper 2

OUBC - Michael DiSanto

We had a very productive training camp in France. The squad is now back at Wallingford with a few days at Caversham now that the lake is not frozen. We have another round of testing coming up in a week's time. Overall the guys are excited and have bought into the training programme. The first of three pre Boat Race fixtures is at the end of the month against Oxford Brookes.

OuwBC - Isabell von Loga

Since my last report, we have competed at 4s Head where we won a pennant in the elite coxed 4s, coming ahead of Cambridge in that category. We also competed in Trial VIII's, which was a tight race that saw us finishing 0.7 seconds apart. One of our athletes went to GB trials in December. We were on training camp in Sabaudia, Italy, with 20 rowers and 3 coxes where we produced a lot of mileage preparing us for the races ahead and also started seat racing in order to establish a first Blue Boat and Osiris order. Camp was a very helpful time in order to get in the mindset for the important weeks to come. We are now in the run up phase to the Boat Race. Most of our training from now on will continue to be in these initial combinations to start getting

more mileage in our 8s. At this stage we are a squad of 23 athletes and 3 coxes. Coming up we will have several training weekends at Dorney as well as on the Tideway to establish further rankings as well as getting more racing experience. We also have several fixtures coming up as preparation for the Boat Race, which will take place on the Tideway.

OULRC - Rowan Arthur

Since my last report the squad has made reasonably pleasing progress. After a period rowing in matched eights in preparation for Trial VIII's we split into a 1st and 2nd VIII and took part in a number of head races towards the end of Michaelmas term. The top VIII performed solidly, however it struggled to find the same easy rhythm and cohesion it had enjoyed early in the season. Due to financial constraints we decided to hold training camp this year at Wallingford. This was a great success, with near perfect weather and very manageable river conditions. By the end of camp good strides had been made forward, and we were close to a provisional selection for the top VIII. We have a busy schedule of racing in the weeks ahead, and will be competing in fixtures with London RC, Quintin BC and Nottingham University amongst others.

OULRC - Alba Pellerogue

We entered two crews at 4s Head in IM2.4+ finishing 10th and 22nd (from 48). Our Elite LW4x was scratched due to injuries and illness. Our coaching team was strongly of the view that the athletes who participated to 4s Head had gained much from racing in this event. On the 11th of December took place our Trial Eights at Henley. Liberté beat Egalité by 1 and 3/4 lengths in a time of 6.32. It was a very useful race experience for all, which included a mock weigh-in requiring athletes to hit individualised weight targets.

Our training camp was again held in Laias, in the Galicia region of Spain for 10 days. Although a little chillier than expected on some days, the weather was brilliant - no rain, almost no wind and usually sunny in the afternoons. Water conditions were consequently perfect. Facilities at Laias Caldaria are world-class. Four coaches attended as well as one massage therapist. There was an increased emphasis on small boat training this year, helped by the advantageous conditions. Pairs

training culminated in a Pairs Matrix. There were also two sessions of seat racing in coxed fours. Two of our athletes will go to the second GB Trials assessment on the 11th of February.

Looking forward, we have fixtures arranged for both eights (provisional Blue Boat and Tethys line-ups) against Lady Eleanor Holles School (22 Jan), Headington School (29 Jan and 25 Feb) and Molesey Boat Club (18 Feb). A mini-camp at Lake Wimbleball has been arranged for the Blue Boat on 10 - 12 March.

OURCs Reports - Paper 3

Rowing Sabbatical Officer - Tom Coles

Swim tests continue to be run with a similar failure rate to last term, the final planned swim test of term was held on Sunday. There may be one more if there is significant demand.

Last term we had 16 incidents in training of which I was notified through the British Rowing Incident Reporting system, none of which qualified as serious or required medical attention. Jameson has kept records on which coxes were involved, and delayed assessments and upgrades as necessary.

There were two incidents requiring medical attention during Christ Church Regatta, both minor: one competitor had to go to hospital due to a cut on her hand which could not be stopped at the river, she came back the next day to report that she was feeling much better. Another girl received a gash on her knee while retrieving her boat and was again treated by medical personnel, she went on to race safely.

During OURCs-run events, we have had one minor incident and one major incident. The minor incident occurred during Isis Winter League A, when a Pembroke crew proceeding downstream to the start had a minor collision with a motorboat which they had been unable to see; nobody was injured and they went on to race safely. During Isis Winter League C, we had an incident (witnessed by Ben Davis) where St Catherine's collided with a motorboat; fortunately no-one was injured. My incident report for British Rowing is attached as Paper 7. In order to prevent this from happening again, all marshals are to be refreshed on the klaxon procedure before the start of racing in order to prevent such a late klaxon, and new klaxons are to be purchased to avoid any possibility of an equipment failure (although I should stress this was not the case this time).

In terms of major transgressions, we have had 17 instances of coxes being caught without lifejackets. In cases where this was a club's first offence, this was treated by inviting captains to a meeting with myself and a standard £50 fine. In cases of second offences, the fine has been doubled to £100. In the two most recent incidents, both of which were third offences, this will result in a whole club safety meeting with myself and Rachel Quarrell (Senior Umpire). Experienced coxes caught without a lifejacket are temporarily demoted to 'novice' for up to 4 weeks depending on prior behaviour. The Senior Umpires have also confirmed to me their intent that anyone caught without a lifejacket during bumps will be removed from racing as this is a national legal requirement. Myself and Jameson are working to make sure that this does not happen further.

There were two other Major Transgression Meetings: one to check over St Catherine's swim test policies (which are being improved, pending the approval of their Senior Member and will then be submitted to Paul Azzopardi for approval) and one for St Anne's and St Peter's for transiting a lock when the Environment Agency were displaying red boards, for which both clubs

were fined £50. This is to be accompanied by e-mails from myself to all of the OURCs mailing lists and put up on the website designed to help people transit locks more safely. Torpids Event Plans will have been submitted to the Proctors prior to the meeting and be pending their approval.

Captain of Coxes - Jameson Lee

Michaelmas term went mostly smoothly, with no serious incidents. There were a few minor incidents which were dealt with by having a talk with the relevant captains and coxes. There was also an increased spate of no lifejackets, which RQ and I think was just an anomaly last term as nothing was done differently in the last. Nevertheless we have increased the emphasis on lifejackets at the registration briefings. No incidents were brought to my attention by Christ Church regatta's organisers. About 70 coxes registered at the beginning of this term, about the same number as previous years. An incident with St. Catherine's College is still being dealt with at the time of writing.

Secretary - Will Frost

IWLs A, B, and C were a great success, with four full divisions racing for the most part smoothly and orderly. The administration side pre- and post-racing was optimal in all three cases, although of course we noticed small things out that we can improve upon (for example, making the marshal briefings more interactive). However, there was a safety concern in IWL C. A houseboat drove down the course during a race and collided with a college rowing boat, causing great damage to the rowing boat. The Rowing Sabbatical Officer dealt with the incident in a professional and efficient manner, and is in the process of following up the incident with those involved. Looking towards the future, IWL D is well over capacity, and crews are being cut by an agreed system. The Race Secretary for IWL D is Cameron McGarry, OURCs OCM. We anticipate a similar scenario for IWL E, but history shows us that this is nothing out of the ordinary. The Race Secretary for IWL E is yet to be decided. Entries for Torpids will open on Monday of 4th week.

In other news, the new entries website is online and proving to be very success, and three more people have joined the OURCs Committee (one, Scott Houghton, is the Rowing Secretary from 2013-2014).

Updated TsOR - Paper 5

Council for Oxford University Rowing (COUR) Terms of Reference

To be reviewed annually at the first meeting of the Calendar Year.

Composition

- (1-2) Senior Member and one other nominated representative of OUBC
- (3-4) Senior Member and one other nominated representative of OUWBC
- (5-6) Senior Member and one other nominated representative of OULRC
- (7-8) Senior Member and one other nominated representative of OUWLRC
- (9-10) Senior Member and one other nominated representative of OURCs
- (11) OURCs Rowing Sabbatical Officer*
- (12) OUBC Administrator
- (13) Thames Regional Rowing Council Representative
- (14) University Sports Safety Officer
- (15) Director of University Sport
- (16-17) Up to two co-opted members, with the recommendation that one should be the OURCs Captain of Coxes, and the other should be a College Boat Club Captain nominated by the OURCs captains at the first Captains' Meeting in Michaelmas Term.

*The Rowing Sabbatical Officer elect may attend meetings in Trinity Term as an observer.

*The Sports Services Manager may attend as appropriate in his/her role supporting the Rowing Sabbatical Officer

Remit

COUR shall oversee all aspects of rowing associated with the University, such as governance, strategic development, organization, safety, communications, and public relations, and shall offer recommendations on such matters to the University or to individual clubs as appropriate. COUR's role is advisory in all matters except those relating to rowing safety where its rulings are binding.

Reporting Structure

COUR shall report to the Sports Safety Sub-Committee of the University Sports Strategy Committee. The Chairman of COUR or their deputy shall be invited to attend at least one meeting of the Sport Safety Sub-Committee each year.

COUR shall receive reports from the University Squads, OURCs, the OURCs Rowing Sabbatical Officer, and the British Rowing Representative.

Meetings

Meetings shall normally be held once per term in the 1st week.
The quorum is five members, including at least two Senior Members.
The chair shall rotate annually amongst the five Senior Members, handing over at the start of Michaelmas Term. The default order of rotation is OURCs, OUWBC, OUBC, OULRC, OUWLRC.
The Rowing Sabbatical Officer shall act as the administrative officer for the committee.

[Paper 2]

Rowing Sabbatical Officer's Report

Since the last meeting, we have held two Isis Winter League events and Torpids.

Isis Winter League D was very nearly cancelled as rainfall caused the stream to increase to red flag, but the flag status dropped to amber on the morning and therefore the decision was taken to run the event as planned, which allowed us to give many more coxes the opportunity to run in high stream conditions as well as training our launch drivers ahead of Torpids. Isis Winter League E was comparatively a far simpler affair and largely passed without incident.

Torpids was all in all a great success, with only a handful of incidents: one crew became stuck in a tree, necessitating help from our medical launches, but were retrieved safely; we also had one ejector crab (which I witnessed up close as I was coaching the crew they were chasing); the young lady was retrieved from the water and warmed up back at St Hilda's boathouse. There were also a handful of crabs that caused minor injuries; most of these were dealt with on site by Epione, one girl had to go to hospital where she received treatment for a sprained wrist.

We have increased our medical cover by arranging for a paramedic (provided by Epione) to be present on site for all eight days of Bumps. This allows us to have further leeway before an ambulance or a hospital visit would be required.

Summer Eights is due to be held in 5th week and the event plans have been submitted to the Environment Agency, the Proctors and the Sports Safety Officer for consideration.

Tom Coles