



O U R C s

Captains' Meeting Agenda
Thursday 6th Week Trinity Term 2008
8pm, Pembroke College

1. **Apologies For Absence**

Tom Chapman
Tom Fowler
OUBC

2. **Minutes Of The Last Meeting**

Available At (<http://www.ourcs.org.uk/?content=ourcs/captains%20meetings/index.php>)

3. **Matters Arising**

4. **Rule change**

To be written down in the Minutes an explanation of the following:

- When Oriel first knew that Olly wouldn't be rowing on Thursday - how various people knew that this was the case on Wednesday evening and even more on Thursday morning.
- Why Olly Moore was not rowing; where he was during the course of Thursday.
- When the substitution was first put in
- Who accepted the substitution, and whether they knew about HBW's experience
- Why when Oriel boated did race desk think that it was the cox who was the substitute
- Why RQ had not been informed of any of this at the time.
- Why various OURCs members were overhead hoping that ChCh would bump Oriel so that controversy could be avoided

Further points to address - the true 'exceptionally' of these circumstances given that Olly is now back in the boat, and given that illness is hardly an exceptional happening. Compare to the 'sudden injury' listed in the rules.

Proposed: James Green (Pembroke)

Seconded: Hunter Harris (Balliol)

Oriel were asked if they wanted to comment and said that all the information was in the SUs' memo after Thursday's decision and that any further questions could be directed to their Senior Member.

DP explained that the request was first put in at 17.07. 3 neutral members accepted the substitution and were fully informed of HBW's previous experience (nb – this was not required at the time by the rules but common practice. JG pointed out that she was not on the race committee that allowed the substitution). A marshal was relaying a message over the radio and mistakenly thought it was about a cox substitute. RQ wasn't informed because it's not common procedure. All race committee decisions are made by race

committees alone so that in the event of an appeal the SUs can remain neutral. As it happened RQ was aware of this as it had been discussed over the radio. DP assumed this last point was about him as he, being from ChCh would have happily seen them bumps. However, just because the committee knows something to be controversial it doesn't make it wrong – klaxons, three ways bumps etc are all controversial.

TC (ChCh) asked why it was that OURCs were seen on the Island having seemingly changed their minds before boating. JG replied that given the confusion over the radio, members not at race desk for the substitution were given the impression that Oriel had withheld information about HBW's previous experience and therefore misled the committee. It later became clear that this was not the case, it was a mis-understanding over the radio that led to the confusion.

- Why is this being brought up?

- Because there have been five different versions of the events and it important to have the facts before making the rule changes.

Change in rule G 5.3 :

From;

In exceptional circumstances (e.g. sudden injury) the Race Committee may permit substitutes not allowed by G5.1, but only if the proposed substitute does not represent an enhancement to the crew. It is the responsibility of the person making such a substitution to alert the Race Committee to the fact that the substitution is being made under this rule.

To;

In exceptional circumstances (e.g. sudden injury) the Race Committee, if they wish to, may permit substitutes not allowed by G5.1, But only if the proposed substitute does not represent an enhancement to the crew.

- Such substitutes to be bound by the same eligibility requirements as the crew with the exception of B3.2
- It is the responsibility of the crew to seek permission from the Race Committee prior to boating
- If a rower in the college's lowest boat is injured, and both associate member slots are in use, another associate member will be permitted, provided that the captain of the relevant college has demonstrated that all other options have been exhausted (e.g rowers available from women's boats), they do not represent an enhancement to the crew, and at the discretion of the race committee.
- If a college's lowest boat is its first boat, and is in a fixed division an associate member will be permitted, provided that the captain of the relevant college has demonstrated that all other options have been exhausted (e.g rowers available from women's boats), they do not represent an enhancement to the crew, and at the discretion of the race committee.
- In the event of an associate substitute, he/she must provide a summary of his/her previous rowing experience. If the substitute is judged by Race Committee to represent an enhancement to the crew, the substitution will not be allowed.

Proposed: James Green (Pembroke)

Seconded: Hunter Harris (Balliol)

JG asked in what circumstance, under the new rule, the committee would 'wish' to not permit an extraordinary sub. MH (Magd) replied that it was in a case like Thursday where the committee should have used their common sense and not allowed the sub. JG replied that the committee are not permitted to go make decisions that break the rules purely in the interest of fairness (it was requested that this be minuted). After much confusion over the question and some overly heated discussion it was agreed that the point of the rules was to safe-guard from abuse and there was no need for the discretion of the committee in allowing the sub or not. The rule was amended to remove 'if they wish to' and replace 'may' with 'shall'.

The word 'extraordinary' was explored and deemed that it didn't need to be extremely sudden, given that an injury on Wednesday of a first eight member could legitimately require a second eight sub all week –

which would be extraordinary each day. It was agreed that 'extraordinary' should be left to the discretion of the race committee, for example a tute with knowledge three weeks in advance or injury a week ahead probably wouldn't count as extraordinary whereas illness the night before or a sudden academic commitment probably would count.

Similarly 'enhancement' was discussed. It was agreed that it was practically impossible to accurately test an enhancement (eg a member of a beer eight might well be faster than a first or second eight rower) and that it was therefore the responsibility of the college to divulge all relevant information and for OURCs to assess the information. It was suggested that OURCs err on the side of caution in this matter. It was also agreed that enhancement meant an enhancement to the crew's speed over when the person subbing out is in the boat at his full potential. It was agreed to not add any clarification to either of these two issues but to trust that the OURCs committee would only allow the sub if they are convinced the two issues to be true.

The start of the rule now reads 'In exceptional circumstances (eg sudden injury) the Race Committee shall permit substitutes...

1 against (on Saturday of eights, in the event of injury or illness the only choice would be to use a 'probably already drunk' member of the BC)

3 abstentions

53 for

Motion passes overwhelmingly

Addition to rule G5

G5.4 - Substitutions made under G5.3 will be publicised at the time the race committee decision is made. All crews in the effected division must be informed, at the latest before the 5 minute gun. This will normally consist of announcement over a public address system
(Note: at St Antony's boat house the PA system can not be heard).

Proposed: James Green (Pembroke)

Seconded: Hunter Harris (Balliol)

New college noted that announcements of the PA greatly disadvantaged their crews as they missed important announcements. The overwhelming response from other captains was 'how else is it supposed to be done'.

It was discussed at length whether an announcement was needed as according to the rules, announcing the sub would mean there was only 10mins to appeal from the first announcement. It was also noted that appealing after racing would mean that the crew that has justly raced because they have been permitted by the RC would be penalised for the RC's mistake.

To ensure as many people as possible hear the announcement within good time to dispute the rule has been amended to read:

All crews in the effected division must be informed between an hour before the start and the 5minute gun. This will normally consist of announcement over the public address system. In this instance the extraordinary substitution can be appealed up to 10mins after the results for the division have been announced.

5 against

0 abstentions

52 for

Motion passes overwhelmingly.

Addition to rule G5

G5.5 - The exceptional circumstances form must be signed, timed and dated by the OURCs members approving the substitution

Proposed: James Green (Pembroke)

Seconded: Hunter Harris (Balliol)

*DP acknowledged that this happened already so there was a move to vote.
Motion passes unanimously*

Addition to rule G5

G5.6 - All exceptional circumstances substitutes and regular substitutes published online for each day of racing and exceptional circumstances substitutes archived online for future references.

Proposed: James Green (Pembroke)
Seconded: Mark Haden (Magdalen)

JG asked the proposer and seconder why this was being requested. JG (Pemb) replied that it was as a record of what exceptional meant.

Discussion amongst the captains agreed that given that the outcome cannot be changed past midnight and that all circumstances are different, it would be better to ask the committee if in doubt rather than require the committee to put these online.

*4 abstentions.
53 against
Motion fails overwhelmingly.*

Change in Rule G2.8

From;

Any member of the race committee may make a decision under rules G5.3 (substitutions), G8.2 (registration of disputes), and G8.3 (action to be taken upon the registration of a dispute). Decisions made under rules B11 (technical bumps), B12 (penalty bumps), B13 (row overs), B5.4 (time penalties in Rowing On), B5.5 (time bonuses in Rowing On), and F4.5 (time penalties in Autumn Fours) shall be made by three neutral members of the Race Committee with an appeal lying only to the Senior Umpire in accordance with G8 (disputes procedure).

To;

Any member of the race committee may make a decision under rules G5.1 and 5.2 (ordinary substitutions), G8.2 (registration of disputes), and G8.3 (action to be taken upon the registration of a dispute). Decisions made under rules G5.3 (extraordinary substitutions), B11 (technical bumps), B12 (penalty bumps), B13 (row overs), B5.4 (time penalties in Rowing On), B5.5 (time bonuses in Rowing On), and F4.5 (time penalties in Autumn Fours) shall be made by three neutral members of the Race Committee with an appeal lying only to the Senior Umpire in accordance with G8 (disputes procedure).

Proposed: James Green (Pembroke)
Seconded: Hunter Harris (Balliol)

This was deemed by OURCs to be a very sensible change and in fact, was already common practice. There was a move to vote.

*1 abstention
56 for
Passes overwhelmingly.*

Addition to rule G2

G2.9 - In the event of 5 or more Captains appealing a SU decision, a Captains' Appeal Meeting must be called at 9am before the next day's racing to decide the issue, at which the Captains of the boat clubs with crews racing in the division in question must be present.

Proposed: Mark Haden (Magdalen)
Seconded: Hunter Harris (Balliol)

This motion was withdrawn.

To be discussed:

Actions resulting from the disclosures made at the meeting.