



O U R C s

**Captains' Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday 5th Week Hilary Term 2009**  
**8pm, Balliol College**

1. **The Chair**

The OURCs Secretary, Phil Gemmell, was in the chair in the absence of Colin Smith.

2. **Minutes Of The Last Meeting**

Available at (<http://www.ourcs.org.uk/files/file/minutes/CM3minu~f11.pdf>)

3. **Matters Arising**

4. **Explanation of the Entries System**

The OURCs Webmaster, Tony Harris, explained that the Bod card numbers entered for each competitor needed to be the same in the Rower Database and the Swim Test Database. Often people lost their Bod cards and received new ones with different numbers, or received a new number when they changed course. In these instances it was vital to contact both the OURCs Webmaster to change the Rower Database and the Rowsab to change the Swim Test Database. If there is a problem with an entry, the Bod card number is the first thing to check.

TH said that he would set up a dummy event on the website, so that people could check their rowers and coxes for red lights in relation to swim tests before making an actual entry, and try to resolve the problem earlier rather than later.

Finally, TH explained that names needed to match the university system. The entry system validates names of competitors against the University Contacts Search. If the names do not tally there will be an issue. So he advised that for each new rower and cox, the captains searched for that person on the University Contacts Search ([http://www.ox.ac.uk/applications/contact\\_search/](http://www.ox.ac.uk/applications/contact_search/)), then entered the person using the name given there.

5. **The Chair**

David Pallot pointed out that Phil Gemmell was seconding a motion coming up on the agenda, at which point the OULRC President, Ben Harrop-Griffiths, took the chair.

6. **Explanation of the Swim Test Database**

The Rowsab, Ben Reed, noted that a lot of competitors were coming up on the entry system as not having done a swim test, when they felt they had. He explained that this was because of one of two reasons. Either they had done the test when the Bod card scanner was used for the first time, and, either because the rower didn't present their card or because the scanner didn't record the card, they had not been registered as having passed. Or they had done their test before the Swim Test Database had been systematically compiled, in which case the only records would be the paper records kept in lever-arch files in the Rowsab's office. Some of these had been tracked down and entered, but those who could not be found would not be. BR acknowledged that these latter people had been allowed to race in previous events, something he couldn't explain, having not been in Oxford at the time, but that they shouldn't have been, and most likely were given amnesties in the

past. He stated that he didn't want anyone not to race because of this confusion, but that it should be the case that everyone who competes in OURCs events should have passed a swim test, or be able to provide other evidence to show swimming ability, such as a diving, life-guard or swimming qualification or certificate. There were only about 10 people still outstanding, so he was prepared to allow captains to take signed statements of swimming ability from the people involved, after which they would be temporarily put on the Swim Test Database. He stressed that they would be removed from the database after Torpids, and that everyone would have to be on the database for Eights.

## 7. Squad Reports

### a. OUWBC

Preparations for the Boat Races were in earnest. The crews were announced:

Blue Boat:

Bow Felicity Shelley (St Anne's)

2 Liz Murphy (Somerville)

3 Nicole Scheumann (Lincoln)

4 Emily Hooton (SEH)

5 Harriet Keane (Merton)

6 Sonia Bracegirdle (Merton)

7 Phoebe Sanders (St John's)

Stroke Lucy Mase-Robinson (Mansfield)

Cox Cath Murphy (Green-Templeton)

Osiris:

Jo Williamson (Balliol)

Christina Schoenbach (Balliol)

Bridget Staunton (Harris-Manchester)

Martha Swales (Mansfield)

Gbemi Coker (Pembroke)

Ellen Morgan (Linacre)

Lucy Ventress (Wadham)

Aelwen Weatherby (Balliol)

Alex Thomas (Oriell)

The crews were going to be racing at Reading and the WHORR.

A Dev squad is going to run next term. Captains were asked to e-mail if any of their athletes were interested. There would be talent spotting at the river during Torpids. There would be a meeting at the end of term.

### b. OULRC

BHG said that the club was still selecting coxes. BUCS Head had been cancelled, but they were going to race London and UCD in the coming weeks.

### c. OUWLRC

BR read a statement that the President had resigned and that a replacement would be appointed according to the club's constitution.

## 8. Transfers

### a. Daniel Johnson from New College to Pembroke College (to TT 2011)

Applying under C6.4.b – typically allowed

"Dan was an undergraduate medic at Pembroke, and coxed the Pembroke first Torpid and Eight in 2008. He is now doing his clinical studies at New, but would like to continue to cox for Pembroke in the future."

Proposed: Thomas Wood (Pembroke)

Seconded: Sean Nash (New)

1 against

2 abstentions

**Transfer passed.**

### b. Gabrielle Harrison from no college to Balliol College (to TT 2009)

Applying under C6.4.d – typically allowed

"She was completing a DPhil at Balliol last year and rowed in the 2nd Eight in Torpids and the 3rd Eight in Summer Eights. She is now a member of university staff and an honorary MCR member, she would like to continue to row with Balliol and would not be in our 1st Eight."

Proposed: Beverley Pannell (Balliol)

Seconded: David Pallot (OURCs)

0 against

5 abstentions

**Transfer passed.**

c. Corey Dixon seeking exemption from C6.1.a (to TT 2010)

"We would like to change Corey's status so that he is eligible to row for Oriel. He has been elected President of the Union so has officially suspended his studies. He will, however, continue to live in college accommodation for the duration of the year, studying (in his own time) for his course. He still holds a valid BOD card and also has the job of student bar manager during this time."

Proposed: Phil Clausen-Thue (Oriel)

Seconded: Phil Gemmell (OURCs)

Corey Dixon introduced himself and pointed out that he was still in college accommodation, and still attending tutorials. He is employed by the college as bar manager for 20 hours a week. He wanted a chance to row in Torpids.

Balliol, Men confirmed that this would be in the 1st VIII.

BR pointed out that this was not being applied for according to any rule. As such this was not a transfer, but something that the rules specifically banned.

CD stressed that he was barstaff.

Balliol, Men said that this was getting round a rule, that there must be other people in this position, and that it shouldn't be allowed.

St Peter's, Men said that this was a special case and therefore a valid exception.

DP asked about the status of other sabs.

BR replied that sabs of a university organisation could compete in BUCS events, but that the Oxford Union was not recognised as a university organisation.

Oriel, Men pointed out that CD's case was like that of Malcolm Spencer.

DP said that the decision was also affected by the quality of the rower.

Trinity, Men high-lighted the fact that Malcolm Spencer was stroking the Catz 1<sup>st</sup> VIII.

Keble, Men said that he felt that the rules were to prevent Olympians, and that actually this participation should be encouraged.

Chris Cooper said that each transfer should be judged on its merits, not on precedent.

Hertford, Men disagreed, stating that the ability of the rower was not relevant, and that there should be one set of rules for everyone. In this case he felt there was a clear link to the college, so it should be encouraged.

36 in favour

15 against

9 abstentions

**Transfer passed.**

**9. River Closures**

a. Oxford-Cambridge Medics Boat Race

Request for river closure on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May from 5.30pm to 6.30pm to allow for side-by-side races from Longbridges to the Head.

Proposed: Greg Petros (OURCs)

Seconded Ben Reed (OURCs)

CC asked that this be e-mailed around to captains.

Greg Petros said this was Saturday of 2<sup>nd</sup> Week.

0 against

1 abstention

**River closure granted.**

**10. A.O.B.**

- a. Trinity, Men pointed out that on the entry lists Exeter M1 had an associate member in, which was against the rules.

DP suggested this was most likely an IT problem.

Exeter, Men confirmed that it was.

- b. BR pointed out that St Hilda's was entering a Men's crew in Torpids for the first time, and that there was a precedent in 1996, when Somerville went mixed, for the crew to be placed at the bottom of Men's Div 4.

CC asked what would happen to the crew they displaced?

BR said that they would have to row on.

St John's, Men said that they had originally expected to have to row on anyway, and were only in the fixed divisions because Osler House had withdrawn.

DP noted that St Hilda's had entered a Men's crew in an OURCs event already, in Eights 2005.

BR explained that the bottom of Div 4 put them behind all other 1<sup>st</sup> Vllls.

Tony Harris noted that Regent's Park were lower, being at the top of Div 6.

BR and BHG suggested tabling a motion that St Hilda's would be put in below the lowest college 1<sup>st</sup> Vlll.

TH pointed out that Div 6 was a Rowing On division anyway, so that even if this occurred they would still have to row on.

- c. BR pointed out that the Captains' Meeting before Torpids was usually held on the Friday evening to announce the Rowing On results. New technology meant that this did not require a meeting, and that holding the meeting before Rowing On allowed last minute transfer requests to be discussed. He asked whether captains were happy for the meeting to be moved to Thursday in future, which they were.