



# CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY COMBINED BOAT CLUBS

First Captains' Meeting of Easter Term  
Goldie Boathouse, Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2009, 6pm

## MINUTES

**Present:** Ian Thompson (**IT**), Karla Borland (**KB**), Thomas Walton (**TW**), Chris Kerr (**CK**), Mark Stringer (**MS**), Dan Wilkins (**DW**), Will Richards (**WR**), Chris Nilsson (**CN**), College Captains

1. Apologies for absence had been received from St Edmund's women, Homerton women, Christ's women, Pembroke men, Jesus men, Fitzwilliam men, Emma women, Robinson men and Pete Convey.
2. The minutes of the previous meeting were available online. No amendments were proposed.
3. **IT** introduced Chris Nilsson, the new CUBC Head Coach.  
**CN** said that he wanted to CUBC as a pathway to international rowing for athletes. He said that CUBC Dev Squad would be starting on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May for any prospective CUBC triallists, with the possibility of a pathway to a CUBC crew at HRR for exceptional athletes. He assured captains that Dev Squad rowers would not be taken out of college boats, and said that, in his view, Blue Boat and Goldie rowers should row for their colleges, but he obviously couldn't make them.

**IT** said that all the University clubs have the same problems of recruitment that college clubs have, so captains should encourage rowers to trial.

4. **IT** said that CUCBC bills should be picked up after the meeting; the payment deadline is 15<sup>th</sup> May.
5. The members of the CUCBC committee announced the upcoming elections:  
**DW** and **WR** announced that a new webmaster had been appointed.  
**KB** promoted the position of CUBC Honorary Secretary, which she highly recommended, being heavily involved with the CUBC and with college rowing. Anyone interested should contact her; the date of the election was to be decided.  
**TW** plugged the CUWBC Honorary Secretary election, for which nominations closed the following Thursday.  
**CK** said that the CULRC Honorary Secretary election would happen in the first half of term but details were to be confirmed.  
**MS** said that the election for Coxing Rep would take place at the pre-bumps meeting, and encouraged anyone suitably experienced to stand.

**IT** re-iterated the importance of people coming forward to take on these important roles.

6. **TW** gave reminders for Small Boats Regatta, in particular reminding clubs that they were required to provide marshals as per the rota, and to inform him if there were any late scratches.
7. **IT** said that the deadline for Bumps entries and entry fees is the 15<sup>th</sup> May.  
**WR** said that it was important for new captains to make sure they had access to their club's CUCBC accounts, and should keep the Club Information Form up-to-date. Captains should email the Web Team if there's a problem but don't leave it to the last minute.  
**CK** said that when filling in the Bumps programme, rowers should only be marked as lightweights if they raced Oxford, not just for trialling!

**IT** said that the GoR will be on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June, with 100% refund for scratches 48 hours before, 50% refund 24 hours before, and 0% within 24 hours. The Pre-Bumps meetings will be on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June at the Engineering Department.  
Exceptional rowers need to be declared by Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May.

8. **TW** reminded captains that evening hours start this week, that early morning noise was still a problem, especially with the lighter mornings, and that crews should be careful not to injure wildlife.
9. **IT** reported that the Senior Committee had met the previous week and that Pete Convey had been in contact with the CRA regarding weekend rowing restrictions. The Senior Committee had proposed to make the removal of restrictions in the vacation permanent, but not to abolish restrictions inside Full Term, instead changing the restrictions to allow college rowing from 11am and request that inexperienced CRA crews try to avoid the evening hours in Easter Term.

There was general agreement with the proposals.

**Someone** asked whether there was a practical benefit to these proposals given the number of races at weekends.

**IT** said that it was not an enormous change in Michaelmas and Lent terms but was more so this term. He suggested we could allow rowing all day on Saturday if there was a CRA event on the Sunday.

**WR** said that, as the author of the original weekend rowing proposal, he thought this was a sensible compromise from the Senior Committee, and recommended it be approved.

**IT** proposed that the weekend rowing restrictions be amended with immediate effect to allow college rowing after 11am on both Saturdays and Sundays during Full Term, with rowing being permitted all day on a Saturday, at the discretion of the Executive Committee, on any weekend when a CRA race on the Sunday is likely to substantially restrict college crews' access to the river. *[Note: original minutes here were unclear – an amendment has been made.]*

**Trinity Hall men** agreed, and said this was preferable to the current Easter Term arrangement.

**Sidney women** said their club had already made coaching plans for before 11am on Saturdays this term and this would adversely affect them if they were forced to change it.

**IT** proposed that an exemption be made for Sidney Sussex between 8.30am and 11am this term only, and asked if any other clubs had similar problems.

*The proposal was passed unanimously by Captains.*

10. **IT** explained that the Senior Committee was originally set up to help Pete Convey with longer-term rowing issues, and provide continuity. However, more and more demands are now being made of the Senior Committee, by the University, the Sports Syndicate, the Cam Conservators and the City Council. There is a tension between CUCBC being responsible *for* college rowing and just facilitating rowing on the Cam.

The Senior Committee currently has no possibility of stopping Captains voting in breach of University or ARA regulations, which could be a problem if CUCBC is held to be at all liable for clubs' behaviour. Furthermore, captains currently don't elect any of the Executive Committee directly. The Senior Committee suggested that a number of captains could be elected to the CUCBC Executive Committee, changing the relationship between the three committees, where the Executive Committee becomes more of a working body, bringing proposals to captains.

**Downing women** said that captains were already very busy and asked how much workload these captains would have.

**IT** said that responsibility would be shared out, and the workload need not be excessive, but it was a valid concern.

**Selwyn men** said that if committee elections were a problem, a captains' veto could be added to Hon Sec elections.

**IT** said that would require changes to the University Boat Clubs' constitutions; **CK** added that this might not be well-received and it could further discourage people from running for these positions.

**IT** said it was likely that a Senior Committee veto would have to be put into the CUCBC Constitution at some point in the foreseeable future.

**TW** explained that part of the purpose of electing these captains would be to represent the captains to the committee and vice-versa, so there was more understanding on both sides, which could reduce complaints.

Someone suggested that in that case there could be a Captains' representative on the CUCBC Exec to solve that problem.

**IT** said that that was a valid suggestion; **TW** added that the relationship between the three bodies would then be more like it is at present.

**Magdalene** said they thought CUCBC was possibly doing more than it needed to do, with all clubs being independent ARA member clubs, and possibly the solution was to reduce this role. **IT** said that the ARA would much rather talk to CUCBC as a representative body than to all the clubs directly, whether we like it or not.

**WR** commented that, having been both a captain and on the CUCBC Exec, there have been benefits to the group of clubs working together, for example still being allowed early morning outings.

**IT** added that the continuity of the Senior Committee compared to the changing committees of college clubs helps, in particular ensuring the safety of college-run events.

*[There was a general feeling that finding people, particularly Captains, willing to join the CUCBC Exec would not be straightforward.]*

**IT** said that this subject would be brought up at a future date.

11. **IT** said that there had been an increasing number of requests for amalgamations of small clubs. Lucy Cavendish and Hughes Hall women had been given permission to merge for the last few years but this situation needed to be formalised. Questions that needed to be decided include under what circumstances mergers would be allowed and when they would be required to stop.

Hughes Hall women said that their merger had had substantial benefits. Their 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lent VIIIs had both included four members from each college, and forcing them to row as one VIII for each would have meant that several people would not have rowed due to the poor quality: having two eights made the difference. They also said that they had merged their finances so splitting again would be very problematic.

First and Third men noted that this only really applies to Bumps, as composite crews can enter other races as they wish. Smaller clubs were disadvantaged at present but merging could change the character of Bumps competition.

Trinity Hall men said that there were two separate issues: clubs struggling to put a single boat out and clubs wanting to combine simply to become more successful, which needed to be treated separately.

IT agreed that the two issues were separate and encouraged captains to discuss this before a future meeting.

12. **Any Other Business**

**KB** and **TW** reminded clubs that they must get permission from CUBC and/or CUWBC as appropriate before rowing in Ely.

**TW** reminded clubs about river closures for Small Boats Regatta.

**IT** reminded clubs to keep a watch out for the Georgina this term.