



CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY COMBINED BOAT CLUBS

Captains' Meeting

Sunday 22nd April 2012, Robinson College

Minutes

Present: Holly Hedgeland (HH, chair), Dan Wilkins (DW, minutes), Tom Grimble (TG), David Lambert (DL), Fran Knight (FK), Mat Bryan (MB), Philip Garsed (PG)

Apologies: Chris Balmer, Mark Jacobs, Mark Varley, Dominic Silk, Christ's Overall Captain, Churchill Overall Captain, Churchill Men, Corpus Christi Men, Fitzwilliam Women, Girton Men, Magdalene Women, Pembroke Overall Captain, Pembroke Women, Peterhouse Men, Peterhouse Women, Robinson Women, Sidney Sussex Women, Trinity Hall Women, Wolfson Overall Captain, Wolfson Women

Philip Garsed thanked the Captains for the support offered to Clare Boat Club over the past few days in light of the recent tragedy resulting in the death of their first men's cox on the way to their training camp.

1. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the Lent Term Captains' Meeting (26 February 2012) are on the website and were approved by the Captains. There was one matter arising (see below).

2. Lent Bumps

HH stated that in general people (and the CUCBC Committees) were unhappy with this year's rescheduling of the women's divisions of the Lent Bumps to allow for WeHoRR on the Saturday. Having only four divisions on the Saturday (and no women's headship race) was anticlimactic, particularly with the large number of spectators and alumni. **Downing Women** supported this as the headship crew, not being able to race on the Saturday with parents and alumni spectating.

HH and the Senior Committee have discussed other options and have investigated moving the Lents one week later when there is a clash with WeHoRR (the Senior Tutors' Committee would oppose moving it two weeks to the end of the Lent Term). The Captains, in general, favoured this option more in the future, however it was noted that having WeHoRR the

week before the Lents would discourage crews from entering where they are tapering towards the Lents.

The issue will be revisited the next time the Lent Bumps clash with WeHoRR.

3. Bills

The Easter Term bills were distributed and are due for payment by the Mays entry deadline of 18th May.

4. Small Boats Regatta

HH announced that due to scheduling conflicts and the restrictions on the river closure, the race schedule for next week's Small Boats Regatta would need to be altered and all competing crews should be aware of schedule changes.

It was queried why one of the Caius pairs was not allowed to race this year. DW/FK confirmed that there was no competition for them in the Magdalene Silver Pairs event they wished to enter and they were ineligible for the Foster-Fairbairn Pairs having won the event before. Since they entered after the deadline, it was not possible to accommodate them by moving competitors up to the Magdalene Silver Pairs event (and it is unfair to move only some of the competitors from one event up).

5. May Bumps

DW announced that the May Bumps 2012 would take place Wednesday 13th to Saturday 16th June. The deadline for entries is **Friday 18th May**.

The entry fee will be increased this year to reflect the Conservancy event fees effective since 1st April. The entry fee will be confirmed this coming week and entries will be opened on the website then. An e-mail will be circulated to announce this. All entries must be submitted and entry fees as well as the Easter Term bills must be paid by the entry deadline. Cheques should be payable to "Cambridge University Combined Boat Clubs" and sent to Tom Grimble, CUCBC Junior Treasurer at Robinson College.

In addition to submitting entries to CUCBC, Captains should also submit crew lists and other content for the Bumps Programmes by the same deadline. The link to the website will be circulated by e-mail.

5.1 Emergency Stop Procedure and Horns

DW announced that the Chief and Deputy Chief Umpires have decided that rather than using an electronic siren (which was proving ineffective), air horns will be used to signal emergency stops to Bumps divisions.

In light of this, all air horns, hunting horns and devices which sound like horns are forbidden on the towpath for use by bank parties. Bank parties may signal to crews using bells and whistles only. Captains were asked to make sure coaches and others bank partying crews in their club were aware of this. Crews whose bank parties inadvertently stop divisions by using horns will be severely penalised.

5.2 Fines

DW announced that the Chief and Deputy Chief Umpires have decided (in light of the apparent increase in dangerous coxing in the Lents) that the maximum fine for variable-penalty offences (dangerous coxing, failure to clear, failure to hold it up, *etc.*) will be increased to £75.

First and Third Women asked why this was still less than the fine levied for crews caught urinating in public (£85). DW answered that this £85 fine is set to be in line with the fine a police officer would levy *each individual* (rather than the crew as a whole) who was caught committing this offence and is only levied upon crews who make no attempt to conceal themselves or attract complaints from members of the public.

6. Evening Rowing

DW reminded Captains that during Full Easter Term, the evening hour restrictions were in place on week days.

- Early Hour: 5:30pm - 6:30pm
- Changeover: 6:30pm - 7:00pm
- Late Hour: 7:00pm - 8:00pm

The only crews permitted to row between Chesterton and Baitsbite Lock between during these times are first VIII's and VIII's in first and second divisions of the May Bumps. IV's comprising rowers eligible to row in the evening hours may use the changeover period to get downstream of Baitsbite Lock but may not be between Baitsbite and Chesterton during the restricted hours.

The evening hour restrictions come into force on Tuesday 24th April and for the first week, the early hour is women's hour and this alternates week-by-week. The timetable is available on the website.

7. Pressure Over the Lock

HH reminded Captains that crews should not practice pieces or row at full pressure past the moorings below Baitsbite Lock (both the motor boat club at Waterbeach and the moorings at

Horningsea). The river is quite shallow here so rowing VIII's cause a substantial amount of wash which causes moored boats to rock a lot. DW said that there had been complaints of VIII's causing injury to owners of these moored boats, not least when one person ended up with their arm crushed between the boat and the bank.

8. Incident Reporting

DW reminded Captains that incident reports should be submitted via the British Rowing website for serious incidents resulting in injury or damage to equipment. Incident reports should not be submitted for blade clash, novice scullers capsizing or, in one case, getting bumped! (the offending club was not named).

9. The Swan

HH noted that the aggressive swan has recently been attacking people, rather than just boats, and now poses a substantial risk to scullers who could capsize and if attacked while in the water, could drown. This has been passed to the Health and Safety Officer of the Cam Conservancy.

The Cam Conservancy had been intending to move the swan, however had applied for the licence from Natural England too late as it is now the nesting season. However, CUCBC and the CRA have put in an appeal to Natural England to relocate the swan for the protection of people as well as the swan himself.

HH asked captains to report any incidents involving the swan to herself (chair@cucbc.org), Mark Jacobs, CUCBC Safety Advisor (safetyadvisor@cucbc.org) and Pip Noon, River Manager (river.manager@camconservators.org.uk) and also advised that coxes wear enough layers to protect themselves.

10. CUCBC Committee Positions

DW announced that with the May Bumps and the end of the academic year fast approaching, we are looking for next year's CUCBC Committee. There are a number of positions available:

- CUCBC Honorary Secretary (elected by the Captains at the May Bumps meeting)
- Junior Treasurer (co-opted by the current committee)
- Events Secretary (co-opted by the current committee)
- Coxes' Representative (elected by the Coxes at the May Bumps meeting)

DW encouraged the Captains to consider applying for positions or to circulate details to those in their clubs who may be interested. Getting involved in the CUCBC Committee is a

fun and rewarding way to give something back to College rowing. An e-mail with full details of the positions will be circulated in the near future.

CUBC, CUWBC and CULRC are also, separately, electing their Honorary Secretaries. Details will be circulated by e-mail.

11. Date of the Next Meeting

The next Captains' Meeting will be the Sunday before the May Bumps (10th June).