

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY COMBINED BOAT CLUBS

MEETING OF THE CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY COMBINED BOAT CLUBS 15th Jan 2005, Goldie Boat House

Present: Ian Thompson, Jude Lawson, Sam Farmer, Tabi Hutton, Kenrick Turner, Alex Summers, College Captains

Apologies: Queens Men, LMBC Women, Tit Hall Men, Hughes Hall Men, Lucy Cavendish, Sidney Women, Selwyn Men, Pete Convey

MINUTES

1) Minutes of last meeting

Are available online in pdf format. There were no objections or additions to those of the last meeting. Contact **JL** if you have any comments on the minutes, or need a copy.

2) Upcoming Events

-**AS** plugged this year's **Small Boats Regatta**, taking place at the beginning of Easter term.

-It includes a variety of events for both scull and sweep oared small boats at several different levels and over different distances.

-More details will follow soon, but **AS** advised that scheduling requests should be made early in order. The deadline for entries will be April 15th.

-**AS** is also co-ordinating entries to this year's BUSA regatta, and would encourage a large entry from college crews, as previous entrants have performed well.

-**Newham Women** entered Intermediate Viii's last year and would encourage other crews to do the same, as college viii's are more than capable of competing at this level.

3) Bills

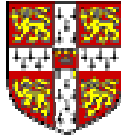
-**SF** drew attention to the deadline for payment of bills to CUCBC which will be the 3rd of Feb (Lents Entry deadline) and also requested that any queries regarding bills be addressed to **IT** before 21st January.

4) Weekend Rowing

-Current regulations are: That college rowing is permitted after 12 noon on Saturday and Sunday through Michaelmas and Lent Terms, and all day on Saturday but not on Sunday through May Term.

-**IT** thanked **Jesus Men** for raising the point, and invited captains to suggest any changes to the current system, which the committee can then raise with the CRA and Town Clubs. Currently the main problem seems to take place in Michaelmas and Lent Terms when both town and college crews attempt to get out on the water at the same time making it more busy than some early mornings.

-**Suggestions and points made by various college captains:**



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-**LMBC Men** Asked if it was necessary to have any restrictions out of term time. Given the low number of crews, it would be possible to have unregulated weekend rowing outside of term time.

-**Jesus Men** pointed out that town crews seem to rarely use the river on Sunday, whilst the time before 12 noon was rarely used on Saturday, and suggested that perhaps some time could be made available for college crews to go out on Sunday. **JM** also suggested that it would be useful if the town crews informally agreed to avoid rowing at those times when college crews are allowed out.

-**Churchill Women** – In Michaelmas term it gets dark very early, condensing the time when college crews can get out.

-**Newnham Women** – Perhaps competent crews (for example those allowed out in Mens/Womens hour) could be allowed out for some time on Sundays, during May term, or to row through regattas or other events over the lock, or a little earlier on those days when rowing is restricted to the afternoons.

-May term is generally not too problematic.

-**Pembroke Men** – Having Sunday off in Easter term is a positive thing, it allows for one definite one day off in the week which is useful for work.

-**Pembroke Women** – Agree that Sundays off in Easter term is perhaps not something that needs to be changed. The problem is with Michaelmas and Lent term, where longer hours are needed at the weekend.

-**Christ's Men** – questioned the usefulness of Saturday mornings given that many students have lectures at this time anyway.

-**LMBC Men** – Town crews value their time at the weekend and frequently send out a high number of novice crews. It is definitely worth trying to find a time which town crews will avoid so as to reduce congestion.

-**Churchill Women** – Drew attention to the importance of having safe times when small boats can go out. Currently it is very dangerous for college scullers to scull during the college hours at weekends due to the high volume of crews out.

-**IT** thanked captains for their comments which will be considered by the Senior Committee. Please contact him/the committee if you have any additional points or concerns.

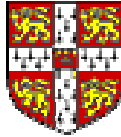
5) Early Morning News

-**IT** reminded captains to be quiet in the mornings. This is particularly important in the latter stages of the term when crews boat increasingly early.

-Cox boxes must not be used for anything other than essential calls until crews are downstream of the railway bridge until 7:30am. Remember that on light mornings it is possible to get a complete run in before 7:30 so when spinning at the P&E/returning home, cox box usage/coaching from the bank would have to be limited to essential calls only.

-**SF** may a plea for early morning marshals to please turn up (preferably 10 minutes early). Where possible, a competent person should be sent. It is an important job, and needs to be done.

The marshal rota kicks in on Thursday 19th February.



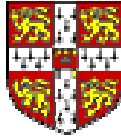
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6) Lent Bumps

- SF** is doing the majority of the organisation and paperwork for this event.
 - MARSHALS**- Are required. The number per college relates to your number of crews. Colleges who fail to send marshals, or who sent incompetent people, will be fined. Repeat offences will lead to **HEAVY** fines.
 - UMPIRES**-Please contact **SF** if you are interested in umpiring, either as an SU or JU. The latter need no experience of umpiring. It's a fun job, you get a chance to see bumps behind the scenes and a free dinner. It's also a vital job, so it is important that captains encourage some of their more experienced rowers to get involved.
 - EXCEPTIONAL ROWERS**- **IT** needs to know about these soon. Any students can row, as can fellows/staff, **WITH PERMISSION**, in boats lower than the 2nd division. Any one person can only row for one college; they have to make a decision and stick with it.
 - NOVICES**- No crew may have more than 2 'novices' in it (i.e. people who learnt to row this term), and each crew must have 10 outings prior to the bumps.
 - FEES**- Need to be paid to **JL**. The entry fee is £37 per crew, and needs to be paid by 3rd Feb, along with all outstanding bills. My pigeon hole is at Pembroke.
 - ENTRIES**- The online entry system will be live soon. Captains should already be registered to the site. Secretaries may also register.
 - RESULTS**- **KT** explained that CUCBC will be teaming up with FaT in order to offer a quicker results service. A results page will also be provided for college website webmasters.
 - PHOTOS**- Many people take photos of bumps. CUCBC.org now has a gallery page- it would be good if photos could be uploaded to this, or links supplied to this page so that the system is centralised.
 - PROGRAMMES**- The deadline to get crew lists in the programme is the 2nd of Feb. It is better to have an attempt at your crew than to not enter anything at all, and it is possible to enter more than one person for one seat, or a squad, so that all names are included. Any enquiries about this should be directed to **SF**.
 - INSURANCE**-Each college abides by its own accidents. CUCBC does not cover damage to boats.
- IT** reminded captains that it is the responsibility of captains to organise their own insurance, and that any claims should be handled at Senior Treasurer level.
- GETTING ON RACE**- Will be on the 24th Feb, with divisions at 2pm for Men, and 3:30pm for women.
 - DIVISION TIMES**- Will be the same as last year. **SF** will contact captains with details of this in due course.
 - COXES**- **TH** made a plea to captains to exercise good judgement in allowing people to cox crews. Coxes for bumps need to be competent.

7) Shameless Plugs for other events

- PEMBROKE REGATTA**-The best and biggest on-Cam regatta of the year. The regatta is on the 18th February (expect an all-day river closure). Forms will be out soon. Winners win pots.
- ROBINSON HEAD**-Is on Feb 10th, with events over the full course for 4s and 8s.



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-NEWNHAM SHORT COURSE- Gives crews at all levels a chance to race over the bumps course. Winners also get free entry to the cocktails, which are on the same night (February 4th).

-CATZ CARDINALS-A fancy dress regatta at the end of term.

-LMBC ERGO COMP-This is an ergo comp for senior crews, being organised by **KT** and **LMBC**. The current venue is West Road Concert Hall on 30th April (unfortunately clashing with BUSA). The race will be an 8 x 500m sprint.

8) Lent Bumps Rules

-**IT** raised a potential handbook amendment which has been suggested after a risk assessment of the bumps. One of the key points raised by the risk assessment was the danger of a collision with a stationary boat in bumps, and a suggestion of this resulting in an automatic disqualification has been made.

-**IT** invited captains to comment on this.

-**Newnham Women**- More rules could confuse things further and cause some coxes to stop when there is no need, leading to more re-rows and arguments.

-**LMBC Men**- Dangerous coxing is already an offence in the rules, and surely a collision of this sort is already covered, with the level of the punishment being at the discretion of the chief umpire.

-A feedback system might also be a useful way of learning from past mistakes and accidents.

-**Jesus Men**- It is always difficult to make judgements, whether from the coxes seat or on the bank. It is possible that more rules could just confuse things yet further and make it still harder for coxes to decide what to do in time.

-**TH**- Coxes are instructed to stop if there is carnage ahead

-No matter how well defined the rules, there is always an element of discretion

-**Christ's Men**- Sometimes this discretion seems somewhat arbitrary, and this is why coxes are inclined to attempt dangerous manoeuvres.

-**Sidney Men**- The existence of this rule might provide a disincentive for sure behaviour.

-**FaT Women**- Sometimes it is the umpires who are incompetent, a problem exacerbated in the last bumps by the fact that loudhailers were 'banned' on the tow-path.

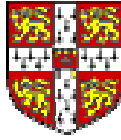
-**IT**- The idea of this rule was that megaphones should not be used for coaching, but it would be useful for boatmen to carry megaphones enabling them to instruct their crews.

-There will not be a move to adopt the system used in town bumps (i.e. when an overlap constitutes a bump). For the purposes of University bumps, a bump is contact between any part of the two boats, or when the bow balls pass.

-**IT**-thanked captains for their contributions.

9) Any other business

-**KT**- Drew attention to the large number of CUBC rowers and spares who would be available for coaching college crews this term. If anyone is interested, contact **KT** who will put you in touch with available people.



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-TH- requested that people get in touch with her if they have useful footage/photos of bumps which could be used in the coxing talks.

-AS- reminded captains that the HENLEY BOAT RACES are on April 1st this year, whilst the BOAT RACE is the following day. Support at both events is always greatly appreciated.