

CUCBC Captains' Meeting

Sunday 7th October 2018

Long Room, Murray Edwards College

Present: College Captains; Conor Burgess (CUCBC Senior Committee); Camille Lardy, Felicity Parker, Kate Shipley, Matthew Temple (CUCBC Exec Committee)

Apologies: Anglia Ruskin, Clare, St. Edmund's, Trinity Hall; David Munday (CUCBC Chair); Dan Wilkins (CUCBC Senior Treasurer); Mark Jacobs (CUCBC Safety Advisor); Isabel Nimmo (CUCBC Exec Committee)

Acta

College bills

- Bills were distributed for all clubs represented. Clubs that did not send a representative will have their bills sent to them via UMS within the next few days. The payment deadline is 12th October. Any queries should be directed to seniortreasurer@cucbc.org.

Elections

- David Munday was re-elected as Chair of CUCBC.
- Felicity Parker (Murray Edwards) was elected as Honorary Secretary of CUCBC.

Committee introductions

- The members of the CUCBC committees present introduced themselves.
- If anyone else wants to join the Exec Committee, they'd be very welcome – the more the merrier! (Meaning the more people we have to do stuff, the less stuff each person has to do.)

Email accounts and website logins

- All captains of college boat clubs should have been given access to their CUCBC website login by their predecessor; this includes access to the captain's email account. Anyone without access (e.g. anyone who did not receive an email telling them of this meeting) should speak to their predecessor in the first instance and thereafter email webmaster@cucbc.org for assistance.

University IVs

- These races will run from 22nd to 26th October. Entries are now open. The entry fee is £25 per crew and payment is due by the entry deadline of 12th October. Entries should be made by captains via the CUCBC website.

Early morning marshals, noise and traffic restrictions

- Each college is obliged to provide marshals as per the rota on the website (<http://www.cucbc.org/marshals>). Instructions are provided. Captains will not be reminded that it is their turn to provide a marshal; they are responsible for checking the rota themselves and finding someone to fill the position.
- There are two marshals every weekday morning during the Michaelmas and Lent terms, in separate locations along the river. They are there to record all (rowing) boats that they see

and make particular note of any making unnecessary noise, accompanied by a coach, boating too early, without adequate lights, or committing any other misdemeanour. They should be in position at lighting down and stay until 8:30am. Marshals are required to ensure the correct behaviour of college crews, which in turn keeps us on good terms with our neighbours along the river. Marshals should be impartial.

- There should be no unnecessary noise upstream of the Railway Bridge before 7:30am. This means that use of cox boxes should be kept to a minimum, and all coaching from the bank is prohibited. If a crew is not competent to get downstream of the Railway Bridge without coaching from the bank, they should not be on the river before that time. These restrictions do not apply in an emergency.
- No restrictions on how many boats from each club may be on the river at once are currently in force, nor are there any restrictions on how soon after lighting down senior boats may push off. (No college rowers may row between lighting up and lighting down.) Such restrictions will likely be introduced later in term and captains will be notified via email. Novices may not boat before 7:30am or less than 15 minutes after lighting down. (The latter is only relevant for Friday 26th October, when novices may boat at 7:31 instead of 7:30.)
- All boats pushing off less than 15 minutes after lighting down or anticipating being on the water less than 15 minutes before lighting up should have bright white steady lights visible from 360° at both bow and stern.

New footbridge

- There are plans to build a new footbridge over the river next to the existing Railway Bridge. Work was supposed to start a month ago but hit difficulties. We don't know when it might start. When we have more information we will send it out.

Accounts and Bumps entry fee

- Accounts for the year ending 30th September 2018 were circulated and approved.
- We made a loss last year, partly due to unforeseen expenditure (the van rented for Bumps sustained damage in Lents and needed repairing; insurance is now in place to prevent this in future), partly due to a poor sale of programmes in Lents (hardly surprising given the less-than-accommodating conditions!).
- To offset increasing costs Bumps entry fees will be increased from £40 to £45 per boat. This was accepted without dissent. (£45 per VIII for four days of racing is very good value compared with other rowing events.)

Notices from other river users

- The skipper of *Rosie* of CamBoats reports that there is so much weed in the river that powered boats are having to go much further from the bank than they usually would at this time of year. Rowing crews are asked to have patience; coxes and coaches should be aware that barges and other powered vessels may be in the middle of the river and be prepared to react. Barges are much less manoeuvrable than rowing boats.
- In case of collision with a moored boat, rowers should push off above the waterline, preferably off fenders (plastic/rubber objects hanging on the sides of the boat, sometimes plaited rope or tyres) and the crew/cox/coach should apologise – even if there doesn't appear to be anyone there to apologise to.

Reminders from Safety Advisor

- The insurance details for each club need to be updated on the CUCBC website. Any club that is not showing as having valid insurance by the end of this Wednesday (10th October) will not be allowed to boat from Thursday onwards until their insurance details are updated.
- The full safety declarations will be due in Week 4.

AOB

- Magdalene captain declared a dual college member: matriculated Magdalene 2014, now doing a PhD at St. Catharine's, will row for Magdalene this term.

Discussion of rule changes

Rowing with other crews

- Currently college rowers are allowed to row with town crews as long as they don't train on the Cam outside of college hours (i.e. in the dark, before 11am on weekends, and during evening hours – unless normally permitted – in Easter term). Training outside of college hours during term renders the rower ineligible to row in CUCBC events that term. College crews who boat before 11am at the weekend are liable to have all members of the crew banned from training that term, as well as from CUCBC events. This also affects dev squad and learn-to-scutt sessions organised by the university clubs. (Provision is made for the university squads to row on the Cam out of hours – up to half an hour before lighting down and after lighting up, and before 11am on the weekends provided they inform the CRA beforehand – but this is for triallists, not for dev squad.)
- The rule about not rowing in the dark exists primarily for safety, but not letting college crews boat before lighting down or before 11am on weekends means the river is freed up for town crews, which keeps us on good terms with them. A possible way of getting around this would be for college rowers to sign up with town clubs and train with them during these protected times, when the river is emptier and they'd have better quality training time. So the ban on training out of hours with any club is to keep the playing field even when it comes to how much training time college rowers can get and how clogged the river is during that time.
- Corpus: We have no problem with the principle of the rule but are the lightweight learn-to-scutt sessions really that bad? They don't give an unfair training advantage.
- Newnham: What about training for BUCS?
- FP: To clarify: CUCBC has no jurisdiction over any other waters (or off the water), only on the Cam.
- Fitz: Rules prohibiting students training with town clubs hit grad students particularly hard, since they live here all year round and want to train over the vacations but it's hard to get a place in town crews if you can't train with them during term.
- Lucy Cav: Seconded.
- Pembroke: Stopping people training with the dev squads and also doing Bumps is not in the spirit of what we're trying to achieve in college rowing. Everyone should have the opportunity to become as good a rower as they can and we shouldn't discourage that by not letting them train with their college if that's what they want to do.
- Girton & unidentified captain: We agree with Fitz, not only for grad students but also undergrads who live in Cambridge outside term time.
- Unidentified captain: What was the original reason for this rule being brought in?
- CB: It was in place before I arrived so I don't know but will check.

- Downing: The rules as they are are fair – if you row for your college you should train with your college.
- KS: Some college clubs are large and rich and can afford to pay for professional coaches; some are not and can't. Some rowers can't access the level of coaching that other students do within their college club, just because they're at the 'wrong' college. Is that fair?
- Selwyn: That's us: we're a small club with not much to offer experienced rowers [who might be thinking of applying] and can't afford high-level coaching, so it's not fair if we can't send rowers to train with other clubs.
- FP & CB: Bear in mind that the CRA has its own rules that essentially prohibit college rowers from competing with town clubs; these rules are not in the power of CUCBC to change.

Subs in Bumps

- General agreement was that the proposed possible rule changes outlined in the document sent out before the meeting are fine and we can go ahead (captains will have a final vote before any rule changes are implemented).

Gender rules

- The proposed rule changes are fine and can go ahead (captains will have a final vote before any rule changes are implemented).

University IVs/Small Boats Races

- It was agreed that university triallists should be ineligible to enter Uni IVs. This will hopefully encourage more college crews to enter.
- It was agreed to stop running the Bushe-Fox Freshman's Sculls (for male single scullers in their first year at Cambridge) as a) there is no equivalent for women, b) eligibility is not based on experience and c) there are other events open to all levels of experience, so no one would be deprived of an opportunity to race if this event weren't offered.
- Currently university triallists are eligible to enter the Intermediate level of events in the Small Boats Regatta (Fairbairn Junior Sculls and Forster-Fairbairn Pairs). This may be discouraging college rowers from entering, as they don't want to compete against university triallists. It was agreed that university triallists should be restricted to the Elite level of competition (Colquhoun/Delafield and Magdalene Silver Pairs).
- Selwyn: We train mainly in small boats so we would appreciate not having to compete against university triallists.
- Hughes & Robinson: We'd like to do more small boat races but we don't have small boats.
- It was generally agreed that medals and Michell Cup points shouldn't be awarded to winners of events with fewer than four entrants, although categories could be merged to 'make a race'.
- Newnham: This is standard practice in other rowing events, that prizes are not awarded for winning a category with very few entrants.
- CL: Winning an event with fewer than four entrants should not disqualify the winner from entering that event in the future, notwithstanding the restrictions on winners of Intermediate events in SBR entering those events again.

Eligibility criteria (postdocs)

- Unidentified captain: We have loads of postdocs who want to row and at the moment they're training in their own crews because they can't enter the same events as the rest of the club so they can't train with the rest of the club.
- Clare Hall: We are a small club and certain years we struggle filling boats up. Being able to rely on postdocs to fill our crews is crucial to Clare Hall being able to participate in Bumps. Postdocs usually only row for 1-2 years with us and banning them would significantly decrease Clare Hall's ability to participate in Bumps.
- MT: It depends whether you want Bumps to be for students or for members of college. There are a limited number of places in Bumps so for every crew of non-students that gets to race Bumps, a crew of students is missing out.
- CL: For every non-student that gets a seat in a crew, a student could be missing out. Like when rowers and coxes are 'lent' between colleges, could we ask for confirmation that no student rower missed out on a seat or was pushed into a lower boat so that a postdoc could take their place?
- Postdocs and other members of college who are here all year round are able to join town clubs and race in Town Bumps (among other races).
- Non-student members of college are generally around for longer than students so have more rowing experience, so could push students out of the top boats.
- Unidentified captain: But they're old and past their prime, so we wouldn't want them in the top boat anyway.
- What if we placed a time limit on how long you could stay with your college club? E.g. postdocs could row with their college for their first year. Or we could limit the number of sets of college Bumps that any individual could compete in, say 8.