



# CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY COMBINED BOAT CLUBS

## Captains' Meeting

*Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2010, Magdalene College*

### Minutes

**Present:** Richard Hamersley (RH, chair), Holly Hedgeland (HH), Anne Hempel (AH), Chris Kerr (CK), Tom Davies (TD), Dan Wilkins (DW, minutes)

**Apologies:** Adam Lister, Emmanuel Women, Jesus Men, Jesus Women, Lucy Cavendish, Robinson Women

#### 1. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the May Bumps Captains' Meeting (06/06/2010) are on the website and were approved by the Captains. There were no matters arising.

#### 2. Appointment of the Chair and Senior Treasurer

The Senior Committee proposed Richard Hamersley as Chairman and Holly Hedgeland as Senior Treasurer for the academic year 2010-11. The Captains approved the appointments unanimously.

**RH** thanked Pete Convey for his efforts as CUCBC Chairman since its foundation in 1996 and was presented with gifts by HH (on behalf of CUCBC) and Gonzalo Garcia (First and Third Men) on behalf of the college captains.

PC is to remain a member of the Senior Committee.

#### 3. Committee Introductions

The CUCBC Executive Committee 2010-11 were introduced to the Captains.

<b>Chairman</b>	Richard Hamersley	Magdalene
<b>Senior Treasurer</b>	Dr Holly Hedgeland	Robinson
<b>CUCBC Honorary Secretary</b>	Dan Wilkins	Jesus
<b>CUWBC Honorary Secretary</b>	Anne Hempel	Trinity
<b>CULRC Honorary Secretary</b>	Chris Kerr	St. Catharine's
<b>Events Secretary</b>	Greg Steiger	Sidney Sussex

Also, the Senior Committee:

- Adam Lister (Safety Advisor)
- Dr Pete Convey
- Dr Tom Davies
- Richard Hamersley and Dr Holly Hedgeland (*ex officio* as Chairman and Senior Treasurer)

RH gave an introduction and overview of CUCBC. CUCBC is here to help the Captains' with rowing in Cambridge and please get in touch if you have any queries or suggestions.

#### **4. Presentation of Accounts**

HH presented the CUCBC accounts for the academic year 2009-10. HH is confident that this year there is a sufficient surplus should unexpected expenses come up

HH also noted that following the long-standing arrangement, CUCBC gives a £1000 contribution to each of the CUWBC and CULRC per crew that competes in the Boat Race and Henley Boat Races.

Details of the Club and Coach programme for the academic year 2010-11 are delayed since there is currently no post holder following the resignation of Jeremy Rossiter from the post. The programme is, once running, intended to support Lower Boats Captains with coaching, working with around four of the clubs each year.

*The meeting formally approved and adopted the Year End Accounts to 30th August 2010. HH will present to the Proctors.*

#### **5. E-mail Accounts and Website Matters**

DW reminded captains that they have two CUCBC computing accounts – an e-mail (@cucbc.org) address to which all Captains' List e-mails as well as fines and CUCBC-related communications are sent as well as an account for the CUCBC Website, required to submit entries for CUCBC competitions.

Captains should have received passwords to these accounts from their predecessors, though if there are problems, they may obtain a new password by e-mailing [webmaster@cucbc.org](mailto:webmaster@cucbc.org).

New captains should log in to the website and update their Club Information Form with contact details of their new committees.

Only Captains' @cucbc.org addresses will be subscribed to the Captains' lists and accounts will not be issued to LBCs, secretaries, etc. LBCs and secretaries should be subscribed to the Contacts list.

All new coxes should be encouraged to subscribe to the Coxes' list.

DW received a message from Google who provide the e-mail system – there was a problem with the auto-forwarder should captains have their e-mails forwarded on to another

address. Captains using this facility should log in to the Webmail system and check their forwarder settings.

## **6. Club Safety and Insurance Declarations**

DW reminded Captains that their club must submit two safety declarations.

- Week 1, Michaelmas Term: Declaration via the Club Information Form on the CUCBC Website that the club has appropriate insurance in place.
- Week 4, Michaelmas Term: Declaration that the club complies with CUCBC and British Rowing safety regulations and that all rowers and coxes have declared that they can swim 100m in light clothing. A form will be e-mailed out and should be returned to Adam Lister, CUCBC Safety Advisor.

## **7. Early Morning Noise**

DW reminded captains that loud cox boxes and coaching from the bank are prohibited before 07:30 upstream of the Railway Bridge. Coxes' calls should be kept to the minimum, essential commands.

If complaints are received (by the City Council), rowers risk losing access to the river at all in the early morning period.

RH supported this and reminded captains that should crews disturb members of the public (particularly those living along the river), being polite and apologising goes a long way.

## **8. Hostile Encounters**

RH recommended that coxes carry mobile phones in the case of hostile encounters with the public. Should this occur, get the crew to safety and call the police on 999.

## **9. Early Morning Restrictions**

DW stated that depending on traffic in the early mornings, the Executive Committee can bring in one of two restrictions:

- First boats only in the first 10 minutes after lighting down, all other crews may boat 10 minutes after.
- Maximum of two boats per club per morning (before 08:30).

Given that the majority of the traffic is novices in the Michaelmas Term, only the latter would have any impact.

CUCBC will monitor early morning use of the river and bring in restrictions where required (though giving as much notice as possible once numbers reach 60 crews per morning, where the restriction will take effect).

**RH** reminded captains of the need to be patient and considerate when stuck in traffic. A fast crew should not simply barge through as this can cause a serious accident. Overtake slower crews only when it is safe to do so and having asked if you may “come by.”

Dangerous behaviour should be reported to the CUCBC Executive Committee, who will investigate and take action.

### **9.1 Allocation of Early Morning Slots**

**First and Third Men** asked why there is a blanket 2 boats per club per morning when the restriction is brought in, rather than allocating slots in proportion to club size.

**DW** pointed out that this has been discussed at length at Captains’ Meetings over the last two years. 60 boats (2 per club per morning) is the *absolute maximum* the river can cope with so more slots cannot be given to the larger clubs and it would be unfair to reduce the smaller clubs to less than two boats per morning.

Constitutionally, every club is considered equal (with first boats entitled to an automatic place on the River in the Bumps, with all others having to get on). Further more, we need a system that is easy to understand and easy to enforce.

**CK** pointed out that larger clubs are more likely to find an afternoon when they can get a crew out.

## **10. Early Morning Marshals**

**DW** reminded captains of their responsibility to provide Early Morning Marshals in the Michaelmas and Lent Terms. The rota along with instructions for marshals is on the CUCBC Website.

## **11. Firm Pressure Rowing by Cambridge Motor Boat Club**

**HH** reminded captains that there is to be no firm pressure rowing alongside moorings between Clayhithe Bridge and Cambridge Motor Boat Club as this can cause injury for those on board the boats as they rock.

## **12. University Fours**

**CK** announced that the University Fours 2010 will take place 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> November. Entries must be submitted via the CUCBC website by 23:45 on 17<sup>th</sup> October.

CUCBC bills (handed out at meeting) and entry fees must be paid by the entry deadline.

All races will take place after 14:00 in the week and the draw will be published as soon as possible. Captains to make **CK** aware of any scheduling constraints – CUCBC will do their best to accommodate.

### **13. Highlighting Novice Rowers in the Bumps Programmes**

**Wolfson Men** proposed that the novice rowers/coxes (who started in the current academic year) be marked in the Bumps programme. This will be particularly nice for the small clubs where a novice has progressed into the first boat in less than a year.

It was pointed out that for lower crews consisting entirely of novices, this could look messy, though it could be optional when submitting data for the programme which rowers are marked as novice.

**HH** said that while there is no written rule relating to the contents of the programmes, the matter would be discussed with George Gilbert who produces the programmes, to ascertain what is possible. The majority of captains agreed with this.

### **14. Cycling on Pavements**

**HH** reminded captains that it is illegal for coaches to cycle on pavements (particularly under the Elizabeth Way bridge and along Riverside) and that this can endanger pedestrians. Complaints have been received about this in the past.

### **15. Accompaniment of Pairs**

At present the Rules of the River state that a bank steerer must accompany pairs and double sculls before 09:00 and 16:00 during Full Term (Rule 14.b).

*It is proposed to amend this to require pairs and double sculls to be accompanied by a bank steerer between 09:00 and either 16:00 or 30 minutes before lighting up (whichever is earlier).*

**Christ's Men** asked why pairs need a bank steerer at all during these times.

**PC** answered that this is because the river is busier during these times with more crews having outings, so for safety reasons it is desirable for pairs and double sculls to have a bank steerer.

The 16:00 restriction doesn't catch all the busy times when lighting up is earlier.

- 39 in favour
- 2 against
- 1 abstention

*The motion was carried.*

### **16. Dangerous Overtaking**

Showing a photograph of a college crew attempting to overtake the Conservancy barge towing punts (with impaired manoeuvrability) on Grassy Corner, **HH** reminded captains of the need to be sensible when overtaking (and particularly letting vessels with impaired manoeuvrability keep their line on corners).

*Do not overtake unless it is safe to do so; i.e. you can see what is coming the other way and can get back to your side of the river.*

Such reckless behaviour will not be tolerated by CUCBC.

## **17. CUWBC Dev Squad**

**Lizzie Polgreen (CUWBC President)** advertised the CUWBC Development Squad that will be running continuously over the year. The programme will not take rowers away from their college clubs, but rather will provide expert, individual coaching, video analysis and the use of single sculls (for those whose clubs do not own them). Sessions will be timed to fit in around the college club's training programme. The programme is intended to develop rowers and potentially improve the intake into CUWBC.

Promising rowers will be recruited throughout the year, from Queens' Ergs scores, recommendations from college captains and for anyone who is keen (contact Lizzie Polgreen).

## **18. Selection of Crews for the Intercollegiate Race at HBR**

Henley Boat Races Organising Committee (HBROC) would like captains to devise a firm method of selection of the college crews (one men's and one women's) to represent Cambridge at this year's Henley Boat Races.

*CUCBC will deal with this later in the term and suggestions from captains of how crews should be selected will be welcomed.*

## **19. Novice Coxes' Meeting**

DW reminded captains that all new coxes should attend the Novice Coxes' presentation at 17:00 on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October in the Cripps Auditorium at Magdalene. It is important all new coxes attend as important information (including safety) about coxing in Cambridge will be given, as well as more general advice for developing as a cox.

Those who have coxed before, just are new to Cambridge, may wish to attend from 18:00 when a talk about local issues on the River Cam will be given.

## **20. Cambridge Rowing Lake**

RH showed a map of the proposed Cambridge Rowing Lake to be built within the next approximately five years coming off of the Cam at Baitsbite Lock. The Trust responsible for the purchase was on the verge of legal completion of all the many parcels of land (simultaneously) that comprise the intended project. There was hope for improved rowing facilities in the future to rival Oxford's new facilities.

## **21. Date of the Next Meeting**

The next captains meeting will be during the first week of the Lent Term.