



CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY COMBINED BOAT CLUBS

Captains' Meeting

Sunday 9th October 2011, Robinson College

Minutes

Present: Holly Hedgeland (HH, chair), Chris Balmer (CB), Mark Jacobs (MJ), Dominic Silk (DS), Fran Knight (FK), Chris Kerr (CK), Mat Bryan (MB), Richard Phelps (RP), Dan Wilkins (DW, minutes)

Apologies: Ian Cowley, Tom Grimble, Pete Convey, Tom Davies, Clare Hall Men, First and Third Men, Fitzwilliam Women, Girton Men, Jesus Women, Murray Edwards Overall, Pembroke Men, Queens' Women, Selwyn Women, St Edmund's Men, St Edmund's Women, Wolfson Men, Wolfson Women

1. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the May Bumps Captains' Meeting (12/06/2011) 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 Holly Hedgeland as Chair and Chris Balmer as Senior Treasurer for the academic year 2011-12. The Captains approved the appointments unanimously.

3. Committee Introductions

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

Chair	Dr Holly Hedgeland	Robinson
Senior Treasurer	Chris Balmer	Trinity Hall
CUCBC Honorary Secretary	Dan Wilkins	Jesus
CUBC Honorary Secretary	Dominic Silk	Hughes Hall
CUWBC Honorary Secretary	Fran Knight	Christ's
CULRC Honorary Secretary	Chris Kerr	St. Catharine's
Junior Treasurer	Tom Grimble	Robinson

Coxswains' Representative	Mat Bryan	Peterhouse
----------------------------------	-----------	------------

Though it was noted that Chris Kerr will be standing down as CULRC Honorary Secretary when a suitable replacement can be found.

CUCBC are currently seeking an Events Secretary to assist organising and running CUCBC races as well as administering the CUCBC-owned equipment to Colleges for their events. **DW** will circulate an e-mail advertising the post. **HH** encouraged the Captains to pass this to members of their clubs who may be interested.

Also, the Senior Committee:

- Mark Jacobs (Safety Advisor)
- Dr Ian Cowley (taking leadership of organisation of the Bumps)
- Dr Pete Convey
- Dr Tom Davies
- Dr Holly Hedgeland, Chris Balmer & Dan Wilkins (*ex officio* as Chairman, Senior Treasurer and Honorary Secretary)

4. British Rowing

Richard Phelps, Cambridge University representative on British Rowing Council addressed the Captains on the role of British Rowing, in terms of the GB National Squad as well supporting national rowing clubs in terms of race organisation, safety, child protection, *etc.* British Rowing is supported by a UK Sport grant, most of which is invested in the National Squad but is also used to develop clubs and facilities and to provide regional coaches, developing rowing in the UK.

British Rowing is governed through the Council. At present, there are five appointed seats on Council from Cambridge, Oxford, University of London, Thames and Leander Clubs. Three years ago, a constitutional review changed the CUBC representative to a CUCBC representative, now representing all the College clubs.

A constitutional review two weeks ago abolished these five appointed seats (effective in six months' time). Cambridge will now be represented on Council by the Eastern Region Rowing Council (ERRC) whose chairman plus two further elected members sit on Council. **HH** currently sits on ERRC.

It is likely that British Rowing will form a Universities Committee to represent the views of student rowers to Council. Cambridge could be a key driver behind this and RP encouraged the Captains and other members of the University to seek a voice within this new body.

It was noted that around half of the Captains joined British Rowing in their first year and half in their second with almost all joining for the purpose of entering races outside of Cambridge.

Captains were asked why they did not join British Rowing before they needed membership for races, the main reasons being:

- Not being aware of what British Rowing does for College rowers
- There being no perceived reason to join other than racing

RP said there would be potential for a reduced student subscription rate in the region of £10 (compared to the current subscription rate of £29/year) though it was not felt that the cost was the issue and that novice rowers would still not be willing to pay for membership if they did not see any benefits. It was felt that College or Boat Club budgets would not be able to pay for their members' subscriptions with **LMBC Men** feeling that in any event, people would not pay for membership unless they needed it.

RP stated that the benefits of British Rowing membership included

- Access to coaching courses and the RowHow coaching resources
- Personal and 3rd party liability through the British Rowing insurance policy
- Liability insurance when coaching (it was noted that the majority of the Captains had coached, yet few had considered if they were covered, though most would be covered by the College's insurance)
- Discounts on kit and equipment
- Regional development coaches
- Investment in local facilities

The more people who join, the greater the number of rowers that are seen to be in the area, increasing investment in local facilities. At present, Cambridge has around 1000 new rowers every year who do not register on these statistics as they are not members of British Rowing.

It was asked if British Rowing could offer information on rowing after graduation and in the vacations to develop interest in the sport outside of Cambridge. **RP** stated that this was definitely a possibility. British Rowing could also provide clubs with information on adaptive rowing for disabled persons, which the College Clubs and CUCBC do not have the facilities to provide.

The Captains were encouraged to send any ideas or suggestions for how British Rowing could help their clubs and members to HH (chair@cucbc.org) who would pass them on to RP.

5. British Rowing Level 2 Coaching Course

Pembroke Women announced that Pembroke College Boat Club were looking into running the British Rowing Level 2 Coaching Course. Normally, the course is held in August which is inconvenient for most College rowers and coaches., however if a group of at least 8-12 people were interested, the course could be run at any time. College clubs could benefit as the practical element of the course could be coaching the College crews.

Captains were encouraged to e-mail captain@pembrokecollegeboatclub.com if they were interested in the course.

The cost of the course is £365 per person. **Pembroke Women** asked RP if British Rowing could offer a reduced rate or even pay for the course for Cambridge students. **RP** said he would look into the possibility of this.

DS asked if the Town Clubs would be interested in running a combined course, however **HH** stated that previously, such courses had been oversubscribed with the Town Clubs so it would most likely not be necessary.

6. Presentation of Accounts

CB presented the CUCBC accounts for the year 2010-11 and noted that there was a small surplus, however this would need to be spent on medals as well as providing contingency for replacing equipment.

Entry fees are likely to rise this year, however **CB** reassured the Captains that CUCBC was not operating with a great profit.

7. Bills

Bills were distributed. The deadline for payment is Monday 17th October. Cheques should be payable to Cambridge University Combined Boat Clubs and sent to Tom Grimble, CUCBC Junior Treasurer at Robinson College.

8. E-mail and Website

DW checked that all captains had access to their CUCBC e-mail accounts. Captains should e-mail webmaster@cucbc.org if there are problems.

Once they have access to their e-mail account, captains can log in to the website using the Request New Password link beneath the login form to have instructions sent to their CUCBC e-mail account.

9. Water Safety

MJ announced that all clubs had returned their insurance declarations to CUCBC.

Club safety declarations are due by the end of Week Four. A form would be circulated by e-mail to be returned to CUCBC.

10. Early Mornings

DW reminded the Captains that clubs were required to provide Early Morning Marshals as per the rota, which is now available on the website. Equipment can be collected from on top of the pigeon holes behind Goldie Boathouse and marshals should read the instructions on the website before turning up for duty. Clubs will be fined for failing to provide marshals.

DW also reminded the Captains about noise. Coaching is not permitted upstream of the Railway Bridge before 07:30 and cox boxes should be used for essential commands only at low volume before this time. Loudhailers are not permitted anywhere on the river prior to 07:30.

CUCBC will take complaints about noise from local residents and the City Council very seriously, as College rowers risk losing access to the River in the early morning periods. The clubs involved will be heavily penalised.

DW also announced that at present there are no traffic restrictions in place in the early mornings, however when the River gets busier around fourth or fifth week, it is likely that boating will need to be restricted to two boats per club per morning. The Executive Committee will decide when such restrictions are appropriate and will endeavour to give a few days notice.

11. Novice Coxes' Talk

The CUCBC Novice Coxes' talk will take place in the week commencing 24th October. An announcement will be circulated by e-mail and all novice coxes should attend.

12. University Fours

DW announced that the University Fours 2011 will take place Monday 24th-Friday 28th October, the earlier of the two weeks allowed by the constitution, to give crews a week off before racing Head of the River Fours on the Tideway the following weekend.

It was noted that this Downing and Pembroke Men would be travelling back from Head of the Charles during this week, but should e-mail the CUCBC Executive Committee with scheduling constraints. CUCBC will endeavour to meet each crew's time constraints on racing but cannot guarantee that all will be satisfied.

The entry fee is £25 per crew and the deadline for entries is 23:45 on Monday 17th October. All entries should be submitted and entry fees and CUCBC bills paid by this date. Cheques should be payable to Cambridge University Combined Boat Clubs and sent to Tom Grimble, CUCBC Junior Treasurer at Robinson College.

13. Cam Conservancy Fees

HH reported that the Cam Conservancy has a £50,000 shortfall this year, which they intend to make up through increased fees applied to rowing, live-aboards and punts.

A consultation by Ecorys is underway including a survey that had originally be designed to take place before students (*i.e.* a large portion of the rowing community) returned to Cambridge, however has now been extended until Friday 14th October. The CRA have held an extraordinary meeting to work out their response to the survey and an e-mail was circulated by a member of the CRA (note, *not* CUCBC) to the Contacts list encouraging people to complete the survey. This e-mail does not officially represent the views of CUCBC, however.

A possibility is the introduction of an Event Fee. *The CUCBC Committees (and the CRA) are strongly opposed to this* as it would greatly increase the cost of holding events on the Cam. At the current proposed level, this would cause problems for the smaller events however at a higher level previously proposed would double the entry fees for the Lents and Mays.

The other possibility is to increase the boat licencing fee. The current charge of £60 per VIII is substantially more than would be paid on waters managed by the Environment Agency (and reflects the more extensive management structure in place on the Cam, a heavily used stretch of water, in the form of the Conservancy). An increase in the region 10-25% is currently proposed, but where that value lies depends on the prevalent politic.

Captains are welcome to complete the survey and are advised to prefer, if anything, an increase in the boat licencing fee over the proposed event fees.

14. XPress Head Timing

XPress BC propose to run the XPress Head race (currently held in the week following the May Bumps) on the Monday evening before the Mays Getting-On Race, starting in 2013. College boat clubs would be invited to enter, though the River would be closed to non-competing crews.

There were no major objections to this from the Captains.

15. Lent Bumps Timings

In 2012 (and approximately once every three or four years), the Saturday of the Lent Bumps conflicts with the Women's Tideway Eights Head (WeHoRR). The timing of WeHoRR is strongly constrained by the tides, daylight hours and timings of the Men's Eights Head (HoRR) and the Boat Race.

CB reported that the WeHoRR Organising Committee have written to CUCBC inviting the Lents to be rescheduled to accommodate WeHoRR as they expect an entry from College clubs consisting of around 180 rowers (i.e. 20 crews). Oxford have moved the Torpids a week later to accommodate this.

It is not feasible to move the Lents forward by a week as sunset would be earlier causing problems with later divisions, particularly if the races were to run late. Also, it is not feasible to move the Lents a week later as this will enter the final week of term and could conflict with examinations and end-of-term assessments. Furthermore, the timing of the Lents (and other University races) is agreed with the University authorities and it would be difficult to agree such a change.

An alternative is to reschedule the races within their current week. All women's divisions would race Tuesday through to Friday and would all have Saturday off (all divisions need to be moved, not just the first division, such that sandwich boats are determined correctly). In order to retain the prestige of the Women's Headship, having moved the final day to Friday, the timings of men's and women's divisions would be switched around such that the women's first division is the final race on the Friday.

There was a concern that boatmen would be needed at WEHoRR on the Saturday as well as for the men's crews in the Bumps, however multiple VIIIs can be transported on one trailer to London so all the Boatmen would not, in principle, be required.

There was also a concern that this would mean women's crews would have to race WEHoRR after four consecutive days of Bumps. CB pointed out that in the past, races had

been rescheduled to allow a crew to race in the W1 division of the Lents in the afternoon after racing on the Tideway that morning and that at the end of the day, crews could decide which events they wished to enter.

DS commented that crews should have the opportunity to race WEHoRR as well as the Lents as it is a prestigious race and allows them to experience rowing off of the Cam, raising the level of the sport.

It is proposed to reschedule the Lent Bumps divisions in 2012 with all women's divisions racing Tuesday to Friday, taking Saturday off and switching the order of the Men's and Women's divisions from Tuesday to Friday.

- 26 in favour
- 16 against
- 2 abstentions

The Lent Bumps divisions will be rescheduled accordingly in 2012 to allow crews to race in WEHoRR on the Saturday.

16. LMBC Erg Race

LMBC accounted that they intend to bring back the LMBC Erg Race (last attempted in 2007), which will take the format of a 2km piece in which all eight members of a crew compete at the same time. The race will take place in the first or second week of the Easter Term at Goldie Boathouse.

It is intended that there will be prizes for

- Fastest men's and women's individual times
- Fastest men's and women's crews
- Lightweight and heavyweight categories (at training weights)

Suggestions were invited for other prizes which included Mays categories (*e.g.* men's first division) and time closest to predicted.

LMBC also mentioned that entering the race would mean the **CUBC**, **CUWBC** and **CULRC** coaches can see the times of all competitors, rather than only those who put themselves forward for trials.

17. Date of the Next Meeting

The next Captains' Meeting will take place in the first week of the Lent Term.