

CUCBC Captains' Meeting - Minutes

In Attendance: Captains (most clubs), David Munday (Chair), Wilfried Genest (CUCBC Hon. Sec.), Michael Thornton (Exec. Committee), Conor Burgess (Exec. Committee)

Agenda

1. Proposed Rule Changes
2. Any Other Business
3. Bumps Prep

DM

Begin with a discussion of changing eligibility criteria to respect the increasing diversity of the University Membership, separate to other proposals. Proposal by Meghan *.

Megan Eldred (ME)

Summarises proposal for changes - see circulated document (attached: Proposal to modify CUCBC race eligibility rules)

DM

Comments or Amendments?

ME

Not sure exactly which version of proposal everybody has seen, or that final version was definitely circulated.

DM

Reads entire document. Change to attached document, from “fellows or employees or elected or appointed members” to “fellows or employees or otherwise elected or appointed members”

VOTE TAKEN ON PROPOSAL TO CHANGE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA AS DISCUSSED PROPOSAL IS PASSED

0 AGAINST

0 ABSTAINED

DM

Senior Committee will now consider implementation

CB

To Captains: Go back and find out the exact status of all possible members and report to senior committee

DM

Moving on to the rest of the proposals (attached: CUCBC Training Working Group Proposal), intend to vote on everything at one, any comments?

Unknown

Propose Amendment: Restrictions on Early Mornings (points d and e) to apply in the first 15' after lighting down only.

(No Opposition Voiced)

CB

Propose Amendment: That only outings of length 60' or longer count towards minimum outing rule (point f)

Richard Bolton (Emmanuel)

Can you confirm that the SC is not against 8 afternoon outings (which would count as 12 under new rule)?

CB

Have checked with SC - they would have NO ISSUE with a crew that has 8 afternoon outings.

Unknown

Concerning WEHORR: If, in accordance with the new rules, the Captains elect to move bumps back to the "normal dates", will the new 12 outing rule be cut back down to 10?

DM

We will obviously have to be flexible.

Unknown

Will the ban on spinning at the bottom of The Reach in the morning (point d) apply in the first 15' after lighting down only?

CB

Yes (under amendment proposed above).

DM

We will now take a vote on these remaining rule changes: working group proposals plus amendments discussed today.

(No Opposition Voiced Against Single Combined Vote)

***VOTE TAKEN ON PROPOSAL TO CHANGE RULES IN ACCORDANCE WITH "CUCBC TRAINING WORKING GROUP PROPOSAL" WITH AMENDMENTS AS DISCUSSED PROPOSAL IS PASSED
0 AGAINST
4 ABSTAINED***

DM

Any other business?

WG

Next year's committee?

DM

Anybody interested to contact CUCBC via chair [at] cucbc.org

DM

We are doing our best to manage the swan situation. The hope is that as we speak, the swans are currently being transported to an off site location for the duration of next week. If not so, continue to be particularly cautious around swans.

WG

Please collect bank passes now, and make sure you send allocated marshals during Bumps.

CB

A quick reminder that we are running Bumps to the traditional men's finishes for both men and women.

DM

This is because bank has improve in state significantly. Men & women same finish in accordance with 'recent' rule change.

CB

M6/W4 - marshal on station. Men's start cannon effectively 5' gun for women. Finish is determined by station, not division position. Bank parties restricted to 4. Toilets at both ends, no public urination (£85 pounds as with police). No Littering - equivalent police fine. Marshalling the same as Lents i.e. towpath side. 1 start at the Plough. Start count downs from ≤ 10 .

Proposal to modify CUCBC race eligibility rules

Originally drafted: 8 April 2015

Reviewed: 31 May 2015

Background

The membership of the University of Cambridge is the most diverse it has ever been. In addition to 11,800 undergraduate students, 6,900 postgraduate students and 1,600 permanent academic staff, there are now 3,500 postdoctoral researchers, a number that has doubled in the past 10 years. These postdoctoral researchers fall outside the traditional university system, much like Ph.D. students at Cambridge did a century ago. The university is currently taking major steps to accommodate these new additions to its membership as evidenced, for example, by the recent establishment of the UK's first Postdoc Centre here at Cambridge. Furthermore, colleges are strongly being encouraged to offer new categories of membership to postdoctoral researchers and early career yet distinguished researchers in the wider Cambridge business and scientific communities so that, like the students they teach and their academic colleagues, they too may benefit from the collegiate system. In practice, many colleges are now admitting a wide range of members in to more varied classes of membership and from a plurality of backgrounds, to the benefit and at the behest of the University.

Around 1000-1500 of these postdoctoral researchers and equivalents are attached to a college in some way. However, the nature of these associations varies significantly between colleges. Approximately 200 are bye-fellowships and even fewer (~100) are research fellowships. Within these research fellowships, only a limited subset offer a place on the governing body of the college. The bulk of these postdoctoral and equivalent college attachments fall under a new category of membership referred to by a variety of names including: "postdoctoral affiliate", "associate member", "senior member", "college research associate" to name but a few. The benefits associated with these positions vary between colleges, but usually include high-table dining rights, full use of college facilities, membership of college clubs and sports teams, and in some cases the ability to sit on college committees.

As postdoctoral members and equivalents become more involved in colleges, they become as much a part of college life as the students and fellows. This is particularly true of colleges with large graduate populations, in which postdoctoral members and equivalents mix seamlessly with the student body. In smaller colleges with relatively few fellows and students, these additional categories of members play a pivotal role in the functioning of the college. They are often asked to teach, to sit on committees or to assist sports teams and clubs. Without their contributions, students of the college may not be able to participate fully in college life – for example a rowing boat that is one short results in the disappointment of 8 others.

As members of the university, postdoctoral researchers and equivalents are entitled to join university clubs. The "Notes for the Guidance of University Clubs & Societies", issued by the Junior Proctor, states that "A constitution should make clear that a society is open to all interested members of the University". It is therefore important that intercollegiate sports

clubs, such as CUCBC, make very clear in their membership eligibility rules that all members of the university, including postdoctoral researchers and equivalents, are able to partake in club activities.

As discussed above, the varying definitions of such membership across colleges makes this difficult to define. However, it is noted that one common feature of all these postdoctoral associations is that they are *elected or appointed by the college governing body or council*. Using this definition to define eligibility for club membership or participation includes, for example, directors of studies and bye-fellows, but excludes alumni and supervisors. It also respects the autonomy of different colleges to determine their own membership structures, which is one of the most important aspects of the collegiate system. By requesting the Master (or Head of House equivalent) or Bursar of that College to sign a letter confirming a members election or appointment to the college, CUCBC can be assured that this person does indeed fit this eligibility.

The current CUCBC eligibility rules are not sufficiently clear and risk creating arbitrary divisions within colleges where they need not exist. For example, in the 2015 Lent Bumps, a Senior Member of St Edmund's College was not allowed to participate despite being, for all intents and purposes, equivalent to a fellow of the college. In the same term similar situations occurred at Clare Hall and Darwin College, in which college research associates were deemed ineligible to row at the last minute. Within these largely graduate colleges, there is little perceived divide between the various categories of senior membership, including postdoctoral members and equivalents, and students. It is unfair to then force an arbitrary division for the purposes of intercollegiate sport.

This re-definition of the eligibility rules for CUCBC may create concern that the CUCBC races, most notably the Lent and May bumps are in danger of drifting away from being “student focussed”. It should be noted that despite the increase of post-docs, they are still outnumbered 5:1 by students and so it unlikely that their presence will detract from the event. There may also be concerns as to fairness in the event that colleges draft in more experienced non-student rowers to fill their boats. In order to address these concerns it may be necessary to limit further the conditions under which college members who are not *in statu pupillari* are eligible to row. It is proposed that at most two such members should be allowed to row in any boat, and not normally in the colleges 1st boat. In the case where a college has only one boat, this definition would allow at most two non-student members to row in that boat to avoid it being scratched. This would certainly assist with achieving CUCBC Regulations for Racing: General, Clause 15 that states, “Every Men's and Women's College Boat Club have the right to at least one boat each on the river for the Lent and May Races.” In the 2015 Lent Bumps, St Edmund's College were placed in a situation where they were one short of having a full women's boat. Due to an unfortunate and unintentional gender imbalance in the college, it proved difficult to find a student to fill the place, but a Senior Member offered to assist and began to train with the crew. Following lengthy discussions with CUCBC, she was deemed ineligible and they searched in earnest for several weeks to find a rower from another college. In this case they were able to find a sub but only within days of the Lent Bumps. A subsequent poll of the CUCBC captains was conducted by St Edmund's and of 21 responses receiving, 14 were in favour of allowing a senior member to row in order to avoid scratching

a first boat, 4 were unsure and 3 were against. Clearly, there is strong support amongst the constituent members of CUCBC for flexibility in this regard.

The graduate and mature colleges face problems not encountered by most of the traditional established colleges. They typically have a smaller number of students, who often have complex course schedules and work commitments, for example in medicine or teaching. Finding the necessary time and commitment to train and participate is more challenging, and it is more difficult to build and sustain a viable boat club.

By including these simple and measured changes, CUCBC races will remain fair and student focussed, but the necessary flexibility to allow all colleges to participate using their own members will be introduced. College sport is ultimately about participation and the rules must be flexible to enable maximum participation of students and other members of the university. I trust the CUCBC will approve the proposed changes to eligibility rules for the long term benefit of inter collegiate rowing at Cambridge.

Proposed changes to CUCBC rules

General

This section concerns all CUCBC-run races.

1.
 - a. That only resident *bona fide* student members of the University who are also members of the CUCBC be eligible to row or steer in CUCBC races, except as specified in Regulations for Racing, Rule 2. For the purposes of this regulation a *bona fide* student is defined as one who is in *statu pupillari* and is therefore:
 - i. a matriculated member of a College; and
 - ii. currently reading for a recognised degree of the University; and
 - iii. fulfilling the University residence requirements in both time and place.
 - b. That other members of the University who are Fellows or Employees [or elected or appointed Members](#) of a college may compete for that college only after approval by the Executive Committee and that such approval should be sought within the first two weeks of term.
 - c. That such other members of the University will not normally be allowed to row in their College's 1st boat in the Lent or May Bumps, [unless the College has only one boat](#), or in the top Division of the University Fours. [That no more than two such other members of the University who are Employees or elected or appointed Members of a college will be allowed to row in any boat](#). Exceptional cases may be permitted at the discretion of the Executive Committee. Exceptional rowers who are members of more than one college may row for any one college of which they are a member, but may row for only one college per term.

CUCBC Training Working Group Proposal

The Training Working Group's focus was on suggesting rule changes which would improve the quality of outings on the Cam, and in doing so it identified several issues:

- The spinning points generally cause congestion
- There are no incentives to make the extra effort to organise outings during the daytime
- The quality of Lent Bumps crews is generally lower than that of Mays crews
- Congestion occurs in regions where overtaking is not possible

The Working Group came up with several proposals to target these issues, and consulted with the CUCBC Senior Committee, who are generally in favour of the proposed changes.

The proposal is to make all of the amendments to the CUCBC Rules of the River and Regulations for Racing listed below, in a single vote of the CUCBC. However, the Working Group accepts that discussion and amendments to the proposals may be necessary during the course of the meeting. If one or more of the proposed changes proves unpopular, the hope is it can be removed and the rest of the proposals voted on as a whole.

a) Proposal to allow/encourage spinning in tandem at Baitsbite Lock

Amend Rules of the River - Spinning (<http://www.cucbc.org/handbook/rules/spinning>) from:

25. When necessary, boats must queue to spin, and no boat may spin without ascertaining that there is no other boat coming which might be impeded.

To:

25. When necessary, boats must queue to spin, and no boat may spin without ascertaining that there is no other boat coming which might be impeded. [At the Baitsbite Spinning area and in green flag conditions only, two crews may spin in tandem, providing they do not impede other crews and move off promptly.](#)

Amend 10 Golden Rules for Safety (http://www.cucbc.org/handbook/golden_rules) from:

10. Unless required for safety reasons, or acting on the instructions of an umpire during a race, boats may only spin at Jesus Lock, the Penny Ferry, between the two posts at the bottom of Long Reach and by the sign in Baitsbite Reach. When necessary, boats must queue to spin, and should only spin when it is clear that no boat is approaching that is likely to be impeded. Once spun, boats must move off immediately or, if pulling in on the Long Reach or Baitsbite, may only do so above the spinning area.

To:

10. Unless required for safety reasons, or acting on the instructions of an umpire during a race, boats may only spin at Jesus Lock, the Penny Ferry, between the two posts at the bottom of Long Reach and by the sign in Baitsbite Reach. When necessary, boats must queue to spin, and should only spin when it is clear that no boat is approaching that is likely to be impeded. Once spun, boats must move off immediately or, if pulling in on the Long Reach or Baitsbite, may only do so above the spinning area. [At the Baitsbite Spinning area and in green flag conditions only, two crews may spin in tandem, providing they do not impede other crews and move off promptly.](#)

b) Authorise CUCBC to lend its support to the Campaign for Wednesday Afternoon sport

Many sports rely on Wednesday afternoon sport for matches with other universities. Whilst this is not the case in rowing, Wednesday afternoon sport could make many more afternoon outings possible, and reduce the congestion in the mornings. This proposal would allow the CUCBC Senior Committee to sign campaign letters to the University in association with other sports/societies.

c) Moving the date of Lent Bumps

Amend Regulations for Racing - Lent and May Bumps (<http://www.cucbc.org/handbook/racing/bumps>) from:

13. That there be regular Eight-Oared Bumping Races held from the 7th Tuesday to the 7th Saturday of the Lent Term and from the 8th Wednesday to the 8th Saturday of the Easter Term, and that the number of Men's and Women's divisions shall be appointed at the first CUCBC Meeting of the term preceding the Races.

To:

13. That there be regular Eight-Oared Bumping Races held from the 8th Tuesday to the 8th Saturday of the Lent Term and from the 8th Wednesday to the 8th Saturday of the Easter Term, and that the number of Men's and Women's divisions shall be appointed at the first CUCBC Meeting of the term preceding the Races.

This will allow for more training time for Lents. The implication is that in the case of a clash with WeHoRR, the Bumps could move back to the 7th Tuesday (Week 6) to the 7th Saturday (Week 7) if the Captains were in favour. Clashes with exams should be minimal, and certainly not as bad as Mays. Finally, the later Lighting Up time would potentially allow the races to run ~15 minutes later in the day, reducing clashes with lectures.

d) Restricting spinning at the end of the reach - Lent mornings

Add to Early Morning Traffic Restrictions (<http://www.cucbc.org/handbook/earlies>):

6. During the Lent Term and in addition to any other restrictions the CUCBC Executive Committee may introduce, fours or eights boating at Lighting Down on weekday mornings must not spin before Baitsbite Lock. Boats intending to spin at the Penny Ferry or on the Long Reach must boat 15 minutes after lighting down, or at 7:30am, whichever is the later.

This will hopefully encourage continuous traffic flow to the Lock and back, and reduce congestion on the reach.

e) Restricting slow exercises - Lent mornings

Add to Early Morning Traffic Restrictions (<http://www.cucbc.org/handbook/earlies>):

7. During the Lent Term all crews must maintain full slide, full crew rowing until Chesterton footbridge, where they may begin exercises providing they allow room for other crews to overtake.

This will hopefully stop congestion due to one crew doing quarter slide and holding everyone else up.

f) Modification of the 10 outing rule

Amend Regulations for Racing - Lent and May Bumps (<http://www.cucbc.org/handbook/racing/bumps>) from:

18. a. That no crew be allowed to compete in a Bumping Race on the Cam without a minimum of ten training outings.

To:

*18. a. That no crew be allowed to compete in a Bumping Race on the Cam without a minimum of **twelve training outings**. **Outings after 9am on weekdays may count for 1.5 outings.***

This is based partly on proposal (c) moving Lents one week later, giving six full weeks of training instead of five for Lents. Furthermore, the 1.5 weighting for daytime outings will hopefully encourage crews to make use of quiet time on the river.