



CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY COMBINED BOAT CLUBS

Captains' Meeting, Captains' Room, Goldie Boathouse

5pm on Monday, 19th April, 2010

MINUTES

Present: Peter Convey (**PC**, chair), Chris Kerr (**CK**), Derek O'Brien (**DO**, minutes), Holly Hedgeland (**HH**), Julian Granger-Bevan (**JGB**), Adam Lister (**AL**), Dan Wilkins (**DW**), Giles Moon (**GM**), College Captains.

PC opened the meeting.

1. **Apologies** for absence had been received from: *Richard Hamersley, LMBC Women, Selwyn Women, First and Third Men, Clare Women, Pembroke Men, Homerton Women, Trinity Hall Men, Trinity Hall Women, Alistair Chappelle.*
2. The **minutes of the previous meeting** of 21st February, 2010 were approved by all present.
3. There were no **matters arising** from the previous minutes.
4. **CUCBC Bills, Fines, and Entry Fees**
HH reminded everyone that all bills must be paid by the bumps entry deadline, and that bumps entry fees are £36 per crew. This equates to one pound per rower per day.
5. **Evening Hours**
PC explained briefly the current practice/rules regarding rowing in the evening hours. He clarified that there is no similar rule for Saturday and Sunday since too few crews are training at this time on the weekend. He emphasized that if the hours were not being used, then their usefulness would have to be called into question at a later date.

6. May Bumps

JGB informed the captains on various aspects of the May Bumps, and assured everyone that this information would follow in an e-mail at a later date.

- The Online bumps entry system is now open.
- Enter your crews early to avoid disappointments. (i.e. ensure that you have your login credentials well ahead of the deadline, so that you are not e-mailing the web team for help with 20 minutes to spare).
- Exceptional entries can now be made online instead of through e-mail.
- The current M6/W5 split division may be made into any of: (a) whole M6 division, (b) whole W5 division, (c) left as an M6/W5 split (d) may not exist, depending on how many entries we receive.
- **JGB** explained various rules regarding the bumps.
- If you have any queries regarding the May Bumps, you should e-mail the May Bumps organiser **JGB** at <Julian[at]cucbc.org>, and in particular, not the CUCBC Hon Sec, or your message may be delayed in reaching its intended recipient.

7. Vortex Edges

AL, CUCBC's Safety officer, began discussion about the current situation with Vortex Edges. They are currently banned on the river Cam by CUCBC. This ban is under review, and **AL** is in contact with British Rowing about this. The theory is that they are dangerous due to their sharp edges, and the high amounts of congestion on the Cam.

Discussion ensued amongst committee members and captains about the ban. Questions were raised as to whether the vortex edge was any more dangerous than a blade which had been worn down by scraping along pavement.

AL assured that there would be a published risk assessment after the review. **PC** emphasised that the only thing we can do is wait for a reply from British Rowing at this point.

*It was decided on April 23rd, 2010 by **AL**, in consultation with British Rowing, that this ban on Vortex Edges be lifted for all Vortex Edged blades purchased after October 2009 (with the newer, rounder tip to the blade).*

8. Town/College club Membership

PC opened this discussion on this subject, proposing a few possible rules to captains regarding rowers who would choose to row with both college and town clubs. He clarified that the rules only apply during term time, and apply on a term-by-term basis.

CK asked whether any such restriction was needed, and what the purpose of this restriction was.

Clare Men expressed the view that allowing dual membership improves the standard of college rowing, and for individual oarsmen. He asked whether combination crews would be allowed (i.e. Clare, City composite). **PC** said that composite crews should be ok.

There were discussions about how any imposed rule would apply (i.e. to separate sculling and sweeping).

JGB proposed the rule: "College rowers may train with a Town club, provided that training on the water is done during college hours. You must still abide by CUCBC rules, but you will be able to train with Town clubs."

A vote was held: **44 for**

3 against

0 abstentions

The rule was hence imposed, and will be added to the **handbook**.

9. A.O.B.

AL warned that the aggressive swan "Mr. Asbo" or "Stalin" is back again, and crews should be careful, and use common sense. He also warned that the travellers' sewage system is becoming overloaded and leaking into the cam water. Thus, the river is very unclean, and rowers should avoid making too much contact with the water, and should wash any open wounds after outings. Also, try to carry water bottles in a sealed compartment or plastic bag.

PC noted that the Georgina will be in operation much more this term than previously, and to be careful, as it is very big.

Small Boats Regatta was discussed. Specifically the Magdalene Silver Pairs eligibility was questioned. The current "maximum of 2 wins" rule was decided to apply to a given pair, as opposed to each individual rower. **A change to the handbook will thus be made.**

A vote was held as to whether to allow fellows to enter the **SBR** races. A large majority of captains voted yes, and this will also need **adding to the handbook** for clarification.

PC announced that start orders would no longer be sent to boathouses before bumps, and that these would be made available online. This will be modified in the **handbook** accordingly.

HH asked captains for their thoughts on “Novice Only” days in Michaelmas term. There was general disagreement with the concept. The captains suggested maybe a senior only morning.

PC reminded everyone of the dangers of overtaking, especially on corners. He noted that the railway bridge is an especially bad place for incidents. Overtaking should not occur unless you are absolutely sure the path ahead is clear, and you will be able to overtake successfully.

PC closed the meeting as there was no other business.