



# CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY COMBINED BOAT CLUBS

Captains' Meeting, Magdalene College Cripps Court

5pm on Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2009

## MINUTES

**Present:** Richard Hamersley (**RH**, chair), Julian Granger-Bevan (**JGB**), Chris Kerr (**CK**), Derek O'Brien (**DO**, minutes), Ted Randolph (**TR**), Holly Hedgeland (**HH**), Tom Davies (**TD**), Adam Lister (**AL**), College Captains.

1. **Apologies** for absence had been received from Peter Convey, Selwyn Men, Churchill Men, First and Third Men, Sidney Women, Clare Women, St. Edmund's Women, Fitz Women.

**RH** opened the meeting by introducing the members of the committees present. He explained that Ian Thompson's death has resulted in a large amount of re-organisation within the CUCBC. This meeting was called to add to the pre-term meeting which was made brief so that this re-organisation could occur. **RH** also explained the position of Deputy Chairman which he now occupies. Its purpose is to assist the chairman, as well as deal with external communications to the CUCBC.

2. The **minutes of the previous meetings** held on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2009, and 5<sup>th</sup> Oct 2009 were accepted.

3. There were no **matters arising** from the previous minutes.

4. **CUCBC Senior Committee Appointments**

**RH** introduced the Senior Committee. Kat Astley will be leaving the Senior Committee after Michaelmas '09.

5. **CUCBC Accounts**

**HH**, CUCBC Senior Treasurer, explained the accounts. She noted that CUCBC's main expenditures come from:

- Races (bumps, small boats, uni IV's).
- Supporting CUWBC and CULRC
- Accidental Expenditures

CUCBC lost the sponsorship it had last year, and as a result will have to increase the entry fees for bumps this year. The aim will be to build up a small running surplus each year in order to avoid accidental expenditures in the future (such as the bumps poles being stolen). She added that the income from fines only accounted for 17% of CUCBC's income last year, and that funding to CUWBC and CULRC may have to decrease this year.

**RH** asked if we have or could get insurance for the chains and poles.

**HH** added that the main costs of the bumps races were toilets, an ambulance, megaphones, radios, and medals.

**RH** said that a shortage of toilets was a running problem, and that Pip Noon says the toilet at Baitsbite Lock is open to all, though there is only one.

#### 6. **Dual College Club and Town Membership**

**HH** began the discussion. The Town clubs are strict about who can compete in town bumps, and no college rowers who have raced in CUCBC bumps may compete. CUCBC looks at cases on an individual basis. Effectively, the CUCBC policy is very similar to that of the town clubs.

**HH** clarified CUCBC's position by answering several captains' questions. CUCBC looks mainly at term time, and is not as concerned about town rowing over the summer. We are also less strict on coxes than on rowers, but consider everything on a case by case basis. If college rowers joined a town crew which only rowed during CUCBC hours (however unlikely this is to happen), this would still need to be looked at by CUCBC. Clubs vary too much to have set rules in place.

**HH** asked that bills be payed by the end of November to Holly Hedgeland at Robinson. Addenbrookes commented that they could not pay their bill until December.

#### 7. **Early Morning and Weekend Access to the River for College Clubs**

It was asked whether the CRA try to avoid Cambridge rowing hours, as we do on weekends and evenings. **HH** said that 11am is probably the best we can afford for a Saturday and Sunday. A captain mentioned that Saturday and Sunday mornings wouldn't be very beneficial to clubs as there are many town crews using this time slot.

**CK** said that from experience, there is rarely another crew on the river before 8:30am on a Saturday or Sunday, and that CUCBC could only restrict rowing to outside of 8:30am-11am.

It was suggested that a marshal be placed on the white bridge along riverside, as this is a very busy area with crews frequently crashing. **TD** advised clubs to use the ARA crash reporting system whenever an incident occurs. **RH** said the conservators are aware that

this area is dangerous for rowing, and questioned the legality of all the riverboats that are moored there.

**8. Proposal to Expand the Executive Committee**

**RH:** The idea of an extended executive committee would be to bring 3 or 4 experienced captains or other students into executive committee discussions to bring forward sensible ideas. The current situation with captains turning over every year is too discontinuous. A captain suggested there be CUCBC positions which are not affiliated to the university crews.

**9. Small Clubs**

**HH** clarified CUCBC's position that it should be allowed when it would otherwise stop college crews from putting out a full crew. She said that clubs have a tendency to grow very large when amalgamated and then shrink too small when dis-amalgamated. A captain asked what would happen to the bumps charts positions when 2 clubs merged, and if they dis-amalgamate again. The captains suggested that the two clubs merge to their highest position in the previous bumps, then dis-amalgamate to their old positions.

**10. Golden Rule of Safety 6**

Not up to date (*currently being updated*)

**11. Incident of 27<sup>th</sup> October – “Rumble” at Grassy Corner**

**RH** opened discussion on the subject. He has brought it up with Cam conservators as a breach of their bye-laws. There was another incident by a resident named Mr. Middleton in the previous year. He wanted to bring up fines from the conservators for things like this. It is best to avoid sticky situations if bad things happen, and to keep calm. There is a consistent problem with barges and boats entering race courses. A captain asked if we were allowed instruct boats to pull in. **RH** answered that we do not have that authority, and there is nothing we can do. We will have to stop a division if this happens. The primary aim should be to avoid a catastrophic disaster. Coxes should all carry a mobile to report incidents like these to the conservators or the police if necessary. **RH** said he would talk to the police and try to get some official people around when these events are going on.

**12. Novice Flag Proposal**

Clare Women commented that CUCBC are stricter with the yellow flag in Michaelmas, but that this hurts college second boats. She suggested there be a novice flag which restricts only novices from boating.

A discussion followed, with several important points arising. Would the difference in conditions for a novice flag or a yellow flag be very large? Occasionally second VIII's are worse than novice VIII's. The idea of the yellow flag is to have fewer boats on the water,

which means fewer accidents are likely to happen. But already with only yellow flag crews, there are several incidents happening.

A captain asked whether the 7:30am restriction on novices was necessary, and how this applies to mixed novice/senior crews. **CK** replied that novices need a consistent coach, who will need to communicate constantly with their crew, and will thus need to make too much noise before 7:30am. **HH** said that if your crew is not noticeably bad or causing noise, then there is no problem.

13. **A.O.B.**

There was no other business

14. The **Date of the next Captains' Meeting** was set for 21<sup>st</sup> January, 2010.

**RH** closed the meeting.