



CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY COMBINED BOAT CLUBS

Captains' Meeting

Sunday 1st May 2011, Robinson College

Minutes

Present: Holly Hedgeland (HH), Dan Wilkins (DW, minutes), Matt Castle

Apologies: Chris Kerr, Mat Bryan, Ross Hartley, Greg Styger, Caius Women, Corpus Christ Men, Corpus Christ Women, Emmanuel Men, Emmanuel Women, LMBC Women, Jesus Women, Robinson Men, Trinity Hall Women

The meeting was opened with one minute's silence in memory of Richard Hamersley, CUCBC Chairman, who passed away over the Easter weekend.

1. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the Michaelmas Term Captains' Meeting (27 February 2011) are on the website and were approved by the Captains. There were no matters arising.

2. Morning and Evening Rowing

DW reminded captains that the evening hours' restrictions were in force for the Easter Term. As agreed at the Lent Bumps meeting, there will be an early hour (17:30-18:30) and late hour (19:00-20:00) alternating week-by-week between men's and women's crews. Only first VIIIs and those in the top two division of the May Bumps may train between Chesterton and Baitsbite during these times. VIIIs and IVs made up of rowers from eligible crews may use the changeover period (18:30-19:00) to get over the Lock.

Captains were also reminded that if training in the early mornings, there is to be no coaching from the bank and only essential coxing commands upstream of the Railway Bridge before 07:30.

3. May Bumps

The May Bumps 2011 will take place 15th-18th June. The Getting-On Race will be Friday 10th June.

Entries are now open via the website and the deadline (by which time all crews must be entered, CUCBC bills paid and entry fees received) is **Monday 20th May**. Cheques for entry fees and CUCBC bills should be sent to Ross Hartley, CUCBC Junior Treasurer at Magdalene College.

The CUCBC Executive Committee will decide, based on numbers of entries, whether there will be an M6, W5 or split M6/W5 division such that places are competitive.

DW will be sending out a request for umpires in the coming weeks. Captains were encouraged to pass this on to anyone in their clubs to anyone who may be interested.

4. May Bumps Getting-On Race

HH argued that the Getting-On Race has become less competitive and the standard of the lower divisions (particularly) in the Mays is dropping, with clubs putting out crews for the sake of keeping places on the river. This causes problems where faster crews who have got on meet slower crews who already have their places on the river, leading to some of the nastier pile-ups.

It is proposed to change the ratio of boats competing for places in the Getting-On Race from 3:1 to 2:1 and lifting the maximum number of crews removed from the bottom division to allow from this from 10 to 18 (whole division). This should elevate the standard of the bottom divisions.

Peterhouse Men agreed, saying it will give more faster crews the opportunity to race.

DW clarified that the entire bottom division will not always be removed, but enough crews will be removed to allow two boats to race for one place in the Getting-On Race, with a variable number of entries.

Matt Castle asked how big the Getting-On Race will be with the new rules. HH said there will be 20-30 crews racing in each division, which will not be a problem to run.

It was proposed to amend Regulations for Racing, Rule 25 "That if there be more new entries than vacant places, the bottom eighteen crews (at most) on the river and all new entries then row a timed race (the Getting-On Race)" and Rule 26 "That the number of crews taken off (subject to Rule 29.a) be sufficient to ensure one available place on the river for every two boats entered for the Getting-On Race."

- 28 in favour
- 3 against

The rules regarding the Getting-On Race were amended.

5. CUCBC Constitution and Committee Positions

DW proposed amendments to the CUCBC Constitution to make the position of CUCBC Honorary Secretary elected annually by the Captains (in addition to the CUBC, CUWBC and CULRC Honorary Secretaries). This will strengthen the CUCBC Executive Committee with someone enthusiastic about College rowing being elected to lead the committee while providing direct representation for the College boat clubs and captains on the Executive.

In addition, articles will be added to create the posts of Junior Treasurer and one or more Events Secretaries, co-opted by the Executive Committee. These positions currently exist under the right of the Committee to co-opt officers to further their objectives and have been performing well in the running of CUCBC and its events.

HH added that in the past there had been strong involvement from at least one member of the Senior Committee in the day-to-day running of CUCBC, however this could not be guaranteed in the future, so more of the day-to-day tasks will fall to the Executive.

Girton Men asked if any new responsibilities will fall to the committee. DW answered that new responsibilities were not being created, rather reorganised between committee members in a more robust structure.

Any members of College Boat Clubs who wish to apply for the new posts may submit manifestoes. The Honorary Secretary will be elected by majority vote of the Captains at the May Bumps Captains' Meeting and the Junior Treasurer and Events Secretaries will be co-opted by the Executive Committee in the Easter Term.

It was proposed to amend the CUCBC Constitution, creating Article 5.2 (inserted after 5.1) "An Honorary Secretary, elected annually by the Captains at the May Bumps Captains' meeting. Members of the College Boat Clubs in statu pupillari may stand for election." and to add the responsibilities of the Honorary Secretary to Article 6.1 "That there be an Executive Committee comprising of the Chairman, the Honorary Secretary, the Coxswains' Representative and the three Honorary Secretaries of CUBC, CUWBC and CULRC. This Committee shall have responsibility for organising College rowing on the Cam and shall be led by the Honorary Secretary who is responsible for the day-to-day administration of the committee, College rowing on the River Cam and the organisation of races by the CUCBC." The post of Honorary Secretary shall be added to other articles for consistency.

The posts for Junior Treasurer and Events Secretary shall be added to Article 7 "A Junior Treasurer should be co-opted annually [in the Easter Term] who shall be responsible for the day-to-day administration of the accounts, preparation of the budget (with the Senior Treasurer) and billing the constituent clubs." And "One or more Events Secretaries shall be co-opted annually [in the Easter Term] to facilitate the organisation of races by the CUCBC and the constituent clubs."

The Constitution is also to be updated with regards to the practice of electing the Coxswains' Representative at the May Bumps Coxes' Meetings (Article 5.3 or 5.4 in the new version).

In addition, Article 1 is to be amended such that the objectives of the CUCBC shall be to "promote the safe use of the River Cam."

The motion was passed unanimously, with one abstention.

6. Fairbairn Cup Refunds

St. Edmund's Men asked JCBC about the status of refunds for the Clubs who had to withdraw from the Fairbairn Cup after it was rescheduled to January following the river freezing over on the original date.

Jesus Men said that as far as he knew, all clubs had been refunded where required but will double-check the records with the Fairbairns Secretary and Treasurer.

7. Committee Handovers

DW said that where club committees are handed over, the usernames and passwords for the CUCBC Website and E-mail accounts should be passé don to successors. Incoming captains should log in to the website (www.cucbc.org) and select "My Club Information Form" from the left-hand menu and ensure their officers' contact details are up to date.

8. Exception to Rule 9

Matt Castle asked the Captains to consider granting him an exception to Rule 9, that "In any given term, College rowers may train with a Town club provided that training on the water is done during college hours (for example, whether that be weekend hours, evening hours, flag, etc.), or render themselves ineligible for CUCBC competitions."

Matt is a 4th year Ph.D. student who was Chairman of Rob Roy Boat Club for three years and is requesting permission to row for Pembroke in addition to Rob Roy as this will be his last

opportunity to row for his College. Due to time constraints on other members of the Rob Roy crew however, he is unable to restrict training with them to College hours.

He argued that the rule was intended to prevent entire College VIII's joining a town club to train in the quiet times when Colleges are not allowed out to gain an unfair advantage. He does not feel that this applies in this case. Pembroke will not gain any advantage from this.

It was argued, however, by **Homerton Men** that in the past rowers have been forced to choose and have had to give up town club commitments to row with their Colleges.

Caius Men questioned Rule 9 – when it was changed from a yearly choice to a termly choice. **HH** explained that this change had been made by the Captains two years ago in the interests of simplifying the rules and reducing unnecessary restrictions.

Matt was unanimously granted an exception to Rule 9 to be allowed to row in the May Bumps for Pembroke while still training with his Rob Roy crew.

9. Nominations for Committee Positions

DW announced that in light of the constitutional changes, CUCBC will shortly be inviting applications for the positions of Honorary Secretary, Junior Treasurer, Events Secretary and Coxswains' Representative. Captains were encouraged to pass the information on to any members of their clubs who may be interested.

10. Date of the Next Meeting

The next Captains' Meeting will be the Sunday before the May Bumps and will include the election for the CUCBC Honorary Secretary 2011-12.