

Minutes of the Michaelmas Term Captains' Meeting

Tuesday, 19th October 2021

19:00 Online

Present

A. Cox, A. Foster, A. Chan, B. Kovács, Caius Captain, Newnham Captain, C. Hendy, Christ's Women's Captain, Clare Hall Captain, Clare Men's Captain, C. Burgess, D. Berry, D. Argyropoulos, D. Unson, Darwin Men's Captain, Downing Captain, E. Greer, E. Radford, FaT Men's Captain, FaT Women's Captain, Fitzwilliam Men's Captain, Fitzwilliam Women's Captain, F. Treherne-Pollock, F. Floyd, H. Mutton, H. Mayne, I. Rhodes, J. Burrows, J. Blake, K. Shipley, K. Cleary, *Katie B*, K. Heal, King's Women's Captain, Lucy Cavendish Captain, L. Zhu, L. Baxter, L. Bonnor-Moris, Lucy Cavendish Men's Captain, L. Pattison, M. Smolkova, M. Stockdale, M. Johnson, Queens' Women's Captain, R. Egan, R. Howe, R. Turner, R. Cockshaw, Selwyn Men's Captain, T. Marsh, T. Behr.

1 Honorary Secretary Election

There was one candidate; namely, David Berry. No abstentions, or votes against him were received. It was assumed that everybody else had voted in favour. David Berry was duly elected.

2 Non-Binary and Transgender Rules

CB summarised the history of the rule: they were approved in 2019 by the Captains subject to appropriate legal consultation. CB reported that the legal consultation raised that intersex people were not covered by the proposed rule, and that an amendment should be made. The rules were otherwise approved by the legal consultation; thus, they were technically in force as CUCBC rules. CB noted that they were not published as such as it was deemed sensible to wait for such an amendment to be approved.

It was raised that the specifics about testosterone levels could be seen as imperfect but that this position is relatively controversial. It was suggested that this should be discussed further. CB noted that such amendments should be submitted 48 hours in advance of any meeting so should be discussed at the Lent meeting with some specific proposals.

CB noted that the current rules match BR rules, and were as such standard rules. CB further noted that there was no requirement for rules to match BR rules, but that uniformity with them is useful for crews competing in both CUCBC and BR events. It was raised that this permitted us to be more flexible and perhaps better than BR. CB stressed that any rule should be carefully considered about how it can be accommodated.

CB reported that CRA does not have its own rules, and that most town clubs defer to BR rules.

CB recalled that the rules were written by those who would be affected by such rules.

CB noted that the rules around testosterone level only apply to those assigned male at birth, or those having started hormone treatment. KS added that the 10 nMol/l is a standard threshold for testosterone levels. CB noted that CUCBC does not have the right to check testosterone levels ourselves; but, that CUCBC does have the right to request a medical doctor's letter.

It was raised that Fairbairns is not a CUCBC event; and, that if there were any concerns around these or related issues clubs should contact JCBC forthwith.

LZ concluded that this should be revisited at a future meeting.

A vote was held on the proposed amendment. There were 6 abstentions, and none against. It was assumed that everybody else had voted in favour. The amendment was duly adopted.

CB suggested that for further discussion it would be best to have a consensus before the meeting.

3 Rule 23 Clarification

CB suggested that Rule 23 is not being understood as intended. It was reported that there seems to be much bad faith around overtaking particularly in traffic. KS reminded that there should not be any overtaking when in a queue. It was suggested that "where safe to do so" be appended. KS noted that Rule 22(b) covered this. Clarification was requested who should arbitrate what is safe during an overtake. CB clarified that safety is the responsibility of the overtaking coxswain. It was reported that often crews being overtaken (or about to be) often increased their speed to prevent being overtaken.

A vote was taken on the proposed amendment. No abstentions, or votes against were received. It was assumed that everybody had voted in favour. The amendment was duly adopted.

4 Date of University IVs

CB reports that the University does not like races to start before 14:00; and as such, this does not leave much time for racing in the later week with the shortness of daylight hours. It was raised that the later week would begin to impact Fairbairns training. It was also raised that the later week would allow for more time for novices to train. It was suggested that the later week would allow for more time for organisation. It was noted that the lost hour of daylight could present a significant set-back.

CB informed that the course is essentially from the A14 bridge to the railway bridge. CB reported that row-throughs would be available at approximately 40 minute spacing during the racing hours.

A vote was held for each of the weeks. The week commencing 25th October received 7 votes. The week commencing 1st November received 20 votes. It was assumed that all other votes were abstentions. The week commencing 1st November was duly chosen as the week for University IVs.

5 Reminders

LZ gave reminders about lights, EMMs, bank parties, early morning noise. KS reminded that the clock change affects novice boating time. KS clarified that EMMs are not required when the flag is Yellow/Red or Red. KS added that boats must only spin at Jesus Lock, the Pike and Eel, the Long Reach spinning zone, and Baitsbite Lock.

6 Piecing without a Bank Party

CB reported that this was added to the agenda after an incident the previous week. CB noted that no proposal for change is being presented now, rather that appetite for a rule change be gauged. It was raised that this all depends on the experience of the coxswain. It was questioned what was meant by “piece”. It was suggested that perhaps firm pressure could be understood (and that this is mentioned in the rules). CB recalled that this rule is to prevent wash around the house-boats.

7 Substituting into Town Club Training

CB recalled that the current rule came in when some college clubs were training with town clubs to circumvent the training restrictions, and it was felt that this was unfair. CB reported that many rowers manage training with town clubs only during college hours. CB noted that anybody who trained with a town club at 10:00 on a Saturday morning immediately render themselves ineligible for CUCBC events that term. CB reported that often substitution requests are submitted for student who primarily train and race with town clubs. It was reported that the CRA rules around college rowers refer to number of races competed. CB suggested that perhaps the rule could be relaxed to permit a certain number of outings each term. CB suggested that a concrete proposal be prepared for next term.

8 Cam Conservators Consultation

CB reported that the Cam Conservators are currently consulting on proposals to increase boat registration fees. CB reported that research had been done on their motivation, and any recourse we have to appeal any decision made. In short, we have essentially no recourse for appeal as all appeals are heard by the Cam Conservators themselves and not independently. The Cam Conservators are essentially only answerable to themselves. They set their own bye-laws (subject to lawfulness), and appoint their own successors. CB strongly encouraged all to complete the consultation as they are required to have some due process. CB informed that the increases come to roughly an extra 60% for each boat. It was reported that they have almost £2 million in their funds. CB reports that the increases are to help them cover their pension liabilities.

9 Lent Bumps

CB raised that it would be helpful if Captains could survey their respective clubs for rough numbers on entries and umpires.

10 A.O.B.

LZ reported that the EMMs for Lent term would be decided on something fair in the absence of Bumps entry numbers.

11 Lent Term Meeting

CB noted that in person is easier for discussion. CB also noted that attendance was relatively high. LZ suggested that a hybrid meeting might be useful, and could be attractive. It was suggested that hybrid facilities are poor for discussion being more designed around presentation and some questions.

The meeting concluded at 20:45.