

CUCBC Extraordinary Captain's Meeting Minutes

22nd September 2020, 7pm. Held Virtually (Zoom)

In attendance

Boatclubs: Caius, Lucy Cavendish, St Catherine's, Churchill, Clare, Emmanuel, Girton, Newnham, Corpus Christi, Darwin, Magdalene, Murray Edwards, Lady Margret, Clare Hall, Trinity Hall, Sidney Sussex, Robinson, Queens', King's, Hughes Hall, Jesus, Fitzwilliam, Christ's, First and Third, Downing, Pembroke, St. Edmund's, Selwyn, Robinson, Peterhouse, Addenbrookes.

CUCBC: Conor Burgess (Chair, SC), Isabel Nimmo (EC, Coxing Rep), Peter Convey (SC), Matthew Temple (EC), Limeng Zhu (Incumbent Hon. Sec., EC)

Invited: Fairbairns Cup Secretary, QErgs Co-President.

With representation from CUCBC.

Agenda

1. Hon Sec election

2. BR and University Rules: brief overview of current situation and CUCBC's interpretation

(see links here: <https://www.britishrowing.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/200917-Coronavirus-Advice-Returning-to-Rowing-v6-1-1-1-1.pdf> || <https://www.cam.ac.uk/coronavirus/stay-safe-cambridge-uni/living-in-cambridge#clubs>)

3. CUCBC races: CUCBC proposes not to run Uni IVs during Michaelmas

(Captains to vote on this following discussion / amendments)

4. Novice Rowing: How do clubs plan to advance beyond tubbing?

5. College run races:

a) possible proposal that there be no novice races during Michaelmas

(Captains to vote on this following discussion)

b) Senior races?

Minutes

NB: Due to number of POIs, these are appended as a separate document (FYI only) and circulated to Captains.

1. Hon Sec Election

Only one nominee was put forwards, Limeng Zhu. A vote was held, unanimously for the electee, with no votes against and no abstentions. Limeng Zhu thus elected to role of Hon. Sec.

2. BR and University Rules: Brief overview of current situation and CUCBC's interpretation

CUCBC Committee's understanding of the present University and British Rowing (BR) rules is as such: the only legal way to return to sport is to follow the BR rowing guidelines for returning to rowing. The University position is to follow government guidelines on return to sport. As such, BR guidelines need to be followed. (More information can be found on the BR guidance, Pg.28-29). Guidelines include social distancing measures and washing of oars/boat seats by each individual after outings.

The University nor CUCBC (being a volunteer organisation) do not have the resources to approval all Risk Assessments (RAs) or plans, these should be approved by the relevant college authorities.

CUCBC Committee understands that some terms in the BR guidance are not immediately applicable to the cam, such as the definition of a landing stage. Captains should consider how many Eights can fit on their section of hard, this would correspond to the number of Landing Stages. E.g. If three Eights can fit, then this should be interpreted that the hard is equivalent to three Landing Stages.

It is noted that some town clubs are willing to share RAs with college clubs, please drop the CUCBC committee an email for this.

CUCBC Committee is actively enquiring with BR about clarification of their guidelines, e.g. not rowing full crew for manoeuvring.

Note than BR is scheduled to update their guidance on the 10th October.

3. CUCBC Races- CUCBC proposes not to run Uni IVs.

Current guidelines only allow four clubs to compete in a private race. This may change on the 10th October, with the probable change being that all races can be run providing stringent COVID-safe protocols be followed. This should be straightforward on the Cam, as boating is possible from individual boathouses.

CUCBC-organised races are meant to be open to all, and due to factors i.e. college restrictions, differing senior rowing abilities during lockdown and the current workload of captains and boatclubs, CUCBC Committee feels that it is not fair to run Uni IVs at its proposed date and proposes this be scratched for MT. A vote was held on the motion: That Uni IVs be scratched in Michaelmas Term and postponed to Lent or Easter term, COVID-permitting. The vote passed unanimously with no votes against or abstentions.

4. Novice Rowing: How do clubs plan to advance beyond tubbing?

This was an open discussion between CUCBC and all captains, following an opening proposition that novices could train in tubs until of proficient standard to row all 8s. Detailed information regarding POIs and points raised on this agenda point can be found in the appended document. *Summary:*

Concern over rowing proficiency, practicalities, outing and novice requirements for Lent and May Bumps were raised by captains, a point CUCBC Committee accepted and noted that a concerted effort would be needed to adapt to future situations in a realistic and fair way. CUCBC Committee reminded Captains that they are able to propose motions for rule changes and vote on these.

Clubs helpfully shared their current positions and problems regarding crew numbers and plans for returning to rowing. This was welcomed, providing the results were kept as an internal document.

There was general agreement that acquiring further information regarding all college boatclub positions would be helpful to all Captains and to CUCBC and could help individual boatclubs with their individual return to rowing plans/discussions with college authorities. CUCBC Committee also confirmed they are working with the University Sport committee, who provide advice to college authorities.

CUCBC Committee is not currently intending to propose 'blanket' rules across all boatclubs to facilitate compliance with COVID-19 safeguards, on the rationale that all clubs have different assets/facilities and college guidance regarding sport. If it is the wish of the Captains, then they can propose a motion at the Captains meeting/CUCBC AGM.

College boatclubs are currently creating return-to-rowing plans. As mentioned, town clubs have these, and some have been willing to share. It may be the case that some college clubs are willing to share these, and CUCBC Committee is happy to help with dissemination of RAs to any other clubs wishing to view these.

The discussion ended with a general agreement that despite the current discussions for Lent and Easter, the priority for all clubs and CUCBC is to ensure a safe, gradual return to rowing in Michaelmas term.

5. *College-run races:*

It is unlikely that any novices will be sufficiently proficient to be safe for racing. CUCBC Committee provided their understanding of the intentions of MT races, and these were confirmed by the relevant persons in charge of the college-run races.

CNR- Will not run in any form.

Emma Sprints- Will not run as a novice race. Considering a senior sprint race.

Fairbairns- Not planning to totally cancel novice Fairbairns at the moment. Keen to provide some form of race for seniors, subject to COVID-19 situation and rowing proficiency in individual boatclubs.

QErgs- Intends to run in a COVID-safe format at Queen's College for novices and seniors, date TBD but keen to ensure this occurs at the right time in novice's development.

CUCBC Committee also understands that Cantabs are intending to run the Winter Head, subject to the relaxing of BR event rules on 10th Oct.

Open discussion then followed in regards to Captain's preferences towards racing in MT.

Summarised:

Emphasis was put on the point that if novices can't row safely, there is no point putting on novice rowing racing. This was countered by the fear that if no races are scheduled, it will be difficult to recruit rowers.

A point was raised that some novice crews may be able to row, and race, safely; the lack of novice races would be of detriment to these crews. Other Captains expressed hope that they would be able to produce race-ready novice crews by the end of MT, though practicalities of racing (e.g. crew scratch due to self-isolation) would need to be considered.

A point was raised about the importance to ensure no rower is not pressured to row if exhibiting symptoms or is unwell.

The discussion ended with a proposition that CUCBC stays flexible on the question of novice racing during MT, with no restrictions be imposed on racing at this time. The vote was held, with 42 in favour, 2 against and no abstentions.

CUCBC Committee highlights there will be another Captain's meeting in due course, in line with the requirement of holding an AGM in the first two weeks of full term.

AOB-

Current bridge works restrictions will be lifted on the 24th October, the bridge will not open for a while.

If anyone has correspondence from BR Eastern Region regarding local deviation from BR guidelines, please do share with CUCBC Committee if able to, this will be very helpful.

CUCBC Committee will investigate the possibility of relaxing outing time restrictions to spread out outings over the day/weekends, however emphasises that this is a long-standing and complex agreement between many river users and local authorities.

CUCBC Committee will create a repository for the sharing of resources.

CUCBC Committee will update Captains with any news regarding talks with the University and BR.

The meeting ends with Captains imploring that everyone approaches rowing in MT with caution, whether they be novice or senior rowers. We are still in a pandemic, as such safety and rower health must be the priority. A phased return is essential to ensure reduced congestion on the Cam, so that continued adherence to social distancing can occur. Safety must be the main priority; this is seconded by the majority of boatclubs and the CUCBC SC and EC.