Churchill College Boat Club – Annual General Meeting (Virtual)

13th June 2020

This meeting took place over Zoom call due to the ongoing Coronavirus Outbreak, the votes recorded in the minutes reflect the members in the call at that time, however this changed significantly throughout the call

Attendance: 23-29 consisting of 31 different members

Chair: Katie Kirk (Overall Captain) Minuting Secretary: Kieran Heal (Secretary)

1. Initial welcome and format of the call discussed
2. Amendments - Two Proxy votes had been received in advance of the meeting from Aletta and Luke Patel
   1. The Coronavirus Voting amendment (Appendix 1)

Proposer: Kieran Heal, Seconder: Katie Kirk

An amendment to allow the procedure of online voting for this academic year due to the Coronavirus Pandemic

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| --- | --- | --- |
| For | Against | Abstain |
| 27 (+2) = 29 | 0 | 0 |

* 1. The Coxing Captain amendment (Appendix 2)

Proposer: Katie Kirk, Seconder: Kieran Heal

Part (a)

An amendment to change the name of Coxing Rep to Coxing Captain

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| --- | --- | --- |
| For | Against | Abstain |
| 27 (+2) = 29 | 0 | 0 |
|  |  |  |

Part (b)

An amendment to change the description of the role of the Coxing Captain

It was clarified that the addition of responsibility for training of Senior coxes did not have to be explicitly done by the Coxing Captain but could be otherwise arranged by them. However, the expectation was that they would be responsible for oversight.

It was further clarified that there was an expectation that for the top crews decisions would be made in discussion with the Men’s and Women’s Captains. This was comparable to how it had been arranged for the last 2 years.

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| For | Against | Abstain |
| 27 (+2) = 29 | 0 | 0 |

1. The hustings for the 2020 Committee elections took place with the following participants:

Overall Captain: Ross Tooley

Men’s Captain: Thomas Imhoff

Women’s Captain: Alice Dyson and Sarah Robinson

Men’s Vice Captain: Morgan Sapsford

Women’s Vice Captain: Mila Giovacchini

Lower Boats Captains: Amy Hornsby and Kieran Heal

Secretary: Nairi Weston

Junior Treasurer: Kieran Heal

Safety and Welfare Officer: Radu Udrea

Website and Communications Officer: Katie Kirk

Coxing Representative: Hei Li

Social Secretary: Luca Schwarz

Each candidate was given a one minute speech, and then questions took place at the end of each role.

1. Virtual BCD is to take place after the Virtual Running Bumps on the 28th June, further details will be sent out closer to the event.
2. Handover will take place as close to normal, and therefore take place at the Virtual BCD.
3. The Pinchin Prize and Best Crew Prize will continue to go ahead as normal, with further details sent out before Virtual BCD.

Appendix 1

**Proposal:** Coronavirus Committee Election Provision Amendment

Proposed by Kieran Heal, Seconded by Katie Kirk

A motion to facilitate the election of officers in the absence of an AGM where members are physically present and secret paper ballot voting can take place.

**Suspending** clauses 7.3: “*Ballot papers will then be issued to all current members of the Boat Club. Boat Club members unable to attend the GM may vote by proxy, but their vote will no longer be anonymous. In this case, their vote must be sent to the Secretary by email before the start of the GM*.”

And clause 7.5: “*After the GM, a secret ballot will be held. Completed ballot papers will be collected in a sealed box.*”

**To be temporarily replaced with:** An election will take place by a virtual means approved by the Overall Captain and the Secretary subject to the requirements that:

1. The voting period last at least 24 hours, taking place after the AGM
2. The voting system can validate the identity of those voting
3. The voting system facilitates the other voting conditions of the constitution.

**This amendment will be ineffective at the end of the 2020 Committee Election**

**Appendix 2**

Proposal 1: Change the position of Coxing Representative to Coxing Captain

Proposal 2: Add in ‘the selection and training of the senior coxes’ to the role

Proposed by Katie Kirk, Seconded by Kieran Heal

Currently the Coxing Rep’s definition reads as follows:

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▪ the recruitment and training of novice coxes;

▪ to assist captains in assigning regular coxes to crews;

▪ to attend CUCBC Coxes Meetings and ensure attendance of other coxes as required;

▪ to maintain coxing equipment and report faulty or damaged equipment to the Equipment and

Safety Officer as appropriate

Justification:

The proposed change in title is primarily to reflect the similarities between this role and other

roles that share very similar definitions, e.g. all the captains (LBCs, W/MVCs and W/MC) have a

line about selection, organisation and training. The Cox Rep does currently also perform a role

in organising coxes for outings in Mich, although this is unrecognised by the constitution above.

In terms of raw numbers and with the club at the size it currently is, the Cox Rep currently deals

with roughly the same number of individuals as the captain of a boat would: in Mich we had 11

active coxes, while in Lent there were 7 coxes assigned to boats with a number of additional

coxes used to sub into outings.

The Coxing Rep does a number of additional jobs over and above that of the other captains.

They provide additional feedback to the coxes by listening to and evaluating cox recordings; and

they create feedback forms and actively engage with the coaches in the club to collate feedback

for individuals (which is often frustratingly lacking during outings). They organise and run coxing

talks throughout the term to teach things that are often hard to cover during an outing: from

technical things to look for on an erg (as well as how these can be spotted in a boat when you

can’t see the rower); to how to race plan and how to do bumps safely. This is in addition to

being a source of answers for any questions coxes may have, and a source of support if any

incidents do occur (with coaches/rowers/other crews).

The addition of the extra line into the description of the role is to reflect that this proposed

ammendment is already happening, and that additional support and training is a priority for

coxes beyond their novice term (or year, depending on how you define who is a novice). I think

the involvement of an elected cox in selection is important for a number of reasons: to allow the

fair allocation of coxes to boats (taking into account the club as a whole rather than just a boat

or one side of the club) and to allow the input from someone who has been following the

development of all the coxes in the boat club (and thus should have a fairly good overview of all

the coxes by comparison). The coxing rep can also act as an important bridge between what the

boat captains may want coxing wise, and what the individual coxes are willing to do.

We can all agree that Cambridge rowing (and it’s reliance on eights) wouldn’t be possible

without coxes, and further to that most of us would probably agree that a good cox has a huge

impact on the running of outings and the progression of the boat throughout term. All of the

things listed above are essential in advancing the standard of coxing in the club and making

coxes feel like integral parts of our boat club.