

Reply to Varsity Newspaper:

It is indeed true that there were 2 cases of hypothermia at the regatta organised on 19/02/2022. Our decision to run the regatta came after consultation with CUCBC (Cambridge University Combined Boat Clubs, who are in charge of regulating college rowing on the Cam). Storm Eunice passed on the 18th, as shown with historical wind data:

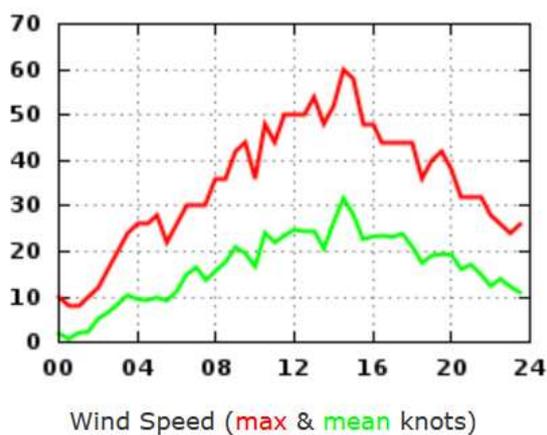


Figure 1: Wind on 18th February

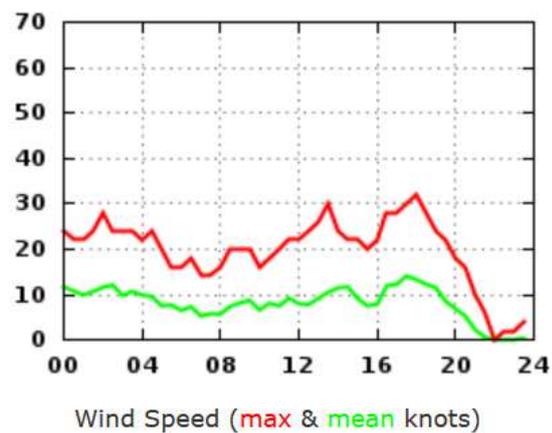


Figure 2: Wind on 19th February (regatta day)

(source: <https://www.cl.cam.ac.uk/research/dtg/weather/daily-graph.cgi?2022-2-18>)

We believed that these conditions would be good to host the regatta, which agreed with official communication from CUCBC:

Outlook: Apologies for the confusion. The flag is set during events, but the race organisers have control of navigation and therefore they can choose which crews the conditions are appropriate for. In any event, the conditions tomorrow morning should be ok for green flag, with some slightly more challenging conditions in the afternoon.

The CUCBC Committee

Our risk assessment includes precautions for the events that have gone down, and part of that is first aid cover being available at the event, which this year was provided by St. John's Ambulance. Other precautions included warning all captains of boatclubs about the weather forecast (low temperatures, fair wind and possibility of rain around midday), and ask all crews to bring adequate amount of layers.

Dear captains,

I hope you are all looking forward to Pembroke Regatta tomorrow. Please read this email carefully.

WEATHER: Under current weather forecasts, all divisions will be going ahead. The wind is predicted to get stronger during the day, though crews will be more experienced as the day goes on.

Please ensure all competitors bring appropriate warm and dry/waterproof kit for the competition. Bank parties can aid here. Some crews could be out for prolonged time as they proceed through the rounds of the day.

Many crews had a sufficient bank party carrying waterproof layers for them while racing, whilst others turned up to race in a t-shirt. We are conducting an internal review on how crew apparel and weather forecast could be handled better, however, in line with British Rowing guidance, it is ultimately the racing crew's responsibility to have appropriate wear for the amount of time that they are due to spend on water. Marshalling for extended periods of time during races and regattas is not

uncommon. The regatta timetable (available at: <http://regatta.pembrokecollegeboatclub.com/timetable.php>) shows that crews should expect to be on water for 3-4h in the case they progress through the regatta. We expected crews to wear weather appropriate kit for this duration, which in mid-February would involve many waterproof layers.

To reiterate we are very sorry for the events that have transpired, and exceptionally sorry to the people with hypothermia. We are conducting an internal review to make sure next year we can put on a safer regatta.

Bence Kovacs,

Captain of Boats, Pembroke College Boat Club