



Rowing

British

Columbia

Seminar 2021 presentation
Brown Cup
Officiating Considerations

Brown Cup 2/14

Longstanding rivalry:

University of British Columbia *versus* University of Victoria

Races:

4 Dual style head-to-head 8+

8 crews ((Men, Women X Reserve, Varsity)

Simplified itinerary:

Coin Toss, Tale of the Tape, launch (every 30 minutes);
Race (1 hour after CT)



Brown Cup 3/14

Brief History

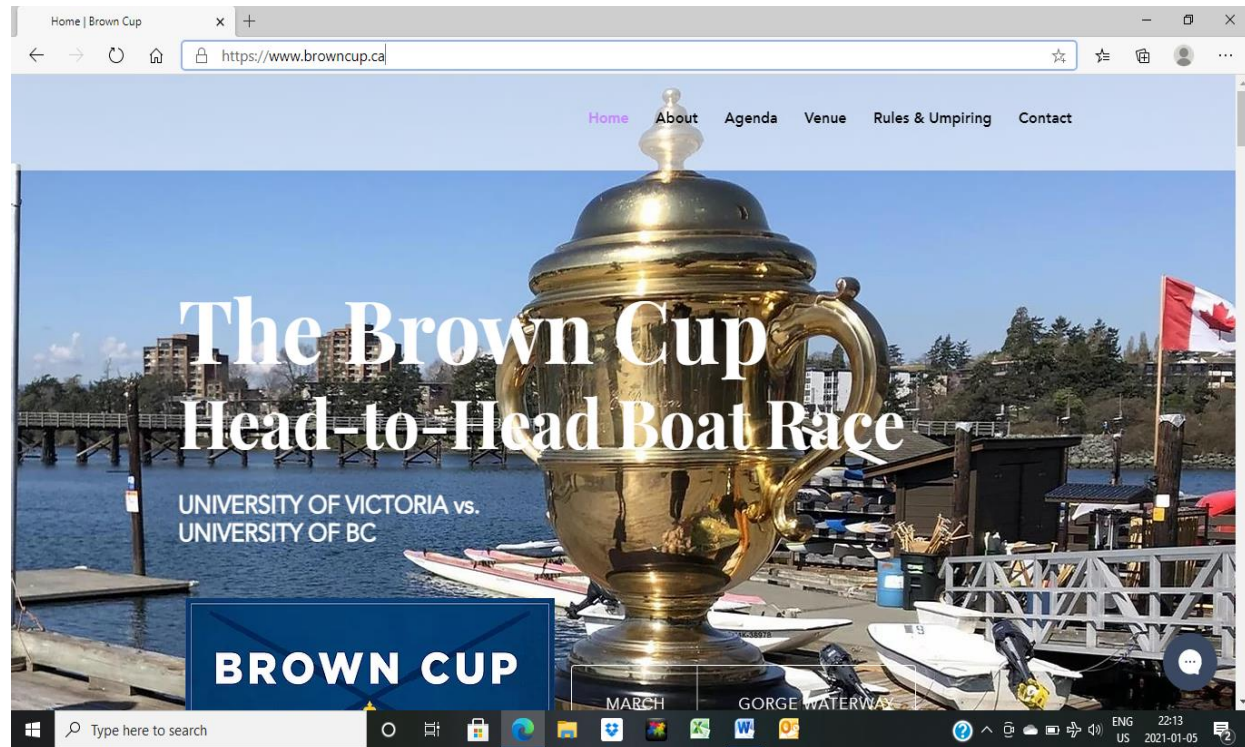
Men's crews first raced in 1991 on the Gorge Waterway (Esquimalt, Saanich and Victoria). Women's crews were added in 1992 in Coal Harbour. (Mainland course is now on the Fraser River (Richmond) from Mitchell Island to the John M S Lecky UBC Boathouse.) The Brown Cup Trophy has been awarded to the winners of the Varsity races since 1993 (with the Brown Cup Oar travelling to the winners' boathouse). The Joe Dowd - Howie Campbell Cup has been awarded to the winners of the Reserve races since 2014.

Recent Men's Varsity times have varied between 07:23 and 10:26 on the Fraser River and 08:47 and 10:38 on the Gorge Waterway depending on currents, distance, ... and crews.



Brown Cup 4/14

See the above in more detail at <https://www.browncup.ca/>



Brown Cup 5/14

The Gorge Waterway course



Brown Cup 6/14

YouTube

Brown Cup - UBC vs UVic - Gorge Waterway (2016 *)

Women's Varsity Race - Drone (Proposed new Start visible at 0:01/14:50, Curtis Point at :40, docks at 1:45, Selkirk Trestle at 3:45, navigational aid at 5:10, Point Ellice Bridge at 6:10, Point Hope at 6:45, Finish at old Johnson Street Bridge 3.0 km **) - UVic:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YWqai-W6uEQ>

Women's Varsity Race (Selkirk Trestle at 2:25/5:57):

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3j_ZWCUmH_w



Brown Cup 7/14

- * The Brown Cup and Reserves Race Rules of Racing were re-written for 2019. Emphasized is that Race Umpires will now direct crews in plenty of time to prevent their crossing the center line between stations/lanes. No longer will a clashing of blades (or switching stations even with clear water) be tolerated.
- ** Finish at Ship Point in the Inner Harbour 3.5 km in 2019



Brown Cup 8/14

Men's Varsity Race - Drone (Proposed new Start visible at 0:50/9:39, Curtis Point at 1:10, docks at 2:10, Selkirk Trestle at 4:25, navigational aid at 5:20, Point Ellice Bridge at 6:40, *Point Hope at 7:20* ***, Finish at old Johnson Street Bridge) - UVic 9:01.42:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XI0Uas87E98>

Men's Varsity Race (Selkirk Trestle at 1:19/3:46):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AvyLhPkDGMI>

*** Aggressive coxswains had been the chief bane of Race Umpires, but, for the totally unexpected, see "*Point Hope at 7:20*" above.



Brown Cup 9/14

Officiating Considerations (/Critical differences from other races)

1 Preventing encroachment -- remaining on station

There is no buoy line and the course is not straight. The fastest course can vary due to currents and shallow water and the coxswains will be trying to take advantage of it. Until 2019, inter-leaving and minor clashing of blades was almost an expectation. Now, Race Umpires are to direct crews in plenty of time to prevent their crossing the center line between stations/lanes (even if ahead with clear water).

2 Entry to the Selkirk Trestle

The crews must pass through perpendicularly so as to not converge before the (starboard turn) navigational aid.



3 Turns

Umpires are to anticipate the greater lane “width” required for turns than in a typical straight-line Sprint race (where RCA Rules of Racing state that lanes shall have a minimum width of 13.5 m). An 8+ is approximately 7 m (blade tip to blade tip) wide ... typically leaving about 6 m of separation between competitors in a Sprint. We often witness a prolonged nerve-wrenching 1 m in the Brown Cup! However, on a 45 degree turn, a Hudson shell’s 17.4 m length will cause an additional 6 m of lane obstruction ... suddenly leaving no margin of safety.

4 Shallow water at points of land projecting toward the course

Curtis Point just after the old Start was one such example. These require both crews to stand off far enough for optimal racing conditions.



Brown Cup 11/14

Event Enhancements

For 2020, a Sport Tourism grant for branding and sponsorship spanning 2 years led to a stand-alone committee with a Project Manager elevated from the usual UBC or UVic individual organizations.

Course improvements are to include a new Start at the rock wall at the foot of McNaughton Ave (eliminating past concerns of Tillicum Narrows' current and lateral spacing) ... and with boat holders. The new Finish Line was to be right in the scenic Inner Harbour perpendicular to the CPR Steamship Terminal Building. The intent is to also to launch from there with dignitaries, pomp and ceremony amongst the iconic backdrops of Empress Hotel and Legislative Assembly in partnership with Tourism Victoria and others. Shorter Alumni races are to be a prelude.



Brown Cup 12/14

Another interesting feature of the new organization is a Technical Sub-Committee consisting of 4 Coaches that has been brain-storming various other “operational enhancements”. They did experiment in the February UVic Trial Eights with an LOC “Caller/Guide” and an Umpire relegated to after-the-fact adjudication. As the Chief Umpire of the day, I now have a multitude of (primarily evidence based) reasons to firmly oppose this concept.

As most of us are aware, this end of March regatta was the second casualty of Covid-19 cancellations.



Brown Cup 13/14

Umpire roles (2020 and beyond)

There is a great deal of pressure from the LOC for each race's officiating to be above reproach. One simplistic solution would be to ensure the involvement of only Trial Eights &/ Brown Cup "experienced" Umpires. With the vagaries of jury signups and attrition, plus limited launch capacities, this was far from guaranteed.

However, the Race Umpire Launch will now be a Stillwater 25 which should permit both an experienced Primary plus a possibly new to the Brown Cup Secondary aboard. For each subsequent race, rotating the (previous) Aligner to Starter, Primary to Aligner, Secondary to Primary, and Starter to Secondary should ensure the integrity of each race and increase the experience pool for subsequent years.



Brown Cup 14/14

A PDF version of this presentation is (/will be) available at <https://rowingbc.ca/umpire-resources/> (Seminar 2021)

Questions?

