

TGM Michaelmas 1999

Wednesday 17th November 1999

AGENDA

- 1) Apologies
- 2) Minutes of last meeting and matters arising
- 3) Officers' Reports:
 - a) President
 - b) Chair
 - c) Secretary
 - d) Meets Sec
 - e) Treasurer
 - f) Gear Post
 - g) Lamp Post
 - h) Van Man
 - i) Expedition Leader
- 4) PDCMG news
- 5) OUSF news

MINUTES

- 1) **Present were:** Chris Densham (chair), Steve Roberts, Hilary Greaves, Jo Whistler, Andy King, Lev Bishop, Tim Guilford, Joan Arthur, Lynn Mulelly, Forrest, Jemmy, Paul Mann, Rich Doyle

Apologies received from Simon Goddard.

- 2) The minutes of the Trinity TGM were accepted. Matters arising as follows.

Extra storage space for club gear

The club's request to get more gear storage space from the University at Bevington Road has not come to anything.

Accommodation in Yorkshire

Four alternatives were considered: Southerscales, Green Close, Bull Pot Farm, Ingleton Caravans.

Southerscales: The problems discussed at the last meeting (poor cooking facilities and high price) remain. We have not yet written to Southerscales requesting a discount for using the facilities at off-peak times. Although we have found alternative accommodation, Southerscales is one of the few places that are suitable for those with young families (which several of our members now have), so this would still be worthwhile. Chris will write.

Green Close: is fine.

Bull Pot Farm, is fine, but considered a bit out of the way for anything except Easegill.

Ingleton Caravans. Steve suggested the caravans as another family-friendly place. If nothing else they provide an alternative for those with families, on weekends when the club is staying somewhere noisy and scummy Jo reported that if we are staying in the caravans, everyone has to be extra careful to leave them clean and tidy, as otherwise the Meets Sec gets a hard time about it.

After discussion it was decided that Rich would book one weekend at Green Close, one at BPF, for next term. We will also hold a weekend meet near Easter at Southerscales.

3) Officers' Reports

a) President's Report

Steve reported that the President's Invite weekend was a success.

Steve continues to sit on the Clubs Committee and admits that this makes him a "genuine Grade A Old Fart" The CC is now irrelevant to the Cave Club (we're a Sport), except that it looks after the Bevington Road facilities. Hilary will contact the CC re. gaining access to the building (old swipe cards don't seem to work) and getting keys to the new outside toilet.

The Sports Council is asking for ideas for stuff to build at the Iffley Road sports complex. Steve will ask, on behalf of OUCC, for a climbing wall and somewhere for SRT practice. Any more ideas, shout 'em out.

b) Chair's Report

Sweet FA as usual. He only sits around wearing silly hats, for God's sake.

c) Secretary's Report

Mailing lists

Hilary has taken it upon herself to "drag OUCC into the technological age" and set up a plethora of e-mail mailing lists via the Oxford University Computing Services. These use a "majordomo" automatic mail server: you can send mail to everyone on the list via the server, and subscribe/unsubscribe to lists automatically without bothering a human about it. We have 4 lists, which are explained below They've been designed to save people from getting an excess of irrelevant mail, so please use the relevant list if you're sending out a mass message.

List name: "oucc-all-members"

Initial membership: all club members (who have email and whose addresses I could find).

Use for' general messages relevant to everyone in the club (e.g. info on weekend

meets. Also TGM minutes, so if you're not reading this, but want to, it means you need to subscribe to this list).

List name: "oucc-local-stuff"

Initial membership: club members living in/near Oxford.

Use for- club messages that are only applicable to those living locally (e.g. info on Wednesday nights & other local social events)

List name: "ario2000"

Initial membership: every man and his dog who might plausibly be interested in next year's expedition.

Use: You can't, generally. Used by expedition committee for circulating expedition newsletter and telling everyone to COME TO SPAIN!

List name: "dtf"

Initial membership: everyone on the current DTF list

Use: You can't, unless you're Tim. General messages & discussion, such as have previously used the DTF list, should go to oucc-all-members. If you want to receive them as well as DTF, subscribe to that list. (We are guessing some people want DTF and nothing else.)

The expected membership of each list has already been subscribed, if you're on a given list, you'll have received a "Welcome to" message about it by now. Anyone else may join/leave the lists freely by sending email to the server: see instructions below.

Joining a list:

Send mail to [ma\)ordomo@niaillist.ox.ac.uk](mailto:ma)ordomo@niaillist.ox.ac.uk) with the message: "subscribe [listname]", e.g. "subscribe oucc-all-members", on a line by itself in the message body (You can include more than one command in one message if you want to: just separate them with linebreaks.)

Leaving a list:

You guessed it: Send mail to majordomo@mail.list.ox.ac.uk with the message: "unsubscribe [listname]"

Broadcasting a message to everyone on a certain list:

Anyone on the "oucc-all-members" list can broadcast messages to the whole list: send the message to oucc-all-members@rn.aillist.ox.ac.uk. Similarly "oucc-local-stuff"

Finding out who's on a list:

If you're on a mailing list [listname], you can find out who else is. Send mail to majordomo@mailist.ox.ac.uk with the message: "who [listname]" The server will send back to you a message listing all subscribed email addresses.

List admin & further info:

Hilary is the current owner of all the lists. It is straightforward to transfer list ownership when necessary. If you have any problems/queries with any of the above, contact Hilary or, if you like formality, "owner-[listname]@maillist.ox.ac.uk". More info is available on the OUCS website: <http://www.oucs.ox.ac.uk/maiordomo>.

d) Meets Sec's Report

Rich reported that the novice trips went very well and that the Yorkshire weekend was excellent! Come to the 7th & 8th week meets for more speleotimes!!

We have booked space at Bull Pot Farm for New Year (27th Dec to 2nd Jan or thereabouts - ?) CUCC have been in touch about sharing the booking, which is fine with us - space is likely to be short, but as long as we don't mind sleeping in big piles of people this is okay.

There will be an SRT practice next week, before the Yorkshire meet.

e) Treasurer's Report

Paul supplied printouts of the club accounts for the 1st 3 quarters of 1999 He reported that the club currently has about £1000 cash in hand, which is about the right level.

If claiming expenses for petrol etc, PLEASE put your claims in promptly, as it causes hassle for the Treasurer to backdate corrections.

f) Gear Post's Report

Simon reported that the gear is all OK.

On an expedition note, we have lost two of the Ghar Parau bivvy bags. Lev is chasing up the last few leads as to what might have happened to these. If we don't find them by Christmas we will buy some new ones, or write a cheque to the Ghar Parau for them, whichever they prefer

g) Lamp Post's Report

Lev reported that most of the lamps are fine. The cables are getting repeatedly corroded at the ends, to which the standard response has been to cut the end off and reattach the cable. Lev assured us this was the genuine reason why we had increasingly been walking round staring at the ceilings of caves, although Tim remains convinced Lev has just made a habit out of "snipping the ends off for kicks" Either way, Lev will buy some new cables.

We still have one of the Cambridge lamps, but we've got ours back from them now, so we ain't too bothered.

h) Van Man's Report

Present state of the van blanc:

On the way back from the last Yorkshire meet, the white van developed a hole in its engine, which is consequently completely fucked.

We still have the red van, having collected a £100 deposit but not actually managed to sell it. The red van's engine is fine. In the light of all this, Steve will try to get Cleaver's to fit the red van engine to the white van. He thinks the two should be compatible.

Until/unless this is sorted out, we have no van for weekend meets. The University has a deal with Hotson's, a commercial hire company, whereby we can hire vans for £45 a day. These can be driven by anyone over 21. The hire cost may be less if drivers have passed the University's minibus test. Rich will look into this for the purposes of the next couple of meets.

Future of the club van

Steve suggested that the club might not need its own vehicle. Expedition aside, we would be better off hiring vehicles when necessary for club weekends. This would work out cheaper when we consider depreciation of the vehicle and maintenance costs. The only thing that has warranted OUCC having a van has been its use for Spain.

There is debate as to whether we really need a van for Spain. It has been useful, for transporting gear out and back, and for mobility in country. However, alternatives must exist. Briefly Brittany Ferries are reported to accept gear on pallets only in unplanned emergency, but there will be other ways of getting big piles of rope to the continent. Mobility in Spain is a minor problem that could be solved by making sure there is someone with a car on expedition at all times, or hiring a car in Spain. The expedition committee will look into the details. It looks like we will probably have the white van for Ario 2000, but we should have a contingency plan in case this does not work out and also bear in mind (when deciding on gear stashes etc.) that future expeditions may run without a van altogether.

Van Man Rolls Off

Steve will stand down as Van Man at the AGM in February after more than 15 years of knowing about engines. If the club is going to continue having a van, someone else will need to look after it. Chris agreed in principle to looking after the van on paper and to taking it into the garage for maintenance. The club thanked Steve for the substantial effort he has put in during his years of being a "grump-free Van Man".

i) Expedition Leader's Report

Extremero 99:

Jo reported that the Expedition Dinner was very good and that many humorous drunken party games were played.

The expedition report is coming together. Please get all contributions to Jo ASAP, and at any rate before the end of next week (27th November). •

Ario 2000:

is the name of next year's expedition. We will return to 2/7 with the dual aims of pushing Egbert and upstream. Pip is leading the expedition, but was absent. Plans are under way. COME TO SPAIN! (or have I already said that? ?)

j) Procs 14, 15

Proc 14:

Pauline was absent but reported that progress had been made. The main thing missing is still surveys.

The club library has the required F64 survey, which Steve will give to Pauline. If working on anything for Proc 14, PLEASE get it to Pauline **ASAP**

Proc 15:

Paul is editor of Proc 15. He will start chasing up articles after Christmas.

4) PDCMG news

Chris went to the PDCMG meeting last Sunday. As explained in DTT, the PDCMG policy on Draenen is still that there is only one entrance. The change in the 2nd entrance policy has been from "permanent closure" to closure except in the event of a rescue, or for a special project. The decision as to whether to use the 2nd entrance in the event of a rescue is made by the Cave Rescue. "Projects" must apply for specific approval from the PDCMG, and have their proposals passed at a PDCMG meeting.

5) OUSF news

Chris and Hilary went to the OUSF Captain's Committee meeting and sniggered knowingly at all the references to referees and after-match entertainment.

OUSF is instigating a safety policy, which states that every member club must supply a written Safety Policy to which it then promises to adhere. In contrast to the authorities at many other universities, OUSF seems very sensitive to the fears of "alternative" sports regarding University interference. OUSF states that it will be looking to see that clubs' proposals are in accordance with the views of the national governing body for their specific sport. We will write a Safety Policy based largely on the NCA guidelines for university caving clubs, and send it to the NCA for approval before submitting it to OUSF

We fancy our chances of getting financial support from the University for professionally instructed advanced-SRT and SRT-rescue courses.

OUSF has negotiated an insurance deal with Endsleigh, the student insurance specialists, for personal accident & injury cover for University sports clubs. This costs 95p per year per person covered. "People covered" seems a bit of a grey area, as the insured are not named on the policy This is intended to extend cover automatically to new members. We are not sure whether, if we do decide to take out this cover, we should base the numbers on the whole club membership, those who caved regularly with the club, etc. Paul has the policy info and will look into the matter further.

OUSF are running a series of sports psychology lectures. Lev commented that these could be very useful as good psychology was crucial to many aspects of caving, such as firebreathing. Everyone else went to the bar.