

Oxford University Caving Club

Michaelmas TGM - 16th November 2011

Minutes

Present: Jamie Jordan - JJ, Andrew Mawer - AM, Vicky Lim - VL, Ben Hudson - BH, Rosa Clements - RC, Thomas Leung - TL, Olaf Kahler (with an umlaut) - OK, Steffan Danino - SD, Jonny Smith - JS, Flo McLean - FM

Apologies for absences

- Tim Guildford and Lou Maurice are sorry they cannot make the meeting
- Si Goddard is ill and apologises
- Jeremy Welsh apologises but is currently busy
- Steve Roberts is also busy

Matters Arising from the TGM

- Membership and PL insurance update
 - SR - Would like to remind secretary & treasurer that they are now in charge of the operational membership list, and will need to keep track of who are members and who is due to pay PL insurance (basically, anyone who is a regular member, or a newbie who caves again more than 17 days after their first trip). I would appreciate, though, being kept informed of pukka new members and address changes as I will keep the old address database (using MS access) going as a shadow system.
 - VL and JW have converted the membership list into a googledoc which certain club members have access to. Fresher's data is entered into a googleform which translates it directly into an easily surveyed spreadsheet which can be used to check BCA membership needs.
 - Several freshers will require BCA insurance for the CHECC weekend but this is being sorted and the club will pay.

Committee members' reports:

President (SR)

- The President went on expedition , briefly, and was not defeated by climax rift.
- The President's invite this year was very successful, even though it was nearly entirely old lags and children. Well, some of the children were quite old and some of the old lags were quite young. Even so...
- The President's constructional skills have found expression in The Constrictor.

Chairman (JJ)

- JJ thanks VL for her work this term
- SD also appreciates the emails

Secretary (VL)

- Best term ever. We got a squeeze machine (Steve you are my hero), held and won a Varsity match, took literally millions of fresher's caving, and, most importantly, invented the communal sandwich. All is going swimmingly except the old lag content of socials seems to have fallen which makes me weep at night and is affecting my studies. So please come back.
 - It is noted at this point that there are no old lags at the TGM.
- Wondering, legitimately, whether we could apply for half-blue status. I mean I know it's a crazy idea but if someone was willing to put the effort in, and really tried to sell it, it's not as ludicrous as, say, lifesaving, which gets a few people a half-blue every year. It depends on whether it's worth it funding wise and prestige wise. But I also think it would be funny.
 - JJ and VL will look into it - will contact Sports Fed and seek advice
- Do we want a termly dinner and a Christmas party in the last two weeks? We can of course, but it's been a full term and I was wondering if it wouldn't be nice just to skip the dinner and have a bigger party: if people don't object.
 - The club is happy not to have a termly dinner but instead will have a slightly bigger Christmas party
- Can we change SRT training from being the duty of the secretary to being that of the gear officer? Not trying to shirk or anything, I mean, after this term most of the training is done anyway, I just think that in future it makes more sense for the gear officer to have more responsibility, particularly as relates to SRT, and for the secretary to have slightly less to do.
 - Will stay the job of the Secretary (as the Gear Officer is often a job for newer cavers unsuited to teaching SRT) but can be delegated to a reliable member in future
- I'd like to propose a small social budget for each term. No more than £30, and by no means something that requires spending, but a reserve, for expenditures like beer for beer pong, or cans and matches and tape and other bits and bobs that might be required for socials. I'm aware that the club has generally reimbursed these things in the past anyway but it may be tidier to have a portion of our income which is clearly designated for such things so our accounts are neater.
 - Approved by the Chairman JJ and general consensus.
- P.S. Sorry this agenda's so late and the notice for the meeting is too. I thought for some reason it was in 7th
 - JJ notes this is unacceptable.

Meets Sec (AM)

- Wales weekend had issues because of the minibus problems but that was not the clubs fault and everything went well in the end.

Treasurer (JW)

- Sorry I'm not there, I can only claim the pressures of trying to do two jobs at the moment for my failure to properly populate my calendar.
- Anyway, most importantly, I am still here, and have not absconded with the untold millions from OUCC.
- I do have a bit of a backlog of payments to make/sort, complicated a bit by some slightly incomplete accounts records. We ought to try and make sure that people in charge of trips do complete a proper income/expenditure sheet for each trip so I can see exactly what's been happening.
- Please let me know if there were any specific queries relating to the funds from the meeting. I will endeavour to bring everything up to date asap.

Gear officer (BH)

- Would like three new belts for the club after noticing shortages on freshers' trips
- If there is money, five new helmets would be a useful asset. Five would be more than enough to cover novices on most trips other than those in Michaelmas.
- JJ suggests asking Sports Fed for money on the basis of safety equipment.
 - BH mandated to talk to the treasurer about buying new equipment.
- Would like a system for signing in and out SRT kits for the sake of PPE and to check the status of gear. Shouldn't mix and match SRT kits. After weekends, SRT kits need to be put back together properly.
- JJ notes the need for personal rigging sponges for the SRT kits
- AM is willing to lend his old oversuit to the hut whenever it's needed.
- BH will go through the hut over Christmas to check it all

Women's officer (RC)

- Lots of women cavers this term which is good
 - BH notes two girls have signed up for expo

Librarian / Archivist (SR)

- Some books and stuff were bought at Hidden Earth (Wookey Hole book, Andy Caving's complete sparrow manual, and the Wookey Hole DVD). Journals continue to arrive and be filed, and from time to time I dig into the backlog and sort bits of it out. In so doing I have unearthed surveys, and DVDs of caving videos, donated long ago by Geoff O'Dell and am putting them into order. As requested at last TGM, list of books and journals on the web have been updated (and is already out of date...). I have received pictures of the 1966 and 1967 expedition from Dick Hazelwood and am scanning them.
 - Fresher's hoping to borrow books from Steve: will contact him.

Webman (SR)

- The website continues. Not flashy or remotely modern but does the job. Happy to continue.

Points of discussion

- Annual meal dates next term
 - 3rd March - Saturday of 7th week
- CHECC costume themes!
 - Silvio Berlesconi and his team of bunga bungas
 - JJ will choose arbitrarily
- HT 2012 weekends
 - 2nd, 4th and 6th weekend trips
 - 2nd week to Wales, WSG
 - 4th week Yorkshire, Bullpot Farm
 - 6th week to Derbyshire, Gerrish house
 - Permits requests for Titan and Peak in Derbyshire and Otter Hole (for Trinity)
- HT 2012 socials
 - Knots night
 - AGM

- Caving games
- Video night (not Sanctum)

2011 Expedition report from Fleur Loveridge

In my opinion the 2011 expedition was definitely a success, despite not meeting any of our main objectives. We battled hideous weather and evil cows, but still everyone seemed to have an excellent time myself included. Thanks to everyone who helped make this happen. In the end more people turned up than we initially expected and we were able to revise down the expedition fees which was a positive outcome all round. The expedition report, which will say all this in meticulous detail is almost complete.

2012 Expedition update from Ben Hudson

- Handed in the prospectus to the OEC people (a week early!)
- Having interviews next Tuesday - appeal to people to go
- Ben is working on permits and is waiting on a response from Nacho
- Many freshers have signed up which is encouraging
- Prospectus is online attached to the Google group

Any other business

- Ropes in the hut need going over (old ropes, mislabelled ropes, and dirty ropes) - Thomas
 - BH argues that the rope in that hut that is excessively old is not in fact that bad because it has not been in use that whole time
 - JJ says ropes used on expo need to be re-checked
 - RC notes that cut ropes need to be relabelled
 - BH agrees to have a rope session after CHECC or before if possible
 - AM notes that even if some ropes need sorting, there are plenty to use for CHECC which are in wonderful condition and correctly labelled
 -
- SD and AM complain about the state of the Chairman's hat
 - JJ agrees to reinstate the train
 - JJ mandated to add fireworks

Date of next meeting

The AGM will be on Wednesday of 7th week, 29th February