

Oxford University Caving Club

Trinity TGM 2011

Minutes



Present:

Jamie Jordan (Chair); Vicky Lim (Secretary); Steve Roberts (President); Simon Goddard (Treasurer); pod; Rosa Clements; Fleur Loveridge; Pete Talling; George Hostford; Olaf Kahler

Apologies for absences

- Tim Guilford is in Skomer
- Paul Savage is away working on his thesis
- Ben Hudson (another meeting overran)

Matters Arising from the AGM

- Membership and PL insurance sorted
- Steve and Si have a fully up to date membership list and everyone is sorted and categorised. There are now non-caving contributing members.
- Steve mandated to update the CoC and update also the guidance for leaders on novice trips.
- Accounts settled and written off

Committee members' reports:

President (Steve Roberts)

- We now seem to have sorted out the Public Liability insurance thing. For best operation, this will mean transferring the address list to the Secretary and Treasurer - we'll need to formally do this before next academic year starts.
- The transfer should happen sometime soon. Pod suggests it should just be the secretary in charge, working with the treasurer.
- We'll also need to decide how to track newbies under the 17 day" rule.
- Four weekends of caving can be done without insurance but then must be ensured that anyone past 17 days gets insured.
- SG asks people to make sure they fill in paper forms on caving weekends for concrete records.
- Steve says it is important that is someone's responsibility: either Secretary or Meets Sec.
- Date of first trip should be an added onto the membership database to help track PL needs. Will be secretary's job henceforth.

Secretary (Vicky Lim)

- My deepest apologies for circulating .docs to the club. I hope those of you whose retinas were scarred by the sight are well on the road to recovery. Rest assured all following files will be published in .doc, .txt, .pdf, .jpg, .wtf, and .fml formats.
- Socially we seem fine, got big plans for next term including a “Varsity” meet from the 11th-13th November (end of 5th week) so PLEASE keep that free. It’s going to be epic!

Meets Sec (Paul Savage)

- As far as I know, both the Otter Hole and Derbyshire weekends were hugely successful and lots of good caving got done (please confirm this with other members at the meeting). Huge apologies for being mostly absent for this term, this is the result of me having to write up my thesis and not getting anywhere very fast.
- There is a Dales trip this weekend, but no-one seems to want to organise it (even the Medics who have definitely finished their exams - I'm their Facebook friends, nothing gets past me).
- Rosa has signed up to take over this weekend. A few members are hoping to go.
- As this is my last report as an OUCC committee member, I would like to thank the rest of the committee for their hard work and support over the years, and for the beers. I want to wish Lou well in her new role as Meets Sec, I'm sure she will be amazing.

Treasurer (Simon Goddard)

- Old accounts are completely done and settlements have been made. A sizable donation was made to CRO on behalf of some people. £500 altogether.
- The accounts are in the positive because membership has come into the club and donations on behalf of the old accounts have been made.
- Current balance is about £1600 of which about 600 is for equipment (see below).
- Applied for grant of £450 from university. Last year applied for £200 but this year equipment needs mean we are requesting more.
- All accounts and grants have been submitted to the Uni (a week early).
- The 2 club accounts have now been merged into one again.
- Website has been updated with the correct account details.
- The club is buying 400 metres of new rope. 200 for the club use and 200 to go on expedition.
- BCA insurance cards have arrived and people are insured. I will get them to people as soon as I see them.
- I am stepping down as Treasurer at the end of this term but the accounts are in order and should be relatively simple to take over.
- The club thanks Si for all his hard work, especially getting the accounts in order.

Gear officer (Ben Hudson)

- Undersuits
 - Total fine/minor damage: 6 L, 2 M, 2S.
 - More needed in M and S sizes?
 - Bottom zips are by far the biggest problem with undersuits - periodically apply wax?

- The Leeda oversuit is very worn, and very very fleecy. If no-one wants it back or can think of a reason to keep it, we may as well get rid of it.
- It may be helpful to number and label (OUCC) those which currently are not marked.
- Adding guessed sizes to those that aren't marked may help those borrowing
- Oversuits
 - Total fine/minor damage: 1 S, 3 M, 5 L, 1 XL.
 - Repairs needed on several, esp. smaller sizes. Another S required?
 - Some need major repairs or throwing out
 - As above re. zips (esp. Warmbacs)
 - As above re. markings (club, number + size)
- Belts
 - We currently have 9 belts in visually reasonable condition - 1 retired last term - any point in replacing?
- Helmets
 - I spoke to Tony re. the club helmets. He said that the standard life of helmets is 10 years, but also - 'what really counts is the state of the gear; are all nylon fittings solid and not too frayed; are fixings of cradle to helmet completely solid; has the helmet any cracks (especially round the rim); is it otherwise not utterly knackered, and still symmetrical in all the ways that you'd expect it to be?'
 - A quick inspection of the helmets revealed no obvious proper damage to the fittings and no cracks, but they are all between 12 and 16 years old.
 - SportsFed grant?
- SRT kits
 - I checked the club SRT kit #1 which Vicky had been using on the Titan/Peak/JH trip - the cowstails are funny lengths and the snap-gate karabiners don't, the buckle on the footloops on the other hand, has - no sign of particular damage or corrosion; maybe just fatigue. A knot has fixed it at the right length but it is no longer adjustable. The whole kit was still damp and steel parts were rusting - concerned slightly about corrosion from zical and steel gear being kept damp and in contact.
 - Recommendations
 - Hang wet SRT kits up to dry
 - Replace cowstails?
 - Wash out cowstail karabiners so they close themselves properly
 - Check other kits for wear, corrosion, damage, etc. - is a system in place for checking PPE?

Librarian and Website (Steve Roberts)

- Journals have been coming in as usual. The website is now operational again.
- Steve happy to go on in both roles
- To overhaul the website now into any different format would be very hard due to the large amount of information now on there but for now this is not a problem.
- Everything is up to date and we even have a twitter feed.

Points of discussion

- Simon Goddard is stepping down as Treasurer as of the end of this term due to work commitments. Election of a new treasurer is necessary at some point.

- Emails will be sent for recruitment and SG will go through it with whoever takes over. He will help but does not want to be heavily involved. Everything should be relatively simple now that accounts are in good order.
- SG will delegate to an acting officer who can be elected at the next TGM

- **Fresher's Fair plans**

- Mohan has a box of Fresher's stuff which Andrew will retrieve.
- Need to book Fresher's Fair Stall. It will be £75, coming out of the club budget. Treasurer says there is also money available for printing and photocopying for the stall.
- More than the box required to make the stall look good.
- Fleur has more pictures. Vicky will get them from her for the stall.
- Box of Fresher's Fair accessories used to be part of the library and Steve asks that after use it be returned to him.
- Simon says emphasize our sociability on the stall.
- More colour photos can be printed under Andrew's Happy Snaps discount (Andrew suggests (again) naked caving calendar photos to limited enthusiasm).
- Secretary is in charge of the Fresher's Fair.
- Meets and socials need to be organized before Fresher's so they can be on the website.
- Secretary mandated to email the club for volunteers to man the fair.
- The stall will need people on it for at least two and a half days.

- **MT 2011 weekends**

- WSG trip for Fresher's weekend as last year
- BEC in the Mendips and/or UBSS weekend
- In the Dales: Bullpot Farm for party atmosphere, or NPC for quality hutness.
- Derbyshire: Richard Gregson has offered to have us back although a Dales trip is better, if a bit SRT centred.
- Camping is suggested as a bad option after last year's Freshers were put off by the UBSS weekend of mud and the CHECC weekend of snow and ice.
- It is pointed out that while best to avoid uninhabitable conditions, our ideal recruits should be able to cope with adverse living.
- Olaf has a list of CUCC trips so we can try to cooperate. This will be forwarded to the Meets Sec before next term.

- **MT 2011 socials**

- Regular pub needed for the sake of simplicity.
- Chequers closes early but was quiet and always had space for us.
- Simon wants the students to decide.
- Pub should be central and accessible but not over-full.
- Steve suggests Royal Oak as it has many rooms. It is hard to find people there however and is slightly more expensive.
- Andrew would like us to go to Spoon's because it is cheap and central.
- Secretary will decide later after extensive testing of all pubs in the area and their wares.

- Christmas party at Tim and Lou's at some point at the end of term.
- Termly Meal
- Pub Crawl for Fresher's suggested, although these have ended in disaster previously.
- G&D's might be a good idea for the non-drinkers (if that demographic shows an interest).
- Expedition presentation at the beginning of term.
- Never show Fresher's Sanctum. Movie night is a bad idea.

Expedition

From Fleur:

- We have permission from the National Park.
- We have been granted £600 from OUEC, but our finances are still very tight, if not entirely breaking even. We will need to charge people more than usual and/or ask for donations from those who can afford it.
- Chris has very kindly lent us his car to use for transport. Steve has arranged for and got the trailer fixed (thanks Steve) and we have successfully managed to connect the two together.
- We have 20 or so cavers and some additional visitors.
- The gear order has gone in and already some of it has arrived.
- We have just had a very productive initial gear sort and packing session. There will be more of these over the next two weeks until departure (1st July). Help will always be appreciated.
- There have been more problems this year dealing with the medical requirements set out by OUEC, in that it has proved impossible to arrange the training required of us. We are still awaiting further responses on this from OUEC, but there is no time left to organise anything now. Luckily, the vast majority of our expedition members have some basic first aid training, and a number of them have much greater expertise, so practically speaking we are still a relatively well trained expedition overall.
- Speaking of training we have had successful SRT and rescue training sessions. Many thanks to Tony, Gavin and Hil for helping with these.
- In fact, thanks to everyone who has been helping with the organisation, but especially Rich, Tony, Chris, Hil, Rosa & Jamie.

In discussion:

- Also thanking Callum for his work with the sponsorship.
- Daniel a Spanish scientist is doing research on rocks, caves and water, and is joining us for a week on the mountain.
- Main issue this year is money (due to the necessity of buying more rope).
- Quote from Beast to repair tacklebags had been received. 12 out of 26 are being repaired for the expedition at ~ £20 a bag. Does the club want the rest repaired?
- There will be 28 functional then to go to Spain.
- General consensus that that number of bags will be enough for the club.
- The other bags shall not be fixed but Fleur will ask Beast to send them back.
- The best 12 are getting fixed for expedition. The remaining ones are usable but not great: either holes or strap problems exist but they will not necessarily be needed with 28 in good repair (before expedition at least).
- Insurance for the expedition should be coming from the University. Nick has had correspondence saying we should get it although there is paperwork to sort out. Cost uncertain as of yet.

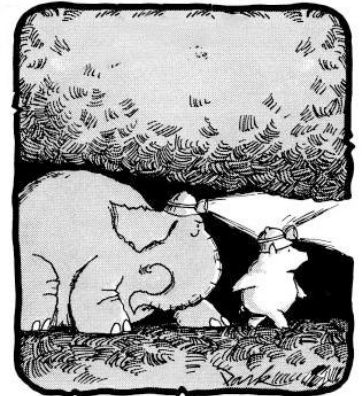
- CUCC do not get insurance from the University and they pay around £60, considerably more than the £15 we paid last year. Cost should be in this range.

Any other business

- Barely used SRT kit for sale from Natasha von Memerty. Is the club interested?
- Best to ask people next year if they want it for expedition.

Date of next meeting

- 7th week Michaelmas.



"I didn't think you'd like spelunking, but do you listen to me? Heck, no."