

Oxford University Caving Club

Michaelmas TGM 2012

Minutes

Attendants*: VL, TL, BH, LFW, SR, JW, LM, CD, OK, AV, RC

NB: Committee reports are black and comments are blue.

Matters Arising from the TGM

- Missing log book, mainly expedition
- It is noted that Gavin had “a few” log books and Fleur had the expedition logbook last year. Hunting by SR is in progress at the moment. The trip logbook is currently missing and nearly being used up. It is at the OUCC hut “somewhere” waiting for recover.
- Insured OUCC member list update
- JW suggested at January 2013, will be the date for insurance update and checking of information currently on the list, i.e. change of address, etc.
- VL said using Google. would still be a good way of keeping and maintaining the list.
- JW said the current list has the insurance of current full member. When paying subscription of OUCC in 2013, and a meeting of the treasurer and secretary is needed for list update.
- SR worried about only electronic copy is being kept and suggested after AGM each year, secretary makes the list of the current member – subscription and insurance included, prints the list and stick to logbook for some solid reference.
- JW agreed.
- Hut tidiness – refer to section below.

Committee members’ reports:

President (SR)

- Little to report. My post is becoming steadily more “honorary”, and less active as the great helmsman steering the valiant ship of state that is OUCC. President’s invite this year was a success, I think, despite the complete absence of students! However, in a few years’ time current junior PI cavers (“sproglodytes”) may well become students and even OUCC members, so the circle will close even unto the 2nd or 3rd generation.

Chairman (VL)

- It's been a good term so far, novice trips have been a lot of fun, socials are small but happy, and we're going to CHECC soon which is going to be great! Sports Fed compliance meetings brought up the issue of a student run exec, that is they want an undergraduate treasurer, president and secretary. I told them we'd keep the status quo until it could be discussed at the TGM. I'm not sure it's in anyone's interests to lose experienced and responsible members of the club from the committee so I believe it would be a good idea to keep the current committee and, if Sports Fed do choose to look into it, explain our reasonings. Students are heavily involved in the running of the club but placing arbitrary restraints on who does what is limiting and would have the negative effect of pressuring people into positions they don't want, or can't devote time to. We may want to discuss whether it would be useful to change some of the names of the positions however: being a Chairman (chairperson, chairgirl, whatever) is quite confusing for them, I think they prefer to think of it as President (which is why Steve gets so much unnecessary mail) maybe we should consider renaming it more clearly, such as Junior President

*Victoria Lim, Thomas Leung, Ben Hudson, Lukas Fisher-Wulf, Steve Robert, Jeremy Welch, Louise Maurice, Chris Densham, Olaf Kahler, Antonina Votintseva, Rosa Clements

(Sports Fed suggestion although I think it's a little demeaning) or even switch the names so President is in my role, and Steve would become Chairman. It may be too much to bother with, but it might clarify things in the future.

- The conclusion is that the club keeps the current titles and explains to sport fed about the situation if necessary.
- With regards to Sports Fed and the minibus situation, they were good for the Wales weekend after making a mess of Mendips. Do we want to petition the President for a severe discount for the vehicles booked wrong or shall we wait until we see the bill and then make a comment? I intend to lodge a complaint in any case, but what do we think the best stance to take is?
- OK said minibus includes insurance and he can drive it which is good for trip transport.
- VL mentioned the bill for the rental is not itemized at the end of the year.
- JW will go after that and ask for the break down, particular for the cost of Mendip weekend, but will go through "general" procedures, not pushing.

Secretary (TL)

- With the help of the committee members, the main events in Michaelmas term were in good progress. We had similar numbers of fresher signed up in freshers fair compared to previous year. The 500 printed copies of leaflets (kindly printed by Jeremy Welch) have been all given out, also with the help of Steve Robert to bring in the backboards. Would like to say thank you to all who involved in the freshers fair.
- The attendance of the introductory talk for fresher was not amazing but satisfactory. Vicky gave a brilliant talk with the projector system set up by Tim and Lou (would like to say thank you). There were keen freshers staying after the talk and asking questions, which was a good start.
- The expedition talk given by Ben Hudson, which was also brilliant, but due to the crush with Halloween, was 0 attendances. Lesson learnt: never have talks on the same day with other special days.
- Three freshers signed up for the first SRT training session. With the superb training given by Olaf and Vicky, freshers returned in one piece. Four freshers already signed up for the next SRT training session.
- Suggestion for Christmas party on the 28th NOV.
- LM kindly let the club to use the house for Christmas party.

Meets Sec (OK)

See appendix 1 for past trips report.

Trips remain this term.

- Mendip, 10./11.11.

CHECC Forum

5 novices and 8 experienced OUCC members have currently signed up

- Yorkshire, 24./25.11.

Varsity Match

YSS hut is booked for 15 OUCC members and 15 CUCC members, as well as Easegill permit.

Other issues:

We've had a complaint about not cleaning up a caving hut nice enough (not nice enough for cavers that is!). We had a similar issue some time back in Hilary Term, and in both cases the club members on the trip certainly did leave the hut in clean and tidy shape. It is recommended as a general practice for future trips that the meet leader takes a few quick photos of the hut before leaving to document what we've left behind...

- VL, RC and OK stated that the hut was clean and member of the weekend did the job properly.
- VL suggested replying and saying we try our best to keep hut clean.

Plans for Holiday Caving Christmas 2012/2013

If there is sufficient demand we could try to organise a trip around mid-December e.g. to North Wales for Croesor-Rhosydd or anywhere else ?

- [Scotland trip is suggested for Easter 2013](#)
- [VL said it will be good for expedition training](#)

Yorkshire, 25.12.2012 - 3.1.2013

Permits are currently being arranged.

Treasurer (JW)

- The submission of the accounts to the Sports Federation was made over the summer, and showed balances very similar to the previous year. Most account activity is related to the management of trips, and unsurprisingly this accounted for a good bit of the net expenditure. So far in Michaelmas Term, the presentation of trip accounts has occurred soon after the trip, and is much appreciated as this makes for easier processing of payments and receipts. We would like to ensure that receipts are provided where possible for the larger items of expenditure (particularly on trips) so if you are claiming expenses from the club, or are given funds to spend, please drop the receipts for them in the internal mail to the Treasurer. We do not require receipts for small amounts, but those for vehicle hire, petrol claims and communal food should be sent over. We have not been audited by the Sports Fed, but were we to be, this would allow us to demonstrate where the large amounts were spent.
- Although not actually live yet, there has been some progress on using the University Stores online payment system to collect money on behalf of the Club. We have an account set up, and the go-ahead to implement from the Sports Fed. When configured, it is hoped it will allow us to see who has committed to a trip, and also identify more effectively what money is being sent to the club for. I am particularly keen to ensure that we clearly identify membership and insurance funds, as distinct from other funds.
- [The system will put into use in Trinity term 2013.](#)
- Overall, the finances are in good shape, but we are quite dependent on grants (which are a bit unpredictable) and a range of greatly-appreciated contributions from old members which make a big difference to our finances. A review of trip costs will need to be made during the year – it will not have escaped many people's notice that petrol and food have all increased in price over the last year or two, and whilst we endeavour to hold the costs down as much as possible, the need for some increases as time goes by cannot be ignored.
- [Claim for the loss of the trip from people absence without any reasons.](#)
- [BH paid GBP 118 for the damage of vehicle during CHECC weekend.](#)
- [JW will try to claim for that through unforeseen, but not grantee for success.](#)
- [VL also suggested putting the cost of trips at same level, i.e. all trips for 40 GBP and balance for the gain and loss. It is also easier to tell freshers when come across trip cost.](#)
- [It is only a temporary system and will review in 2013 Michaelmas term for comparison.](#)
- [JW said it is worth a go.](#)

Gear Officer (BH)

- Most of the missing gear after PI has been returned, and the rest accounted for.
- As far as I know we are still missing Paul Mackrill's blue undersuit.
- [BH need to send email or otherwise will need to get one form Tony.](#)
- 5 new helmets in various sizes with old lights.
- 2 light failures reported on the Mendips weekend, easily fixed by disassembling, cleaning and reassembling - please report failures to me or fix them yourself, don't leave them.
- Some of the ropes taken to the Mendips were incorrectly labelled because we had to cut new lengths and the tape had been taken to PI and not returned. Think it has been returned now so I will label the rope when I have a chance.

- The hut is in a bit of a state and I have had no time to sort it out - will do so but would obviously appreciate help after weekends.
- BH, RC, OK has done the first clean up on the 17th November, see report by RC in appendix 2
- Will check SRT kits before Yorkshire but I think we will need to borrow personal gear to make up the shortfall.
- BH need email tony asking about the loan oversuits.
- BH also reminds members NOT to move the old shitty rope back to the rope rack.
- BH noted ropes are in wrong position. Would be very helpful to put them back in proper color coded hook.

Librarian / Archivist (SR)

- Journals, books and even DVDs continue to be bought at a steady but low pace. Some have even been lent out (and, I'm glad to say, returned). The main issue is logbooks. The most recent club logbook in the library finished in November 2009. The most recent expedition logbook is from 2006. PLEASE could more recent logbooks be sent to me; or, if they are being used, at least let me know who has them, for later recovery. These are what document the club's history, and it would be a terrible shame to lose them.
- Old trip logbook still needs to be found. New one put into used. Put label on logbook to indicate must return to SR for storage.
- BH had a logbook need to return to Steve.
- TL will send email round for logbook hunting. (This is already done. SR will chase Gavin and Fleur for logbook.)
- On the subject of log book, history and records: the club seems gradually to have lost the habit of regularly and routinely recording what trips were done on club weekends, and by whom. This used to be done quite well in the logbooks – each trip would be recorded, even if just as “date, cave, names”, and often as a write-up (more or less full, more or less idiosyncratic). I don't know what is being done now, and I suspect not very much, or with any consistency. I have not seen a log book for a while; and even DTT is getting a bit thin. It would be useful for many reasons to re-establish some kind of proper record keeping, even if minimal.

Webman (SR)

- Pretty low level of effort at present, but the site is maintained, and updated when new information comes in.

Points of discussion

- **Annual meal date and location - 6th week of HT, Saturday after AGM.**
- **Socials, i.e. pubs for 2013 HT - Knot night. One SRT training. Suggested pub: Turf, Book Binders, Kings Arms, Angle and Greyhound, Half moon, Eagle and Child, Lamb and Flag, Cape of Good Hope, Harcourt Arms.**
- **Details of trips 2013 HT**
Plans for Hilary Term:
 - 26./27. Jan (2nd week): SWales/SWCC hut with more or less advanced trips to OFD. **DYO leader confirmed.**
 - 9./10. Feb (4th week): Yorkshire/Farm with SRT trips mostly to Easegill and Leck
 - 16./17. Feb (5th week): Derbyshire/TSG with Titan & JH
 - 2./3. Mar (7th week): Yorkshire/BPC (or do we want long trips in Daren/Draenen/Aggy?)

Date of next meeting - 6 th week of Hilary Term.

Any other business

1. Expedition

- Current Spain gears go back to OUCC.
- Future expedition should not have large gear expenditure, so the issue of “gear ownership” will not be serious problematic. At least not for the coming year.
- BH comment on fund application for expedition which specific candidate required. Need further discussion.
- In general, expedition move away from University take the advantage by encourage people other than OUCC to join, and insurance can still apply via University for OUCC members.
- Further discussion with Steph and Callum is necessary, in 2013 expedition.
- POD contribution to OUCC, open suggestion needed. Suggestion includes: special project fund for helping student, expedition, etc. However, may not be sustainable unless a reasonable amount of donation to keep things running. Still early to decide. Or put in a gear purchase.

2. CD as representative attending the PDCMG meeting.

Appendix 1 : OK' s report on past caving trips: (continued from last TGM's report)

Trinity Term 2012

Yorkshire, 28.-29.4.

Approx. 10 OUCC members doing rescue training, based at Greenclose

South Wales, 12.-13.5.

6 OUCC members stayed at Whitewalls, trips to Agen Allwed and Ogof Capel

Devon, 19.-20.5.

5 OUCC members stayed at South Dartmoor Bunkhouse, joined by a former member in the area. Trips to Baker's Pit, Afton Red Rift, Pridhamsleigh Cavern and Dog Hole.

Yorkshire, 2.-5.6.

8 OUCC members and several CUCC members met in Yorkshire. Trips to the Gaping Gill Winch Meet, Easegill, Simpsons, Heron Pot, Penygent, etc.

Holiday Caving Summer 2012 (not including expedition to Spain)

Mendip, 7.7.

2 OUCC members on a daytrip to Mendips, visiting G.B. and Tynning's Barrow Swallet

Forest of Dean, 16.9.

3 OUCC members on a daytrip to the Forest of Dean, visiting Miss Grace's Lane.

Michaelmas Term 2012

Yorkshire, 13./14.10.

President's Invite

An uncountable number of former and present OUCC (and CUCC) members were around at the Old School Bunk House and went caving in a large number of local potholes

Mendip, 20./21.10.

11 novices and 8 experienced OUCC members were staying at the Belfry. Various trips were made to Eastwater, Swildons, Singing River Mine and G.B.

South Wales, 27./28.10.

11 novices and 7 experienced OUCC members were staying at the WSG hut, joined by a SWCC member on the Sunday. Trips were made in OFD 2 (round trips, top waterfall) and through trips were made from OFD 1 to Cwm Dwr as well as from Cwm Dwr to OFD 2.

Appendix 2 : Rosa Clements latest update about OUCC hut

- The big brown mouse proof boxes of food have been rationalised somewhat and put on the shelves. I have restricted the food that might be useful on weekends to two boxes so you don't have to look through all six prior to a caving weekend. However this has highlighted that we have ridiculous quantities of food, so please do look through these boxes before shopping. They are both on the bottom shelf so can be slid out onto the chair and put back without any lifting. In particular we have 3 bottles and a jerry can of olive oil, enough rice and lentils to feed about 200 people, about 5 packets of biscuits, 6 packets of sugar, 3 packets of flour, 3 bottles of ketchup, 3 large canisters of salt, an enormous jar of jam, and enough custard powder to fill a bath with custard. Please do not buy any of these things in the near future.
- The quantity of underground camp food also appears sufficient for OUCC to collectively live underground for a few months. If you have any use for underground camp food other than underground camp, I'm sure you wouldn't make yourself unpopular by rehoming a few.
- The lost property box (now boxes) has loads of stuff in it. If you have lost anything or think you might have lost anything, PLEASE look through the boxes next time you are at the hut and see if there is anything of yours. There are not too many mutant killer socks in there.
- We also think there is some lost property in the "Ropes That Need Attention" box. There is a white (as in, was once white) rope with red markings and a picture of a bear on the end that doesn't look like an OUCC rope. It doesn't appear to need attention apart from being in the wrong place. I'm sure it can be happily adopted into the OUCC family of ropes, but if its original owner is anxiously looking for it, please make yourself known.
- Hopefully everyone knows this, but if not, the box of rope by the door is a "Ropes That Need Attention box". When you come back from a weekend, don't put your rope in the box unless there is something wrong with it. If it's not obvious what's wrong with it, tie out any dodgy bits or leave a note. Good ropes go on the hooks, ideally on a hook with the same colour stickers as the rope, but failing that, long ropes to the left, short ones to the right.
- There is a multiracial pair of wellies in the welly collection. One claims to be size 7 and the other claims to be size 8, but if you see them side by side you can tell they are compatible, so don't doubt the legitimacy of their relationship.