

# Oxford University Caving Club

## Hilary AGM 2013

### Agenda

**Attendants\*:** Steve Robert – President, Vicky Lim – Chairman, Olaf Kahler – Meets Sec, Jeremy Welch – Treasurer, Ben Hudson – Gear officer, Rosa Clements – Women’s Officer, Andrew Mawer, Jamie Jordan, Lukas Fischer-Wulf, Tonya Votintseva, Simon Goddard

**NB:** Committee reports are in black and comments are in blue.

#### Apologies for absences

Thomas Leung (Secretary)  
Fleur Loveridge

#### Matters Arising from the TGM

- None as the secretary concerned.

#### Committee members’ reports:

##### President (SR)

- Very little to report on since last term. In fact, nothing! For note, President’s Invite 2013 will be the weekend of 11-13 October, 2013.

##### Chairman (VL)

- The Club has had another good term and overall a pretty eventful year. Lasting changes will probably be the Half Blues status, which will allow undergrads access to more funding that should be invaluable as trip expenses can build up, and the electronic trip sign up which Jeremy is working on which will hopefully mean we can take deposits for trips and mitigate losses from novices who never turn up or reply to emails. Also, if it works out in the long term, standardising trip costs will hopefully simplify things for freshers and encourage more trips to exciting places like Yorkshire.
- I'd like to especially thank the Committee for the last year for making my job as a gap-filler much easier. Special thanks to Olaf who has been a brilliant meets sec and has organised some awesome trips and permits while constantly reminding us to aspire to the higher standards of CUCC! Thanks also to Thomas for managing the nightmare that is Freshers' Fair and the various socials, and to Ben for being generally incredibly useful and leading the expedition admirably, despite Jamie's naked butt and the expectations of certain members of OU Expeditions Council. The decision this year to break from getting expo University approved will hopefully save future leaders from a mountain of bureaucracy and enable them to focus on important factors like caving.
- Other than another big thank you to everyone in the Club who has contributed over the last year, and it is a lot of people, I don't think there's much else to say. I'm probably leaving Oxford at the end of this year but I'll hopefully see you all around and at the very least I'll enjoy reading the email volleys concerning file formats or the merits of Oxford pubs!

## Secretary (TL)

- Nothing important to report. First of all, I would like to say thank you to everybody who contributed to socials and talk for this academic year. Special thanks to Fleur who gave an excellent talk about the Shan Plateau Expedition 2013 (Apologised for my absence, but heard from members it was an excellent talk.). Although the social attendance of freshers remained low throughout terms, we do have a continuous flow of local OUCC members. Social-wise, it was a lovely year. Socials remain this term: 20/02/2013-King's Arms, 27/02/2013-Lamb & Flag, 06/03/2013-Harcourt Arms.
- For the coming Trinity term, I am pending to organise a BBQ, Punting & drinks at Cherwell Boat house (I surely can find as much as punting boats for OUCC..), also a talk given by Tonya - Uzbekistan's expedition and Chris Densham – Caving in China. Date of talk is not yet decide, and it is open for suggestion.
- Our Treasurer, Jeremy Welch, has raised the issue about OUCC member list management in the last TGM, but so far, he is still the person who responsible for collecting subs and updating the list. He suggested it will be better someone can be made responsible for updating the main membership list from the newbies' list, and he found it less easy than it should be to produce the lists for the BCA. Vicky, in the last TGM, did suggested the Google list can be used as a platform to collect information i.e. subs and insurance, etc. However, not much has been done.
- My opinion on this issue is: the secretary can be the one who organised the list. At the beginning of the year, the secretary asks the Treasurer about the amount need to be paid as subs and insurance. Then, the secretary will send an email reminding people to pay the subs and insurance, as well as fill in the form which leads to the Google list. However, from my limited knowledge of the club, I wonder the Google list at the moment is only for trips sign up only. To make things easier, we can create another Google list for collecting information in particular for subs, or, use the current Google list, but make sure data collected on subs will not mess up with data of trip registration. Once, we have a proper data collection system, the Secretary can summarised the new member information and pass it on to the Treasurer. So, Treasurer only need to update to list once (may be twice), and check the sum in the OUCC account, then do the BCA update. The Treasurer still gains access to the current member list and the main account while the Secretary handles the data collection.
- It was also suggested by SG in the last TGM to have a full list of current member printed out for each year, and keeps safe somewhere, i.e. stick in club logbook or put together with the AGM minutes, for reference.
- I can stay for the Secretary position if necessary.

## Meets Sec (OK)

Trips are going ahead and they are well attended this term. Furthermore access has been arranged to Otter Hole on 11th May, Jingling Hole on 12th October (Presidents Invite) and potentially to Robinson's Pot. A list of trips since the last AGM is attached.

See reports of past trips at the end.

Trips remain this term.

- South Wales, 23./24.02.2013  
Joint OUMC weekend

- Derbyshire, 02./03.03.2013

Other issues:

Once again we had quite a few people dropping out in the last minute on the last two trips, when food was already bought and rental cars hired. By requesting payments in advance (at least from non-member novices) we could avoid financial losses on future trips.

## **Treasurer (JW)**

- **Balances**

Main account £1865.03 (Jan 31st)

Local Account £205.00

Cash in Hand £35.00

Deposits since last statement £92.00

The balance is high as there has been an influx of subscription and insurance payments; the insurance payments will need to be transferred to BCA shortly. However, many of the subscription payments do not include insurance. When this work is completed, it is anticipated that the balances will be a little higher than the equivalent period last year.

- **Accounts**

These are not required by the Sports Federation until later in Trinity Term. Revised guidelines have been issued to treasurers for this year, but the impact has not been assessed (likely to be small).

- **Operations**

A further grant application will be submitted to the Sports Federation for this term. We are requesting £250 towards the replacement cost of karabiners; we received £60 as a supplementary grant last term, so the probability of getting something this term too is probably reduced.

The first two trips of Hilary Term have taken place, and the accounts completed for the first of these and the second are in progress. We made some loss due to late cancellations, and this highlights the benefits of getting payment up front (the plan to use the University Stores is still viable, but needs implementation time, which hasn't been found yet).

Constructing the returns for BCA has proved quite complicated, as the list of members is somewhat fragmented between older members and recent ones; some discussion should be considered to see how the maintenance of those affiliated to the Club can be separated or rationalised with the subscription and insurance processing.

- **Membership lists**

- Unifying the freshers and existing members list and the membership list with BCA has proved difficult
- VL suggests getting the fresher's to fill out a form similar to the trip signup sheet for membership, after they have decided to stay with the club. This would be separate from the trip form as otherwise we run the risk of gathering lots of unnecessary information
- Freshers' sign-up information should be deleted after each year unless they decide to stay with the club and submit information to the member's database
- SR notes that constitutionally it is the secretary's responsibility to maintain the member's list

- JW and SR note that there should be a way of differentiating between those who have been on no prior trips and those who have been on one previously – as those who have been on one or more trips need membership
  - VL suggests adding a field to the trip form asking how many trips the fresher has been on with OUCC and whether they are members
  - SG suggests that this should include an explanation that they need to pay public liability after their 2<sup>nd</sup> trip
  - OK to remind trip leaders that they should watch out for those who may not be members
- VL notes that it would be ideal to keep the standardised trip cost at 40 pounds.
  - People have been much better at sending in information to the treasurer in single emails rather than over several emails
  - VL raised the possibility of a pro-forma

### **Gear Officer (BH)**

- I have been doing a generally bad job of being gear officer this term, so haven't got very much to report.
- Almost all the damaged or unlabelled ropes have been cut or properly labelled and put back into circulation - there are a few left in the 'need attention' box but most of the work has been done.
- Thanks to Si who found the hut underwater and cleared it all up. In future please wring out wet furry suits outside to reduce the amount of water that ends up in the hut. Hanging up wet SRT kits is also a good idea despite the inevitable clutter.
- Si also found that several of the remaining club karabiners were in a suboptimal condition. 25 new ones have been bought and put in the hut. It would be interesting if we could hang onto the retired krabs and get someone to drop test them at some point, to see how bad the damage from rope wear is. A couple of the karabiners had rope grooves (presumably used as braking krabs, /don't/) which were less than 1mm deep (the scratch depth at which karabiners should be retired, as far as I know), but over a large surface area, and I don't know if anyone has tested similarly worn krabs. Others had surface corrosion to the point of pitting which is something we should look out for and avoid by not leaving them damp, especially in contact with steel gear.
  - SR will examine the krabs in order to determine whether they need to be retired
  - BH suggests that people should be encouraged to use steel braking krabs
- In case anyone was wondering, the club does have an unusually low number of krabs (now remedied) and maillons/hangers, due to the fact that significant numbers are in situ in Xitu. Depending on the outcome of this year's expedition, they may be returned after the summer; if they're still being left I'll negotiate with whoever is leading to have some of the proceeds of expo to replace club gear, as this year's expedition will not have to buy very much of their own tackle. I think we've still got enough considering it's not often we use many hangers, but it's nice to have them around.
  - SR there is an issue as to university hardware being used by an expedition which may soon disaffiliate with the university
  - VL – we are working under the presumption that everything will come back, this should be made clear to the expedition leader (Steph Dywer)
  - BH has sent an email to Steph (see expo report)

### **Librarian / Archivist (SR)**

- Some books have been donated by Mark Bown – many thanks. I will soon have them catalogues and available. There may be some duplicates for sale.
- The library does not have: 1) Club log books: any since November 2009 2) Expedition log books: 2007, 2011, 2012
- Please could they be found and sent to the library?

### **Expedition leader's report (BH)**

- Hopefully this will be my last (significant) report at a GM. The final leader's report is still in the works - sorry it's taking so long, but final exams etc etc. I intend to finish it early in the Easter vac to give to the Spaniards in lots of time, to make Steph's permit process easier. As always, if anyone has anything to contribute and hasn't yet, please do.
- The accounts are almost closed, after a process so long I think I'll go through a period of bereavement when it's over. I have learnt many things from leading expedition, chiefly that I can't do accounts. All debts are paid except £122 from a certain climber, whom I have just emailed to chase up. Unfortunately, but not unexpectedly, the lower number of cavers and large gear bill (not to mention the fact that the trailer tyre exploded on the way home) mean that the expedition has made a loss of £540.61.
  - AM actioned to ask Tom Codrington for the 122 pounds
  - Currently, this debt is Rosa's, VL suggests a loan from the Special Projects fund to pay Rosa's until the debt can be paid down. In the meantime those who went on expedition could be asked for a voluntary contribution and the next expo could be asked for a contribution, bearing in mind the gear being used – this should be negotiated with Steph
  - SR volunteers to make up the debt to Rosa for the time being.
- I'm hoping that as the club has not so far contributed to the 2012 expedition the Special Projects Fund will be able to absorb the loss, considering the fact that we should (eventually) get back another ~300m of new-ish rope left in the cave in addition to the maybe ~200m new rope that came back from Spain, plus assorted tackle. If we had had four more members the expedition would have made a profit, which goes to show the importance of energetic recruitment (which I neglected). At the moment the expedition owes Rosa an enormous sum of money for covering the gear order; even if the club cannot afford to pay for the whole deficit, I'd appreciate it if I could borrow the difference so she can be paid back in full, and pay back the club ASAP.
- As I mentioned in the gear officer's report, most of the expedition gear remains in Spain. If it is still left in situ after this year, I will discuss whether the next expedition can buy replacements as we're running lower than is optimal on some bits of tackle.
  - BH has asked Steph if it would be useful to have a formal, written agreement outlining what gear has been lent to the expedition and what will happen in the future
  - SR – a formal documentation of this would be highly desirable, BH actioned to speak to Steph about this.

## Webman (SR)

- I have started to scan in old log books, making them available on the website. So far, part way though club logbook number 1.
  - Missing expo logbooks: 2002,7,
  - The early missing club logbook turns out not to have existed (confirmed by reliable sources!)
  - Missing club logbook: 2009 club logbook (pink, OUCC in large letters) is still missing, last seen Hilary last year, this is the only missing club logbook
  - John Pybus is now responsible for administering to the fresher's mailing list

## Points of discussion

- Socials, i.e. pubs for 2013 TT
  - Eagle and Child
  - The Star
  - The bookbinders
  - Angel and greyhound
  - Isis
  - The perch
- Details of trips 2013 TT
  - OK actioned to email list to VL
  - SG would like to book BPF
  - Winch meet is 5<sup>th</sup> week next term if anyone wants to go
  - SG: Pod has donated all of his outdoor kit to the club to do with as it sees fit (sell or use). Some of it is probably too nice or surplus to requirements to be put into club use so will be sold to members

## Plans for next term:

27./28.4. or 4./5.5. (1st or 2nd week) S. Wales or Mendips?

11./12.5. (3rd week) Camping in Royal Forest of Dean

25./26./27.5. (5th week) Yorkshire: BPC winch meet, lasts until 6th week

8./9.6. (7th week) Yorkshire again? Expedition training?

## Date of next meeting

6/7<sup>th</sup> week next term

## Any other business

- Lou has been given Pod's leatherman which could become an award for reliable cavers, plan is for this to be mounted and then awarded on Saturday and handed over after it has been mounted (not before to ensure it is not lost)
- SR – currently the trailer belongs to expo and needs mending, it should also be put on blocks ASAP JJ actioned to do this after exams
- JJ actioned to send a high quality file of the OUCC logo to VL to go onto a googledoc
- RC actioned to send round an email seeing if there's interest in a run of OUCC T-shirts

## **Elections**

President: SR happy to stay on

Chairman: VL stepping down, BH standing: BH elected

Secretary: TL happy to stay, no challenges

Meets Sec: OK may leave Oxford in May, so is stepping down, LW will take over after his exams in May

Treasurer: JW happy to continue, no challenges

Gear Officer: BH stepping down, JJ elected

Librarian and Webman: SR happy to stay in

Safety Officer: JJ steps down SG replaces

Women's Officer: RC voted to remain

Men's Captain: LW to take over from JJ after TT

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

### **Michaelmas Term 2012 (Cont.) (Refer to 2012 Michaelmas TGM report for previous trips)**

Mendip, 10./11.11.2012

CHECC Forum

4 novices and 7 experienced OUCC members went to Yoxter Farm for the annual CHECC forum. Trips were done to G.B., Eastwater and Singing River Mine

Yorkshire, 24./25.11.2012

Varsity Match

15 OUCC members and 8 CUCC members met at the YSS hut for the annual Varsity Match. Trips were made to Alum Pot & Longchurn, Illusion Pot, Heron Pot, Tathams Wife, Easegill and Bull Pot Kingsdale.

### **Holiday Caving**

Box Freestone Mines, 9.12.2013

5 OUCC members met for a day trip to the Box Freestone Mines, Jack's Entrance to Backdoor.

South Wales, 15.12.

5 OUCC members went to do the round trip in Ogof Draenen.

Yorkshire, 24.12.2012 - 2.1.2013

About 5-10 current and former members of OUCC met with lots of other cavers to go caving and celebrate New Years at Bull Pot Farm. Numerous trips were made to Juniper Gulf, Notts, Lost Johns, Easegill, Shuttleworth and a number of other caves.

### **Hilary Term 2013**

Mendip, 2.-3.2.2013

12 OUCC Members were staying at the Wessex hut. Trips were made to some Fairy Quarry caves, St. Cuthberts, White Pit and Swildon's Hole.

Yorkshire, 9.-10.2.2013

13 OUCC members were staying at Brackenbottom. Trips were made to Gaping Gill (Bar Pot & Stream Passage), Easegill (County), Jingling and Heron Pot.