

Oxford University Caving Club

Trinity TGM 2013

Minutes

Attendants*: Steve Robert – President, Ben Hudson – Chairman, Thomas Ka Leung – Secretary, Rosa Clements – Women’s Officer, Olaf Kahler – Meets Secretary, Frances Pope, Éabha Grainne Lankford

NB: Committee reports are in black and comments are in blue. Less than 8 members so no decision was made.

Apologies for absences

Jeremy Welch, Fleur Loveridge, Antonina Votintseva

Matters Arising from the TGM

- Some issues need further discussion, see individual reports below.

Committee members’ reports:

President (SR)

- Nothing to report.

Chairman (BH)

- Little to report.
- End of Year pack has been submitted to the university.

Secretary (TL)

- Two tables is booked for the 2013 Freshers’ Fair, which will be on the 9th – 11st October. Arrangements, i.e. backboards and members to man the stall, will be made closer to the day.
- Introductory talk is pending to be the Wednesday after the freshers’ fair, on the 16th October, 2013.
- The secretary of CUCC has contacted OK about the Varsity meet/match in Michaelmas term 2013, and suggested a formal hall / formal dinner exchange. We need suggestions or (even better) supports for booking Venue. I am happy to organize the social part in oxford as long as somebody knows where to book a hall.
- SR said if there are sufficient attendants, it is fairly easy to arrange a formal and it cost around 20 pounds each.
- RC suggested it will be better to have the formal dinner on weekdays, so we will not lose a caving weekend.
- OK said he needs to know the day of the CHECC weekend.
- Socials this term so far have average attendants between 4 and 14. 7 members attend the brilliant talk given by Tonya. A BBQ and punting (which will be the last big social event of this academic year) is planned on the 8th of June, Saturday. Of course, the punting is free, but will depend on weather condition as well.
- 5 members went punting.

Meets Sec (OK)

See reports of past trips at the end.

- Trips are going ahead and, as usual in Trinity Term, attendance is not overwhelming.
- Access has been arranged for both Gingling Hole and Robinson's Pot on 12th October (Presidents Invite).
- We had some minor confusion last weekend about callouts and for future trips the meet leader should make sure all individual party leaders have callout times and an understanding of what these time mean ("expected time back" or "call cave rescue").
- FL commented (via email) - Having read the last minutes I would just like to say something about callouts. As well as "expected time back" and "call CRO" times, we used to operate on the "come and look for me / see if we are alright" basis. This latter version is always my preferred type of callout in the first instance, however it does depend on the person you leave your callout with 1) being in the area and 2) being prepared to come and look for you (or at least go to the entrance before calling CRO) in which ever cave you have chosen. It is vital that those leaving the callout and the person being the callout understand what action is required for them if the callout time is passed. I would leave quite different times depending on whether that action is call CRO or call your mates, but it is only more recently that I have realised the range of responses that some people associate with being callout. It was this sort of misunderstanding that got us into trouble in Spain a few years ago.
- OUMC appears to be very successful in booking the Minibus about half a year in advance via the Sports Fed form without specifying a list of attendees and drivers. These are then submitted nearer in time. Maybe we should adopt their method to avoid the usual minibus booking problems in Michaelmas Term.
- BH needs to find out the day of CHECC weekend.

Trips remain this term.

- Yorkshire, Bull Pot Farm, 01./02.06.2013

Treasurer (JW)

- **The Treasurer Position**

As you may know, the Proctors require the three main posts of a society to be student members. Their suggestion is we have a Senior Treasurer (me) and a Junior Treasurer. Vicky has mentioned she would be ok with stepping into the junior treasurer role this (Trinity) term (note that there's too much of it left) on condition she has only a minimal amount of actual treasuring to do – this is fine with me, and would certainly sort out the Proctors (whom I was told quite clearly wouldn't be too keen on anything other than the shortest of periods without this fix). However, I don't think this will fly once we're in Michaelmas Term (although Vicky would probably be happy to carry on, I think we hit the same 'current student' problem and I think they would notice). It would be super to have someone who could step forward to be junior treasurer for Michaelmas onwards and if they wanted to do something, so much the better (especially if they were able to help with the membership stuff) - but if not I am really quite happy rolling on with everything myself.
- **The Finance**

As I am not there, I hope you will accept a snapshot of where we are – the main account is showing a balance of £1812.23, which compares with £1519.30 at the same time last year. I wouldn't deduce much from the slight variation, other than we are pretty much where we were last year. There's a bit to come off that for minibus course and Freshers' Fair, but otherwise it's a pretty good reflection of where we are, I think.

- **The end-of-year Accounts**

Unlike last year, when I got told off by sports Fed for not getting in the accounts in a timely manner, I have agreed with Sports Fed I will submit them by the end of July 2013. This gives a bit of time after the end of term for me to sort them out. As you can probably tell from the balances, there is unlikely to be anything very controversial on them. You might remind the meeting that I do need 'accounts' for each club trip, even if everything is all balanced up between you on the smaller trips. It is definitely better to have a note in the accounts even if that's the case.

- Another meeting is needed in early Michaelmas term to discuss the Junior Treasurer position since Vicky will not be an Oxford student anymore.

Gear Officer (Comments were made by OK and BH, and summarised by TL)

- The electricity of the hut is still out of order (27.5.2013). BH has emailed the SF, but so far nothing has been done.
- Electricity was back online just before this meeting.
- A hut cleaning day is in urgent, pending to be on week 8 (after Yorkshire weekend, before Expedition).
- One SRT kit is incomplete for some reason. OK recognised that only a pair of jammer will make another complete set. Another 6 SRT kits have no problem so far.
- As mentioned at the last AMG, some Krabs need loading test to check for safety.
- Ropes in the hut have long been an issue. From OK: 'rope length of 40/50 meters is needed (the hut has several 88m ropes and lots of 10 – 30 m ropes.' There is quite a pile of rope in the "rope that needs attention" box, which has been sitting in the hut since last year. It is suggested in the last AGM, some of them can be used as sailing rope or other purpose. However, no one claimed them since then. All of those ropes need to be checked; those in a reasonable state need to be claimed by somebody who intends to use them, but not leaving them in the hut unattended. Otherwise, they need to be thrown away.
- SR took all of the ropes in the "rope that needs attention" box after the meeting.
- BH is planning to chop some new ropes. From BH: 'I think we should have a slight reform of the rope marking system. It's distinctly suboptimal that we'd have to cut ropes open to check how old they are. I suspect that some of the older white ropes will be nearing the end of their lifespan within the next few years, and it would be nice to have a more detailed record system.' 'I will cut it into sensible 40/50m lengths if that is what's needed. The purple-specked rope is being saved for expedition rescue use as 200m of new unicolor rope is significantly more useful than several lengths of manky rope, but everything else can be chopped.' There may also be some Spelenium Gold lying around.
- BH (after this meeting) : I went through the rope box and discarded very short old fat ropes, leaving approx. 40m of fat old rope for Steve to take; I measured and relabelled a 12m (I think), a 32m, a 40m, a 45m, and a 50m, the last four all in brand new rope. Only one (the 12m) has been put on the hooks because I ran out of heat shrink tubing - the rest are on the chair and need tubing, but has been labelled. I didn't make any attempt to date the new ropes because I wanted to see what people would say at the meeting. Also because I think worrying about the age of rope is a nonsense excuse for not properly checking rope and seeing whether it's /really/ ok.
- Another on-going discussion is about expedition gears. From BH :
'About 1500m of rope and 200 maillons and hangers are in situ, IIRC. Some two to three hundred metres of rope from the hut will be required for the entrance series; how much comes

back depends on numerous factors (whether the cave goes; how likely a 2014 Xitu expedition appears; what storage options are available in Spain, etc.). At a minimum, the entrance series rope and around 200m of expo rope in the lengths you mention (to cover club rope wastage and wear) will return. It may be that even if Xitu is derigged the majority of the rope will be left in Spain and brought back gradually over the next couple of years for ease of transport.'

- As suggested in the last AGM, some form of disclaimer may require between the Expedition leader (in this case, Steph Dwyer) and OUCC to clarify what to do with the gear after expedition. However, nothing has been done so far.
- Note that BH and OK are not supposed to handle the gear issue anymore. Lukas is now the Gear officer of the OUCC.
- BH commented - I am making sure that at least enough rope will come back to cover all club needs. As for the rope on top of that I don't see the point in worrying about it right now - if there's not a 2014 expedition and I have to take a trailer and go and bring back the remaining 800m of rope from the Refugio storage, that's not the end of the world. It would make a nice walking tour. I expect more than the bare minimum will come back, but at any rate it won't be left 1000m down a cave - that's the important bit. Also, Tony recommends 10 years for ropes, not 5 - I haven't looked at individual manufacturers but it is my understanding that the 5 years figure is (as with many other things) more a feature of UIAA's climbing-focussed test systems rather than a realistic reflection of real caving applications. We can't think of it as a five years rule. Apart from chemicals there is nothing that can really damage a rope without leaving a visible trace that you would notice; a seldom-used rope would be safe after 20 years while you could knacker one in one trip, or no trips if you store it terrible. The lack of krabs was because we had to retire numerous ones, not because of expedition - there are very few krabs in Spain (maybe 10 - very few deviations).
- SR said it is the responsibility of the Expedition leader to make sure where the expedition gears go after expedition.

Librarian / Archivist (SR)

- Nothing to report.

Webman (SR)

- Nothing to report.

Points of discussion

- Socials, i.e. pubs for 2013 MT
- Details of trips 2013 MT

Caving plans for next term:

12th/13th October (0th week) "President's Invite" at the Old Schoolhouse, Chapel-le-Dale
Caves: Gingling Hole, Robinson's Pot

26th/27th October (2nd week) Mendips (?)

2nd/3rd November (3rd week) South Wales (?)

CHECC: date and place not announced yet

30th/1st November/December (7th week) Yorkshire: Bull Pot Farm (?)

Date of next meeting

Since not enough attendants presented in this meeting, the next meeting will be in early Michaelmas term – i.e. week 2/ week 3 of Michaelmas 2013

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

Hilary Term 2013 (Cont.) (Refer to last Hilary AGM report for previous trips)

South Wales, 23./24.2.2013

About 16 OUCC members and 16 OUMC went for a crew date at the SWCC hut. On Saturday everyone went caving in various parts of OFD. On Sunday the bulk of people went climbing at the Three Cliffs Bay area and other places on the Gower peninsula

Derbyshire, 2./3.3.2013

7 OUCC members and 3 CUCC members went to the Orpheus hut. Trips were made from Titan to Peak, in Giants and in the Hillocks and Knotlow Mines.

Holiday Caving

Ogof Draenen, 9.3.2013

2 OUCC members and 1 CUCC member went on a digging trip to Draenen.

Upper Flood, 6.4.2013

1 OUCC member teamed up with local Mendip cavers to go to Upper Flood.

Swildon's Hole, 16.3.2013

3 OUCC members went on a daytrip to Swildon's Hole.

Alderley Edge Copper Mines, 14.4.2013

Approx. 5 OUCC members went on a daytrip to Alderley Edge.

Trinity Term 2013

Yorkshire, 27./28.4.2013

3 OUCC members and 6 expedition participants went for an Expedition Training Weekend, most of them staying at the YSS hut. On Saturday, ropework training was done in Dave Gallivan's (Yorkshire Dales Guides) SRT barn. On Sunday a hauling exercise was done at Fall Pot in the Easegill system.

Forest of Dean, 11./12.5.2013

5 OUCC members went camping at Beeches Farm in the Forest of Dean. A between tides trip to Otter Hole was scheduled and successful on the Saturday. On Sunday one more member joined for a trip to Slaughter Stream / Wet Sink.

Peak District, 18./19.5.2013

About 6 OUCC members and 6 OUMC members went camping at Hardhurst Farm in Hope Valley. On Saturday, two trips were made to Peak Cavern (White River Series and Streamway/Moss Chamber) and one trip to Giant's Hole. On Sunday, several more OUMC members joined for climbing at Lawrencefield.

Reservoir's hole, 25.5.2013

1 OUCC member teamed up with local Mendip cavers to go to Reservoir's Hole – the Frozen Deep.