

Oxford University Caving Club

Hilary AGM 2014

Minutes

Attendants*: Ben Hudson (BH) – Chairman, Thomas Leung (TL) – Secretary, Olaf Kähler (OK) – Meets Secretary, Oliver Robshaw (OR) – Junior Treasurer, Simon Goddard (SG) – Safety Officer, John ‘Jack’ Williams (JJW), Frances Popes (FP), Alex Diwa (AD), Antonina Votintseva

NB: Committee reports are in Black and comments are in blue.

Apologies for absences

Steve Roberts – President, Jeremy Welch – Treasurer

Matters arising from the previous TGM

- Day trip – Agreed to keep day trips running for terms. SG commented a balance is needed between day trips and weekend trips. Meets sec.’s decision on trips, with maximum two day trips per term.
- New college school gym (SRT training) – Not accept personal use at the moment. Revisit until Michaelmas term 2014.
- Pod’s Leatherman award – FP was awarded the Leatherman by BH.
- Pod’s fund – Long term discussion, SG will talk to Tim and Lou in new academic year.
- Tim’s proposal of free undergraduate membership – Move on to next meeting.

Committee members’ reports:

President (SR)

- The main presidential event of the year, of course, is the "President’s invite" meet. Unfortunately, "due to circumstances" I was unable to attend myself this year, but everything seemed to go very well without me. Possibly this indicates that my role is now entirely redundant. Other than that, I've continue to offer "elder statesman" advice when it is needed, which it very seldom is. I'm happy to continue in the role, should the club wish it. I also promise to try to go caving more often.

Chairman (BH)

- Despite being unable to take part in the caving in Michaelmas, I am very pleased to see that we have been more successful than usual in attracting freshers this year.
- SG suggested having some undergraduate or young members to help out in Fresher fair.
- Poster – to spread the word that if some freshers missed first term caving, they can always try it later (not if you miss it, it’s gone.).
- BH, OR, and SG will email John Pybus to find out if there is any previous poster. Will put it on notice board at various colleges.
- It’s also very good to see that lots of the initially keen people are coming back on their 2nd, 3rd and 4th trips this term, and to see other members who have been around a bit longer returning.
- In particular I think the numbers of new members are very encouraging. I hope that we have a lot of candidates for committee members!

- I have had surprisingly little contact with the Sports Fed this year. No doubt I have been a little negligent in not chasing them up, but then they have all my details...
 - I spoke with the safety guy (whose name I have forgotten) in September (I think) and he seemed happy with our arrangements. He did suggest meeting again later in the year but never got back in contact – I do think that this would be a good thing for either me or my successor to do because the face to face contact really did seem to put his mind at rest.
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- No doubt Jamie (in absentia) will cover it in more detail, but on the South Wales weekend we noticed that several of the SRT kits needed parts replacing (which is already been done by SG).
 - As I said back in the older days when I was Gear Officer, it is *really* important that we hang up damp SRT kits in the hut (it is being done after every trips) rather than putting them away wet in their bags. The main problem was corrosion to the aluminium cow's tail karabiners which is almost totally avoidable. Some cow's tails, foot loops and shock cords were also damaged by long use – thanks to Simon for lending some of his own gear to complete kits.
 - I really do think that we should have a stricter attitude to keeping tabs on how long SRT kits have been in operation and institute some better system of checking them. This should probably incorporate some way of marking parts so that they always stay with the same kit – it's no good to move bits around as needed because you end up having no idea which is the 'good' ones, and it's easy to get to a hut and find you're missing a vital bit.
 - Perhaps in future when training people for SRT we could have a greater focus on how to check gear for wear.
 - On the bright side this did show the importance of good habits of checking gear before use as well as before packing the minibus.
 - SG suggested having a meeting to teach new members how to check ropes, SRT kits, and ladder coiling in Trinity Term.
 - SG proposed to buy separate sets of cow's tails for general caving purposes instead of using those for club SRT kits.
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- I've said it several times here and there but I think we should promote the ACP expedition as much as possible; not much is better than expeditions at getting novice cavers really keen and competent, and the ACP expedition is particularly well suited to newer cavers. It's a very great opportunity for any basically competent Oxford caver to benefit from the experience and effort put into it for many years, as well as strengthening the continuity between the official OUCC expeditions and the ACP that I'm sure we all want to maintain.
 - I propose that we are particularly proactive in giving as much aid as is appropriate to help Steph or Ian give a presentation before the signup deadline in April – it was an enthusiastic presentation that persuaded me to go on my first expedition when before I wasn't really sure if I was up to it. I know that Thomas is planning to go but it would be brilliant if a few more people could go.
 - For those who are new and not sure if they would be up to it, I went on my first expedition in the summer of my first year, having only taken up caving in my second term; the club is able to support students so that hopefully finances are not too much of a problem. With a little commitment in terms of going to club trips / ACP training weekends anyone is capable of being expedition-ready by the summer.
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- I am happy to remain as Chairman if people want to keep me; equally it would be great for it to pass onto a keen newer caver who is looking to take on a little more responsibility (for me it really has been a little responsibility (I've not even updated the hat), but I think it is what you make of it).
 - I am slightly wary of the fact that the Chairman is supposed to be a current student and I really can't argue the toss any more.

- If someone wants to give it a go but is worried about commitments I would be very happy to be an 'assistant chairman' or something like that who can step in to sort things out if Sports fed need to meet you in the middle of an essay crisis or something like that.
- Many thanks to people who have been helping to organise weekends, drive and lead trips, and in particular to Olaf who has been good as always in arranging permits as well.

Secretary (TL)

- Not much to report, socials are taking place as usual.
- 12 members attended the annual dinner.

Meets Sec (OK)

- The term time trips go ahead as usual and so far they are fairly well attended for Hilary Term.
- The daytrip we had seemed to work reasonable well. We had more than enough drivers and private cars offered, so that no rental cars were needed. Overall such trips seem feasible and we can probably continue offering them.
- As every year, my contract here in Oxford is about to expire and I might finally disappear around June. I'm happy to stay Meets Sec for Trinity Term (I'm currently doing all the bookings anyway), but might step down after that...

Trips remain this term.

- Day trip to Forest of Dean, 9th March

See reports of past trips at the end.

Treasurer (JW) / Junior Treasurer (OR)

- See report on separate sheets.

Gear Officer (RC)

- Nothing to report.

Librarian / Archivist (SR)

- Nothing much to report, the club continues to acquire the usual journals, and we have made a few book purchases. The cataloguing is falling a bit behind; it won't take much effort to bring it back up to date.

Webmaster (SR)

- Nothing much to report; the website is kept up-to-date, and archival material is added when I have the time and inclination. The most recent major addition is the beginning of the "virtual Ario path"; putting this together is taking considerably more time and effort than actually walking the path. But we will get there. The website isn't fancy, but I hope it continues to be a useful resource.

Points of discussion

- Vote for committee members

President: OK proposed [SR](#), SG second, 9 in flavor.

Chairman: SG proposed TL, OK second. OK proposed BH, SG second. TL 6, BH 1, [TL](#) elected.

Secretary: OK proposed [JJW](#), TL second. 8 in flavor, [JJW](#) elected.

Meet secretary: SG proposed AD, [JJW](#) second. 8 (all) in flavor. [AD](#) elected. Olaf continues as assistant.

Gear officer: [Emma Preedy](#) elected 9 (all) in flavor. SG continues as assistant.

Safety officer: [SG](#) happy to stay

Blues Captain: [JJW](#) elected.

Women's Captain: [Emma Preedy](#)

Plans for next term:

3rd/4th May (1st week)

5th May is Bank Holiday

Daytrip to Otter Hole, between tides (Saturday or Sunday currently available)

10th/11th May (2nd week)

Mendips, Wessex

SRT and rescue training

St. Cuthberts, Fairy Quarry, maybe Charterhouse or Reservoir Hole

24th/25th May (4th week)

26th May is Bank Holiday

Yorkshire, Bull Pot Farm

Gaping Gill Winch Meet

7th/8th June (6th week)

Derbyshire, TSG

Titan

14th/15th June (7th week)

Daytrip to Llangattock

Daren Cilau, Ogof Draenen

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

Michaelmas Term 2013 (Cont.) (Refer to last Michaelmas TGM report for previous trips)

Yorkshire, 30.11./1.12.2013

About 16 OUCC members met with about 10 CUCC members at Bull Pot Farm to hold the Varsity Match and go caving together. Trips were made to Lost John, Easegill and Bull Pot of the Witches.

Holiday Caving

Yorkshire, 24.12.2013 - 01.01.2014

About 6 members of OUCC met with lots of other cavers to go caving and celebrate New Years at Bull Pot Farm. Trips were made, amongst others, to Boxhead-Lost Johns-Notts 2, Knock Fell Caverns, County Pot and Lancaster Hole.

Hilary Term 2014

Mendips (Day trip), 26.01.2014

About 10 OUCC members went on a daytrip to the Mendips. After a short meeting at the Wessex Caving Club, trips were made to Goatchurch, Sidcot and G.B.

South Wales, 01./02.02.2014

A total of 17 OUCC members went to the SWCC hut for the weekend. Trips were made to visit Cwm Dwr, Agen Allwed and to practice SRT in OFD 2. More SRT training was done in the quarry near the hut.

Yorkshire, 15./16.02.2014

A total of 8 members went to Bull Pot Farm for the weekend. Trips were made to Gaping Gill via Bar pot on Saturday, and Lancaster hole on both Saturday and Sunday.

North Wales, 28.02/02.03.2014

About 40 caver and climbers stayed at the Coetmor Mill Farm. Croesor-Rhosydd through trip was made on both Saturday and Sunday. A group of four cavers visited Ogor Dydd Byraf, and did the recent connection to Ogor Llyn Ddu 2.

Oxford University Cave Club

Hilary 2014 Annual General Meeting

Treasurer's Report

Balances

Main account £1190.07 (12th February 2014)

Local Account £220.00

Cash in transit from University Stores: £2315.06

Held in cash by Senior Treasurer: £72.41

The overall effective balance of the main account (£3505.13) is notable mainly in terms of the very high credit figure (1Mar 2013 £1931.38); the income over the period reflects a large number of subscription payments, and in excess of £300 will need to be transferred to the BCA for insurance payments. However, over £1000 has been received in subscription payments, from around 35 members – this is significantly higher than recent previous years, and includes 13 student members – at least 7 of whom are new to OUCC this year. We have received £80 from the Sports Federation as a supplementary grant, and have recently spent £214 on refurbishing the club SRT kits. Trips this term have been generally well-attended, and this generally reduces the chances of losses being incurred.

Accounts

Accounts will be submitted to the Sports Federation after Trinity Term 2014. This requires a request to be made, but it is easier to complete them over the Long Vacation.

Operations

The use of the University Online stores for the collection of trip and subscriptions continues to be an effective mode of collection of funds. Although some cash has been collected (see in hand amount above), the amount of cash has been drastically reduced. It provides more time for the processing of trip expenses, and these have generally been dealt with in timely manner.

The system has been extended to allow the payment of non-standard amounts to settle trips and, less frequently, subscription payments.

There is a small charge applied for the University Stores administration; in November and December this was 0.77% of the income.

One potential long-term issue that should be pointed out is that with the use of the University Stores for payment, the chances of members setting up standing orders which they leave running after they have left is reduced. This may be acceptable if the collection of

subscriptions is increased (and a good number of cavers from outside Oxford have paid subscriptions this year).

Oliver Robshaw was elected as Junior Treasurer at the Michaelmas TGM. Since then, he has been trained on the operation of the University Stores by the Finance Division and has access to the system for reporting (but not yet for reconfiguration). Oliver has produced reporting from the membership records for the BCA return, which is a challenging exercise in collation of data.

No progress has been made with regard to further reviewing the new Sports accounting system. Use of this system is not a mandatory requirement at this stage.

Jeremy Welch

12th February 2014