

# Oxford University Caving Club

## Trinity 2014 TGM

### Minutes

Attendants: Thomas Leung (TL) – Chairman, John 'Jack' Williams (JJW) – Secretary, Jeremy Welch (JW) – Treasurer, Alex Diwa (AD) – Meets Secretary, Emma Preedy (EP) – Gear officer, Simon Goddard (SG) – Safety Officer, Olaf Kähler (OK), Frances Popes (FP), Chris Densham (CD), Rosa Clements (RC)

Apologies for absences: Steve Roberts – President, Oliver Robshaw – Junior Treasurer, Fleur Loveridge, Tim Guildford, Lou Maurice

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

### Unresolved from HT14's AGM

**New college school gym for SRT training** - ask again next term.

**Pod's fund** - Simon, Tim and Lou will discuss this for the start of academic year of 2014/2015.

**Free undergraduate membership** - discuss in this meeting. JW not wildly enthusiastic because it's not a massive saving for the undergraduates, he'd rather make sure anyone who couldn't afford to go on trips had support. OK thinks insurance would be an issue. SG agrees that trip fees should be subsidised, not membership fees. JW further is not sure how sports fed would feel about free membership - they might stop giving us funds which would end up costing us more than it appears. No one disagrees. FP, SG and JW all think that the money would be better used attracting people to the club in other ways - RC suggests Hilary start-of-term party. Discussion moves to the expedition and whether we can use the money to entice people to go, but general consensus is that we don't have enough members to focus on expedition.

**Freshers' fair** - put current students on the stall. TL has sent off info for Freshers' fair and will book extra table. SG reminds us that we should really get young people on the stall, people point to AD and JJW. TL proposes a rota of 6-9 people; RC says that the more people the better. SG mentions that the term card needs to be made; TL says that the sec is responsible for this.

**Poster** - explaining that even if you've missed all the other trips, most MT/some HT trips are fresher-friendly (email John Pybus asking if a poster like that already exists); poster is to be distributed to college noticeboards. SG has contacted JP but to no avail. At this point, CD enters with a jug of beer. SG proposes that the poster should just be a generic caving poster, not one for a specific poster. Discussion about when to circulate it results in decision that it should just be all the time. EP will make this. CD suggests that we should put one up at Brookes' climbing wall to steal some of the OUMC members.

**Gear-** a session on gear maintenance/rope checking/ladder coiling for new members was mentioned but not followed up on. [The hut has been sorted out now so this wouldn't be so useful anymore.](#)

**BBQ -** Wednesday of 8th week? CD is going to Geneva so that is impractical. RC offers her garden but vetoes barbequing guinea pigs. CD counter-offers a barbeque on Friday of 7th week, imposes no bans on barbequing anything.

## Committee members' reports

### **President (Steve Roberts):**

- Very little to report, except to note that the “President’s Invite” meeting this year is on the w/e of the 10<sup>th</sup> October, at the Old Schoolhouse, Chapel-le-Dale.

### **Chairman (Thomas Leung):**

- Not much to report. The End of Year Pack has submitted to the university.
- Have a general chat with Sport Fed safety officer, David White, together with OUCC safety officer Simon Goddard.
- [David White agreed to everything SG said and asked for an inventory.](#)
- Would like to say thank you, especially to Simon Goddard, having a big clean-up of the hut with Olaf and Jack.

### **Secretary (John Jack Williams):**

- Nothing of particular note - thanks a lot to Thomas who's been a constant help and reminder for the past term.
- Socials have been continuing as normal although I need to start emailing on Wednesday to get a bigger turnout.
- Punting is booked for Sunday 22nd.

### **Meets secretary (Alex Diwa):**

- Nothing much to say - firstly, many thanks to Olaf who helped me get started with Meets Sec. duties, and who did most of the Trinity bookings before the role was handed over.
- As is (apparently) usual in Trinity term, attendance has been lower than normal, but we've nonetheless had four successful and enjoyable caving weekends so far (at least, I hope the recent Derbyshire trip went hassle free - I wasn't there...), with one more trip this coming weekend (South Wales).
- See separate sheet for trip reports

### **Treasurer (Jeremy Welch):**

- See report on separate sheet.

### **Gear Officer (Simon Goddard/Emma Preedy):**

- Not much to say. Will give verbal report at the meeting. [Hut clearup and inventory started. Inventory largely for insurance purposes, also so we know what we've got and sports fed know what we've got.](#)
- [CD wants to know how old all the rope is. We have bought 200m of new rope and we are supposed to be getting more from exped, but they have lost it.](#)

- JW bans the exped people from taking anything without knowing who exactly is taking things and what exactly they are taking, is generally okay with them taking specific things like the radio. Karabiners and maillons and ropes are not allowed to be taken away because they will not come back. They are coming to Oxford to pick it up 8th week this term. TL will oversee this and take a picture of everything they have taken so they know what they need to bring back.
- In the trailer there is junk, fuel bottles, ammo boxes, some expedition stuff but not much. The trailer is shagged in many ways, for example, somehow the wheels are different sizes. Luckily, it is not going on expedition any more. SG asks if we really need that anymore. It has been taken to South Wales recently and was fine, so it is probably safe. It is also a useful hut annexe for extra storage.
- At some point, SG will have a session after a weekend trip on rope washing, ladder coiling, maillon cleaning. This is necessary because we don't treat our gear as well as any other cave club. We need to introduce the discipline in members to clean rope immediately after getting out of the cave. FP notes that a single session is not necessary to make this happen, but instead a dedicated person (trip leader) to make sure that happens. An extra layer of hierarchy is proposed by FP that the meet leader could supervise the trip leaders. That is all.

#### **Librarian (Steve Roberts):**

- Business as usual: the journals and books catalogues were recently updated and put on the website.
- DTT: a new editor could be appointed to make these (weekly) newsletters, because Andy is changing jobs and has not had the time to do this for a while. JW thinks that an email newsletter is outdated but CD and SG think that no one would look at it then.
  - Due to mixups with mailing lists and differences in technology use between members makes it difficult to have one format to distribute it. FP thinks we should put some link or something on facebook, even if the main newsletter is on the website.
  - It is a lot of work; it could be abolished or made less frequent - FP would only volunteer to do it if it was not weekly. Everyone pounces on this and FP is convinced to have a look at the old DTTs to decide if she will don this mantle.

#### **Website (Steve Roberts):**

- Business as usual here too. Recently I have started to add scanned-in copies of expedition logbooks, beginning with the early Xitu expeditions.

#### **Other business:**

- **PDCNG** cave management weekend - CD is the club rep for this and offers to give up his position. No one pounces on this opportunity. We may need to make a contribution - £20 or £50. They need more money especially for lock thefts, which are relatively frequent. £50 is decided on as being the amount to send.

- RC asks if we need to recreate the rescue runner bag. FP seconds this - do we need to make a small bag for small trips so we can grab it before leaving. SG mentions that we should always carry personal survival bags, and OK mentions that trip leader should always carry something along these lines.

## **TK ADJOURNS MEETING.**

### **Plans for next term:**

11st/12nd October (0th Week)

President's invite

25th/26th October (2th Week)

South Wales fresher's trip, stay at SWCC.

8th/9th November (4th Week)

Mendips fresher's trip, stay at WCC

Subsequent trips dependent on CHECC meet dates.

**Alex Diwa's** report on past caving trips: (continue from continued from last AGM report)

### **Hilary Term 2014 (Cont.) (Refer to last Hilary AGM report for previous trips)**

North Wales, 1./2.3.2014

OUCC/OUMC joint weekend. About 50 cavers/climbers in total for the weekend. Through trips of the Croesor-Rhosydd mines were made both Saturday and Sunday. 2 OUCC members and 2 BEC members visited Ogof Dydd Byraf on Sunday with a leader.

Forest of Dean, 9.3.2014

5 OUCC members went on a day trip to Miss Grace's Lane.

### **Holiday caving**

South Wales, 29.3.2014

A group of Russian caver was visiting UK and stayed in SWCC. Olaf and Tonya +3 Russian cavers did the Cwm Dwr – OFD 1 through trip. Chris, Thomas L., Rosa and Daniel B., did the Dan-Yr-Ogof round trip.

### **Trinity Term 2014**

Yorkshire, 3.5.2014 - 5.5.2014

It was Fleur and Pete's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and OUCC was invited to Bull Pot Farm. Trips were made to various caves including Easegill, Aqua Mole, Simpson's pot.

Mendips, 10./11.5.2014

Stayed at WCC. 4 OUCC members in attendance (+3 on the Sunday). Trips were made in Charterhouse and Fairy-Hilliers cave.

Yorkshire, 24./25.5.2014

8 OUCC members stayed at Bull Pot Farm. It was the Gaping Gill Winch Meet and Expedition training weekend. 2 members went to expedition training on Saturday while the rest of the group (in two teams) visited Gaping Gill system –flood entrance pot to corky's pot, Stream Passage Pot to Bar pot. On Sunday, 5 OUCC cavers did the county-wretched rabbit through trip.

Mendips, 27.5.2014

2 OUCC members went for a day trip to Manor Farm Swallet.

Derbyshire, 7./8.6.2014

6 OUCC members stayed at the TSG. 3 cavers did titan – white river – titan round trip on Sunday. 5 cavers went to sidetrack cave at Eldon Hill Quarry (with 187m crawling to start with).

Oxford University Cave Club  
Trinity 2014 Termly General Meeting  
Treasurer's Report

**Balances**

Main account £2840.47 (23<sup>rd</sup> May 2014)

Local Account £220.00

Cash in transit from University Stores: £663.00 (estimated)

Held in cash by Senior Treasurer: £72.41

The positive balance of the Club accounts is maintained for this period with a bank balance for the end of May approximately £1000 above the level at a similar point the previous year (over £1600 above if the University Stores income is considered; there are some outstanding sums for trip expenses to be paid. It should be noted that the income collected via the University Stores is much lower than in previous terms, reflecting the smaller numbers of cavers going on trips this term.

Further expenditures have been made on equipment during the period, including a replacement storm shelter, replacement SRT equipment and new cowstails. While providing adequate levels of safe equipment is very important, it is major source of expenditure, and the Club should endeavor to ensure the safe storage and use of such equipment.

**Accounts**

Accounts will be submitted to the Sports Federation after Trinity Term 2014 as agreed with the Sports Federation. 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.

Although this has been a successful year financially, the Club will need to continue to track the income and expenditure effectively. It is clearly important, based on this year's experience, to ensure that all trip income, especially in Michaelmas and Hilary Terms, is channeled through the University Stores – it provides better visibility and, it would seem, better collection.

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

9<sup>th</sup> June 2014

- CD has an issue with the expedition accounts from some years ago, because one person hasn't paid and one person is owed money in the order of a few hundred pounds. The person who is owed money doesn't know and the person who owes money cannot pay. JW mentions that no one should be left out, but CD and JW say that this is not an issue for the club treasury, and CD resolves to go to the expedition leader for this year. It would overall be nice to close it off somehow though.
- CD brings up Pod's fund again; SG repeats that a training weekend would be a constructive way to spend it. AD says that the financial aspect of caving is not a barrier to most people joining, but the time is an issue. EP mentions that her friends would like to come but the whole weekend is too long. Day trips are briefly discussed, it is decided that they are not great value for money.
- SG, JW and CD agree that annual weekends or sessions of training, explicitly funded by Pod would be a nice idea, but we need to discuss this with Tim and Lou. Everyone consents.  
Putative title: Pod's piss up.
- FP brings up the fact that expedition may not always come with an internship grant, and SRT kit is expensive, so perhaps that could be useful.