

# Oxford University Cave Club

## Michaelmas 2015 TGM

### Minutes

Apologies for absences: Chris Densham, Jeremy Welch, Steve Roberts. Apologies for being late: Simon Goddard, Oliver Madge

*Present: Ka "Thomas" Leung (TL – Chairman), Alex Diwa (AD – Meets secretary), John "Jack" Williams (JJW – Secretary), Simon Goddard (SG - Safety Officer), Olaf Kahler (OK – Gear Officer), Oliver Robshaw (Junior Treasurer), Rosa Clements (RC), Oliver Madge, Dennell Reynolds, Nick Adams, Dan Kent*

### Unresolved from HT15's AGM

**Indoor SRT training site** – David White says we can't use the place SG had been negotiating for all of last year, so any suggestions are welcome. *SG had secured a site in the squash courts but members of another club had been playing on the balcony and one of them injured themselves so David White doesn't want anyone using that room apart from the squash players. SG continues his crusade. We will have to use Donnington Bridge for training. Some people can be trained in Wales this weekend.*

**New president** – SR mentioned at the last meeting that he plans to end his reign and noted that he would bring it up again this year.

**New chairman** – TL tried to resign last meeting but failed. He may yet try again. *He has to wait until the AGM to resign.*

### Committee members' reports

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

A successful "President's Invite" (old lags' reunion) was held October 9-11, based at the Old School House, near Ingleton. About 40 people aged between 2 and 78 attended, went caving and walking and drank less than expected.

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

I have fallen behind rather with cataloguing but will catch up soon I hope. We have acquired about a dozen vintage caving books from Wells Library ex-stock; thank to Simon Goddard for alerting me to these going on sale.

#### **Webmaster (Steve Roberts):**

The usual termly updates on documentation and trips etc. have been done. Background stuff (old photos etc.) has slowed down somewhat: next thing to go up of that sort is some information on pod and the pod fund. Simon Goddard has sent me photos etc.; I will put a section of the website on this together soon.

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

There is nothing in particular need to be reported. We did well in the Freshers' Fair. Moreover, we have some enthusiastic freshers who came back caving after having their first novice weekend, which is a good sign. Regarding my position as the club chairman, I am happy to carry on with the position until the AGM in Hilary term, but have to step down after as my university status will not be student any more. *He can still be meets sec.*

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

Nothing to report, but thank you to everyone for the success of the first 2 freshers' weekends so far. If people would like a Christmas dinner then I should start organising that now.

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

Nothing to report, other than to say a huge thanks to everyone for helping out with the novice weekends this term (esp. meet leaders Thomas, Oliver, Olaf, Rosa and Simon for being very helpful with food as always). Special thanks to Oliver for his help as Assistant Meets Sec. To echo my last TGM report, apologies for usually not being on top of things, but I'm rounding off my commitments with my MCR at the end of this term so can be a better Meets Sec (and generally a more fun caver) soon.

*Wants some suggestions for trips next term. RC: We've not done Derbyshire. AD: We'll probably have another SWCC trip. SG wants an otter hole trip booked. We don't know how long it'll take to book this. Yorkshire? SG wants a Robinson's hole permit as he has sweet talked the landowner into allowing more trips. Perhaps a joint OUMC meet. Freshers would like to start SRTing ASAP.*

*'Posh CHECC' – can someone organise it? (who's going/transport/accommodation etc.). JJW steps bravely up to the plate.*

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

Please find attached the termly report from the Treasurer for OUCC. I will have to give my apologies for being unable to attend the meeting on Wednesday as I have another engagement. However, I think the report is straightforward, and the balances are spookily similar to the same time last year (despite our quite extensive equipment refresh recently). I sent you the return to the Sports Fed on the 20th July, and if anyone's interested in more detail on the accounts, please have them get in touch.

By and large all seems well with the finances; if there are any suggestions from the meeting for further non-routine spend, do let me know- remember that Sports Fed are much more reluctant to give interim grants unless it's something outside the budget, so if anyone has anything we need to spend that is out of what we were planning, make sure I get to hear about it!

### **Gear officer (Olaf Kahler):**

As discussed at previous meetings, we have updated our gear. In detail:

- All of our old suits were repaired by Jumpsuits and look a bit less run down now. A lot of holes got fixed indeed and it was very well worth the money and effort!

- We got four new oversuits, undersuits and belts as well as a full set of cowstails from Starless River. The cowstails are currently in a bag next to the SRT kits and can be used to replace the current ones at the safety officer's discretion.
- We've got four colourful new Landjoff tacklesacks. They are labelled and joined the existing ones. (And I think I still have to claim money for them)
- From the big Lyon gear order we've got 10 new screwgate karabiners and one HMS that have green tape and are hanging on the board. Also there are four new helmets, currently still at my home, waiting for the lights to be transferred. This will happen as soon as we manage to coordinate to get them to the hut in between the caving weekends. (And I think I also still have to claim the money for this order)

#### Ongoing projects in terms of gear:

- We've still got a whole lot of stuff in the "attic" and **expedition cupboard that should be sorted out**. I suspect we'll find more torn oversuits in the attic and various other things that should really be sorted out or given away.
- **We should compile a complete inventory** of gear after the last trip in Michaelmas Term for submission to the Sports Fed. I'll try to organise a general hut cleaning session, maybe on Wednesday of 8th or 9th week before the pub.
- There are plenty of old knackered tacklesacks, partly stored in a box at the moment. **These should either be repaired at some point or disposed of.** *Beast used to repair tacklesacks – SG notes we don't do the expedition anymore so we don't need as many tacklesacks as we used to use. RC is reluctant to throw them out. TL wants to mend them and then sell them. SG points out that they need to be cleaned before they'll be mended. OK thinks we have plenty of sacks in operation. No one objects to just leaving them there.*
- While the gear is generally in a very good state now, if there is anything we should consider it's replacing or upgrading lights. I sort of managed to fix two slightly corroded cables earlier this term, but at least one of them I'd still call a bit dodgy. Also, as minor annoyances we currently have to tell all our novices to not use the spot lights of the Duo and to bring their own batteries. We could consider LED inserts (about 20-30 GBP each) or even a longer term plan of replacing them completely.

*SG reckons Duos are the best on the market for their value; OK says we could upgrade just a few of them (the dodgy ones?) – This is not urgent but we should think about it. Whatever lights are on the helmet we'll have to teach the novices. Rechargeable batteries went missing last time we tried that. Custom duo are having a sale and bison make lights.*

#### Safety Officer (Simon Goddard):

New helmets have been fitted with existing lights. All lights have been checked/cleaned. New cow's tails purchased to replace old ones on SRT kits. No accidents or incidents to report. Had a meeting with the uni safety officer. Nothing to report. Some wellies have been retired and new ones purchased. New over and under suits in circulation.

*SG (safety officer): We need to be flexible with our novice trips – be prepared to do shorter trips if necessary.*

*SG (caver): people need to bite the bullet and stop being wusses.*

## Any other business

Alex Diwa proposes a motion:

- This club notes that the current quorum rule is too restrictive.
- This club believes that we have never needed 8 people to make a decision. This club resolves to change quorum rules to require only 3 people.

*Has to be done at the AGM.*

SG: POD FUND

Pod was an unbelievably nice caver, great friend, great person, and a great academic. Sadly he died 3 years ago at the age of 40 of cancer. He fought cancer, came on caving weekends – long story short, he left a significant amount of money to the club to be used to promote caving for young people. It's a bit complicated and vague at the same time. Lou and I are the administrators of this fund. The money is there to be spent rather than invested – he stipulated that he didn't want it just to accumulate interest. It's aimed at students (can't remember the exact details) – sadly not short term visiting students, but there is some flexibility in this. We're anticipating people can apply for up to £200 (all in one go – but you have to decide exactly what you want; or for If you've just run out of money and need some help to go on a weekend). Just send Lou or Simon an email asking for some money and the likelihood is the answer will be yes. Steve will put this on the website and Simon will send an email.

*AD: Are there restrictions on how long you have to have been part of the club?*

*SG: Yes – 1 term. Also, if you disappear after 6 months, we might ask for the money back. Just a few clauses to stop it being abused. We're trying to get just a bit about pod on the website – so if any older members have anything they've written or photos they've taken, please send it to me or Steve. Also, we have a pub meet in December in the Gardener's Arms. You're all welcome – especially his sister would like to see that there are new members in the club. It's not an insignificant amount of money and it is already being used – this weekend for example. I'm not going to say it's anonymous, but we're not going to broadcast who's using it – we understand people wouldn't want people to know they can't afford to come this weekend etc. That's it.*

CHRISTMAS DINNER

SG: Can we not have curry? Every time we have @\*\*&@\* curry and I hate it.

RC: Is it going to be a party?

TL: Just send an email around.

NEXT MEETING

Week 6 HT16 – UNANIMOUS

TL ENDS THE MEETING

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

### **Trinity Term 2015**

8th/10th May 2015, South Wales

Meet leader: Olaf Kahler

8 OUCC members and about 5 CUCC members met at the SWCC hut. Trips were made to OFD and Draenen.

22nd/24th May, Forest of Dean

7 OUCC members went camping at Beeches Farm. Trips were made to Otter Hole and Miss Graces Lane, hiking tours on Sunday.

6th June, Mendip Daytrip

Due to lack of interest, the trip was cancelled

12th/14th June, Northern Dales

Due to lack of interest, the trip was cancelled. Two OUCC members went privately.

### **Michaelmas term 2015**

Week 2, MT 2015

23-25 October - South Wales (SWCC) - Freshers' Weekend

Meet leader: Thomas Leung

8 novices and 7 OUCC members

Week 4, MT 2015

6-8 November - Mendips (WCC) - Freshers' Weekend

Meet leader: Oliver Robshaw, Thomas Leung

11 novices and 5 OUCC members attended the meeting. Trips were made to Swildon (to Sump 1) and the Cheddar Gorge area (Goatchurch, etc) on Saturday. Two groups of 6 did GB on the Sunday.

Week 6, MT 2015

20-22 November - South Wales (SWCC) - Freshers' Weekend

Meet leader: Olaf Kahler

11 novices and 9 OUCC members attended the meeting. Various novice friendly trips were made to the OFD system. Four OUCC members did an advanced trip from Cwm Dwr to Top entrance with a detour to see the Pom Pom.

### **Upcoming trip for Michaelmas term 2015**

Week 7, MT 2015

27-29 November - North Yorkshire (Dalesbridge Centre) - CHECC Forum or 'Alternative CHECC' with CUCC & ICC (but not confirmed yet)

# Oxford University Cave Club

Michaelmas Term 2015 Annual General Meeting

## Treasurer's Report

### Balances

Main account £2287.13 (12 November 2015)

Local Account £235.00

Cash in transit from University Stores: ~ £976.00

The figures above reflect the current balances. This indicates a similar set of balances as at a similar point in 2014, when the main account balance was £3177.81, with a University Stores transfer having just taken place.

An annual grant of £400 was paid to the Club by the Sports Federation this year, representing a £50 increase compared with the previous year.

### Accounts

The accounts were submitted to the University Sports Federation on the 16<sup>th</sup> July. No comment was received, and the payment of the annual grant is seen as an acceptance all is well with them.

### Operations

Some significant expenditure has taken place over the Long Vacation and the first part of Michaelmas Term. £596.00 was remitted to Starless River for new equipment (under- and over-suits, belts and cowstails) and £303 was remitted to DJJump for repairs to a number of suits. In addition, a number of smaller equipment purchases has enhanced the equipment situation considerably. The pull-up roller banners were purchased over the Long Vacation and used at the Freshers' Fair.

Trips have in general returned a small loss this term, but it is within acceptable limits.

The University Stores continues to deliver a sound and reliable service for the collection of trip and subscription income, and is an essential part of the financial well-being of the Club.

### Proposed Expenditure

Subscriptions and insurance payments will be collected during the Christmas vacation. For club members, the subscription and insurance rates are not expected to change from 2015. The payment of the BCA insurance charges is a significant annual outgoing, but should be covered by income from members.

Jeremy Welch

17<sup>th</sup> November 2015