

# Oxford University Cave Club

Trinity Term 2020- TGM

Date of Meeting: 24/06/20

Present: **Rory Rose, Rebecca Miller, Nick Adams, Rosa Clements, Vlad Catena, Steve Roberts**

(Black – reports: Red – discussions at the meeting)

## Officer's Reports

**President (Steve Roberts):** Nothing to report

**Library (Steve Roberts):** Nothing to report

**Website (Steve Roberts):** Nothing to report

### **Chairman (Rory Rose):**

- I have been trying to get in contact with someone at SWCC about the scaffold tower but haven't established contact yet.
- We need to look forward to next term to think about how the club can operate. One suggestion is to run day trips with possibly limited number of people. We will probably be given guidance from Sports Fed about what we can and can't do closer to term time.
- We should run talks again next term as they were very popular last time. Possibly include some expo talks too.
- Need to allocate who will set up freshers' fair if it is going to run.

SWCC trying to get them involved in sending the details of their SRT tower

Next term- worried about things like transport- currently not allowed for people outside the same household to be in the same car

Not sure how cave environment will affect air transmission- cautious yes from BCA for future caving trips

All societies will be in the same boat- might not be too big of an issue for membership to caving

Ideas for next term:

Slideshows, talks can be virtual- Talks worked well to get people engaged, exciting enough topic that we can get people excited about caving without going and then when we can go, we can maintain momentum

Interactive talks from cavers all over who would be willing to talk- Steve has contacts, does not necessarily have to be talkers from our club but other clubs/ cavers/ speakers

Talks and speakers works much better online than just plain socials

Freshers fair is going to be an online event of some description- videos, leaflets posted to a webpage.

CHECC is thinking of producing a video for Freshers fair- this would be good as they have better resources for putting this together- makes caving look a lot bigger than just a single university caving club, emphasises that it is a community of people.

NUC are doing SRT tree training on a pulley system- seems like a good idea if the SRT tower doesn't happen within the next 3 months

Bridge/Trees for SRT training sessions

## TGM Agenda and Minutes

Bridge can rig 3-4 parallel ropes- good opportunity for a social as there is a pub closer that we can hold a social afterwards.

**Action point:** Rory sends out an email to all members to see who would be willing to give a talk

Cambridge are keen to do more joint trips with us when this is appropriate- joint training weekends, buddy system between clubs encouraged by CHECC

Might also be useful to look at clubs closer to home in order to share transport with clubs e.g. Reading?

Pull resources with talks, maybe have talks that are joint for multiple caving clubs

Next CHECC is still being planned as if it will go ahead- in the Dales at a new venue- if it can't go ahead they are planning on having smaller training events and webinars on how to train people doing SRT etc.

### **Meet Secretary (Nick Adams):**

The lockdown came into effect a couple of weeks before I would have started booking huts, so there were no trips in Trinity term and no cancellations needed.

Day trips have not been organised, reflecting the overriding consensus in the caving community is to avoid caving during lockdown. We are recently seeing some landowners permitting access (e.g. Leck Fell), and we should see a widening of access as lockdown restrictions are eased.

It is currently unclear how trips will shape up for the 2020/21 academic year, and the soonest we'll understand this is with the reopening of caving huts and broader advice from the sports fed.

Lockdown on caving before able to book anything

Need to wait on sports fed before we can start thinking about organising things to see their ideas on transport etc.

As soon as we know any better, we will have something set up ASAP. May involve camping/ day trips

### **Safety Officer (Nick Adams):**

No safety issues have been raised.

### **Welfare Officer (Rebecca Miller):**

Having been recently established and due to the COVID-19 lockdown, there is nothing to report other than I have a Welfare Handbook that was provided by the OU Sports Fed which contains useful contacts and resources as well as a 'suggested Welfare Officer Remit' as follows:

"1. The Welfare Officer(s) should be a point of contact for individuals within their relevant sports clubs to bring personal, domestic or work-related problems as well as issues relating to their sport or sports club and should aid to offer signposting advice or assistance to these individuals by exploring the issues presented to them.

2. The Welfare Officer(s) should respect that the problems presented to them can be sensitive and therefore should ensure the confidentiality of club members who wish to approach them with issues. It should be noted that in circumstances where an individual is believed to pose a threat to themselves or others, a Welfare Officer may breach confidentiality, escalate matters as they deem

appropriate and inform relevant bodies/individuals in order to maintain the safety of the 'at-risk' individual.

3. The Welfare Officer(s) should aim to attain some level of Welfare/Peer Support Training and Bystander Intervention Training offered by the University, and Mental Health in Sport Workshops run by the Sports Federation. Welfare Officer(s) should be aware of resources and services offered both by the University and in Oxford to assist with promoting good Student Welfare.

4. The Welfare Officer(s) should offer assistance to individuals to the limits of their capabilities or training and should signpost individuals to more specialist services if it is believed that this would be a more appropriate course of action. Welfare Officers are not counsellors and should recognise that they have limits. It is important that Welfare Officers only take on what they can themselves handle and look after their own Welfare whilst assisting others.

5. The Welfare Officer(s) should represent and advocate for issues of student/member welfare, equality and diversity within the club committee and hold the committee accountable to issues of student welfare and equality opportunity."

#### **Social Secretary (Sarah Day):**

- Socials have been taking place online during lockdown with a few pub quizzes including a joint pub quiz we did with some other caving clubs.
- Due to online socials, we are not able to do many of the things we would usually do for socials, e.g. knot tying, surveying, practice, or just going to the pub! I think for this reason, (and also possibly difficulty with access to good internet and technical faults which I have had a lot of issues with personally!), attendance has been a bit low to socials this term. Hopefully with next term being a busy time with new freshers, turn out will be increasing and I will be using this summer to find ways to advertise the club, whether it be in person or online with current circumstances.
- I am hoping we will be back at Oxford for next term so that we are able to encourage more freshers to join the club in person at freshers' fairs and talking to people at colleges etc.
- However, I will keep in mind that we may have to be online for some of next term for socials and we will look for ways to make this accessible to freshers who may want to join. e.g. having talks by people in the club on zoom and sending a zoom link out on email for a freshers list to attend.
- Ideas for socials, especially ones that are online/socially distanced are very welcome!

See above ideas for next term for possible social plans

Talks can be held outside- do not need massive projectors, take print outs

#### **Gear Officer (Vlad Catanea):**

- we are asking for a grant from Sports Fed for oversuit repair, more kneepads, gloves and more Fenix lights

Maillon situation- light on maillons- could buy lots of screwgates

Must be careful when we start taking people on trips again with club clothing- must make sure clothing goes through a washing machine in between trips to show we are taking the measures seriously

How would we do that: not possible to wash in university washing machines, would sports fed be able to help with this issue?

**Action point:** Rory will send an email about washing machine facilities for caving kit to Sports Fed

**Treasurer (Jeremy Welch):**

Balances

Main account £3195.35 (17 June 2020) cf £3261.01 (29 May 2019)

The Local Account has been closed; it held £235.00 which has been transferred to the main account.

Although the balance seems comparable with the previous year, because there has been little activity since March, there is only £220 awaiting transfer from the University Stores.

BCA insurance fees have been settled in the period, and no significant expenditure is anticipated in the coming months.

Operations

The Club accounts show a sound balance and represents no cause for concern. With BCA fees paid, and minibus charges from the Sports Federation settled (following the withdrawal of their invoice for a vehicle hire we had already paid for), it is reasonable to expect that activity will increase only when trips resume.

Proposed Expenditure

Paperwork and reports have been submitted to the Sports Federation, and the summary of accounts will be submitted at the end of June. As usual, the Club has requested a grant for the replacement of Club equipment, and the decision on this will be made over the Long Vacation.

**Financially very stable**

**AOB**

**Spain expedition- tentatively not been cancelled yet. If it is allowed it can be run but nothing has been set up massively so if it must be cancelled this will also be doable.**