

Oxford University Cave Club

Hilary 2019 - AGM

Present:

Rory Rose (RR), Rosa Clements (RC), Clare Ballantyne (CB), Horváth Richárd (HR), Thomas Leung (TL), Becca Anthony (BA), Nick Adams (NA), Karim Alsaka (KA), Nicole Yung Au (NYA), Jeremy Welch (JW), Dan Kent (DK)

Apologies for absence:

Chris Densham

27/02/2019

Officers' Reports

President (Steve Roberts):

- Very little specifically Presidential activity this year. The main issue was dealing with a copyright dispute over some aspects of the Draenen cave survey, but this now seems to have been closed off. I have been caving a few times. There will be a 2019 "President's Invite", I hope with a wider demographic scope than in some previous years (i/e not *all* old lags)

Webmaster (Steve Roberts):

- Website continues to grow its available collection of OUCC archival material: scanned in logbooks and the like. It would be good to build a collection of photos (and even trip reports) of more recent caving activity than we currently have. I feel that posting on Facebook etc. is OK in the short-term, but for longer-term stuff it would be good to have a well-chosen selection of pictures and the stories behind them that reflect current activity.
- TL and NA to send photos to Steve
- TL to send photos to NA for Instagram

Librarian (Steve Roberts):

- It was decided at a previous meeting to cut back the holding to essentials: (a) books; (b) major journals; (c) OUCC-specific materials; with the rest (other UK club newsletters, etc.) that are in the BCA library if needed, being found another home for. That is still the intent, but I have not progressed very far with it, beyond making contact with the BCA library to start a dialogue to establish what they might need/want to take. Older OUCC-specific material is gradually being scanned in (and put on the web, as in Webmaster report).
- RR to chase up climbers about RSL

Treasurer (Jeremy Welch):

- See Appendix A for treasurer's report
- If we get more money over the next year, might lead to our grant reducing

Meets Secretary (Rosa Clements):

- See appendix B for meets sec report
- Nottingham weekend was popular
- Push camping trip to next term
- Southern CHECC is happening (NA) organizing
- Have a 'what to expect' social and a packing meet as well
- Next term
 - North Wales
 - Push joint weekends
 - Cambridge
 - Kent
 - Possibly reading
 - NA organize
 - 2nd week would be best for a day trip
 - 4th week Freshers tip to OFD would be good

Safety officer (Nick Adams):

- Nothing to report

Gear officer (Nick Adams):

- People have been better signing kit out this term
- **White board sign out system would make sure things get signed out**
 - TL will sort
- **Could code ropes which is in sign out sheet – have a hard record of what has been signed out how many times**
- **Make an inventory of usable tackle sacks – buy new ones?**
 - Some of them are too big for 'normal caving'

Secretary / Chairman (Rory Rose):

- Social Media
 - Lot's of photo's this term which is great
 - New club Instagram thanks to Becca
- Pub
 - Training social events at the pub have been going well
 - Plan is to continue them next term
- Sumer Trip
 - Advert now out!
 - Dates changed to 6th – 16th July
 - Deadline for signing up is 3rd of May
- **Dave Rose wants to give a talk about ario**
 - **Organize with OUEC if possible**

Husts:

- **Meets Sec + Social Sec**
 - NA
 - Unanimous
- **Gear Officer**
 - TL
 - Unanimous
- **Secretary**
 - CB – RR will help
 - Unanimous
- **Junior Treasurer**
 - NYA
 - Unanimous

AOB:

- Thomas has donated my old camera to the club, which is still in a good condition. People could use it for club trips/foreign trips/expedition in case there are no cave photographers in their group. A charger, a battery and manuals are included, but not memory cards!
- Thomas bought 10 Inglesport heavy duty sacks for freshers/members to put their caving gears/ random stuff.
- Tackle bags. Only 5/6 are in good condition. Some of them missed a shoulder stripe, or are too big for caves, while others are on the edge of falling apart, and would be bad if it happens on a caving trip...
 - There is a box of retired tackle bags in the trailer, and back in years during an AGM, there was ideas of either turned them into more usable items or pay for repairing, but somehow, they are still there.
 - maybe we should just get rid of them...
 - **could use as rope protectors**

- material may be gone
- need 3-4 more
- cost £40 each
- possibly buy a range of sizes
- NA will sort
- Is there also some thoughts of get rid of the trailer as well?
- Going to be hard to get rid of
- No good reason to get rid of it now

Appendix A - Treasurer's Report

Balances

Main account £3593.31 (20 February 2017)

Local Account £235.00

Cash in transit from University Stores: £1232.69 (est)

The figures above reflect the current balances and shows a total of £4826.85 in the main account and in transit from the Stores, an increase on previous years [2017:£4092.85 2016: £4380.09 2015: £4060.04 2014: £3505.13], although a larger amount than previous years (approximately £453) from the total will be required for payment of the insurance premiums for individuals to the BCA; this is reflective of a slight increase in subscriptions already received.

An annual grant of £375 was paid to the Club by the Sports Federation this year.

Accounts

The club accounts were submitted to the University Sports Federation over the long Vacation 2018. No comment was received, and the payment of the annual grant is seen as an acceptance all is well with them.

Operations

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; trip leaders have proved efficient in tracking expenditure and income on trips. Overall the income via the stores is proportionately greater in Michaelmas Term. The Club should not under-estimate the impact of the use of this efficient mechanism to recover the fees due that are so important. The Club now has to pay an annual fee for the use of the facility (£200+VAT), but it is more than compensated for by the efficiency of trip and subscription collection and tracking.

The Club has not made many equipment purchases in the recent past and this is probably reflected in the slight account balance increase; it is reasonable to assume that expenditure will required on this sort of item in due course.

The costs of transport, particularly MPVs and minibuses remain high; they are an inevitable feature of running trips, and the judicious choice of transport by trip leaders is appreciated. The use of members' cars for smaller trips reduces transport costs, and the Club should appreciate the generosity of the car owners and their driving contributions.

Proposed Expenditure

Apart from routine equipment replacement and the BCA subscription liability referred to above there is no expected unusual expenditure at this time

Jeremy Welch - 20th February 2019

Appendix B – Meet's sec report

This term's trips were:

0th week, 11th-13th January Day trip to Agen Allwedd
1st week, 18th-20th January Joint weekend with Exeter, BEC
3rd week, 1st-3rd February Joint weekend with Nottingham, SWCC
5th week, 15th-16th February Yorkshire weekend, YSS
7th week, 1st-3rd March Draenen camping and training weekend
8th week, 8th-10th March Northern CHECC, Bull Pot Farm

The 0th week day trip seemed popular last term, but this time only 3 people signed up and we had last minute transport problems, which meant it ended up cancelled. Michaelmas term is a bit different to other terms in that it has Freshers' week, so everyone is already settled in by 0th week, so perhaps that gives 0th week trips a different dynamic.

Our joint weekend with Exeter was successful. We had good trips in St Cuthbert's, Eastwater, Swildons, Dallimores, and Rhino Rift and some spirited rounds of shove ha'penny at the Hunters. St Cuthbert's was spectacular, though in future it might be worth booking St Cuthbert's permits on Sunday rather than Saturday as it really wasn't a very long trip. OUCC organised the food and EUSS seemed happy with that.

Our other joint weekend with Nottingham was also very enjoyable, with nearly all the trips featuring cavers from both clubs. This meant we did a variety of different trips and everyone could end up on a trip that suited them. We helped each other out and had some fun in the snow together. NUCC organised the food, which was nice of them, but if we do this again in future, it may be worth remembering that they don't provide chocolate bars for caving like we do.

On the Yorkshire weekend we were very organised, and one team bottomed Quaking! The other team got to the Gaping Gill main chamber in daylight (via Flood Entrance), despite taking the time to practice deviations on the YSS SRT wall beforehand. While YSS is a long way away, their SRT wall is a great facility. Attempting to find Voldemort Hole without a GPS was less successful, but we enjoyed seeing the multicoloured formations in Notts 2.

Still to come is our underground camping weekend this weekend. That should be a good experience for those wanting to get into expedition caving.

We probably won't be sending a contingent to Northern CHECC (though we always can if anyone is keen), but plans are already afoot for a visit

to Southern CHECC at the SWCC in the Easter holidays.

For next term I have attempted to book an Otter Hole permit. It isn't confirmed yet, but that should give us a beautiful (and exhausting) trip in the Forest of Dean. I haven't booked anything else since taking suggestions for trips at the AGM seems popular.

I would like to stand down as Meets Sec if possible.