

# Oxford University Cave Club

Michaelmas 2019 - TGM

27/11/2019

Present:

Rory Rose (RR), Rebacca Miller (RM), Nick Adams (NA), Rosa Clements (RC), Vlad Catanea (VC), Sarah Day (SD), Steve Roberts (SR), Laura Warmuth (LW), Nilo Merino Recalde(NW), Andrea Estandia (AE)

## Officers' Reports

President (Steve Roberts):

- The President has got too big for his boots! New ones will be bought and the old ones donated to the club boot stock. Find the right pair of size 9s and be booted like a Pres! I have been caving a few times.
- Nothing else to report.

Chairman (Rory Rose):

- It has been a very successful term so far this year with many more people signing up for trips than usual.
- I am still working on the proposed SRT training facility in Iffley but am waiting to hear back from my proposal from the university.
  - Talked with CHECC and Wessex about this.
  - Other clubs may be interested in using our wall in future which could be an extra incentive for building it.
- Our social media presence has been very positive over the summer thanks to Becca and it seems to be having a positive impact

Secretary (Clare Ballantyne):

- I would like to step down from my role after this term, so it can be advertised at the TGM
- Nothing else to report

Librarian (Steve Roberts):

- Still no action on rationalisation of the old stock, sorry. I will get round to it, and surplus journals etc. may be offered to club members.
  - OUMC have been moved out of RSL recently with creation of Parks college
  - This means that we will not be able to move our stock to their collection for the near future as was previously suggested.

Webmaster (Steve Roberts):

- Still playing catch-up with archival material. OUCC Proceedings 11 was found to be lacking quite a bit of its content on the web and has been updated.
  - Some pictures do not load when you click them so may need to re-upload the whole website
  - SR will do this (Now done – SR)

Treasurer (Jeremy Welch):

- See Appendix A
- No concerns here

Training Officer (Rory Rose):

- We had successful SRT training on the first Mendip trip with some freshers doing hunter's hole on the Sunday and one fresher took part in the SRT training offered at CHECC.
- Social training is still proving to give good turnouts and is useful.
- Are there suggestions for training sessions that we want to have next term?
  - Fix oversuits? – pub may be a difficult place to do this
  - Survey? – possibly over weekend
  - Knot night

- Cave quiz – general knowledge
- Movie Night – possibly under social sec. Could watch:
  - Descent
  - Ario dream
  - Club library has some more recent stuff

#### Social secretary (Nick Adams):

- The initial two weeks of 'talks' (introduction and induction) gave freshers an extra chance to connect with the club in a more formal setting than the pub (which isn't ideal for everyone). While combining the introduction and induction would make things more efficient, it would be great to organise a talk in 2nd week about a caving experience had by a novice from the year before, or anyone else who wants to talk without agenda.
  - Used to do expo talk in Michaelmas – would be good to do next year (RR to organize some for next term)
- The pub socials are fairly successful this year, great to see a lot of novices returning. The bouldering social was really great, and we'll add more of these through the rest of the year. We could do more in terms of activities during pub socials.
  - Bouldering + training + Movie nights should be done most terms
  - College Gym circuits used to be popular in previous years
    - Try one next term and see what uptake is (RR to organize)
  - Murder mystery underground in Read's cavern could be a fun event
  - NA wants to step down as Social Secretary and we will also re-combine the roles of social secretary and secretary.

#### Meets Secretary (Nick Adams):

- 1st Mendip trip
  - We stayed at the Wessex and had a surprisingly social and activity focused group - an opportunity to play the first ever match of wiggle worm was not expected!
  - We stayed local to Priddy on the Saturday with a mix of Eastwater and Swildon's Sump 1-2 visits. We had the opportunity to train on the Wessex tower, and this was very effective.
  - Sunday involved a trip to GB with a returning freshers group from a few years back, while another group tackled Hunter's hole.
- 2nd Mendip trip
  - We stayed at the Shepton Mallet caving club; and rather than the training tower, we took advantage of the long squeeze machine for entertainment / training.
  - Trips were led into Swildon's and Burrington Combe (Goatchurch / Sidcot Swallet) on the Saturday; Eastwater and Swildon's on the Sunday.
    - Good to explore new things
    - Possibly do a Wales second weekend next year
- CHECC and Peak are coming up (at the time of writing), will discuss CHECC at meeting.
  - CHECC was good fun with good turnout.
- Next term
  - Yorkshire with Glasgow
  - Peak District
  - North Wales Meet?
    - Bounce Below + Mines
      - Need a guide book or possibly ask a local club member?
  - Possibly 3 weekends as we have fewer leaders than usual this year.

Safety officer (Nick Adams):

- Our safety induction went well, and I would suggest this is condensed and combined with the introductory talk.
- It is requested by the sports fed that for every trip we provide contact details for responsible individuals not in attendance to co-ordinate with the university in case of emergency. Steve R and Jeremy W have volunteered.
- Suggestions have been made for a set leader-fresher ratio, and this would be worth discussing. My viewpoint is that the club is currently at a very low level of active leaders, and while efforts are being made to train novices to lead, we should be mindful that this may not be successful. Setting a ratio may prohibit trips that would otherwise be perfectly safe, and responsible discretion alone should keep us out of trouble. However, In cases of vertical trips (ladder or SRT), I would perhaps be closer to agreeing a set ratio. With Rosa's incident last year, a series of novice struggles on the Swildon's ladder (with two leaders in place in all events), I would suggest a minimum of two leaders on these trips regardless of the number of novices.
  - A discussion was held
- Nothing to note regarding safety incidents

Gear officer (Thomas Leung)

- No longer could take the gear officer post anymore as I will be on the other side of the world for a while.
- Just make a note that some oversuits could be taken for repairing during the Derbyshire weekend. This is the contact <denthecaver@yahoo.co.uk>. Someone could drop the suits en route to TSG, some of us did this before, and the price is very reasonable. All the suits which need to be repaired are currently in the box with a piece of paper written on it.
  - Defer to next term
  - Need to look at adjustment straps on some of the helmets – look at on next trip and see what we need to buy/fix to get them back into working order
- There is a rope inventory of which Rory has a copy. It has all the ropes on it, including the newly cut ones.
- Someone has to deal with those headlight stacking at the corner...

Interim Gear officer (Nick Adams):

- With Thomas' out of the country, myself and Rory did a quick audit of all major kit (lights, boots, SRT kits, ropes) and have made appropriate orders at CHECC to maintain the store.
  - There is a brighter upgrade for the DUO to make our ones better
    - FENIX lights are very good so probably just better to replace the DUOs slowly with FENIX
- I'd like to propose a new Gear Officer is in place for 2020 onwards - and I'm happy to get them up to speed with the kit and contacts.

Husts

- **Secretary**
  - Sarah Day - Unanimous
- **Gear officer**
  - Vlad Catanea – 6 in favour, 4 against
  - Becca Miller – 4 in favour, 6 against
  - No abstentions
- **Welfare officer**
  - Becca Miller - unanimous

**AOB:**

- Do we want to have a summer/easter sporting trip away this year?
  - Week in Yorkshire and possibly another in Ireland is popular towards the start of the summer.
  - Some people are keen on running a trip to France in the summer as well.
- Are people keen to come to Ario next summer?
  - Need dates
    - RR will try to confirm as soon as possible
  - Eurospeleo at same time (last week in July))
  - RR will be the contact for Expo related communications, people who are interested in coming should tell him
- Vote to Change quorum number?
  - **Vote for changing quorum number to 6**
    - **9 in favour**
    - **1 abstain**
- Welfare officer
  - The caving community as a whole are trying to tackle some welfare incidents that have been happening and so we are creating the new role on our committee of Welfare officer
  - The Welfare officer's role is to serve as a point of contact for any member to ask about welfare issues and report any form of harassment is seen during club events (including those involving members of other clubs)
  - The Welfare officer should also send out a 'welfare email' every term to the club mailing lists.

## **Appendix A- Treasurer's report**

### **Balances**

Main account £2914.19 (22 November 2019) cf £4292.84 (15 November 2018)

Local Account £235.00

Cash held in University Stores account, accounting for funds received since 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2019 is estimated at £1910. These funds are usually transferred to the Cub's account on a termly basis.

These figures show total balances as of 22<sup>nd</sup> November of £5059.19, compared with a comparable figure of £6166.84 on the 15<sup>th</sup> November last year. However, last year's figure was higher than usual, and the equivalent figure in 2017 was £3844.31.

### **Operations**

Overall, the financial position of the Club presents no concerns at this time. Although £720 of the funds reflect payments for trips not completed yet, the relatively high numbers of people attending these trips this year means there are likely to be some surpluses for these trips.

The collection, and subsequent payment of subscriptions will take place once BCA have confirmed insurance rates for 2020, and it is expected that requests for subscriptions and insurance payments will be sent out in the run-up to Christmas.

The Club received a £375 grant in September 2019 from the Sports Federation.

### **Proposed Expenditure**

Some equipment expenditure is under way, including three replacement light units.

Jeremy Welch

22<sup>nd</sup> November 2019