

Oxford University Cave Club

TGM Michaelmas Term

28/11/2023

Present: Máté Soós, Rocky Yu, Rosa Clements, Rory Rose, Parth Patel, Jerome Oswald-Jones, Arran Chambers, Thomas Spriggs, Fiona Zhang

Reports:

President, Librarian, Webmaster (Steve Roberts):

Nothing to report. I do think though that there needs to be a serious discussion about drivers and transport.

Gear (Rocky Yu):

- Received some gear donation from Bill Combley (one entire caving kit, one entire old SRT kit and some wetsuits).
- Ropes more than 10 years old were donated to OUYC.
- Replenished some kneepads and belts.
- Helmets with functional light and broken light got mixed together, which should be tested out again.
- Some Lithium ion battery (18500) seems to be unchargable, which need to be tested out.

Safety (Rocky Yu):

- Nothing to Report

Treasurer (Jeremy Welch):

See below

Secretary (Máté Soós):

- We had a lot of new people this term, the intro talk was very popular and all the trips filled up easily
- But we got really unlucky (in total 4 drivers had to cancel because of injury or sickness), so a lot of people had to be refunded from trips. Many of them still seem to be interested and there will be great fresher trips in Hilary too
- The expedition talk was successful
- The climbing socials were popular, I should try to organise more next term

- We only got to teach 6 people SRT, 2 of which were only visiting students. We should make up for this in Hilary

Meets secretary (Fiona Zhang):

—All of our student leaders really need to do some proper leader training and risk assessment. Organizing some outdoor first aid training would be nice. CNCC offers some very good leader training:

11th Feb 2024 —Skills for SRT cave leaders – TWO spaces

Booking via: www.cncc.org.uk/training

I would recommend our student leaders to go for that training.

(oh well its all booked up sadly)

It seems we should keep everything easy and comfy no matter how confident the novices feel themselves. Sometimes when it involves climb longer than two meters, Better bring a rope as hand line.

—Huts booking, transports and cave permits

The meets sec needs to pre-book the huts at least two/three months ahead, the hut spaces ran out very fast! Note that cave permits, especially South Wales caves need permits/keys from SWCC. Transport booking went well this term (except the sports fed is processing our mpg bookings absurdly slow, but that's out of our control)

—Caving hut facility

The light:

As if we got totally ignored...

Maybe we need to build our own DIY illuminating system.

The hanger:

Fell... again. Personally I think we need to replace some of the rotten wood pieces on the shelf.

Meeting:

Tasks for Rocky:

- check the new SRT kit
- buy new Fenix lights next term
- buy new light for hut
- fix the oversuit hangers, talk to Steve
- additional place for hanging oversuits

Safety:

- don't overestimate freshers
- make it clear what to expect on a specific trip (very wet, exposed climb, a lot of crawling...) (but it is still hard to know how they feel about it in advance)
- make sure that everyone gets the right sized wellies (try them on!) and working lights. A spare helmet with a light is also a good idea
- try to organise first aid course (jointly with OUMC?)

Hilary trips already booked:

- week 1 Dartmoor
- week 3 Wessex (maybe joint, ask Cambridge)
- week 5 SWCC
- week 7 Yorkshire (maybe SRT only?)

Drivers:

- I will organise red card tests (Jerome, Rory, Tom, ...)
- We introduced a £15 driver's discount this term, seems to be working so far
- We voted in favour of keeping the discount

Events:

- try to have two SRT trainings next term
- more climbing socials
- movie night
- other caving talk
- annual dinner at a college?

Find the Tankards and actually award them this year

We were supposed to stop giving free memberships this year, but accidentally announced it at the freshers' fair. No decision was made so it will stay for now.

Oxford University Cave Club
Michaelmas Term 2023 Termly General Meeting
Treasurer's Report

Balances

As of the date of this report, the account balance is £1750.82. There is approximately £4570 in the University Stores account which will be transferred into the main Club account in due course, making a total balance of £6320.82

This compares with approximately £4321 at this time in 2022 (the inaccuracy was due to an access problem with the account this time last year) in 2022 [2021: £4077.56; 2020: £3006.53; 2019: £4824.19]

Although there are upcoming trips for which trip fees have been received, and expenses will follow, there have been a lot of trip bookings this term, following a strong interest from new students. While reassuring that our balance is looking healthy, until trip costs work through the system, we should not assume we have masses more funds than usual.

Operations

The lack of bookable minibuses from Sports Fed, and a shortage of drivers (without Sports Fed minibuses, the number of D1 licence-holding members is small) has provided some challenges this term. Judging by bookings for upcoming trips, the demand is holding up amongst prospective members.

Subscriptions are solicited at the end of Michaelmas Term, and this is a good test of new members who are intending to come on more trips.

It has been noted that there have been substantially more refunds requested than has been usual in previous terms. Some of these were the result of transport difficulties, and in fact having to issue refunds to students who change their mind about a trip is preferable to ending up with people on trips who haven't paid.

Once subscriptions have been paid, the Club will be in a position to provide the necessary returns to Sports Federation. This should provide the personal accident insurance cover again this year. Information about this will be circulated in due course.

Proposed Expenditure

Apart from the routine expenditure mentioned above, there are no plans for any exceptional expenditure at this time.

Jeremy Welch
17th November 2023