

Oxford University Cave Club

TGM Trinity Term

23/05/2023

Present: Rocky Yu, Vlad Catanea, Fiona Zhang, Rosa Clements, Máté Soós, Rory Rose

Reports:

President (Steve Roberts):

The "President's Invite" has now been re-established as an event for the OUCC elder citizens, children and lord-help-us even grandchildren, as distinct from the "Students' Invite", at which I gather the young tigers do heroic things underground. Held this year in the Old Schoolhouse at the end of March, much walking, some mostly lightweight caving and much "do you remember when..." socialising was done. Absent Friends (temporarily and more permanently so) were toasted, as is traditional.

On 13th May, there was a memorial event for old-time OUCC member Joan Arthur, who died last year, far earlier than was just. Amongst other things, Joan built the very splendid Chair's Hat, though she always saw it as a work-in-progress, with the installation of a model railway around the rim seen as its crowning glory; alas, never realised. She was awarded the Tankard in 1988, nominally for rescuing frogs from the depths of Swildon's and elsewhere, but really for being a mainstay of OUCC and OUCC expeditions.

Librarian (Steve Roberts):

As in the previous reports, I've been steadily and very slowly de-accessioning our non-core stock of journals etc. in the direction of the British Caving Library, the Bodleian and then SWCC and RRCPC, to help complete their collections in their well-catalogued and long-term accessible locations.

Webmaster (Steve Roberts):

The website has been kept up to date with "Current erm" information, and I'm continuing to scan in old logbooks for general availability via the website.

Gear (Vlad Catanea):

- we lost a Fenix light in a muddy duck
- another Fenix light is not working
- we received some gear donation that will have to be sorted

Safety (Vlad Catanea):

nothing to report

Treasurer (Jeremy Welch):

See below

Secretary (Máté Soós):

- Socials in north Oxford don't seem to be good idea
- Climbing socials were successful, I plan to continue doing them next year, especially now that the climbing wall gets expanded
- Probably it's good idea to have some in the morning and some in the evening

Chair (Isobel Innes):

Nothing to report

Secretary (Fiona Zhang):

- I got the documents related to the SRT tower from Rory, I plan to continue working on this
- We didn't get too many new people this year

Meets Secretary (Rosa Clements):

See below

Meeting:

Actions for Vlad:

- Check ropes, retire the old ones
- Find a better way to attach lights to helmets

How do we pay for the lost Fenix light? More generally, who is responsible for things lost on a club weekend?

- Better to decide case-by-case, might not always be the person's fault
- But we will still want to charge people who are negligent with gear
- Rocky doesn't need to pay for it but he is welcome to donate half of the money if he wants to

Movie night next term

- The Rescue
- The Ario films

Other social ideas – for people who don't like pub socials

- Knot nights (how to pack a ladder)
- Swimming
- Board games (in a JCR)
- Talks about expeditions

SRT tower

- Wessex may be willing to help – reopen communication with them (Fiona)

There were two positions for which we couldn't elect anyone at the AGM

- Everyone agrees on making Fiona the meets secretary
- Everyone agrees on making Rocky the gear officer

Plans for trips next term

- Fiona needs to find out when matriculation is
- At least one South Wales weekend
- Mendip weekend
- Joint weekend (Imperial, Cambridge)
- CHECC weekend

Maybe a trip to Budapest during Easter vacation – Rory already has an old advert for it

Maybe a trip to Ireland

Do we still want to offer free membership for first time cavers?

- Izzy pointed out earlier that there are too many freshers who just go on one trip and then never return, therefore they don't pay for the membership. We lose a lot of money this way
- Everyone agrees and votes for no free membership
- Trip organizers have to make sure everyone has paid the membership
- But we should offer one term memberships

Oxford University Cave Club

Trinity Term 2023 Termly General Meeting

Treasurer's Report

Balances

As of the date of this report, the account balance is £2184.12; There is approximately £1118 in the University Stores account, making a total of £3302.12. This compares with £3121.48 at this time in 2022 [2021: £3010.31; 2020 (June): £3195.35]

There are some outstanding expenses for the most recent trip, and a small amount of the funds will need to be used to update recent subscriptions to the Club.

Following the emergence from the COVID restrictions, and the implementation of the increase in trip fees, the overall financial situation appears to be reasonably stable.

Operations

There have been a couple of trips over the last term or so where the weather played an unwelcome part in complicating the planning of the trips. While the Club can accommodate occasional minor crises, to retain this capability we do need to ensure we are collecting subscriptions from people attending trips, and of course collecting trip fees via the Stores for everyone going on them. This appears to be working well at the moment.

There remains some uncertainty about transport provision from Sports Federation. During Trinity Term, the amount of required hired vehicles is often reduced, but trip organisers are requested to make financially sound judgements on the deployment of suitable transports for our requirements on trips.

The club is required to return annual expenditure reports to the Sports Federation, and while we have requested an extension until mid-June to prepare the financial reports, the other reports need to be submitted. Non-submissions of these other components on time will impact the level of Sports Federation grant we receive for 2023-24.

As part of the grant submission process, the Club is required to provide input as to what equipment we require as part of our grant application this year.

Proposed Expenditure

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

Jeremy Welch
23rd May 202

Trips so far this term:

2nd week, 6th-7th May - Devon, South Dartmoor bunkhouse

The Devon weekend was a lot of fun. 7 Cavers thoroughly explored Pridhamsleigh cavern which was very enjoyable, even the neck deep wading. We also saw the ungated parts of Dog Hole- the key to the gated part didn't seem to work but I'm glad we found it. Then on Sunday we had a pretty good trip in Baker's Pit. We saw crystal pools and multicoloured formations and did a good variety of caving. Apart from losing a Fenix light in a duck, it was a lovely weekend. South Dartmoor bunkhouse was a nice hut apart from having no spin dryer, which wasn't too much of a problem.

4th week, 19th-21st May - Dales, Bull Pot Farm

The Yorkshire weekend was a smaller weekend with just 5 cavers, but it was fun, educational, and good expedition preparation for those who are going. Some learnt about SRT and some learnt about Easegill navigation. We also met Fleur who talked about what to bring on expedition. We did a reasonably long Pool sink trip on Saturday with an explore into a passage of straws and then a visit to the Minarets. On Sunday we went to Jinglyng Pot which was short but beautiful and with an interesting swingy rebelay. The chance to do some slightly harder trips was appreciated, I think it is worth occasionally prioritising non beginner trips in Hilary and Trinity term.

Still to come:

As exam season gets into full swing, we are moving to day trips rather than weekends.

6th week, 3rd June - Agen Allwedd day trip (still needs a driver)

8th week, 17th June - Slaughter Stream day trip

Several people have expressed interest in these already and a couple have actually signed up. I think they are going to be good. Slaughter Stream is usually a popular day trip, and Aggy should work pretty well too, it will be good to do some Welsh caving.

Next term:

Fiona will be taking over as Meets Sec hopefully, so I'm not the person to come up with next term's ideas. CHECC is likely to be in the Peak District or Yorkshire, so maybe two Wales and a Mendip weekend before that? But it's not up to me.