

## Oxford University Cave Club

Michaelmas Term 2020- TGM

Date of Meeting: 02/12/20

Present: Rosa Clements, Rory Rose, Sarah Day, Harvey Smith, Rebecca Miller, Nick Adams, Amelia Steane, Vlad Catanea, Sifei Zhang, Steve Roberts

### Officer's Reports

#### **President (Steve Roberts):**

The President has done very little especially Presidential this year; given the example shown across the pond, that is probably just as well.

The discovery of the 1961 expedition slides (see Library/ Archive below) has put me in touch with several of the members of the 1961 expedition to the Picos – the first OUCC expedition to Spain. Next year will be the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and I am in the first stages of organising some kind of commemoration event. I will be guided in what style of event to set up by the wishes of the 1961 veterans – whether a small event primarily for them, or a bigger sort of bash, or some combination of the two.

Email from 1961 expedition- slides to be collected (when COVID-19 allows)

2021- coming up for the 60-year anniversary. Suitable occasion for an event.

So far- Teddy Hall has been contacted- willing to host something. Something for members of that expedition, not something for the whole club that might swamp Teddy Hall.

Perhaps organise a lunch for the 1961 expedition group. Talks and slides focusing on the early years, tea, chat, something bigger in the evening.

Email sent to 1961 expedition members to see what they would be interested in doing. Would be nice if it were at least slightly funded by the club- special projects fund

#### **Library/ Archive (Steve Roberts):**

Following the club's approval of our downsizing of the OUCC library collection, with the aim of keeping only OUCC-specific materials, books, and some mainstream journals, I have been in contact with the British Caving Library and with the Bodleian Library.

The BCA Library has identified quite a lot of our now-surplus journals that they would like for their collection, and have offered some missing issues in our run of "Descent" and some books in return. When I can I'll go to Buxton (where the library is) and do the exchange.

The Bodleian is very willing, when the time comes, to provide a permanent and relatively accessible home for the OUCC-specific materials (Club and expedition logbooks and the like); I think that would be a good idea. Can the AGM approve that? The Bodleian have suggested that a financial contribution towards the costs of taking them on and cataloguing them would be very welcome; I don't know what sort of sum they might have in mind but I will find out.

In the meantime, I have been progressively, though slowly, scanning in the old logbooks so that the contents of these unique documents can be better safeguarded and made generally available via the website. If any completed logbooks are floating about, could they please be deposited in the library? We don't have a full set, especially of more recent years.

As a holding action, I have sent copies on USB memory sticks of the entire set of OUCC-related files on my computer to several long-term OUCC members, so that, should lightning strike Wolvercote, everything is not lost. The keepers of the flame are: Ursula Collie, Jeremy Welch, Chris Densham and Phil Rose. These will be updated from time to time as new items are added.

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I have recently been offered a collection of original slides, and a CD of scanned images therefrom, from the 1961 OUCC expedition to Northern Spain. I will collect these when Covid permits. I hope to use these to get some written reminiscences of that expedition from the surviving members.

Exchange dependent on the physical capability of exchanging them

Good use of the special projects fund for the contribution to the Bodleian

Electronic archive- Bod willing to take that as well

Safeguarding what we currently have

### Website (Steve Roberts):

Scanned-in logbooks have been put on the website.

After discussion with the Bodleian library: "the <http://www.oucc.org.uk/>

website has been selected by our curators as being of lasting research value and worthy of permanent preservation in the Web Archive of the Bodleian Libraries. Archiving is free and does not require any effort on your part." I have filled in the necessary forms. They will archive the full current website and will update that archive periodically.

Again, safeguarding what we currently have by scanning in.

Bodleian does archive websites- interested in archiving caving website as 'historic interest'

Will at some stage archive the website as it is now- every two years or so keep a rolling archive updated.

**POINT OF ACTION- have the FAQ pinned to the homepage. Find a suitable prominent place for the FAQ.**

Upload of more recent photos? Submit to Steve Roberts with a text explaining what each one is would be good for the club. (e.g. at a minimum- when it was taken, where it was taken, who the photographer was.)

Give each photograph the requisite details e.g. in spreadsheet.

Notice board idea? To show that the club is constantly updating. For this, we would have to transfer the website to a different web design software.

Social media and website serving different purposes at the moment- Demise of DTT (Depth Through Thought) means that there is not as much of a permanent record of trips (social media is rather transient.)

**POINT OF ACTION: Link to the Facebook and Instagram on the website on main page.**

If we keep a strong link between the website and social medias

DTT lost as a result? Could we use the log book to record a few more permanent records of recent trips similar to DTT

### Chairman (Rory Rose):

- Freshers Fair was a success thanks to everyone who helped out manning the stall
  - We had 93 signups to the mailing list compared to our usual of around 180
- Talks organised by Sarah have been very successful despite one of the speakers struggling with the technology
- SRT training was a big success and shows that the bridge can work well as a training venue
- Lockdown walks have had limited success with limited uptake
- We successfully got permission to run caving weekends the week before lockdown started, so despite not getting any trips this term I am hopeful that next term we will be able to have a full calendar of weekends
- A joined re-freshers fair presentation has been planned with walking, kayaking, climbing, and diving clubs on the 20<sup>th</sup> Jan

Email chain between these groups- hope to pass this chain onto committees later on.

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### Notes from CHECC AGM

- BCA Summer of caving
  - BCA Week long summer event similar to Eurospelio in the dales
  - Organization combined with BCA and CHECC
  - May be dalesbridge or Yorkshire dales guides
  - Dates: last week of June
- UIS Eurospelio conference in France
  - Chambery in the French alps
  - 10mins from nearest caves
  - Lots of rigged caves in the alps including the Berger
  - Dates 25<sup>th</sup> July – 1<sup>st</sup> August
  - Opportunity to do a lot of good French caving
  - 2,500 people arriving
  - Also includes a scientific conference
  - Contact Jacob for details
  - Cost will be around 130 euros which may be able to be reduced
- BCA caving holiday summer trip
  - Do the PSM cave (big classic trip with a few days of rigging organized by experienced cavers)
  - Dates just after the UIS conference
  - Transport could be done by BCA bus to reduce costs
  - No experience requirements, but no complete beginners encouraged
- Idea to organize an international CHECC
  - Similar to eurospelio but for young European cavers
  - Long term project
  - Will be a call for volunteers to help out soon
  - Weeklong event held in the UK

**BCA Summer of caving 10<sup>th</sup> week in term- hopefully, everyone can attend- aim ot make this a big event after a long time of no caving!**

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

Accommodation for cavers is still for the host clubs' members only, with the exception of the Cerberus on Mendip. Lack of clarity from the sports fed regarding transport and subsequent government restrictions have meant no trips this term.

No trips are currently planned for next term.

**Stick with original plan of camping etc.**

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

Nothing to report.

**Difficult that we could not bring gloves for SRT people (disinfecting the gloves would have been difficult)**

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

I have nothing to report as far as Welfare goes, other than that I am moving to Southampton in January & so my position will be up for grabs!

I expect I will remain closely linked to OUCC so am happy to work alongside whoever takes up the role next

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Additionally, I might suggest that someone takes over the Instagram account for OUCC? Still happy to contribute but I think it would be better for the cavers in Oxford being in control

Same for Meets Secretary and Safety Officer. Position up for grabs- can be done remotely but better if it is someone in Oxford.

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

Social secretary this term has mainly consisted of organising teams talks for the club. Rory already had a list of talks lined up when I took over organising, so I just had to find dates for each one and email back and forth any questions/reminders for speakers etc. It has proven difficult at some points but has generally been a smooth process.

I have already had a few offers for talks next term. I think it may be a good idea to organise at least a few talks for next term, just in case caving is not able to go ahead, since it is hard to predict what will happen next. Either way, I think that the number of talks should be reduced. When I got the list of talk offers, I just emailed out to everyone and it ended up with more than one talk a week for most weeks. I think next term we will want one talk a week max. both from a standpoint of the workload and spamming peoples inboxes with emails about talks etc.

I have looked into Zoom a bit more- the only advantage I can really see to getting a Zoom account for the club next term is that, for some speakers, this may be a more comfortable interface to use. As well as this, Zoom would give us the option to record talks for the OUCC website/YouTube? This cannot be done on teams calls from what I have looked up.

Very thankful for all the help I have been given with the technical issues. Would have found this term a lot more difficult without help from some OUCC members!

How do we appeal more to freshers? Suggestions:

Moving offline to do this might help. Booking pub trips? Picnic in the park? Hot chocolate?

Lunch in Uni Parks? First week (after 20<sup>th</sup> Jan so we can see who is interested)

What are the limitations? Outline how long for talks.

Gym sessions for the club? Circuit training (bear in mind for a future building activity)

Survey training?

Bouldering?

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

Nothing to report.

Big rope in gear hut that needs to be cut up. We have access to the caving hut on Thursday onwards.

Put rope through a (industrial strength, if possible) washing machine to get the lanolin out.

**POINT OF ACTION: Vlad message someone at Sports Fed (allowed in Iffley from Thursday) and ask where there is a tap that we can use to wash the rope.**

**Email address to message: david.white@sport.ox.ac.uk**

**Treasurer (Jeremy Welch):**

(Treasurer unable to provide usual financial update- awaiting new credentials form Lloyd's Bank to get the latest data.)

However, there is very little to report. There has been little activity this year, so the financial situation is much as at the last meeting. We purchased some new hardware over the summer, and have been promised an annual Sports Federation Grant; they are only paying these on request/argument, so I will be aiming to get ours as soon as I can provide the necessary documentation from the Lloyd's account

Once things restart, we will be ready from a financial perspective.

Hope this provides sufficient update – I can't be sure of my attendance at the TGM but will aim to call in, and of course am happy to answer any financial questions afterwards.

Sports fed and the grant is proving a bit more difficult than usual- Jeremy is on the case emailing them

**AOB**

- (Chairman) We need to have a discussion about the clubs future past this academic year
- We need drivers to take the test for the minibus

Next year is going to be difficult for the club. New members have not had as much chance to cave and gain experience with the club- Rory, Nick and Becca leaving

Rory has emailed the Chairman of CHECC- willing to help us out with possible leaders and drivers

Rory has emailed the President of OUMC as well for further help with the club- suggested talking to sports fed

**POINT OF ACTION: call out to older members to help on leading trips/ driving**

Steve willing to help driving and leading for perhaps a trip a term

Surprise network of cavers who live around Oxford- reach out and talk to them

OUMC keen to join meets- lots of drivers so could take minibuses

**POINT OF ACTION: Rory chat to the walkers about possible joint trips**

Support from CHECC. Meeting in the process of being organised with Rory, Sarah, Vlad, and President of OUCC

Reaching out to other caving clubs? Reading is our closest. Brookes for transport?

Climbing had an AGM the next day after Rory had a talk with president- very keen to have a relationship, a lot of their committee is also keen to come caving next term

Further subsidising Fresher's trips might help?

-for the rest of this academic year?

**-Buy one get one free/half price?**

-We usually say first term membership free, what if we say that the cost of the first trip includes the cost of membership for whole year. (make people feel as if they are part of the club instead of just going on a one-off trip.)

-Highlight the perks of being a club member!

Caving Clubs that do reciprocal/ affiliate relationship with University Clubs

- (Meets Sec) SRT training seemed to go well, a few cavers returning from last year and some freshers came to both weekends. It was nice to see the public were very interested in the activities, with no complaints about occupying the bridge while social distancing is in place. My thanks to Rosa, Becca, and Sarah for training the novices, it was great to have a 1:1 ratio.

## TGM Agenda