

OXFORD UNIVERSITY WALKING CLUB

MINUTES FOR THE TERMLY GENERAL MEETING OF MICHAELMAS TERM 2009

Location	St Aldates G&D's
Date	2 nd December 2009
Time	Start: 7.15 Finish: 8.20
People Present	Imogen Wade, Rachel Wood, Jamie Banks, Jaya John John, Michelle Barton, Barbara Havelkova, Justin Pearce, Bernhard Elsner, Kerrie Thornhill (leaves during elections)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Kanishka Battacharya, Matthew Thomas, Christopher Thomas, Nakul Krishna, Ling Hwang, Anton Vaks, Chris Wedge, Kenneth Yarham, James Neuhaus, AJ McGauley, Melanie O'Sullivan

2. READING OF THE PREVIOUS TGM MINUTES (TT 2009)

Jamie Banks read the minutes, for the first and only time...

3. OBJECTIONS TO THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

Matthew Thomas; was there too.

Christopher Thomas; President's Report: "... another successful term for OUWS" should be OUWC

Jaya John John; there were some wrong apostrophes. As there are no chocolate rewards for being picky, details were not considered necessary.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

Jaya John John; New map cases were bought

5. OFFICERS' REPORTS

PRESIDENT (Jamie Banks)

There have been 4 weekend trips, an Ex-X-trip to the Lake District and 2 minibus day trips (Jaya John points at his notes and protests that the president is taking liberties, and that this is not for the president to talk about).

There has been a local walk just about every weekend (Imogen Wade looks suitably annoyed).

There were over 700 signups at Freshers Fair. Unfortunately, they could only sign up for span as we are banned from taking money from the innocent young people.

Thanks to all the committee of this term.

SECRETARY (Rachel Wood)

We have 3 new drivers this term. Lisa McNally (who took her test this term) and 2 instant drivers Bernhard Elsner and Rob Siddaway who we've inherited from other clubs. Lisa has driven on one trip so far and Bernhard has driven on lots.

More boring things; The trip registration and minibus booking procedures have changed. Now both must be done together and submitted to the Sports Federation. Therefore, all trips must be booked before the start of term as soon as enough leaders and drivers are found.

The Sports Federation has had a number of personnel changes. Simon Griffiths has replaced Jamie Banks and is now the point of contact for transport bookings, and Edward Nicholas has now taken over the role of Richard Dodsworth and the ASO's role has been absorbed into the Sports Federation.

TREASURER (Kanishka Battacharya)

See appendix...

TRIP AND SAFETY COORDINATOR (Jaya John John)

Outline:

Trips this term

Trips next term

New leaders

Training news

Pending work

Trips this term

We had 4 Weekend trips:

ex-X-trip (Coniston area) – end of 1st week

North Devon – end of 3rd week

Lakes (Glenridding) – end of 4th week

Snowdonia BIG trip – end of 5th week

We had two minibus day-trips:

Black Mountains (rescheduled successfully, due to lack of minibus, due to miscommunication about new minibus booking procedures) – start of 7th week

Avebury – end of 7th week

Trips next term

So far, looks like up to 4 weekend trips and one day-trip so far, to less common destinations: Dartmoor, the White Peak, the Yorkshire Dales, and maybe the Galloway Hills as a long trip in 9th week.

Unless someone steps forward to organise it there will be no Snowdonia trip or Lakes trip – sacrilege!

New leaders

Four members attended Mountain Leader training over the summer (Barbara Havelkova, Imogen Wade, Matthew Thomas and Rachel Wood).

As a result, this term we have had two new level 4 leaders: Imogen Wade, Matthew Thomas.

We will have two more “instant” level 4 leaders, pending delivery of photocopies of logbook pages and/or certificates: Rachel Wood (attended Mountain Leader training in October) and Matthew Moore (successfully completed his military ML assessment; needs some more UK experience to attain his civilian ML assessment).

We will have another level 4 leader, Barbara Havelkova, once she has attended a First Aid course.

We have had some new trip organisers this term, which is encouraging.

Training news

There is continued interest from members in attending Mountain Leader training. One undergraduate member is likely to attend MLT over the Christmas break.

We want to organise a First Aid course, have around 6-8 members interested so far, but the apparent closure of the Oxford University First Aid Unit has slowed this down. I will aim to arrange with an external company for end of Hilary Term (possibly earlier if we find a provider who doesn't need a group of 12).

Pending work

There is much work to do between terms, mainly arranging the First Aid Course and catching up with document updates, both the club procedures and documents like the accommodation and pub guides.

OTHERS

ALUMNI SECRETARY (Matt Thomas)

I have been thinking about having another go at a walk that includes alumni (like the one that didn't happen last term). With the ceildh invitation I tried a bit of market research. The only person to reply was Zing but it is winter - maybe it would be worth going for it in the spring.

ARCHIVIST (Imogen Wade)

I. Local walks:

- 7 have happened, 1 upcoming on Sunday of 9th week, 1 walk (*The Dreaming Spires from Above*) had to be cancelled at the end of 1st week because of lack of a leader – it was rearranged for the start of 5th week.
- Turnout was generally good for all walks – ranged between 3 to 15 and ~26 (Freshers' Walks)
- 3 new people interested or have become local walk leaders, thanks partly to a new drive to ask leaders to 'recruit' new leaders on their walks
- 1 minor incident on Wytham Woods walk 31.10.09 – after some discussion, the committee decided to refund the cost of transportation to/from the JR hospital for the person concerned, brief incident form sent to Sports Fed
- Analysis of turnout on past walks (see below)
- Restocked some of green first aid kits

II. Maps/books/DVDs bought:

- 1 x OS Cairngorm Mountains 1:50 000 map. £6.99
- 2 x OL9 Exmoor, 1:25k, £7.99 x 2 [still need to label and add to map database]
- 1 x OL2 Yorkshire Dales S&W - (for free, as Blackwell's had a 3 for 2 offer then), 1:25k
- 1 x OL18 Snowdonia - Harlech, Porthmadog & Y Bala, 1:25k, £7.99 [still need to label and add to map database]
- 1 x "The Mountain Skills Training Handbook", Pete Hill; Paperback; £8.83
- 2 x "Hill Walking: The Official Handbook of the Mountain Leader and Walking Group Leader Schemes", Steve Long; Paperback; £10.23 each
- 1 x "Winter Skills: Essential Walking and Climbing Techniques", Andy Cunningham; Paperback; £12.81
- 1 x "Mountain Navigation" Peter Cliff; Paperback; £4.97
- 1 x "Hill Walking Essentials DVD", British Mountaineering Council; DVD; £ **14.73**
- 1 x "Winter Essentials: The Skills and Techniques for Winter Mountaineering" DVD Ian Hey, Jon Garside, Malcolm Creasey, Roger Wild. British Mountaineering Council; £14.99
= total £107.75

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY (Ben Watson)

90 members

Jamie Banks comments that this is quite low. But, as Michelle points out, this is the first time we are seeing the effect of registering every year – more members are likely to be reasonably active.

QUARTERMASTER (Nakul Krishna)

There was a smooth changeover at the start of Michaelmas term from Matthew Thomas, with the assistance of his predecessor Jaya John. Apart from some minor teething trouble -- to do with poor communications with trip organisers and some inefficiency in food staking -- the term has passed smoothly. Two equipment requests for the vacation period are being dealt with. The annual inventory check, restocking, and archiving of forms and records, is scheduled to be conducted on the Sunday and Monday of 9th week.

SOCIAL REPRESENTATIVE (Ling Hwang)

Report for Socials MT09:

Week	Dates	Social	Meet	Attendance (committee +members)	Comments
1	14 Oct, Wed	Post free tea dinner	Eagle & Child	>10	Good turnout
2	22 Oct, Thu	Curry night	Aziz, Cowley 1930 hrs	4+2	Food was really good, and Kanishk got us more free food which was even better! Had too much to eat in the end. Restaurant was quite a distance to get to though, but free good food made up for it.
3	29 Oct, Thu	Halloween Pub night	Royal Oak 1930 hrs	3+2	Changed from Halloween trail to pub meet due to expected low turnout.
4	5 Nov, Thu	Bonfire Night	Green's College 1930 hrs	3+4	Lasted for 1 hour and 4 went to Royal oak later for drinks and dinner.
5	12 Nov, Thu	Slideshow and talk	Clarendon Lab 1930 hrs	3+3	Provided drinks and snacks. 3 stayed on after the pre-trip social for the slideshow, 2 couldn't get in bldg and got lost. Should find a better venue but slideshow was very well done.
6	21 Nov, Sat	CEILIDH	LMH 1930 hrs	4+48!!	Made a profit!! Event was an unexpected success! See details in full report

7	26 Nov, Thu	Monty Python movie night	Uni college Boathouse		
8	2 Dec, Wed	Post TGM Christmas party	TBC		

Report for Ceilidh MT09

Band:

The Ceilidh was held on the 21st November 2009, Saturday on the 6th week. It was held on the 6th instead of the usual 7th week because it was the latest Saturday that the Mouse and Trousers band could make it. They were booked pretty late into MT (around October) instead of during TT. In fact, they wrote back to say that they were really glad that we haven't forgotten about them.

Venue:

There was a lot of trouble finding a suitable venue for dancing. All the college halls/function rooms are used for college activities during term time and do not allow bookings for non-college events. The way to get round this is to get a committee member/OUWC member to book through his/her college. In our case, Imogen managed to book Talbot Hall at LMH, which is an ideal hall for dancing. Hence, the hall is free for use too. There were many chairs and 2 tables for placing the food and drinks. We moved another table lying around for ticket sales.

Tickets:

The price of the tickets had to be set to minimize the financial loss. The band costs £400 and since the hall was expected to take 50-60 people, the prices of the tickets were set at an average of £10 per person to break even. Hence, the ticket prices of £9 for members (in advance), £10 (at door) and £11 for non-members. Although it would have been better for £11 at door for all members and non-members to prevent asking everyone who comes at the door to get tickets on the night.

Publicity:

Once the band and venue were booked, a major publicity operation had to be carried out so that we don't make a loss for the Ceilidh, which was usually the case for the past few years. And because the OUWC will not have many members coming for the event (expected 10-20%), it was then targeted to as many people possible in the University. The different publicity tasks carried out were:

1. Posters were printed and distributed to the committee members to be put up at their (or as many) colleges and departments weeks in advance and at venue on night of Ceilidh.

2. The Ceilidh was advertised in the weekly OUWC Walking announce leading up to the event, on the OUWC website and in the walking-alumni mailing list.
3. A Facebook event was set up and invites were sent out to as many people as possible in Oxford (University).
4. In the final week, an advert (including links to FB event and website) was sent out to all the colleges' JCR and MCR presidents to advertise in their week's announcement email to their college members.
5. A personal email was also sent to the OU Scottish Dancing society to invite their members to come share their dancing expertise at our Ceilidh (it works!).
6. Personal ~~extortion~~ selling of tickets to friends and colleagues (8 of my lab-mates came!)
7. Others: email sent out to other mailing lists such as gradplus/Uni club.

All these worked to the fullest extent!

Food & Drinks:

We spent a total of £54 on snacks and drinks. Snacks including crisps, nachos+salsa dip, peanuts, potato rings and drinks inc. 9 bottles of red+white wine, 4 lemonade, 3 coke, 2 cider, 1 squash. There was about 5 bottles of wine leftover (?). There were many bottles of wine (and snacks) leftover because people spent most of the time dancing and all they needed was water! Suggestions would be to buy some thirst quenching fruits instead like grapes/strawberries. We bought 100 disposable cups but had to keep washing them to re-use because it wasn't enough. Have a marker pen to write names on cups for re-use the next time.

Ceilidh:

No. of tickets sold in advance = 25 (11 members).

No. of tickets sold at door = 27 (all non-members but 1!)

Balance = £102.72

There were 4 of us setting up the hall and food but could use more people to help out. The band had lots of music kit and equipment that needed help with carrying around and took an hour before everything's settled.

The evening was a success with larger than expected turnout. Even the numbers between ladies and gentlemen were 50-50, which was great for dancing. The band (8 members?!) took over the evening as the music started, with Gareth Morris from the band, calling the dances from the floor. It was really a night filled with non-stop music and dancing! There were even several gate crashers which I had to kick them out. The max capacity of the hall should be <=50 pple for dancing. The band was delighted with the large crowd and we expressed our appreciation by giving 3 cheers for the band.

Aftermath:

Clearing up had Alan and Barney to help out which was much quicker. There were quite a lot of leftover drinks and snacks which was brought back to stores.

To do: Photos and videos to be put up on the website soon.

Rachel comments that this is already done.

Summary:

It is possible to make a profit or break even from holding the Ceilidh even if the band costs £400. But it is understandable now given the no. of band members they have and their experience in holding Ceilidhs. I think people would not mind paying for a Ceilidh if it is well organized and there's a good band playing for it.

WEBMASTER (Christopher Thomas)

Over the summer I renewed our website hosting with Heart Internet. Apart from that I've basically just been keeping the website up to date.

Please send me links to photos of club events or upload photos to the website. Also, please let me know if you find any errors or omissions on the website and send me any comments.

6. SPECIFIC IMPORTANT BUSINESS

There is a motion presented for ratification at this TGM:

- i) Motion to amend the OUWC Constitution to comply with the changes in the organisational structure of the Sports Federation

Michelle Barton comments that this is a waste of time, to everyone's agreement. Nevertheless, the motion is passed for the first time, with all 9 people in agreement.

7. ELECTIONS TO COMMITTEE

CANDIDATES;

SENIOR MEMBER; Nominations taken from the floor during the meeting

Kevin Hilliard was delighted and honoured to stand by email.
9/9 agree¹

PRESIDENT; Nominations taken from the floor during the meeting

Jamie Banks, nominated by RW and seconded by JJ
7/7 agree¹

¹ All people standing abstained from voting. Kerrie left before Archivist secretary, and so 9 or 8 people were present in total.

SECRETARY; Nominations taken from the floor during the meeting

Imogen Wade, nominated by MB and seconded by BH
8/8 agree

TREASURER; Nominations Nominations taken from the floor during the meeting

Kanishka Battacharya, nominated by RW, seconded by BE
9/9 agree

TRIP AND SAFETY COORDINATOR; Nominations taken from the floor during the meeting

Jaya John John, nominated by RW, seconded by KT.
8/8 agree

OTHERS

ALUMNI SECRETARY;

Matthew Thomas; Nominated by Rachel Wood and seconded by Imogen Wade
4/9

Ling Hwang; Nominated by Jaya John John and seconded by Ben Watson
5/9 agree.

ARCHIVIST; Nominations taken from the floor during the meeting

Justin Pearce, Nominated by IW, seconded by BE
7/7 agree

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY;

AJ McGauley; Nominated by Rachel Wood and seconded by Jaya John John
8/8 agree

QUARTERMASTER;

Nakul Krishna; Nominated by Rachel Wood and seconded by Jaya John John
8/8 agree

SOCIAL REPRESENTATIVE; Nominations Nominations taken from the floor during the meeting

Bernhard Elsner, Nominated by JP, seconded by RW.

7/7 agree

WEBMASTER; Nominations taken from the floor during the meeting

Vacant.

8. AOB

Committee handover at 8.20pm.

Appendix:

OUWC Accounts as of end of MT09 – forthcoming.