

Oxford University Walking Club

MINUTES OF THE TERMLY GENERAL MEETING OF HILARY TERM 2007

Held in the Seminar Room, Denys Wilkinson Building (Physics) on Wednesday 7th March (8th week).

Meeting declared open at 7.44pm. 15 OUWC members in attendance.

1. Apologies for Absence

James Welch, Chelsea Purvis, Ranmali de Silva.

(Matthias and Benjamin go to the loo. On return Matthias warily moves the laptop cable transformer away from his chair – he doesn't want to risk infertility.)

2. Reading of previous minutes

Marion reads out the previous minutes in much-condensed and paraphrased form. We changed some things about the TLSD, said Marion – No we didn't, we rewrote the whole thing! contends Christopher.

(Christopher asks if we do not have to read the previous minutes of the previous minutes of the... No is the answer. Rob requests to minute this: Barney stood as an old fart, and got elected as one, said Marion.)

3. Objections to the previous minutes

None!

4. Matters arising from the previous minutes

Winter Skills: Shifted to March due to bad weather in January.

(Nicolas has gone off to get a hammer for Marion to call the meeting to order with. We are vaguely disturbed that he keeps one. Marion begins two lines of her report when Nicolas comes in with a huge wooden contraption. Turns out he uses it to... adjust his heater.)

(Barney mouths something to Rob, which nobody really gets. Rob says Zing should've understood through their psychic powers (as demonstrated at the previous committee meeting). Zing claims it doesn't work unless she's situated between Rob and Barney. Barney then proceeds to the other side of the room so Zing is indeed between him and Rob to receive the psychic transmissions. It works – Christopher's mobile rings. It's Andrew Tyrrell wanting to be let in.)

5. Officers' Reports

President – Marion Crawford

Summary of proposed new changes, which have unfortunately been put off for some time more despite the 'various multitudinal meetings' with various people in authority. It's therefore really just an ongoing process and we'll have to vote on it hopefully next term. The constitution states that it can only be changed at a TGM, so next term's is the closest time we can vote on it. The constitution also says that the TGM is held 'towards the end of term'.

(Debate over flexibility of definition of 'towards the end of term'.)

There is one advantage – hopefully we'll have thrashed out the idea and follow-up details more fully over next term. If we get the go ahead soon though, we could have an early TGM next term. Thank you to the whole committee because they've been great.

Secretary – Tse Yin Lim (Zing)

3 new drivers in total this term, encouraging response to appeal at the start of term for more drivers though some trips ended up with too many drivers (Snowdonia has 5!) and some ended up with still none, though that was eventually resolved. Thank you to the committee for all the meetings which have been really amusing to minute.

Treasurer – Robert Siddaway

Summary of profits/losses. Thank you to the committee. Report is attached.

Trip and Safety Coordinator – Christopher Thomas

4 weekend trips, 2 minibus day trips, finally managed to go to South Downs on his third attempt. Mostly full though a few no shows for minibus trips. All made profit except Exmoor. A few new leaders, some people who did FA last term came forward, and someone who did ML. Driving situation generally better, enough for all trips eventually.

Next term had been rather uncertain since we didn't know whether the new policy would be implemented or not. So far 5 weekends and 2 minibus trips planned, probably will be down to 4 weekends. Much interest in ML course, but only 3 signed up for the Easter one, difficult to coordinate dates. Hopefully will run another Mountain FA course next term, some admin problems with the previous one. Hopefully a scrambling course in summer! Thanks to the committee, leaders and drivers. (Andrew remarks that although he's only been at the meeting for a short time he's noticing an obvious running theme here.)

Membership Secretary – Barney Stratford

(Barney makes the report over Zing's shoulder referring to the minutes of the 4th committee meeting.)

General confusion between 242 or 241 members. Male and female numbers add up to 242, but types of memberships add up to 241. Whatever it is, we have a healthy sizeable membership.

(Marion summarises: Basically, the membership secretary's made a mess up. Barney would like to reiterate that Simon Stevens is not a member, and then goes on to speculate about whether Simon Stevens is a bigger member than... let's not go there.)

Alumni – Laura Bernstone

Met up with the DevOff to try get an Alumni package going, including newsletter and sponsorship appeals. Hope to continue with the work on it next term since funding is going to become an issue. Hope to get a newsletter out next term and an alumni event with lots of people!

Archivist – Dobrota Pucherova

A very successful term as always. Found that the best attended local walks are those that depart from Oxford, contrary to Dobrota's opinion that they're less exciting. Thank you to Michelle for handling the loan of maps. And thank you to the entire committee of course, continuing the theme.

Quartermaster – Michelle Barton

Yearly inspection of equipment went fine, loan/return of stuff has been smooth. (Rob reminds Michelle to thank the committee.) Thanks to the committee!

Social rep – Helen Jenks

Everything was really good, though nobody turned up for the DVD evening, and Annual Dinner was a tad expensive but well worth it! Thank you to the committee.

(Dobrota would like to thank Barney for helping to plan local walks and teaching her to distinguish between a hedge and a path.)

Webmaster – Nicolas Delerue

Added maps and calendars to the website, made updating the website easier and increased storage space on website so more space for pictures! And of course, thanks to the committee for all the fun this term.

6. Specific Important Business

Motion presented: Ratification of pro-forma amendments to the Constitution (passed at TGM MT 2006). 15 members were present to vote. Voting was done by secret ballot.

Motion 1: Ratification of pro-forma amendments to the Constitution

Proposed by: Tse Yin Lim (Zing)

Seconded by: Marion Crawford, Christopher Thomas

For: 15

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

This was unanimously approved for ratification. The Constitution will be amended as proposed.

7. Elections to Committee

Senior Member

Kevin Hilliard: 15

RON: 0

Kevin Hilliard was unanimously elected Senior Member. (Everybody applauds for Kevin.)

President

Marion Crawford: 6 (with Zing 2nd choice)

Tse Yin Lim (Zing): 6 (with Marion 2nd choice)

RON: 0

Abstentions: 3

1 minute each of hustings. Zing says she's been a trip leader for several trips so knows where the changes are coming from. She'll be happy to help with negotiations despite not being as much of a man-eater as Marion. She'd be glad to contribute to the club as she's really enjoyed being part of it.

Marion says she's also been a trip leader on several trips and wants to continue to nurture her 'baby' (changes to the policy) and it might help if the various authority figures keep meeting the same person from our club. She's been directly involved in the negotiations and would like to continue.

(Marion is also a better man-eater so just in case Howard Jeffs doesn't bend to her will... Zing offers to help with the cooking. Marion says eating raw is the way it should be done. Various people ask for a (physical) fight between Zing and Marion, who are both very perplexed at these strange requests. Marion would win hands down anyway, so Nicolas suggests Zing gets the hammer to compensate for her lack-of-taekwando-skills handicap. The girls however, prefer peaceful resolution.)

(Barney asks what species of slug Marion and Zing would like to be. Marion thinks she'd be a grey one with a green stripe down the side because that's how she looks in her sleeping bag. Zing doesn't know any specific species of slug but Benjamin helpfully suggests a banana slug – which would be fine as Zing has a yellow waterproof and can then borrow Marion's 'flying banana' bike, and now just needs a pair of yellow trousers... Dobrota asks what is the saddest fruit. Marion thinks it's a blood orange since it's bleeding inside. Zing thinks it's a tomato because everyone mistakes it for a vegetable. Finally, Rob asks a 'geographical question' – how many of the lakes in the Lakes District actually have the word 'lake' in their name. Both of them answer none. Wrong – the answer is 1, Bassenwaithe Lake, as supplied by Barney. Rob says neither of them then, RON wins.)

Marion Crawford: 7

Tse Yin Lim (Zing): 5

RON: 0

Abstentions: 3

Marion Crawford is elected President (for a record (in living memory) 3 term running!).

Secretary

(Nicolas asks Rob what the saddest slug is. Rob says the one he stepped on on the way here. Barney proceeds to describe the great big orange slugs which are... lovely.)

Robert Siddaway: 15

RON: 0

Robert Siddaway is unanimously elected Secretary.

Treasurer

(Michelle reckons she'll be a green slug after she gets her new sleeping bag. Melissa asks what kind of sandwich filling she'd like to be. Rob says not Marion's, certainly. Barney declares Branston pickle to be the best. Michelle thinks strawberry jam is the best. Dobrota speculates on the species of slug Christopher is likely to be.)

Michelle Barton: 15

RON: 0

Michelle Barton is unanimously elected Treasurer.

Trip and Safety Coordinator

(We search desperately for silly questions to ask Christopher. Marion challenges him to sum up his reasons for standing in 20 words or less. 'Implementation of new policies'... 8 words... 'How many more do I have? (6 down!)... various suggestions including 'I love the TLSD' and 'don't mind documentation'... Christopher uses up his words asking the same question again!)

Christopher Thomas: 15

RON: 0

Christopher Thomas is unanimously elected Trip and Safety Coordinator.

Alumni Secretary

(Laura both likes and would like to be strawberry jam. Zing thinks Michelle and Laura should come on more weekend trips because the strawberry jam never gets used up. Rob says it's the best jam around as well. Barney says to minute that Rob eats Laura. And Michelle.)

Laura Bernstone: 15

RON: 0

Laura Bernstone is unanimously voted Alumni Secretary.

Archivist

(Jonathan says 'why not'. Marion asks if that was why not to hustling or why not to standing. He's got time on his hands, is an organised person and is central in Oxford, which might be convenient. Marion asks if he has slugs for sandwich filling. Jonathan says he's had good tuition on local walks – at Wytham Woods – it was a big hard one. Barney brings up the old suggestion about the local walk to France. Marion asks people to grill Jonathan more. He is fairly familiar with the area around Oxford. Dobrota has a question – how do you recognise a right of way on a map? Green dotted lines... black dashes... a road... ok he's not too sure. Look at the key. Dobrota has another question – what is the difference between a bridleway and a national/local way (eg. the Oxfordshie Way)? On a map that is. Some discussion and ultimately, enlightenment. Except that part of the Oxfordshire Way is a bridleway, ooh tricky.)

Jonathan Leithead: 14

RON: 1

Jonathan Leithead is voted Archivist.

Membership Secretary

Both candidates are unable to be present but have sent statements:

Ranmali: I'd like to stand for the position of membership secretary as I'd like to get more involved with the walking club. Being on the committee would mean that I would understand how the club works and it would motivate me to go on more trips. I'd really enjoy the chance to be part of the committee and helping others to run the club in the most effective and productive way.

Chelsea: I have loved being part of the Walking Club since I came to Oxford in Michaelmas. It's been one of the highlights of my time here so far, because it's been a way to explore England and get to know a new community of people. I'm really looking forward to continuing to be part of the OUWC next term and next year. I'm hoping to give back to the Walking Club by serving on the committee. I think my skills are best suited for the role of Membership Secretary. I've served as membership secretary for organizations in the past, including one group in university that had a roster of over 500 members whose contact information and communication preferences I kept track of. I've also served as treasurer for

organizations and know how to keep track of who owes what, and also how to pester people gently when they owe money to the group. So I think I have the skills to be a good membership secretary for OUWC. I'm also ridiculously enthusiastic about the club and brag about it every chance I get. I have no doubt that I can lure people into being minibus drivers! I hope you'll consider me for membership secretary, and I'm sorry I can't be here tonight in person!

Ranmali de Silva: 3

Chelsea Purvis: 11

RON: 1

(Debate over validity of the vote as this has been done in a non-Constitutional fashion – voting of non-exec posts should be done in order of increasing popularity, ie. starting with the one with fewest people standing. However this would not have made a difference given the results of this vote.)

Chelsea Purvis is voted Membership Secretary.

Quartermaster

Tse Yin Lim (Zing): 14

RON: 0

Tse Yin Lim (Zing) is voted Quartermaster.

(1 member present evidently doesn't know how to write. Barney announced very loudly earlier that with confidence that his vote will be counted, he votes Zing. Christopher chose to ignore this and Barney is offended that Christopher's loyalty to the Constitution is greater than that to him. Oh dear.)

Social Representative

Ranmali de Silva: 15

RON: 0

Ranmali de Silva is unanimously voted Social Representative.

(Somebody voted $E=MC^2$ for second choice. Barney declares there is another nutcase in this room and nobody knows who...)

Webmaster

(Christopher is in the midst of counting when there appears a strange symbol on one of the voting slips – we insist it means Nicolas and Matthias thinks it's a 'D' (albeit sideways) for Delerue.)

Nicolas Delerue: 14

RON: 0

Spoilt: 1

Nicolas Delerue is voted Webmaster.

8. Any Other Business

Andrew Tyrrell received 2 letters from Sarah Queralt at the Sports Department basically rubbish saying things about minibus hire and GBP 7 credit that we actually don't have with them any more.

9. Transfer of Power

Everyone present signs the declaration. We co-opt Barney as ex-officio (ie. the old git). All members of the new committee present agree. (Barney signs the declaration and then delivers a lecture of the history of the 'old git' position on committee. Rob asks about his TOR. We decide his TOR is simply to be Barney.)

Meeting closed 9.04pm.

(Christopher – 9.03pm, Rob – 9.02pm. Everyone now heads off to Nicolas' office to see a demonstration of how to adjust/'tune' a heater with a wooden hammer, 1960s-style. Everyone then adjourns to the grass patch outside the DWB to hunt for Easter eggs (Lindt and Cadbury's), at which Rob is massively successful. Nice round table social after at The Royal Oak.)

Appendices:

- (i) Treasurer's Report (see separate file)

(ii) Membership Report: Hilary Term 2007

Membership Details:

Total membership	of MT 06	HT07 0 th Week	2 nd Week	4 th Week	6 th Week	8 th Week
No. of male members						
No. of female members	261	219	238	240	242	242
No. of term members	123	108	114	124	125	125
No. of year members	138	111	123	116	117	117
No. of course members						
No. of external members	14	0	11	11	11	11
No. of ex-life members	82	64	70	70	72	72
	131	131	131	131	131	131
	31	26	28	28	28	28
Number of non-university members	3	0	0	0	0	0
% non-university members (max 20%)						
Places available for non-university members	56	45	56	56	56	56
	21.5	20.5	23.5	23.3	23.1	23.1
	0	0	0	0	0	0

Total Revenue from Membership HT 07:

Type of Membership	Cost of Membership	New Members in this Class	Income
Term	£6	11	£66
Year	£12	8	£96
Course	£25	0	£0
External	£25	2	£50
Upgrade	£20	0	£0
Total			£212

(iii) MOTIONS PACK – TGM HILARY TERM 2007

(1) Ratification of pro-forma amendments to the Constitution

Proposed: Tse Yin Lim (Zing)

Seconded: Marion Crawford, Christopher Thomas

This motion was passed proposal at the TGM of Michaelmas Term 2006, unanimously voted by all 14 OUWC members present. Voting was done by secret ballot. The following is the motion as it was presented at the meeting.

The Proctors have produced a new pro-forma constitution. Richard Dodsworth, Area Safety Officer for Sport, has asked us to incorporate these 2 sections into our Constitution. One addition is regarding overseas activities, the other relates to use of OUCS facilities (A). We also propose to make one minor change for consistency (B).

(A) Add the following 2 sections to the Constitution:

2(e) No member of the Club shall participate in any activity overseas organised by the Club, whether during term-time or vacation, unless the plans for such activity have been notified at least one calendar month in advance of the date of departure from the United Kingdom to the Director of Sport. Each member participating in such activities overseas shall observe any conditions imposed by the Proctors on the recommendation of the Director of Sport, e.g. relating to the deposit of contact addresses, fulfilment of health, safety and insurance requirements, and stipulation of coaches, trainers or Senior Members to accompany the trip.

2(f) The Club may apply to Oxford University Computing Services ('OUCS') to use information technology ('IT') facilities in the name of the Club. Where relevant facilities are allocated by OUCS it is the responsibility of the Club:

(i) to designate a member of the Club entitled to a University e-mail account (as defined by OUCS rules) to act as its IT Officer, whose duties shall include liaising with OUCS about the use of facilities allocated and passing on to his or her successor in office all records relating to the use of the facilities allocated. By default, the IT Officer is the Webmaster unless the committee designates another committee member;

(ii) to designate one of its members (who may be, but need not necessarily be, the same as its IT Officer) or, exceptionally, a member of Congregation to act as its principal Webmaster, whose duties shall include maintaining an awareness of the University Guidelines for Web Information Providers and co-ordinating and regulating access to the web facilities use by the Club;

(iii) to comply with regulations and guidelines relating to the use of IT facilities published from time to time by OUCS;

(iv) to ensure that everyone responsible under (i)-(iii) is competent to deal with the requirements, where necessary undertaking training under the guidance of OUCS.

(B) In section 2(d), replace 'Code of Conduct' with 'Code of Practice' to be consistent with our other documents.
