

OXFORD UNIVERSITY WALKING CLUB

MINUTES FOR THE TERMLY GENERAL MEETING OF MT14

Location	St. Aldates G&D's
Date	3.12.14
Time	Start: 19:00 Finish: 20:00
People Present	James Neuhaus, Maysa Falah, Josh O'Shaughnessy, Tom Waksman, Jaya John John, Nicola Steinke, Natasha Ng, Alan Iwi

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Thomas Hiemstra, Christian Weinzetl, Theo Kwek, Ping Shen

2. READING OF THE PREVIOUS TGM MINUTES (TT14)

3. OBJECTIONS TO THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

5. OFFICERS' REPORTS

PRESIDENT

We have had another good term, with plenty of new people getting involved in the club. This term saw the introduction of the assistant leader role, which was passed at the TGM, and once next term's first aid course has taken place, we will have at least 4 assistant leaders to help compliment our ML trained leaders. As well as these changes, we have set up a steering group that will look at new ways to improve the process of running trips. This steering group will report back suggesting improvements in time for the TGM next term.

Freshers week was again a success, with over 60 people turning up for the Freshers' walk. For next year we want to look at additional alternative events for Freshers week, to appeal to more of the potential members, both for local walks and hillwalking.

As this is my last term as president, I absolutely have to thank my committee over the past two terms, who have always been enthusiastic in fulfilling their roles, and

are always happy to lend a hand. I'm sure that they will continue to do so for Josh next term.

SECRETARY

This term has been a good one for minibuses, with no accidents occurring on trips. We also have 4 new OUWC minibus drivers who passed their tests this term – this is good news as hopefully it will ease the pressure to find drivers for trips, with more options available.

We have also set up a “stash” page on the OUWC website, with a booking form so that people can request stash, and an order was placed in 7th week of this term. This page of the website will from now on be used for people to request stash, and one order will be placed per term. Unfortunately, the prices that we were charging for the garments this term assumed that we would be placing an order for 20 garments or more, and we did not get sufficient interest in stash this term to place an order of this size. Only 13 garments were ordered, and we were charged a higher price for these in accordance with Shirtworks’ pricing structure, resulting in a loss of about £60 on this term’s stash order. To ensure this does not happen again in the future, we will from now on be pricing the garments as if to assume that less than 20 will be ordered.

As secretary, I have also been involved in putting together the motions for the TGM, which consist of changes to leadership structure and leadership requirements for trips (see Trip & Safety Co-Ordinator’s report), and it has been highly encouraging to see these important and positive changes happening.

TREASURER

	In	Out	Total	Notes
TRIPS				
Lake District MT14	£1,588,00	£650,00	£938,00	
Wye Valley MT14	£372,00	£261,00	£111,00	
Peak District MT14	£1,500,00	£1,276,38	£223,62	
SOCIALS				
Pizza Social MT14	£0,00	£17,80	-£17,80	
LMH Formal MT14	£174,94	£174,16	£0,78	
Ceilidh MT14	£260,00	£71,23	£188,77	
Oriel MT14	£310,50	£268,80	£41,70	
MEMBERSHIP				
Membership 14-15	£1,180,00	£810,50	£369,50	
Membership MT14	£13,00	£0,00	£13,00	
TRAINING				
Leader Subsidy MT14	£0,00	£80,00	-£80,00	
Other				
Minibus damage MT14	£0,00	£100,00	-£100,00	
General Bus MT14	£0,00	£83,72	-£83,72	
Other MT14	£0,00	£40,00	-£40,00	
Stash MT14	£138,00	£261,14	-£123,14	
Sleepingbag inlays	£0,00	£180,00	-£180,00	
Washing Sleeping Bags	£0,00	£17,20	-£17,20	
Grants MT14	£710,00	£0,00	£710,00	
Total	£6,246,44	£4,291,93	£1,954,51	

The incomes and expenditures for the Oriel Social are the final numbers, even if £125 in income have still to be cashed in. At the moment this money is with another committee member.

TRIP AND SAFETY COORDINATOR

This was a very successful term with regards to both club trips and club safety/leadership development. In all, there were over sixty places filled on trips this term, with a modest number of sign-ups not managing to get a space, particularly for Peak District and Wye Valley.

Trips:

The Mountain Skills course was the first skills course that we have run for a few years. It was based in Snowdonia and led by instructors from Scouting (arranged by James Neuhaus). Following approval of the new leader arrangements at the TGM, participants of this course will be able to become club leaders through the new "assistant leader scheme". For future courses, we will try to incorporate more leadership aspects. We will also need to decide on instructor arrangements, as the two instructors gave their time for free something which we would not be comfortable with regularly taking advantage of.

Lake District: Based in Borrowdale and arranged by Kathryn Newton, this was another successful big trip despite the weather and long drive! The hut (High House) can often be booked up quite far in advance: given its location and cost, it would be worth booking several terms ahead to ensure we get it. The walks on the first day were ambitious (Great Gable, Scafell Pike etc) but were slightly curtailed by the weather. On the Sunday, we stayed low, enjoying the views of Ullswater. The trip was well attended by both OUWC regulars and new members.

Wye Valley Day trip: This was organised by Giovanni Bassonlino, who was unfortunately taken ill on the day of the trip. The trip still went ahead and went well.

Peak District: This was a smaller trip (only 12 people) to the Peak District, which is an area slightly neglected as a destination over the past couple of years. The hut (Carlsark Cottage) is highly recommended for future trips. The weather on both days was grey and chilly to start with but cleared away to reveal sunshine. The Saturday walk was based near Lady Bower reservoir following Derwent Edge to Howden Moors and then back. On Sunday, the walk was slightly shorter, starting at Fernilee Reservoir (nr Buxton) and taking in Cats Tor and back via the ruins of Erwood Hall.

Club Development:

The President and Trip and Safety Coordinator met with Dave de Berger and Dave White from Sports Fed to discuss bringing club documents (the Risk Assessment and Trip Leader Safety Document) up to date and in line with both Sports Fed and BMC guidelines. The following changes were then agreed on at the TGM: scrambling is to be permitted; first aid course requirements were developed; the new assistant leader scheme was introduced.

This is part of a bigger process of changing club leadership regulations to move away from a rigid, top-down leadership approach (which is not permitted by BMC insurance anyway) and involve more club members in leadership and other club processes. Furthermore, a steering group will be put together to help guide these changes. Next term will hopefully be when this starts to take shape.

Sorry for the rather lengthy report. I'd like to thank all the leaders, drivers and trip organisers, as well as the club committee for their help with making sure all of this term's trips have been successful.

OTHERS

ALUMNI SECRETARY

Pending

ARCHIVIST

Nine local walks were organized this term, as in previous terms, though the walk for 6th Week (29th Nov), “From Mr. Toad to Mr. Poirot”, had to be cancelled due to inclement weather. The President’s Walk in 0th Week, which – following tradition – went from Broad Street to Wolvercote and back, saw a very high number of participants this year (40 to 50), including many first-years and exchange students. This positive turnout was largely sustained throughout the term, with a good number of first-time walkers returning for subsequent excursions. Each walk had 10-20 participants, and 10 people turned up for the last walk on Sunday at the end of 8th Week.

A historical theme was chosen for the walks this term, featuring a walk to the prehistoric Rollright Stones in 1st Week (19th Oct) and progressing through landmarks associated with historical events till a visit to Churchill’s birth- and burial places (Blenheim/Bladon) in 7th Week (29th Nov). Fact sheets were provided to accompany some of the walks, and while not all the participants were aware of the theme, each walk proved eye-opening in its own right. ‘Calling on the Churchills’ was the only new route, from Charlbury to Bladon, and was modified to accommodate a change in the walk leader.

Two walks faced problems because of inaccurate information on online transport schedules, which led to an early start-time in the first instance and a new route being chosen in the second. The Archivist is much indebted to Matej – who led both walks – for his patience and assistance in both instances. The rest of the walks proceeded happily, and the term ended with a collaboration with the Oxford Ornithological Society (a local interest group not affiliated to the university), who led a bird-watching trip around Cumnor. Their expertise and experience proved invaluable, and they have invited us to join them again on future walks in the area. Many thanks to our local walk leaders this term: Barbara, Matej, Carina, Laurent, and Alan.

Looking forward to next term, contact has been made with the Thames Valley Long Distance Walking Association and the Cambridge University Rambling Club for potential collaboration. The committee showed interest in broadening our engagement with other university and non-university societies in organizing local walks, and the Archivist will pursue these connections.

Two new copies of the 2015 AA Atlas were bought by the Archivist this term, while other members of the Committee have also purchased new maps. Though these have been sorted, many maps in the store need to be given a serial number. This will be done next term.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Total members:	78	
Undergraduates	15	19.2%
Visiting students	3	3.8%
Graduate students	44	56.4%
Staff	10	12.8%
External members	6	7.7%
Total:	78	100.0%
Female:	27	34.6%
Male:	51	65.4%
Total:	78	100.0%

QUARTERMASTER

This term one day trip and two weekend trips borrowed equipment as usual. Further equipment was borrowed by several club members. In the beginning of the term a full stores inventory was made and all sleeping bags were washed with the help of many committee members. Sleeping bag linings were bought to ease future cleaning of sleeping bags. After the Lake District trip the Quartermaster's Stores key was lost and replacement is in progress.

SOCIAL REPRESENTATIVE

Pending

WEBMASTER

This term the design of the website was changed slightly and details of all club events were kept up to date both on their respective pages as well as on a Google calendar now that is shown on the home page. The online booking forms have also been well used for trip booking, stash orders and the annual ceilidh. All mailing lists should now be updated and permissions given to the right committee members to maintain the lists.

During the term it has been discussed with the committee for relevant members to help with updating certain very outdated documents on the website. Certain sections on the website that are now outdated and unnecessary should also be removed to reduce clutter. These updates should continue to be done in the next term.

Lastly, another big plan that has been discussed this term is a complete revamp of the website. A prototype on Wordpress is being developed but a lot more work needs to be done and further discussions are required to determine how we go about doing this. However the committee is supportive of the idea and willing to upgrade the hosting account. We aim to have this done by next Michaelmas term.

6. SPECIFIC IMPORTANT BUSINESS

Scrambling Motion

It was proposed, not as an official amendment to the motion, that it be recognised as part of club culture that a non-scrambling option should be offered on all trips, so that people not comfortable with scrambling will not be forced into scrambling. This is already the culture of the club, however it was felt that this needed re-iterating in light of the proposed motion. It was also agreed that leaders on trips must make routes very clear to the participants of a walk so that participants can make their own judgement on how comfortable they are with a particular walk. It was also noted that a ratio of 1 full leader to 4 participants on scrambles will not be guaranteed to be safe: trip leaders must use their best judgement as to what is an appropriate scramble under a given set of conditions.

Eight attending members passed the motion unanimously by secret ballot. A revised TLSD and risk assessment, incorporating the proposed changes, will be prepared and a meeting arranged with the Sports Federation to discuss them and seek their approval.

First Aid Motion

Prior to the TGM we received some feedback on the wording of the first aid motion. This included:

- In the section that specifies the content requirements for a first aid course for level 2, 3 or 4 leaders or TOs of a GoE trip on level 2, 3 or 4 terrain, “lacerations” is a word that in fact refers to a very specific type of injury – could we find a more appropriate word to use?
- In the section that specifies the content requirements for a first aid course for level 2, 3 or 4 leaders or TOs of a GoE trip on level 2, 3 or 4 terrain, “most of the following” is not a very specific phrase and this should be improved
- Using the words “summon help” in reference to an outdoor situation where emergency services need to be contacted to come to the aid of a casualty implies an attitude of entitlement to immediate help, and this could be made to sound less presumptuous
- There is an issue that the Trip & Safety Co-ordinator and/or Training Officer may not be competent to give a briefing on UK-specific aspects of first aid to people that have completed a first aid course that doesn’t include these
- Syllabi on first aid courses may not be specific enough to judge appropriateness of a first aid course for a level 2-4 leader or TO of a GoE trip on level 2-4 terrain, and also not all content specified in a syllabus may be covered on the day(s) of the first aid course. How will it be possible to reliably make sure that our leaders have the appropriate first aid knowledge and skills?

Proposed amendments to the motion:

- change all phrases reading “summon help” to “call for help”
- change “laceration” to “wound”
- change “most” to “at least 3 out of 5”
- Delete point 6 of the “must include all of the following” list of levels 2-4 first aid course content requirements. Change point 3 in the “For all levels of leader, and for TOs of GoE

trips on all levels of terrain” list below to say “first aid course that does not include how to call for help in the UK context” rather than “first aid course in a country other than the UK”

It was also decided that a section should be added to the Training Officer as well as Trip & Safety Co-ordinator terms of reference that gives information on UK-specific aspects of first aid, or tells them where up to date information can be found, as well as making it clear that they should be competent to give a briefing on UK-specific aspects of first aid should the need arise. It was also noted that for this system to work as well as possible, the Training Officer and/or T & SC should ideally be themselves first aid qualified. In terms of judging whether the required content has indeed been covered in a given first aid course, the Training Officer, T & SC and the committee as a whole must consider carefully, using their discretion and also discussion with the prospective level 2-4 leader, whether the content requirements have been met. All in all, it will take some time to assess how the system can be optimised, and it is reasonable to expect that we will be making alterations to appendix A4 of the TLSD based on our experience over the next few terms.

Eight attending members passed the motion, including all proposed amendments, unanimously by secret ballot. A revised TLSD, incorporating the proposed changes, will be prepared and a meeting arranged with the Sports Federation to discuss them and seek their approval.

Assistant Leaders Motion

Proposed amendment to the motion: change this motion, plus the scrambling motion, to state that scrambles must be led by Mountain Leader trained leaders. It is felt that the skills imparted by becoming a full leader through the assistant leaders scheme are not sufficient to allow the leader to lead a group scramble as defined in appendix A6.

Eight attending members passed the motion, including the proposed amendment, unanimously by secret ballot. A revised TLSD, incorporating the proposed changes, will be prepared and a meeting arranged with the Sports Federation to discuss them and seek their approval.

7. ELECTIONS TO COMMITTEE

SENIOR MEMBER: Alan Barr elected unanimously by 8 persons present

PRESIDENT: Josh O’Shaughnessy elected unanimously by 7 persons present

SECRETARY: Tom Waksman elected unanimously by 7 persons present

TREASURER: Christian Weinzetl elected unanimously by 8 persons present

TRIP AND SAFETY COORDINATOR: James Neuhaus elected unanimously by 7 persons present

OTHERS

ALUMNI SECRETARY: Nicola Steinke elected unanimously by 7 persons present

ARCHIVIST: Theo Kwek elected unanimously by 8 persons present

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Ping Shen elected unanimously by 8 persons present

QUARTERMASTER: Thomas Hiemstra elected unanimously by 8 persons present

SOCIAL REPRESENTATIVE: Maysa Falah elected unanimously by 7 persons present

WEBMASTER: Natasha Ng elected unanimously by 7 persons present

IT OFFICER: Natasha Ng elected unanimously by 7 persons present

8. AOB

Priority places for Freshers on Michaelmas Term (MT) trips

It was discussed that we could possibly extend this priority system to all terms, not just Michaelmas Term. It was thought MT trips are much more over-subscribed than other terms' trips, so this system will bring the most benefits in MT, and the system will first be trialled in MT15, so we can decide on whether to extend it to other terms after trying the system in MT15. It was also thought that running a trip specifically for freshers in MT will not be as important as implementing the priority system, and we probably can wait until we have tested the priority system before thinking about introducing this aspect.