

Oxford University Walking Club

MINUTES OF THE TERMLY GENERAL MEETING OF MICHAELMAS TERM 2007

Held in the Rainolds Room, Corpus Christi College on Wednesday 28th November (8th week).
Meeting declared open at 7.46pm.
11 OUWC members in attendance.

1. Apologies for Absence

Nicolas Delerue, Alan Iwi, Helen Jenks, David Keiller, Barney Stratford, Tse Yin Lim

2. Reading of previous minutes

Christopher duly obliged.

3. Objections to the previous minutes

Alan Iwi has offered the two objections:

- The Russian should have been spelt “смелый русский хор”.
- “The second is that Marion is an alumna not an alumnus, though she will probably try to deny it.”

(Jonathan expresses his delight that the second error was spotted by a scientist.)

Michelle is sure that she sent her report.

Christopher thinks that people thanked each other.

(1 member enters)

4. Matters arising from the previous minutes

Christopher notes that Marion has not donated any money or a helicopter.

5. Officers' Reports

President – Christopher Thomas

The club has had another successful term. There were local walks every Saturday and Sunday. Some of the socials were well-attended, others not so; the ceilidh was successful but made a loss. There have been three weekend trips, with another to come this weekend, and two minibus day-trips. There was no Trip and Safety Coordinator at the start of term and we were not able to fill the post, despite holding an EGM.

There were a few changes at the start of term, which were partly the result of previous discussion and partly the result of the survey held over the long vacation. The club now only offers yearly membership to make things simpler and to ease a possible affiliation to the British Mountaineering Council (BMC) – the impression gained was that people would not be too put off by this change. Also, local walk subsidies were abandoned for the term on a trial basis. This looks set to continue.

Christopher says that he will talk about things that would be discussed by the Trip and Safety Coordinator if there was one.

Trip leading:

- There has been further discussion with Richard Dodsworth, the Area Safety Officer (Sport), and amongst the committee.
- The club is still required to have leaders, and the committee have been discussing different options.
- Christopher (and possibly others from the committee) will be meeting with Richard Dodsworth and the university's insurance department on Friday.
- If people would like more information they should contact Christopher.
- The options being discussed are:
 - Having someone who holds a Mountain Instructor Award or Mountain Instructor Certificate classify leaders;
 - Having the club's committee classify leaders through discussion with the club's other leaders.

Christopher and Melissa Ch'ng attended the BMC Student Safety Seminar at Plas y Brenin in October.

There were two minibus day-trips this term, which were both successful and enjoyable. They were basically full and made a profit. The trip to the Black Mountains took two minibuses.

The weekend trip to Snowdonia had to be cancelled. The others made a slight profit or loss, but balanced overall.

The Freshers' Meet to the Brecon Beacons at the end of 2nd week went well, but it might be better if held later in term. It was definitely a positive thing to do.

Next term there will probably be three minibus day-trip and three or four weekend trips.

The committee is also looking into holding a couple of Varsity Trips, possibly in Trinity Term: one would be with the Cambridge Hill Walking Club and the other with the Cambridge Rambling Club.

Training:

- There was no mountain first aid course held this term to do a insufficient level of interest.
- A couple of people have expressed interest in doing a training course over the christmas vacation or next term.
- One member has completed a Mountain Leader Training course, but still needs to obtain a first aid certificate. As well as receiving a subsidy from the club, he also received a substantial subsidy from the Sports Fed, which further reduced the cost of doing the course for him. There are no new leaders this term.

The committee has looked into the possibility of holding trip sign-ups later in term. For next term, sign-ups will continue to be at Free Tea in 1st week, but the committee is open in future to trying different things out.

Christopher thanks all those who led, organised and drove on trips, local walk leaders and the committee.

Andrew Tyrrell asks if the membership fees can be set by the committee without consultation of the club's members. Christopher checks the constitution and says that the committee consults the members if they want to.

Andrew had another question, but cannot remember what it was now.

Secretary – Jonathan Leithead

The club has five new drivers this term.

The club discovered a problem concerning the weight of minibuses. Under the Section 19 permit scheme under which the club operates, our drivers are not allowed to drive a minibus with a Maximum Authorised Mass (MAM) of greater than 3.5 tonnes. Unfortunately, most of Hotson's 17-seater

minibuses are Ford Transits which have a MAM of 4.1 tonnes. Having taken advice, the club had to limit the size of certain trips so that a smaller minibus could be used. Owing to problems in finding suitable minibuses, some of next term's trips may not be able to take as many people, which means that prices may have to go up. This is because the smaller minibuses are not much cheaper and do not use much less fuel than the 17-seater minibuses.

Andrew Tyrrell asks that trip leaders and organisers are told how many people will be allowed on each trip as soon as this is known.

Andrew has also now remembered his other question from Christopher's report. He asks if he is correct in remembering that the Code of Practice specifies that members receive subsidies on local walks. Christopher replies that the subsidy can be 0p! He goes on to say that the main thing is that it was a trial this term, and, although not all the local walk reports have been returned, it is likely to continue. Melissa says that there has been no drop in the number of people going on local walks since the loss of subsidies. It is decided that it is probably best to change the Code of Practice if this continues in the long term.

Treasurer – Michelle Barton

At the last TGM we had £1107.09. At this TGM we have £2154.76. This is slightly down on last Michaelmas, due to the club no longer offering course membership.

The ceilidh made a loss of £209.

A copy of the accounts summary is passed around for people to look at – it can be found at the end of these minutes.

The fees for minibus insurance are not included on the trip final balances as the club has not been billed for these yet, but a note has been made about this.

The club has not yet paid for the minibus courses taken this term.

Christopher comments that we should probably try to pay these things without being asked.

Andrew Tyrrell says that he is happy with Michelle's report! He then asks how membership revenue compares with last Michaelmas. Michelle replies that it is down by £400, but she does not think that this is a big issue

Membership Secretary – Chelsea Purvis

A spreadsheet has been prepared, but Chelsea apologises for not printing it out and bringing it to the meeting. (It can be found at the end of these minutes.)

The biggest change is the introduction of the new yearly-only system of membership. There are some rogue people who bought term membership for this term before the new system was implemented. During Free Tea Chelsea and Michelle heard maybe two or three complaints about the lack of term membership. These were from foreign students who are only here for a term. One person who is only in Oxford for a term was refunded their membership after they did not get a place on the Lake District trip. There were no complaints otherwise.

The next membership secretary will need to keep an eye on the number of people joining, as the fee will still be £12 for people joining in Hilary. It might be best to look at all the numbers at the end of the year.

There was a slight problem with over-ordering the termcards this term – this was Chelsea's fault and not Christopher's.

Chelsea is adding to the Membership Secretary's Terms of Reference that he/she needs to be better prepared for the very large number of new members joining in Michaelmas Term compared with Hilary and Trinity Terms.

Christopher asks if the number of male and female members actually adds up to the total number of members. It does for once!

Andrew Tyrrell says that Chelsea gave a good report.

Alumni – Laura Bernstone

The scheme is getting together a bit more. A newsletter was sent out at the start of term to keep the club's alumni updated and involved. It asked for donations for things like training. Someone who was a member in the 1960s has pledged the club £50 for each of the next ten years. Hopefully a newsletter will be sent out each year and will generate more responses once it gets going.

The alumni page on the website has more information on it. Hopefully there will be more social events and walks for alumni.

Archivist – Melissa Ch'ng

Things are fine.

Quartermaster – David Keiller

(No report received.)

Social rep – Helen Jenks

(No report received, but Christopher has already mentioned briefly the socials and the ceilidh.)

Webmaster – Nicolas Delerue

“During the past term the website has been transferred to a new hosting provider which is cheaper and offers more space. This will allow more photos to be put online so if you attended an event this term, do not hesitate to upload your photos or to send them to the webmaster for uploading.

“A forum has been installed on the site but is not yet ready for public use.”

6. Specific Important Business

Five motions were presented: one was the ratification of an amendment to the Constitution (passed at the previous TGM).

Motion 1: Amendments to the Constitution which were passed at the previous TGM and need to be ratified at this TGM

Proposed: Jonathan Leithead

Seconded: Christopher Thomas, Helen Jenks

Motion 2: Amendments to the Constitution which have not previously been before a TGM

Proposed: Christopher Thomas

Seconded: David Keiller, Chelsea Purvis

Motion 3: Amend the Trip Leader Safety Document (TLSD) to recognise the Military Equivalent of Mountain Leader (ML) training

Proposed: Christopher Thomas

Seconded: David Keiller, Chelsea Purvis

Motion 4: Amend the Trip Leader Safety Document (TLSD) to change the requirements for participating in a Group of Equals trip in winter conditions

Proposed: Christopher Thomas

Seconded: David Keiller, Chelsea Purvis

Motion 5: Various other changes to the TLSD and Code of Practice which concern the positions of Trip Organiser and Trip Leader

Proposed: Christopher Thomas

Seconded: David Keiller, Chelsea Purvis

Christopher explains that Motions 2 and 5 follow on from what he was saying earlier about the organisation of trips. Trip Leaders are still responsible for safety on club trips. The aim is to remove the distinction between Principal Trip Leaders (PTLs) and Trip Co-Leaders (TCLs), because once the organisational responsibilities have been withdrawn from the PTLs there is not much difference between them, so the purpose of these motions is to simplify matters.

Andrew Tyrrell comments that by allowing a Trip Organiser (TO) or any Trip Leader (TL) to stand for executive positions on the committee is a bit of a loosening of a requirement. Previously, a PTL had more responsibility and more planning of trips (and thus more paperwork). If we allowed TOs to stand for executive positions and not TLs this would be closer to keeping the status quo of allowing PTLs but not TCLs to stand. Andrew says that he is not necessarily saying that we should change this, but he thinks that people should be aware. Christopher says that the consensus at the committee meeting where this was discussed was that the club has problems finding people to stand for executive positions – he agrees that it is relaxing things slightly but does not think that is necessarily a bad thing. It is also observed that to stand for executive positions you could have been on committee before and not been on a trip anyway.

Christopher observes that we do not technically have to discuss changes to the Code of Practice at the TGM, but as the changes are bound up with those in the TLSD, he thought it would be a good idea. He points out that the TO of a weekend trip has to have been on a weekend trip before.

Andrew Tyrrell observes that in the second paragraph of Section 3B of the proposed TLSD it should begin “before leading *or organising* a club trip”. This is a minor change so is made at this point.

Andrew then says that he thinks the line “If any trip leader has concerns or doubts about a route that is being planned then questions should be directed to the Trip and Safety Coordinator” should be removed completely from the second paragraph of Section 4C of the proposed TLSD. He thinks that this should be done because the club wants people to participate more on club trips and leaders have done the training so should use their judgement. Furthermore, the Trip and Safety Coordinator does not have to be a TL, and in a trip environment it is often not possible to contact him/her. Christopher replies by saying he thinks this clause applies to the situation whereby before a trip if one TL has concerns about a route planned by another TL, they can go to the T&SC for advice; it is a flag that anyone can get in touch with the T&SC if they have any concerns. Andrew says he thinks that the club wants people to get more involved on trips.

Andrew also thinks that in the fourth paragraph of Section 4C of the proposed TLSD it would be better if we changed “state that an alternative walk will be offered” to “state that an alternative walk could be planned”. The general consensus seems to be that the wording of this does not matter greatly.

Someone asks if the issue covered by Motion 3 had not come up before. The answer was that it had but the club had not heard back from that person again, and then the issue came up with someone else this term.

Christopher then reads and explains Motion 4.

Someone also observes that that the Code of Practice says that TLs are expected to plan the route and that this should be changed to be made more consistent with the proposed TLSD. The committee is able to change the Code of Practice without consultation and without bringing it up at a general meeting.

Only ten members were now present to vote. Voting was done by secret ballot.

Motions 1,3,4,5:

For: 10

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

Motion 2:

For: 9

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1

All the motions were carried. Motion 2 needs to be ratified at the next TGM.

7. Elections to Committee

Senior Member

When asked if he would like to continue as the club's Senior Member, Kevin said, "As always, delighted and honoured!"

Kevin Hilliard: 10

RON: 0

Kevin Hilliard is unanimously elected Senior Member.

President

Jonathan says that he is alarmed that the President has been a physicist for the last five terms, and before that it was a computer scientist. It is time that an arts student was President, and everyone knows that classicists are superior anyway. He has been on committee for two terms and knows all about the leading issue and the minibus issue this term.

Michelle Barton asks Jonathan if he will provide mud or KY Jelly for wrestling. He says that he will if she wants him to. Chelsea Purvis asks Jonathan if he prefers sheep or goats: Neither – they both defecate everywhere.

Jonathan Leithead: 10

RON: 0

Jonathan Leithead is unanimously elected President.

Secretary

Chelsea says that she can type quickly.

Christopher asks Chelsea if she like minibuses: No! and that dislike will grow.

Chelsea prefers goats. This is a change in position from Chelsea that has resulted from Barney telling her that goats are cleaner. Christopher asks what sort of fruit she would like to be: Star fruit – they're clear. Melissa Ch'ng comments that this is an interview question and you should reply that you would be a grape, because you work well in bunches! Chelsea says that grapes get bruised! Jonathan asks what paragraph 15 of the constitution says: What doesn't it say?!

Chelsea Purvis: 10

RON: 0

Chelsea Purvis is unanimously elected Secretary.

Treasurer

“I've done 2 terms on committee already and have previous experience of treasurer-like activities having done the finances for a guide camp once!”

(Chelsea says that kumquat would be good too.)

Helen Jenks: 10

RON: 0

Helen Jenks is unanimously elected Treasurer.

Trip and Safety Coordinator

“I am a BMC member, and if anyone wants to know I have PTLed (TOed) one trip and TCLed 2.”

Christopher asks if anyone did want to know: No! Christopher asks why Dave is not here: He is probably sleeping in Physics!

David Keiller: 10

RON: 0

David Keiller is unanimously elected Trip and Safety Coordinator.

Alumni Secretary

Laura says that she is happy to carry on in this position as she knows what she is doing and has made contacts with the development office.

Laura Bernstone: 10

RON: 0

Laura Bernstone is unanimously elected Alumni Secretary.

Archivist

Evelyn says that she is keen and happy to help, especially as she has just discovered that Melissa is organising the local walks for next term.

Christopher asks if Evelyn likes maps: Yes. Chelsea asks if she can fold maps without getting frustrated and crying: Yes!

Evelyn Davies: 10

RON: 0

Evelyn Davies is unanimously elected Archivist.

Membership Secretary

Michelle says, “This is me not being on committee next term.” She says that she caved in to peer pressure last week and would like to be membership secretary because it is less work than treasurer and she wants to concentrate now on her degree.

Michelle Barton: 10
RON: 0

Michelle Barton is unanimously elected Membership Secretary.

Quartermaster

(As Laura Bernstone has been elected Alumni Secretary, she withdraws from running for the position of Quartermaster.)

Melissa is running because she has some experience doing ‘Quartermastery’ stuff and she lives next to Stores. She would like to use club funds to buy a bazooka as she does not like hills.

Christopher asks Melissa if she would like to live in Stores: Don’t need to as already live close to Stores. Chelsea comments that Stores looks very comfortable. Melissa says that she could live in Stores like Tarzan, but she would need a volleyball – cf. the film “Cast Away”. A discussion of the film follows.

Melissa Ch’ng: 9
RON: 1

(The person who voted to RON made the comment “I like mountains and hills”.)

Melissa Ch’ng is elected Quartermaster.

There is a round of applause for all those elected.

Social Representative

No nominations were received and no-one stands from the floor.

(Andrew Tyrrell comments that he has not actually held every position on committee, but does not wish to stand.)

Webmaster

No nominations were received, so the position is opened to the floor. Although not present, Nicolas Delerue has written to the Secretary saying that he would be happy to stand from the floor. No-one else wishes to stand.

Nicolas Delerue: 8
RON: 0
Abstentions: 1
Spoilt: 1

Nicolas Delerue is elected Webmaster.

There is a round of applause for Nicolas. There is then a round of applause for everyone who has been elected.

8. Any Other Business

Michelle Barton announces that the club now has a Purple ‘Orange’ Book for minibuss day-trip. Chelsea Purvis claps.

Andrew Tyrrell asks about the memory map that the club bought this term: It just covers the Lake District on a scale of 1:25,000. Will random members be allowed to use it? This has not been discussed yet. Are there any copyright issues? Christopher says that there are some, although he is not sure what, and the committee has not discussed this yet.

There is a round of applause for the current committee.

9. Transfer of Power

All members of the new committee who are present sign the declaration. Christopher Thomas says that he wishes to remain on the committee as ex-officio ex-president.

Meeting closed 9.34pm.

Appendices:

- (i) Treasurer's Report
- (ii) Membership Report



OXFORD UNIVERSITY **WALKING** CLUB

BALANCE AT TT07 TGM

£1,107.09

<u>Category</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<u>Notes and comments</u>
Items outstanding	Pembrokeshire TT07	£60.00	£152.61	-£92.61	Outstanding expenses and accomodation refund from TT07 (trip made £31.61 loss overall)
	Punt party TT07		£7.85	-£7.85	
	Category TOTAL			-£100.46	
Membership	Category TOTAL	£943.00	£12.00	£931.00 £931.00	One year membership refunded
Weekend Trips	Breacon Beacons (Fresher's Meet)	£350.00	£316.49	£33.51	£14 minibus insurance to pay
	North York Moors	£572.00	£570.71	£1.29	£21 minibus insurance to pay
	Snowdonia	£140.00	£140.00	£0.00	Trip cancelled
	Lake District	£920.00	£880.44	£39.56	Actual trip profit £11.56 as £21 minibus insurance to pay, (£7 credit from Hotsons also included in minibus cost)
	North Devon Coast	£384.00	£329.00	£55.00	Trip still to happen
Category TOTAL				£129.36	
Minibus Day Trips	Black Mountains	£255.00	£231.09	£23.91	£14 minibus insurance to pay
	Cannock Chase	£142.50	£112.10	£30.40	Still 1 person to be refunded (therefore profit should be £15.90, including £7 minibus insurance)
Category TOTAL				£54.31	
Socials	Ceilidh	£291.00	£530.43	-£239.43	
	Wine tasting	£9.45		£9.45	
	Halloween	£18.00	£23.81	-£5.81	
Category TOTAL				-£235.79	
Equipment	Tent repair and postage		£34.00	-£34.00	
	Lakes memory map		£79.99	-£79.99	
	Maps		£29.56	-£29.56	
Category TOTAL				-£143.55	

Advertising	Category TOTAL			£0.00 £0.00	
Administration & miscellaneous	Termcard advert TT07	£22.50		£22.50	MT07 printing not paid and no money yet for advertisement
	Laminator		£15.49	-£15.49	
	Fresher's Fair and Free tea photocopying		£34.63	-£34.63	
	Stamps		£4.08	-£4.08	
	Sport Fed Annual Grant	£350.00		£350.00	
	Purple-orange book for minibus day trips!		£2.50	-£2.50	
	Mug	£5.00		£5.00	
	Missing payment from Free Tea		£8.00	-£8.00	
	Category TOTAL			£312.80	
Training Courses	FA Course subsidy TT07	£200.00		£200.00	
	ML subsidy		£100.00	-£100.00	
	Category TOTAL			£100.00	
GRAND TOTAL		£4,662.45	£3,614.78	£1,047.67	

BALANCE AT MT07 TGM **£2,154.76**

NB: minibus weekend and day trips need to pay insurance of £7 per day per minibus
(this has not yet been paid, and must be taken into account for trip final balances)

Michelle Barton, OU Walking Club Treasurer MT2007

Membership Report: Michaelmas Term 2007

	End of HT07	MT07			
		1st meeting (0th week)	2nd meeting (2nd week)	3rd meeting (4th week)	5th meeting (8th week)
Total membership	242	143	210	217	219
No. of male members		80	114	119	121
No. of female members		64	96	98	98
No. of term members		2	3	3	3
No. of year members		16	80	87	90
No. of course members		107	108	108	108
No. of external members		18	18	18	18
No. of ex-life members		1	1	1	
Unknown		3			
Number of non-university members		20	20	20	20
% non-university members (max 20%)		13.99	9.52	9.22	9.13