

ULSA Committee Meeting 26/02/26

Present: Ben Chaddock (minutes), Aidan Keegan, Lydon, Mike Butcher, Adam Erskine-Jones, Emily Williams, Chris Williams, Arthur Watkinson, Carla Tonks, George Crawford

1.) ULSA Holiday

Berger trip has been kiboshed as a permit has not been obtained (details later) and people need to apply for, and plan their holidays. As a replacement, a PSM permit has been applied for as it is a similar expedition-style caving trip with a long through trip and several day trips possible. Mike knows about the PSM accom and stuff as went last year, CRESH went recently too. Need help with equipment and accom going forward, Ben will create a working group for that, Mike will pass the shepton info from their last trip. Dates remain unchanged from those proposed for the Berger trip 18th July - 2nd August. Waiting to hear back from ARSIP on permit.

2.) Incident Report

Alum Pot incident report has been read and understood by the relevant people so will need to be uploaded to the website.

Check with Nat what was sent out when and verify that everyone is receiving emails and are in the correct group for the mailing list.

UWFRA callout, was a medical issue outside of the cave requiring assistance to get a fresher down, Report was made by the leader (Faris) following on from the event, a one page document to be circulated for future knowledge. Unfortunate but well handled.

Mike's comments; seems like there has been an uptick in incidents resulting in callouts and near rescues, is this a culture thing? Is it gung-ho or is it due to a general increase in caving. This will be addressed in the training section but something to be mindful of.

3.) Training

There has been an increase in theory sessions during the training sessions to fill gaps in knowledge that may have been left by covid. These seem to be helping following on from the alum incident.

EJ and Kristian have put together a spreadsheet to assess competency on skills, split into learning, taught (have seen it done), and practiced (happy to have people do it unsupervised), could be helpful for an underground column.

New session to focus on how to plan a caving trip, going into why people want to do a trip, how they'd plan it, who'd they take. Kristian has brought rope samples with different grades of damage and damage methods for showing to leaders and LUUCaS committee members.

Adam EJ is planning on stepping down at the next AGM, with Adam Baldock hoping to step, already helping out in that role.

The spreadsheet for training is in the training group chat. Potentially introduce doing things blindfolded as an extra, and fun, way to learn.

Lend out the caving technical guide to people. Teaching survey reading to people, explaining what they involve and how they're made. Surveying trip at some point to learn hands on?

4.) OFD Permit

7 or so trips on the SWCC (13th-15th Feb) weekend, 4 earlier in the year, only need a few more in the coming year to qualify for an annual permit which would be very useful. Looks like the system may be changing slightly soon anyway.

5.) Dinnermeet - 24th-26th April

The Tennant arms is the main venue for dinnermeet inc exclusive use and 22 bed spaces. Coniston Hostel has also been booked. Saturday evening is a buffet with function room. Just under £3000 for the weekend. 60ish people for the weekend. Option: £60 Hotel, £50 Hostel, £30 Campervan/going home. Option 2: £65 Hotel, £45 for hostel, £30 Campervan/going home. Most rooms are double rooms and the pub won't enforce how we use them as it's a blanket rate. Discussion on potential value is £70, £40, £25? Needs revisiting later with the dinnermeet working group, potential for student rate suggested by Aidan. All in all, seems very reasonable for the whole event. Mike has offered an invitation to the working group.

Transport options are limited and tough but train to skipton and buses are OK but ideally there will be enough car transport for lifts from Leeds.

Save The Date has been put out, to make sure people are aware.

6.) AGM Date

23rd April, 7pm. Venue to be discussed but likely hybrid at a venue in Leeds. **Ben will ask about Cardi Arms**, Aidan says royal park has an upstairs space (to look into), University union room bookings, **Aidan to look into that**.

7.) Any Other Business

Mike asks, are any freshers/students going on an expedition? Baldock is talking about going to Austria, if people want to go they need to be made aware that they need to look into it and sign up soon. Helps massively develop caving skill and confidence. **LUUCaS to look into**

ULSA disto, in Meghalaya currently, would be good to get into use, maybe even some analogue surveying for extra depth of knowledge.

No events in the calendar currently, need to look into it. Some Freshers are working on organising a trip to the BPC in April. Anybody with an editing link to the ULSA calendar can add things. **Ben** will add people who Arthur asks, add Mike & EJ and a clearout of users with admin rights who are no longer involved.