

Cambridge University Caving Club

c/o STUART BENNETT (*Junior Treasurer*)

Trinity College, Cambridge, CB2 1TQ, UK

sb476@cam.ac.uk

1st May 2014

Secretary of the Societies Syndicate
Student Registry
4 Mill Lane

Dear Secretary,

I would like to apply to the Syndicate on behalf of Cambridge University Caving Club (CUCC) for an annual grant payment for 2014-15 of £700, and also an annual travel expenses grant of £400.

Caving is an exciting sport, but it is not without a potential element of danger. The risks can only be dealt with by a combination of rigorous safety training and the use of a wide variety of specialized caving equipment, which must be maintained to a high standard. This is inevitably an expensive proposition. As the equipment has only a limited safe working life, the club operates a five-year rolling programme of equipment replacement; a summary of this plan accompanies this letter. While, as the plan shows, the safety-critical expenditure (typically £900-1000 annually) has risen to significantly exceed our University funding, we have been able to raise a good level of compensatory income by charging fees for the use of the equipment by non-students. This allows, in fact, the equipment replacement part of our application to be slightly reduced in value, compared to last year (£800).

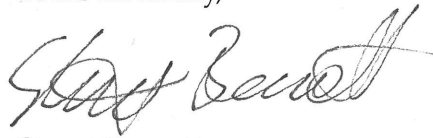
Nonetheless, the Societies Syndicate's assistance is important and appreciated, as CUCC members already have to meet the costs of other significant expenditures incurred in the course of the club's activities: the plan also describes how in addition to the safety-critical club gear there is also a large amount of other equipment which is bought, owned and maintained by the club, to permit novices to cave without buying all the necessary per-person gear. Furthermore, it is necessary for every member of the club to possess individual public liability insurance — it is a condition imposed by landowners for access to many cave systems. While our 'membership' fee may seem low, the additional insurance costs make the apparent joining fee much higher.

Another expense, since there are no caves in the vicinity of Cambridge, is that of travel to and from each caving meet. This is largely met with the fees we charge for the meets,

which also have to cover increasing accommodation, food, and landowner access fees. In the last year the club spent around £1200 on transport for our UK term-time trips, well over 50% of meet income. Therefore we ask that you consider also our application for the continuing funding of an annual travel expenses grant to help subsidize the cost of travel and keep our trips somewhat more within the reach of the student budget, and thereby permit current and future members of the University to explore the underground world.

Thanks to the Societies Syndicate's past generous annual grant provision the club has been able to keep the cost of participation at a level that is affordable to many students; we hope that you will be willing to continue this with these grants for 2014-15.

Yours faithfully,



Stuart Bennett
CUCC Junior Treasurer



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Societies Syndicate Application for a Grant

Please read the Notes of Advice before completion

Applications must be typed and sent by email to the Senior Treasurer for approval before onward transmission, direct from the Senior Treasurer, by email to the Secretary of the Societies Syndicate:

SocietiesSyndicate@admin.cam.ac.uk

Name of Society Cambridge University Caving Club	Total Amount Requested £700
Senior Treasurer Approval:	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> / No <input type="checkbox"/>
Society registered in current year with Junior Proctor?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> / No <input type="checkbox"/> / Pending <input type="checkbox"/>

Officers of the Society			Number of members *	Last Year	Current Year
Position Title	Name	College	CU student members	15	16
President	Mr David Walker	St. John's	CU non-student members	4	4
Secretary	Mr Cormac Doyle	Corpus Christi	Non-CU members	11	11
Junior Treasurer	Mr Stuart Bennett	Trinity	Life members	2	2
Senior Treasurer	Dr James Hickson	Pembroke	* Include only those registered as <i>bona fide</i> members - i.e. persons who have paid the relevant subscription, or who otherwise are admitted to and maintained in membership. (DO NOT include those on any listings of people simply expressing an interest in the activities of the society.)		

Subscription Rates	Last Year	Current Year
Annual Rate	£ 10*	£ 10*
Life Rate	N/A	N/A

* not including obligatory PL insurance: £8 for students, £17 for non-students

Aims (Briefly state the aims of the society as recorded in its constitution. Provide information about the scope, nature and no. of meetings/events/activities, including participation and attendance data.)

The object of the Club is to promote active interest in all aspects of speleology.

The club runs weekend meets to different caving locations in UK four times a term, extraordinary meets during the vacations both in the UK and abroad, and a five week expedition every summer to Austria, where caves have been explored and discovered by CUCC for the last 35 years. It also runs in-term training sessions in Cambridge.

Weekend meet attendance is around 10 people per meet (but higher in Michaelmas). The summer expedition's attendance is 20-30 participants.

Nature of Request (Specify which category (see Notes of Advice to Applicants 4(a)-(f)) of financial assistance is sought. State briefly but lucidly the case for financial assistance. Give specific reasons why a grant is justified; detail costs of any items to be purchased, with quotes where available.)

Caving is a potentially dangerous activity, and it is therefore necessary for CUCC to maintain a large stock of safety-critical equipment. This has a limited safe working life, and hence the club follows a five-year rolling programme of gear replacement, as detailed in the accompanying document.

In these litigious times it is necessary for a caving club to possess expensive comprehensive public liability insurance. The costs of travel and accommodation for caving meets are also high. These costs are currently paid out of the club's meet fees and annual subscriptions; if members also had to pay the full sum for the upkeep of club gear the cost would become prohibitive.

We would like to ask that the Societies Syndicate continue supporting the club's safety-critical gear purchases with an annual grant, so we can continue to offer members of the university the chance to take part in this exhilarating sport safely and at a reasonable cost.

Financial Statement

Balance <i>Give surplus or deficit brought forward from previous year's accounts</i>	Surplus: £ 3533.95
	Deficit: £

INCOME	Societies' Financial Year:	Starts/Ends March
	Last complete FY	Current FY (give estimate for full year)
Annual subscriptions	(including PL) 567	(including PL) 600
Life subscriptions	0	0
Admission charges, use of facilities, etc	Equipment hire 577.80	Equipment hire 700
Grants and donations <i>of which from Societies Syndicate</i>	1200	1100
Other income <i>(please specify)</i>	Meets 1617.04 Journal profit 36 Dinner profit 0.79	Meets 1700
Total Income	3998.63	4100

EXPENDITURE	Last complete FY	Current FY (give estimate for full year)
Hire charges Premises Equipment <i>(please specify)</i>	Accommodation 634 Access 67	Accommodation 750 Access 70
Equipment and supplies <i>(please specify)</i>	Gear 896.01 Food 319.31	Gear 1000 Food 350
Administration	49	30
Travel costs <i>(please specify)</i> e.g. hire charges, mileage	Fuel 871.71 Car hire 337.12	Fuel 950 Car hire 500
Other expenditure <i>(please specify)</i>	Insurance 354 Freshers' 160.80 Event food 61.92 Written off 235	Insurance 360 Freshers' 100 Event food 80
Total Expenditure	3985.87	4190

Assets at time of application	Description Caving equipment	Value £6200
--------------------------------------	---------------------------------	----------------

Applicant's Name:	Stuart Bennett	College:	Trinity
Position:	Junior Treasurer	Email:	sb476@cam.ac.uk



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Societies Syndicate Application for a Grant

Please read the Notes of Advice before completion

Applications must be typed and sent by email to the Senior Treasurer for approval before onward transmission, direct from the Senior Treasurer, by email to the Secretary of the Societies Syndicate:

SocietiesSyndicate@admin.cam.ac.uk

Name of Society Cambridge University Caving Club	Total Amount Requested £400
Senior Treasurer Approval:	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> / No <input type="checkbox"/>
Society registered in current year with Junior Proctor?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> / No <input type="checkbox"/> / Pending <input type="checkbox"/>

Officers of the Society			Number of members *	Last Year	Current Year
Position Title	Name	College	CU student members	15	16
President	Mr David Walker	St. John's	CU non-student members	4	4
Secretary	Mr Cormac Doyle	Corpus Christi	Non-CU members	11	11
Junior Treasurer	Mr Stuart Bennett	Trinity	Life members	2	2
Senior Treasurer	Dr James Hickson	Pembroke	* Include only those registered as <i>bona fide</i> members - i.e. persons who have paid the relevant subscription, or who otherwise are admitted to and maintained in membership. (DO NOT include those on any listings of people simply expressing an interest in the activities of the society.)		

Subscription Rates	Last Year	Current Year
Annual Rate	£ 10*	£ 10*
Life Rate	N/A	N/A

* not including obligatory PL insurance: £8 for students, £17 for non-students

Aims (Briefly state the aims of the society as recorded in its constitution. Provide information about the scope, nature and no. of meetings/events/activities, including participation and attendance data.)

The object of the Club is to promote active interest in all aspects of speleology.

The club runs weekend meets to different caving locations in UK four times a term, extraordinary meets during the vacations both in the UK and abroad, and a five week expedition every summer to Austria, where caves have been explored and discovered by CUCC for the last 35 years. It also runs in-term training sessions in Cambridge.

Weekend meet attendance is around 10 people per meet (but higher in Michaelmas). The summer expedition's attendance is 20-30 participants.

Nature of Request (Specify which category (see Notes of Advice to Applicants 4(a)-(f)) of financial assistance is sought. State briefly but lucidly the case for financial assistance. Give specific reasons why a grant is justified; detail costs of any items to be purchased, with quotes where available.)

Cambridge is not in a naturally mountainous area, and so the Club has to travel long distances for the primary activity of the Club. A typical round trip to Yorkshire is 500 miles, and the fuel costs of travel are a considerable portion of the amount we have to charge our members to go on a meet.

With our subscriptions largely dedicated to funding the burden of public liability insurance, and per trip income also used for food and accommodation, the cost of fuel (which has risen enormously over recent years) is very significant. The assistance of the Societies Syndicate travel grant has allowed the Club to offer more affordable trips to students.

We would like to ask that the Societies Syndicate continue to allow us to subsidise fuel with a contribution of £400 towards these costs (typically £1300-1400 p.a.), permitting the provision of regular trips accessible on a student budget.

Financial Statement

Balance	Surplus: £ 3533.95
<i>Give surplus or deficit brought forward from previous year's accounts</i>	Deficit: £

INCOME	Societies' Financial Year:	Starts/Ends March
	Last complete FY	Current FY (give estimate for full year)
Annual subscriptions	(including PL) 567	(including PL) 600
Life subscriptions	0	0
Admission charges, use of facilities, etc	Equipment hire 577.80	Equipment hire 700
Grants and donations <i>of which from Societies Syndicate</i>	1200	1100
Other income <i>(please specify)</i>	Meets 1617.04 Journal profit 36 Dinner profit 0.79	Meets 1700
Total Income	3998.63	4100

EXPENDITURE	Last complete FY	Current FY (give estimate for full year)
Hire charges Premises Equipment <i>(please specify)</i>	Accommodation 634 Access 67	Accommodation 750 Access 70
Equipment and supplies <i>(please specify)</i>	Gear 896.01 Food 319.31	Gear 1000 Food 350
Administration	49	30
Travel costs <i>(please specify)</i> e.g. hire charges, mileage	Fuel 871.71 Car hire 337.12	Fuel 950 Car hire 500
Other expenditure <i>(please specify)</i>	Insurance 354 Freshers' 160.80 Event food 61.92 Written off 235	Insurance 360 Freshers' 100 Event food 80
Total Expenditure	3985.87	4190

Assets at time of application	Description Caving equipment	Value £6200
--------------------------------------	---------------------------------	----------------

Applicant's Name:	Stuart Bennett	College:	Trinity
Position:	Junior Treasurer	Email:	sb476@cam.ac.uk

Cambridge University Caving Club

Accounting statement for the 2013-2014 financial year

(ended 4th March 2014)

Synopsis

All historic debts to the club have been dealt with in the last year, and the fees supporting the club's activities have covered costs without excess profit. The funds held for future investment are healthy in all respects.

1 Numerical Summary

Money available to the club

	Current year (£)	2012-13 (£)
Closing bank balance	4203.17	4415.73
Cash on hand	0	0
Pending deposits	30.00	0
Pending withdrawals	- 232.47	- 22.00
Debtors	30.00	371.67
Creditors		
<i>members</i>	- 166.75	- 363.21
<i>annual dinner caterers</i>	- 330.00	- 881.00
Total	3533.95	3521.19

Composition of funds

	Current year (£)	Income (£)	Expenditure (£)	2012-13 (£)
Meets pool	—	2239.14	2239.14	—
Safety-critical pool	307.41	833.00	691.60	166.01
Personal gear pool	517.41	130.80	186.41	573.02
Lamps pool	307.26	42.00	18.00	283.26
SRT kit pool	253.66	22.00	0	231.66
Travel grant pool	178.32	400.00	622.10	400.42
Pocket Dragon pool	323.00	0	0	323.00
General float	1766.89	674.79	334.28	1426.38
Reserved for write-offs	235.00	0	65.00	300.00
Written off	- 235.00	62.56	235.00	- 62.56
T-shirts	- 120.00	0	0	- 120.00
Total	3533.95	4404.29	4391.53	3521.19

1.1 Discussion

The headline balance is much the same as last year, but balance-sheet uncertainty has been reduced with only £30 of debt owed to the club, all of which ought to be recovered.

The behaviour of the pools (described in Appendix A) is unremarkable, suggesting hire fees are about right.

Increased membership fees and gear-hire fees from the Austrian Expedition have boosted the float balance.

The club's outstanding liability of unsold t-shirts would (still) be best resolved by selling them.

2 Meets

These accounts include the effects of 11 meets. The full amount of the Societies Syndicate's Travel Grant (£400) was spent, along with some accumulated grant funds (£222.10), to allow the totality of this year's meets to break even. It seems prudent to continue to price the coming year's meets similarly, allowing the increased (as of last year) membership costs to meet any short-fall. This year the vehicle wear & tear allowance has been increased to a more reasonable £10 per trip, and appears to be affordable.

To give an idea of meet expenses, some overall costs for this year's meets (extraordinary meets, such as France or New Year omitted), along with the change in proportion of meet cost vs. 2012-13:

Fuel £871.71 (-7.4%)

Accommodation £634 (-2.0%)

Food £319.31 (+1.0%)

Car hire £227.12 (+7.3%)

Vehicle wear & tear allowance £110 (+1.1%)

Meets this year have in general been charged at £26 per person (gear hire fees are supplemental, not included in consideration of meets' profit/loss). With approximately 83 *term-time* person-meets this year any change in this charge should be minimal, given the multiplicative effect, though with rising costs and more hire cars the meet fee should be reviewed before the next AGM.

3 Debtors, Creditors, and Bad Debts

The club operates a slate system whereby members are sent bills at the end of each year (and during the year as necessary) and those who have spent money on behalf of the club are reimbursed similarly. Full details of individuals' 'slates' have been circulated to club members.

Twelve bad debts have been written off this year. Either the amounts involved were insignificant, the provenance of the debt was unclear, or the debts were historic and unrealizable. Together they sum to a loss of £235.00. The loss will be absorbed by the general float, wherein a £300 sum had been set-aside to cover this eventuality.

4 Membership

This year, the annual club membership fee remained £10, with an additional charge of £8 for students and £17 for non-students to obtain public liability insurance through the British Caving Association (BCA). Membership income has been used to cover the annual BCA club affiliation fee, Societies' Fair costs, refreshments at club social events, and sundry administrative expenses.

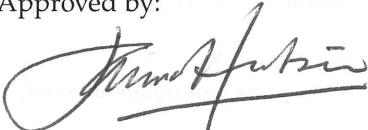
The club currently has 30 members.



Stuart Bennett

Junior Treasurer 2013-14

Approved by:



James C. D. Hickson

(Senior Treasurer 2013-14)

A The pools

CUCC operates a series of pools within the bank account in order to separate funds destined for different purposes.

Meets pool The cost of running a caving meet varies widely, largely depending on the availability of cars and drivers. It would be unfair to pass this on to the participants directly, so all meets' expenses and incomes are pooled and a standard rate is charged. This rate is set based on the previous year's meets in order to come as close as possible to breaking-even overall, after inclusion of the Societies Syndicate travel grant (which is applied to this pool). At the end of the year any profit or loss made by the meets pool is transferred to the general float.

Meets which are longer than usual, or otherwise out of the ordinary, such as the New Year and Easter meets, are not included in this system and are separately accounted on a break-even basis.

Safety-critical gear pool This pool consists of funds set aside for the replacement of CUCC's safety-critical tackle; as with the other gear-pools its balance is carried through from year to year, in order that money needed for gear maintenance is not spent for other purposes. Money received from the Societies Syndicate annual grant (£800 this year) goes directly to this pool.

Personal gear pool This pool provides funds for the replacement of caving gear such as oversuits and undersuits that is lent out to members on a per-trip basis in return for a fee.

Lamps pool This pool funds the upkeep of the club's caving lamps, and will also be used to pay for a replacement for the club's ageing battery charger, a bespoke item capable of charging many lamps at once.

SRT kit pool This pool funds the purchase and maintenance of the club's sets of equipment for Single Rope Technique, an advanced method for ascending and descending vertical shafts which is typically taught to recruits once they have a few trips' experience.

Travel grant pool The travel grant pool receives the Societies Syndicate travel grant (£400 this year), subsidizing the expensive, yet vital, cost of transportation to, during, and from meets, and retains any portion of the grant not spent in a given accounting period, for application in the next.

Pocket Dragon pool This pool contains money allocated to the purchase of a particular item of First Aid apparatus. Despite repeated attempts the club as yet has been unable to source the equipment.

General float This pool simply consists of the remainder of the club's funds which have not been ring-fenced for any particular purpose.

Cambridge University Caving Club

Grant Application for 2014-2015

Five-year plan for equipment replacement

Introduction

Cambridge University Caving Club (CUCC) keeps a large supply of tackle — both ‘club’ and ‘personal’ — ‘club’ referring to resources used collectively by all the members, such as rope and ladders to descend vertical shafts; ‘personal’ being gear such as lights, oversuits and helmets, hired out to members who do not possess their own.

The ‘club’ tackle kept has to be sufficient for the Club’s annual expedition to Austria, where multiple caves are discovered, explored and surveyed, typically to a maximum depth of 600 metres. In reality, this evaluates to nearly 2000 metres of rope, and all the supporting gear to allow it to be safely attached to the rock. Such gear is bought annually on a rolling replacement programme at the beginning of the summer before the expedition, in keeping with manufacturers’ life-time guidance.

The ‘personal’ tackle receives its greatest use in Michaelmas term on trips with novices possessing no gear of their own. In order to meet the typical demands of Michaelmas, we endeavour to keep ten functional sets of gear. Some of this (such as helmets and harnesses) is replaced on a similar rolling programme to the ‘club’ gear, due to the necessity for safety, again following manufacturers’ best-practice recommendations. Other items of gear (such as oversuits, wellies and lights) are replaced when the wear on them indicates it to be necessary.

Given the potentially hazardous nature of caving, safety is clearly of the utmost importance. It is thus essential that all of CUCC’s tackle is in good condition. By using grants from the Societies Syndicate, money pooled over a number of years previously, and income from caving meets, the Club replaces safety-critical equipment on a yearly or more sporadic basis as is appropriate. Our five-year plan remains consistent from previous years, ensuring continuity in the maintenance and replacement of safety-critical equipment.

Regular purchases

Each year over the next five years we propose to replace the following equipment as a matter of routine:

Rope. According to the manufacturers’ guidelines and numerous independent tests, rope should be retired after a five year lifetime. New rope is purchased during the Easter term; after the annual expedition in the summer, the five-year-old rope is discarded. In the event of a shock load, or significant abrasion being found during the post-trip inspection, damaged sections are discarded.

Hangers and maillons. These are relatively small steel fastenings used to attach the rope to the rock inside the cave. Several may be lost during the course of the year, by being inadvertently dropped into inaccessible places due to a slip of the fingers. They are also vulnerable to rust and mechanical wear. Furthermore, some of these are left in caves explored on expedition when significant effort has been expended to fix the rope in a certain manner. We thus supplement the Club’s stock each year with new purchases.

Karabiners. These are essentially a more expensive but versatile aluminium version of maillons.

Slings. These are textile loops used as short robust lengths of rope. They are replaced every three years, or earlier if they are found to be worn, in a similar manner to rope.

Helmets and harnesses. These are obviously a vital piece of safety equipment and are replaced every five years, or earlier if defects are found.

Tackle sacks. These are used for protecting rope as it is conveyed underground, and are exposed to significant amounts of wear. New sacks are purchased each year as old ones are abraded beyond repair.

Survival bags and whistles. These are provided as items for emergency use to members hiring oversuits, protecting against hypothermia and facilitating communication respectively. One or two get used in our annual rescue practices, or are occasionally mislaid.

First Aid kits. Taken by groups underground, but used infrequently, the contents require regular refreshment to maintain sterility and best-before dates.

CUCC would like to continue to use annual grants from the Societies Syndicate to fund these safety-critical purchases, the cost of which at the current time typically comes to over 900 pounds per year (simply maintaining current equipment quantities). The table below gives approximate figures for this equipment (exact quantities purchased each year will vary).

<i>Item</i>	<i>Price</i>	<i>Lifetime (years)</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Annual turnover</i>	<i>Price</i>
Rope (per metre)	£1.15	5	1750	350	£402.50
Hangers	£4.00	10	150	15	£60.00
Maillons	£2.50	8	200	25	£62.50
Karabiners	£6.40	8	50	6.25	£40.00
Slings	£4.00	3	50	16.67	£66.67
Helmets	£45.00	5	10	2	£90.00
Harnesses	£48.00	5	10	2	£96.00
Tackle sacks	£34.00	4	10	2.5	£85.00
Survival bags and whistles	£5.50	5	10	2	£11.00
First Aid kits	£20.00	2.5	5	2	£40.00
Average annual expenditure					£953.67

This year of a £833.00 income (£800 of which from the Societies Syndicate), £691.60 has been spent. This apparent under-spend is simply due to relatively few items being retired this year, and doubtless a future year in the following five years will have a corresponding 'over-spend', thereby maintaining the long-term average.

There are also other items of equipment which we intend to replace over the next five years, which will be funded from CUCC's own resources as described below.

Income from meets

In the year 2013-2014 meets were charged at a base rate of twenty six pounds. This figure is reached by calculating a normalized meet cost from the costs of the previous year (costs of accommodation, travel and food).

On top of the base rate, separate charges for use of the Club's clothing, lighting equipment and apparatus for ropework are added — in setting the rates for these we attempt to break even in the long term. After such charges are added, a typical weekend meet for a caver using entirely the Club's gear (which is the case for all our intake, and several others) will come to around thirty two pounds. This is naturally seen by students as a significant sum of money, especially if wishing to cave on a fortnightly basis, and an increase would prove detrimental to our membership.

The CUCC pools

Items of large capital expenditure, such as the Club's ladders and lamp charger, were purchased some years ago. This means that there will be a large single replacement cost for these at some point in the future. To ensure that sufficient funding is available when the replacement time for this equipment comes around, the Club sets aside money for replacing such equipment in a pool. This scheme has been in operation for many years, with more money being contributed to the pool each year than is needed for the annual upkeep of equipment.

The set amounts of money put aside for specific purposes are given below. Apart from the ladders and lamp charger mentioned above, it will be seen that money is also set aside in separate pools for the replacement of personal cave clothing, lighting and ropework equipment. This is intended to ensure that a base amount of money is spent on these items and so promotes upkeep of the Club's assets.

Clothing sets

For the environment of a cave, which may be cold, wet and/or muddy, it is advisable to have insulating and resilient clothing. The Club keeps tough oversuits, insulating thermal undersuits, and wellies to equip those who have not got their own gear. Sets of these are hired out at £1.50 per day.

<i>Item</i>	<i>Price</i>	<i>Lifetime (years)</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Annual turnover</i>	<i>Price</i>
Undersuit	£50.00	8	10	1.25	£62.50
Oversuit	£70.00	5	10	2	£140.00
Wellington boots	£12.00	15	15	1	£12.00
Kneepads	£16.00	3	10	3.33	£53.33
Belts for lamp batteries	£12.00	10	10	1	£12.00
Average annual expenditure					£279.83

Lights

These are hired out at £0.50 per day. Currently £307.26 has been set aside for funding replacement of the lamps and the club light charger.

<i>Item</i>	<i>Price</i>	<i>Lifetime (years)</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Annual turnover</i>	<i>Price</i>
Lamps	£65.00	5	8	1.6	£104.00
Backup lights	£25.00	4	10	2.5	£62.50
Charger	£200.00	15	1	0.07	£13.33
Average annual expenditure					£179.83

SRT (ropework) kits

These kits of mostly metal devices allow the safe descent and ascent of ropes, by using Single Rope Technique (SRT). They are hired out at £1.00 per day. Currently £253.66 is set aside for replacement.

<i>Item</i>	<i>Price</i>	<i>Lifetime (years)</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Annual turnover</i>	<i>Price</i>
Ascending gear	£60.00	10	8	0.8	£48.00
Descending gear	£60.00	10	8	0.8	£48.00
Textile elements	£20.00	5	8	1.6	£32.00
Misc metalwork	£17.00	10	8	0.8	£13.60
SRT kit bag	£13.00	5	8	1.6	£20.80
Average annual expenditure					£162.40

Ladders

The Club previously kept a separate pool for ladders, but does not intend to purchase ladders soon; our ladders are fairly old, but a lifetime of over 15 years is not uncommon. The lack of wear and tear owing to the decline in the use of ladders and the increased use of roped techniques means they are expected to last for several years more. Money shall be kept in the Club's general float to ensure that money is available when the Club eventually needs to replace its ladders (which currently cost over £100 each), while allowing greater financial flexibility in the mean time.

Anticipated purchases over the next five years

Over the next five years, it is planned to use pooled money for at least the following purposes.

- Oversuits: oversuits bear the brunt of the abrasion of caving (especially when used by novices), and so tend to tear and rip where they have worn. While we attempt to repair suits where possible, it is only a life-extension measure, and new suits costing around £70 are needed regularly.
- Lamps: caves being completely dark, poor or unreliable illumination is unpleasant, and potentially dangerous. We intend to improve our provision of helmet mounted lamps to have greater durability.
- The Club's ageing lamp-battery charger: despite the heroic efforts by cavers of an engineering persuasion to keep it running, it is likely that it will need replacing before long.
- Replacement of ropework gear: the metalwork used to ascend and descend ropes, while long lasting, does wear and, as vital safety-critical pieces of equipment, no risks may be taken by failing to replace them at the first sign of wear.